AI Language and Voice Joint Commitment
Compiled Signatory Quotes

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1. Agentic AI Foundation

"Language is the foundation of agency. Breakthroughs in multilingual models matter because they unlock the agentic layer, the applications that reason and act on a person's behalf. By building on open standards, we're helping developers in the communities they serve deploy production agents that work in a farmer's or a health worker's own language and voice."

Mazin Gilbert, Executive Director

2. AI Access Initiative

“Without investment in last-mile access, including underserved languages, AI's benefits could take decades to reach people in poverty. I've seen this firsthand at the AI Access Initiative, where we design programs to meet people where they are: in local languages, on preferred communication channels, and in high-utility formats (e.g., voice, images). Closing these last-mile gaps will be essential for AI to improve lives at scale.”

Kanika Bahl, CEO

3. AI4Bharat

“Language should never decide who gets to benefit from AI. Bodhan and AI4Bharat have spent years building the foundation that let Indian languages speak to machines on equal footing. We see this five-year goal as a natural extension of that work, at a scale the moment demands.”

Mitesh Khapra, Professor, IIT-Madras

4. Agency Fund

“The challenge of our day is integrating AI into the social services that help people thrive. But AI-powered services need to operate in the languages people speak, and with the cultural understanding people carry. AI evaluations will play a critical role in making this technology work better for all of us.”

Temina Madon, Co-Founder

5. Amazon

"The promise of AI shouldn't be limited to those who speak the world's most common languages. Amazon is proud to support this effort and to help develop the datasets, benchmarks, and expertise that can make AI more accessible across languages so that more people, in more places, can engage with it in their own words and voices."

David Zapolsky, Chief Global Affairs and Legal Officer

6. BharatGen

"True digital inclusion in India requires AI that respects the distinct context, culture, and dialects of local communities. BharatGen is building open, India-centric language solutions to ensure advanced AI empowers every citizen in their own voice and language."

Rishi Bai, CEO

7. BHASHINI

"Technology creates real inclusion only when it adapts to the people it is meant to serve. It bridges the digital, language and literacy divides, making technology more accessible and meaningful for everyone."

Shri Amitabh Nag, CEO

8. Cassava Technologies

"Our goal is to give Africa the infrastructure to write its own future, using its own languages – starting with Swahili, then expanding to languages such as Zulu, Afrikaans and Arabic to better serve local users and markets – and data to build a digital legacy on its own terms."

Ahmed El Beheiry, Executive Vice President - Group Chief Technology & AI Officer at Cassava Technologies.

9. Centre for Open Societal Systems

"Across India, Africa and the rest of the Global South, low-resource languages need a place in AI infrastructure alongside dominant ones. Inclusion should not require people to set their own language aside to reach the services meant for them. COSS joins this coalition to build that capability as public infrastructure countries can own. Systems people can use, and recognise as their own."

Zeena Fruitwala, Chief Dissemination Officer

10. CODI

“The data confirms what CODI was founded to address: just seven languages dominate Internet content, and AI is even narrower. Without action, 3.4 billion people risk being left behind. This commitment gives the work real scale, bringing AI developers and funders together around a goal CODI has championed from the beginning: ensuring people can use AI in the languages they speak.”

Ram Mohan, Chairman and Founder

11. Crane AI Labs

“AI will only be an equalizer if it can hear people in the language they actually speak. In Uganda a health worker describes a patient's symptoms in Luganda, and the systems arriving in her clinic were not built to hear her. We build systems that can and what makes that possible is open language data, benchmarks that no single lab can produce alone. That is why this coalition matters: language is infrastructure, and infrastructure gets built together.”

Kato Steven Mubiru and Bronson Bakunga, Co-Founders, Crane AI Labs

12. Current AI

"Most efforts to expand language access in AI are really about reaching new markets. What excites us about this commitment are the initiatives that put resources in the hands of language communities themselves, so they can shape AI systems in ways that are true to their own cultures and traditions."

Ayah Bdeir, CEO

13. Digital Umuganda

"African languages are not a niche. They are how hundreds of millions of people learn, work, and get care. At Digital Umuganda, we have spent ten years building open language data and tools for Kinyarwanda and other African languages. We are proud to join this coalition so AI works for people in their own language and voice."

