

Foreign Policy and AI Forum

October 16, 2024, 9 AM – 6 PM CEST

Online

Register here: <https://forms.gle/YKAJBebxTHF7bQjn9>

Introduction:

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and foreign policy (FP) stands as a focal point of deep significance and complexity. As countries navigate an increasingly interconnected world, the utilization of AI technologies has emerged as a vital factor shaping diplomatic strategies, international relations, and geopolitical dynamics. From enhancing decision-making processes to changing intelligence analysis and cybersecurity, AI holds immense potential to both empower and challenge traditional foreign policy. As such, the inaugural **Forum on Foreign Policy and AI** seeks to convene a diverse array of experts, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to explore the implications of AI in foreign policy, fostering critical dialogue and collaboration at the nexus of technology and international affairs.

Background:

Established by the German Federal Foreign Office and administered by the GovTech Campus Germany in June 2023, the [Data Innovation Lab \(DIL\)](#) aims to play a pivotal role in advancing a future where human-centered and data-driven insights are integrated to foster sustainable development, technological progress, and global cooperation. By testing and refining various policy and creative data & AI solutions to advance foreign policy, DIL provides a testing ground for innovative collaboration and tech discovery, promoting ethical practices, and supporting multilateral processes.

DIL has established itself as a pioneering entity in facilitating dialogues at the intersection of foreign policy and artificial intelligence ([Data Talks](#)), while also experimenting with diverse data-driven solutions ([AI Diplomacy Challenge](#)) and increasing the understanding of AI-driven methodologies for foreign policy practitioners ([AI and FP Workshops](#)). DIL has cultivated a vibrant ecosystem of over 1000 members, continually expanding, and has forged partnerships spanning multiple sectors, governments, ministries, civil society organizations, UN agencies, tech entrepreneurs, the private sector, and academia. Given its unique position at the intersection of artificial intelligence and foreign policy, DIL is a perfect host of what we envision to be an annual gathering that fosters sustained engagement within this vibrant community. This event will solidify the community's role as a leading advocate and influencer in both domains, ensuring its lasting impact as a voice for innovation and collaboration in the evolving landscape of AI and foreign policy.

Objectives:

The objectives of the **inaugural Forum on Foreign Policy and AI** are to:

1. Facilitate the dialogue and knowledge exchange among scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and industry leaders on the evolving role of AI in shaping global diplomacy and international relations.
2. Create a space for governments, specifically different MFAs to share their applications of data-driven approaches and AI in foreign policy.
3. Foster collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders from academia, government, civil society, and the private sector to develop innovative approaches and best practices for harnessing AI for foreign policy.
4. Generate actionable insights, guidelines, and recommendations for implementing AI / data-driven use cases within foreign policy service.

Themes and Topics:

- Diplomacy transformation in the age of AI
- The evolving role of AI in international organizations and global diplomacy
- Crafting an AI Charter for Ministries of Foreign Affairs – lessons from the German FFO
- The role of Data Labs in advancing the FP and AI intersections
- Fostering international cooperation and partnerships between different MFAs in the domain of data innovation
- Harnessing public-private partnerships to navigate the FP and AI intersection
- Upholding ethical standards and ensuring ethical applications of AI in MFAs
- Advancing capacity building and training initiatives for foreign policy professionals in AI literacy, data analysis and data diplomacy skills
- From virtual reality to quantum computing - emerging technologies and their role in foreign affairs
- Addressing specific issues like information management, recruitment, or data spaces
- The Forum can be used as a perfect opportunity to pilot the newly established “Data Innovation Network for Foreign Ministries”

Format:

Online: Opening, Keynote, Panel Discussions, Q&A, Fireside Chat and Project Showcases

Date: Wednesday, 16 October 2024, 9 AM – 6 PM CEST, one day online conference

Organizer:

Data Innovation Lab by German Federal Foreign Office @GovTech Campus Germany in collaboration with the University of Birmingham and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia.

Audience and Participants:

1. **Government Officials:** Representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as policymakers and decision-makers involved in shaping national and international policies related to AI and foreign affairs.
2. **International Organizations:** Officials from organizations such as the United Nations, who play key roles in coordinating global efforts and setting standards in AI governance and diplomacy.
3. **Industry Leaders:** Executives and experts from technology companies, AI startups, and firms specializing in data analytics, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, who can provide insights into industry trends, innovations, and best practices.
4. **Academia and Research Institutions:** Scholars, researchers, and educators with expertise in AI, data science, international relations, and related fields, who can contribute knowledge, analysis, and academic perspectives to the discussions.
5. **Civil Society Organizations:** Representatives from non-governmental organizations and think tanks focusing on human rights, ethics, transparency, and accountability in AI development and foreign policy decision-making.
6. **Tech Ambassadors and Diplomats:** Officials designated to represent their countries in matters related to technology and innovation, who can share insights into their governments' strategies, priorities, and initiatives in AI and foreign affairs.
7. **Entrepreneurs and Innovators:** Entrepreneurs, innovators, and startup founders working on AI-driven solutions with potential applications in diplomacy, international relations, and global governance.

About Data Innovation Lab:

[Data Innovation Lab](#) is an innovative collaboration, established between the German Federal Foreign Office and GovTech Campus in Germany. It serves as a dynamic hub, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders such as local actors, civil society organizations, UN agencies, tech entrepreneurs, governments, private sector and academia in Germany and globally. The Lab functions as an experimental ground for testing and refining various policy and use case formats within the global arena. The overarching objective is the development of data applications, particularly those harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI), while upholding ethical principles and contributing to multilateral processes.