Statement

AI as a Catalyst for Planetary Health and the Post-2030 Agenda

The Timing : Humanity is living through a dangerous convergence: the erosion of human agency as machines mediate critical thinking and decision-making, alongside accelerating planetary tipping points—climate disruption, biodiversity collapse, and resource depletion. Together, these forces threaten both human wellbeing and the ecological foundations of life. Without deliberate intervention agency and planetary health risk irreversible decline.

The Challenge : Artificial Intelligence now sits at the heart of this convergence. Unchecked, it fosters dependency, weakens social bonds, entrenches inequality and consumes vast and unsustainable amounts of energy, water, and materials. The very tools that could advance global well-being and ecological resilience risk instead accelerating collapse. Part of the challenge consists in recentering the quest for progress on the flourishing of people and the planet, and technology as one tool among others to achieve that. It is a means to an end, and we must determine what end that should be.

The Opportunity : AI, if explicitly aligned with planetary health, can predict and mitigate risks, democratize access to sustainability tools, transform education and connect actors across generations and sectors. Used responsibly, it can accelerate pathways for inclusion, equity and resilience.

Our Commitment: The Planetary Health Roadmap and Action Plan Working Group on AI commits to concrete action by:

- **Defining and embedding Pro-Social AI:** We define Pro-Social AI as the design, development, and deployment of AI systems that explicitly advance human agency, social cohesion, equity, and planetary health, while minimising ecological costs and preventing harm. It is AI that serves the public good rather than narrow profit or militarised agendas.
- **Re-centering AI development on values:** emphasize and clearly define the ends to which AI is built and use; re-orienting AI from optimisation and efficiency as end-goals to social value-oriented ones
- **Establishing standards and safeguards:** We will publish ethical and operational guidelines for applying Pro-Social AI in planetary health research, policy, and practice. The scope of these safeguards will include protecting intellectual property and combatting disinformation

- **Strengthening hybrid intelligence**: We will develop programmes that combine human and algorithmic literacy, ensuring communities have the skills and agency to critically engage with and govern AI.
- **Auditing ecological costs**: We will create and promote methodologies to measure and disclose the material, energy, and water demands of AI systems, ensuring efficiency gains never come at planetary expense.
- **Mobilising narratives of hope**: We will build communication strategies and educational tools that present Pro-Social AI as a driver of collaboration, regeneration, and resilience.
- **Demonstrating practice**: We will pilot and evaluate AI applications that directly contribute to the Planetary Health Roadmap, and share scalable models to accelerate uptake globally.

A Call to Action for the Post-2030 Agenda : As the world approaches the 2030 horizon of the SDGs, the next global agenda must embed Pro-Social AI as a cornerstone of sustainable futures. We aim to convene governments, businesses, academia, and civil society to co-create, regulate, and scale AI systems that serve people and the planet, resisting narrow commercial or militarised interests. We need to re-orient from the techno-centered to life-centred policies and practices around AI. In doing so we commit to making AI a catalyst for equity, resilience, and planetary regeneration.