Audace Niyonkuru, CEO

14. DigitalGreen

“FarmerChat has reached 2.2 million farmers across six countries and supports 16 languages. Nearly two-thirds of farmer queries arrive by voice or image rather than typed text. The hard part isn't translation but meaning: a model transcribes fluent Hindi and still loses the one key word the agricultural advice hinges on. By sharing datasets and benchmarks openly, we can help build the world’s languages as shared infrastructure with & for farmers. We are excited to do that alongside this coalition.”

Rikin Gandhi, CEO

15. EkaCare

"Healthcare is the sharpest test of whether AI speaks everyone's language—a misheard symptom or a mistranslated dosage isn't an inconvenience, it's a safety failure. At Eka Care we've open-sourced our speech models, medical knowledge graph and evaluation kits because the language layer for health should belong to everyone who builds on it. We're proud to join this coalition and bring our work across Indian languages and towards the entire global south to a shared goal: that 3.4 billion people can be understood by the systems meant to care for them."

Vikalp Sahni, Founder and Chief Executive Officer

16. EkStep Foundation

“AI will create public value only when people can use it in the languages and modes most natural to them. Our experience in agriculture shows that language and voice must be

connected to trusted knowledge, institutions and delivery systems. By sharing infrastructure and implementation know-how, we can help each new adopter move faster."

Deepika Mogilishetty, Chief of Policy and Partnerships

17. ElevenLabs

"One of the most exciting prospects for voice AI is breaking down language barriers, and improving access to information and services. Our models can speak and listen in more than 90 languages, spoken natively by 5.5 billion people, and we're working with governments to train models to preserve endangered dialects. Still, there is more work to do, and we're committed to expanding our language coverage to serve more people around the world."

Mati Staniszewski, cofounder and CEO of ElevenLabs

18. Endless

"Language is the last mile of AI, and we keep building the road without it. A nurse in Sylhet or a teacher in Kisumu should not have to borrow someone else's language to use the most capable tools ever built. Treating the world's languages as shared infrastructure — open, tested, and built with the communities that speak them — is what turns AI from something done to people into something they can actually use to transform their lives."

Rubayat Khan, Director of Health Programs

19. EqualyzAI

"The true promise of AI is fulfilled at the last mile, when it reaches people in their own language and voice and improves the lives of those who need it most. This initiative strengthens our resolve and inspires us to move faster, reach further and do even more for those still left behind."

Dr Olubayo Adekanmbi, CEO/Co-Founder

20. Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute

“EAII is proud to support the Global AI Language Access Initiative, bringing our expertise and capabilities to help make AI accessible across languages and communities.”

Dr. Taye Girma, Deputy Director General, EAII

21. Fab AI

"We know from our leader boards that the best models now have nearly perfect knowledge of pedagogy - in English. Swap to low frequency languages, and we see models struggle to even know the rules of the language, never mind teach in it. At Fab AI we are committed to making education AI systems work for all - which means they work in the mother tongues children need to learn in".

Dr. Paul Atherton, Executive Director

22. Gates Foundation

“It’s important that AI tools work for everyone in the languages they actually speak,” said Bill Gates, chair of the Gates Foundation. "Right now, even some of the better-supported African languages have significant gaps. When AI tools can't understand somebody’s natural language, the cost of a mistake can be serious. I'm optimistic that within a short period of time, and with the right leadership, we can solve this problem.”

Bill Gates, Chair

23. Google

“This effort builds on two decades of progress using technology to expand access to information. From Google Translate’s launch with just a handful of languages in 2006 to more than 300 languages supported across Google products and technologies today, we’ve continued to break down language barriers and bring information to more people. Android, one of the world’s most widely used mobile platforms in the Global South, extends that access to billions of people. Now, working alongside local partners, we’re pursuing our next moonshot: supporting 1,000 languages and helping ensure more people can access the information and opportunities technology can provide.”

James Manyika, SVP, Research, Labs, Technology & Society, Google & Alphabet

24. Indian Institute of Science

“The AI revolution must be a force for inclusion, not a catalyst for a new digital divide. As voice and language AI become increasingly central to how people access information, services, and opportunities, we must ensure that no community is left behind. When an AI system does not support a language, it is not a reflection of the value of that language or the people who speak it. The responsibility rests with the creators of the technology. Developers of voice and language AI have a duty to build systems that recognize, understand, and serve the rich diversity of human languages. Every person, regardless of the language they speak, deserves to be heard and understood in the language of their choice. The future of AI will be truly transformative only when it is inclusive for all.”

