



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION BUREAU

Geneva, 10 September 2026

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To:

- Administrations of Member States of the Union;
- The State of Palestine (Res. 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018));
- ITU-T Sector Members;
- ITU-T Associates;
- ITU Academia;
- Permanent Missions and Embassies in Geneva

Copy to:

- The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Study Groups;
- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;
- The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

Subject: AI for Good Innovation Factory startups pitching competition 2026-2027
Local Chapter Organizers – Call for applications

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite interested organizations to apply to become *Local Chapter Organizers* of the AI for Good Innovation Factory (2026-2027). The Innovation Factory is part of the flagship [AI for Good initiative](#) and is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations (UN) specialized agency for digital technologies.

As the leading UN platform on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the mission of AI for Good is to unlock AI's potential to serve humanity. As a multi-stakeholder platform, AI for Good advances AI through three core pillars: identifying AI solutions, building AI skills and capacity worldwide, and driving cross-sector partnerships.

ITU launched the [AI for Good Innovation Factory](#) in 2020 as a startup pitching and accelerator platform to help startups grow and scale their AI-powered solutions to address global challenges. It offers global pitching opportunities, funding connections, expert mentorship, exclusive networking, and media exposure. Monthly pitching sessions highlight startups across regions and sectors, leading to the Innovation Factory Grand Finale at the annual AI for Good Global Summit, where finalists pitch to world-class investors for funding and partnerships.

During the 2025-2026 edition, the Innovation Factory received over 500 applications, with 43 finalists selected and 12 competition winners. The year-long competition culminated in the [AI for Good Innovation Factory Grand Finale](#), hosted by ITU at the [AI for Good Global Summit](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7 to 10 July 2026, bringing together the winning startups from national competitions.

Entities sponsoring a *Local Chapter* for the 2026-2027 cycle will work hand-in-hand with ITU to organize a national or regional AI for Good Innovation Factory startup pitching competition in their respective countries. Each national event will identify one startup that will advance to the Grand Finale at the 2027 AI for Good Global Summit, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, during the week of 21-25 June 2027.

The winning startup of the national event will receive:

- Access to participate in the 2027 AI for Good Innovation Factory Grand Finale during the AI for Good Global Summit 2027.
- Startup pod at the AI for Good Global Summit 2027.
- 1 x Exhibitor Pass per winning startup, that gives you access to the AI for Good Global Summit 2027.
- Interview article on the winning startup (in AI for Good channels and media partner site).
- Official ITU certificate awarded to the finalist startups.
- Exclusive access for the winning startup to the AI for Good Innovation Factory Startup Accelerator Programme 2027.
- Featured startup in the Innovation Factory Exhibition on the AI for Good Neural Network (365-day duration).
- Networking opportunities with the UN and other potential partners.
- Opportunity to gain awareness through global media coverage.

Organizations interested in supporting the AI for Good Innovation Factory by sponsoring and hosting a national chapter for the 2026-2027 cycle are invited to submit their applications by 1 December 2026. Detailed information on the application process and requirements is available [here](#).

I warmly invite you to take note of these opportunities and to encourage interested parties within your networks to participate.

For any additional information and fees, the team remains at your disposal at ai@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,



Seizo Onoe
Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau