Concept Note

G20 Interfaith Forum Webinar Series on Artificial Intelligence

Background

The **G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20)** platform involves a network of religiously linked institutions and initiatives that engage on global agendas. The G20 process has evolved since IF20 was established in 2014, recognizing an expanding range of stakeholders and platforms that allow different sectors and communities to present ideas and recommendations to global leaders. The IF20 contributes insights and recommendations that respond to and help shape the G20 and thus global policy agendas, building on the vital roles that religious institutions and beliefs play in world affairs and reflecting their rich diversity of institutions, ideas, and values.

Webinar Series on Artificial Intelligence

G20 USA 2026 has chosen to focus on artificial intelligence (AI) as a primary policy area for discussion for this year. Because of that, IF20 is organizing a series of webinars to explore the different applications of AI, the effect of AI on society, and the influence of AI on faith.

The series will run during the summer months of June, July, and August. The following is a list of the proposed webinar titles:

AI and Faith

AI and faith meet at the point where technology forces humanity to reconsider dignity, purpose, and moral responsibility. Many religious traditions see AI as a positive tool for society to use, while also raising concerns about justice, identity, and the limits of machine reasoning. Across these traditions, leaders emphasize that AI must remain grounded in human moral agency, empathy, and spiritual insight. Overall, the dialogue between AI and faith is not about resisting technology but about shaping it. Religious voices seek to ensure that AI serves humanity ethically, preserves what is sacred about human life, and supports a future rooted in wisdom, compassion, and moral responsibility.

AI and Human Flourishing

AI can support human flourishing when it is designed to enhance, rather than replace, uniquely human capacities such as empathy, creativity, and moral judgment. It can expand access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity, helping individuals and communities thrive. At the same time, AI must be guided by ethical frameworks that protect dignity, agency, and the social bonds people depend on. There is a particular concern for children and youth, regarding how AI is affecting their human flourishing and ability to build strong, human relationships. When aligned with human values, AI can become a tool that strengthens society.

AI and Benchmarks

AI benchmarks are essential tools for evaluating whether artificial intelligence systems behave safely, fairly, and effectively in real-world contexts. The best benchmarks go beyond technical accuracy and measure qualities like robustness, transparency, and alignment with human values. As AI becomes more powerful, researchers are calling for

pluralistic, community-grounded benchmarks that reflect diverse cultural, ethical, and social perspectives—not just narrow technical metrics. Strong benchmarks help ensure AI development stays accountable and supports human flourishing rather than undermining it.

AI and Translation

AI is transforming translation by making it faster, more accessible, and capable of handling dozens of languages that previously lacked digital tools. These systems can bridge cultural and linguistic gaps, helping people learn, collaborate, and share ideas across borders. At the same time, AI translation still struggles with nuance, tone, and culturally embedded meaning, reminding us that human judgment remains essential. When used thoughtfully, AI becomes a powerful partner in expanding understanding while preserving the richness of human language. Professor Stephen D. Richardson is working on low-resource languages in Africa to encourage the communication and preservation of tribal languages.

AI and the Planet

AI can help protect the planet by improving how we monitor ecosystems, predict climate patterns, and manage natural resources. AI harms the planet when its data centers consume massive amounts of electricity, much of which still comes from fossil fuels. The production of AI hardware—especially chips—requires intensive mining, water use, and manufacturing processes that strain ecosystems. As AI models grow larger, their carbon footprint increases, making sustainable design and energy-efficient systems essential for reducing environmental damage. When guided by environmental values, AI becomes a tool that strengthens planetary stewardship rather than straining it.

AI and Peacebuilding

AI can strengthen peacebuilding by helping communities detect conflict early, bridge divides through dialogue, and support collaborative problem-solving rooted in human dignity. Prof. Pieter Francois, a professor of cultural evolution at Oxford University, has done research on digital diplomacy and AI. He will lead a discussion with others who have been actively studying the use of AI in peacebuilding.

AI and Education

AI is reshaping education by expanding access to personalized learning tools that adapt to each student's pace, strengths, and needs. It can reduce administrative burdens for teachers, giving them more time to focus on mentoring, creativity, and human connection. At the same time, schools must address concerns about equity, data privacy, and over-reliance on automated systems. When used thoughtfully, AI becomes a partner that enhances—not replaces—the deeply human work of teaching and learning.

AI and the Future

AI will shape the future by amplifying human capabilities and transforming how people learn, work, and solve problems together. Its impact will depend on whether societies guide it with strong ethical frameworks that protect dignity, fairness, and human agency. If aligned with shared values, AI can help build a future that is more creative, connected, and compassionate.

We hope you will join us in these discussions. The webinar format will allow expert speakers to talk and discuss the topic. Afterwards, the audience will be able to submit questions in the chat for further discussion by the experts.