Professor Prasanta Kumar Ghosh, Department of Electrical Engineering

25. International Development Research Centre

“Making AI truly inclusive means going beyond access. It means ensuring that people and communities can shape how AI is developed and used, in their own languages and grounded in their own realities. Locally led research is essential to building AI that reflects the world’s linguistic and cultural diversity and delivers equal sustainable impact for everyone.”

Julie Delahanty, President

26. Irembo

“At Irembo, we experience firsthand how voice interfaces have the potential to transform access to public services. True inclusion means citizens can interact seamlessly with technology in their native language. We are proud to join this commitment to build reliable language infrastructure, ensuring AI delivers measurable equity and practical impact for communities across Rwanda and beyond.”

Israel Bimpe, CEO, Irembo

27. Karya

"At Karya, we are truly delighted to be a part of this coalition. The coalition represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to bridge the AI divide. The billions of people whose languages are missing from AI are the only ones who can supply what is missing. At Karya, we have always believed that if we want to build inclusive AI, we have to directly engage

with the communities we want to include. The coalition builds on this understanding, and will help us accelerate towards a future where AI serves all of us equally."

Manu Chopra, CEO

28. KERA Health Platforms

“Open data and shared benchmarks matter, but a dataset does not speak. The models must be built by the people who live inside these languages. If this commitment leads there, the limits of a machine's language will no longer be the limits of a billion people's world.”

Moustapha Cisse, Founder and Chief Executive Officer

29. Koita Foundation

“More than 80% of the world does not speak English, making language inclusion fundamental to ensuring that the benefits of AI reach everyone. At Koita Foundation, we see language inclusion as a critical enabler of equitable access - particularly in healthcare and education across India and the Global South.”

Rizwan Koita, Director

30. Lagos Business School (hosts of the Nigeria AI Scaling Hub)

“AI that does not understand our languages cannot fully serve our people. Scaling AI in Nigeria, therefore, means investing in the data, infrastructure and low-resource languages that make AI more relevant, inclusive and useful to our communities.”

Olayinka David-West, Dean and Professor of Information Systems

31. LUMS

“Pakistan alone has more than 70 languages, several of them endangered with dwindling speaker numbers, and others spoken as native languages by millions around the world. All of them, unfortunately, remain under-supported by modern AI tools. A coalition of this scale can help change that, and it reinforces a central point we have been making through our work on low-resource South Asian languages: the technologies supporting the world's languages deserve to be treated as shared infrastructure.”

Prof. Ali Agha, Tenured Associate Professor of Computer Science

32. Masakhane

“Closing AI’s language-access gap requires centering community voices and contextually grounded building of technology. When local contributors lead technological development, AI systems are more likely to be safe, accurate, and culturally relevant. Genuine linguistic equity is possible only when the communities who identify with and speak the languages lead inclusion of their languages into the digital economy.”

Chenai Chair, Director of the Masakhane African Languages Hub

33. Microsoft

"AI will achieve its greatest potential only if it serves people in the languages they use every day. We’re partnering with researchers, organizations, and local communities through the AI for Good Lab's LINGUA initiative to expand access to AI in underrepresented languages. This will help ensure that the opportunities and benefits of AI reach more people, in more places, around the world."

Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President

34. Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Affairs of Senegal

"The Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Affairs of Senegal is proud to commit to this initiative, which seeks to transform Senegal’s AI ambition into national impact by mobilizing the partnerships, infrastructure, talent, and governance required to scale responsible, locally relevant AI solutions. Through this commitment, the Ministry also seeks to ensure that everyone—including speakers of underserved languages—can access, understand, and use AI in their own languages and through their own voices.”

35. Mozilla Data Collective

“Three billion people being underserved by AI isn’t a technology inevitability. It reflects choices we’ve made about which datasets get created, whose knowledge is valued and which languages are worth investing in. At Mozilla Data Collective, we’re working with communities and organisations around the world to change that by bringing high-quality

datasets from hundreds of languages into the AI ecosystem on terms that work for the people behind them. There is real urgency to this. The decisions we make about datasets today will determine who gets to participate in the next generation of technology, and closing that gap is much bigger than any one organisation."

E.M. Lewis-Jong, Founder and CEO

36. NVIDIA

"AI should be open and accessible to everyone. NVIDIA is proud to collaborate with leading organizations across the AI ecosystem to expand access to open models, datasets and tools in native languages. This will empower communities everywhere to build, customize and shape AI for their own needs and futures."

Calista Redmond, Vice President of Global AI Initiatives

37. OpenAI Foundation

"Today, the OpenAI Foundation joined a global call to ensure AI works across the world's languages. We plan to make low-resource languages a significant focus of our work, and will support the data and infrastructure needed to enable more useful tools for people around the world."

Anna Makanju, Head of AI for Civil Society and Philanthropy

38. Qhala

"Our research at Qhala has shown that for some African languages, AI can be three to thirty times more expensive to process than English because of how language is represented by today's models. This is more than a language gap; it is an infrastructure and equity problem. If AI is to serve humanity, it must work for humanity's languages."

Dr. Shikoh Gitau, Chief Executive Officer

39. Renaissance Philanthropy

"Renaissance Philanthropy is delighted to join this commitment to ensure that 3.4 billion people who speak languages currently underrepresented by today's AI models can use AI

tools in their own language and voice. This commitment will democratize access to AI-enabled services, bringing real benefits to people around the world in health, education, and economic opportunity."

Tom Kalil, CEO

40. Sarvam

AI should expand human capability for every individual. Language and economic circumstances should never determine who gets to benefit from it. With 1.4 billion people and extraordinary linguistic diversity, India is the clearest test of that promise. At Sarvam, we are committed to doing the research-led innovation required to build models that understand our voices, read our documents, and serve intelligence at a cost that works at population scale.

Dr Pratyush Kumar, CEO and co-founder

41. SunBird AI

"Artificial intelligence cannot deliver on its promise while entire linguistic communities remain excluded. Sunbird AI is building open text and speech technology for 67 low-resource languages across Africa already, proof that this work is achievable now. We join this commitment to help extend that same open infrastructure further, together with others doing the same."

Dr. Ernest Mwebaze, Executive Director, Sunbird AI

42. Technecultura

As AI adoption continues to accelerate across borders, functional multilingualism must become the standard for ensuring that billions of users across the world's most dynamic markets can meaningfully engage with and access these tools safely. Technecultura is proud to join this statement, committing to a shared goal of inclusive AI models built with the needs of the Global Majority at the forefront.

Chinasa T. Okolo, Ph.D., Founder and Scientific Director

43. Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH)

“Unlocking essential services like healthcare for large sections of the world's population depends on technology that understands and generates content in the user's native language. Today, many such applications require human users to interact in English or other dominant languages. This prevents individuals from expressing and communicating effectively, thereby marginalizing communities and deepening the digital divide. It is therefore imperative that voice and language technologies transcend the language barrier to enable inclusion and adoption of critical services like healthcare.”

Sriram Ganapathy, Director and Prof. Phaneendra Yalavarthy, Chief Project Manager

44. UNICEF

Language should never determine whether a child, a teacher, or a health worker can benefit from AI. Today's most capable models work well in only a handful of the world's languages, which leaves out many of the communities where AI could do the most good, including children. Such access must also come with safety: as AI reaches more languages, it must be designed, evaluated, and deployed in ways that are age-appropriate and protective of children.

Kaan Cetinturk, UNICEF Chief Information Officer

45. Viamo

"The benefits of AI shouldn’t stop at the edge of the internet. For AI to serve everyone, it must speak to people in their own languages and on the devices and networks they already use. We’re proud to join this commitment and help make AI accessible by voice through a simple phone call."

Kellen Eilerts, Chief Partnerships Officer

46. Wadhwani AI

"AI can finally bring real healthcare and real learning to the last mile at a cost the world can afford, but only if it speaks the languages people actually use. Reaching the billions left out of today's AI is no longer a technical problem; it's a choice. Wadhwani AI is joining this coalition because the world's languages are a shared foundation worth building together, and because the value has to flow back to the communities who make it possible."

Sunil Wadhwani, Co-founder

47. Zoom

"Language is not a barrier we should accept. For the estimated 3.4 billion people who speak languages under-represented in today's AI systems, this five-year commitment is a decision to act — with urgency, in coordination, and with a willingness to measure progress honestly."

XD Huang, Chief Technology Officer