The 16th WGFACML Meeting
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The Role of SAIs In Utilizing Artificial Intelligence in the Fight Against Corruption

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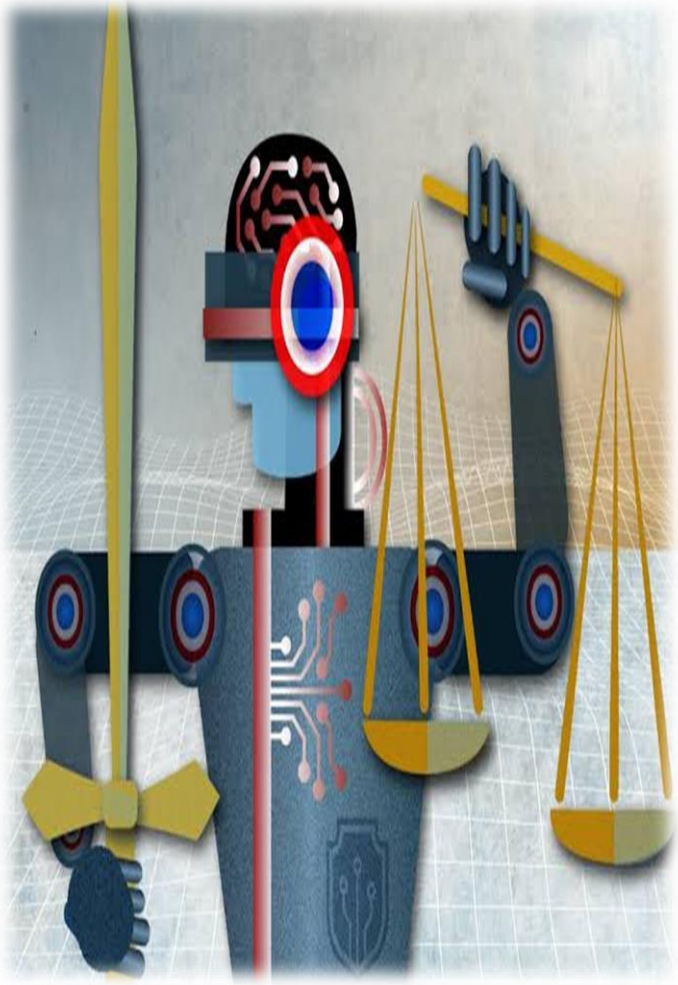
Introduction

- In the context of digital transformation, which is one of the most important pillars of modern economic growth, countries are seeking to exploit modern technology in addressing many issues that concern them, the most important of which are the issues related to the phenomenon of corruption and its negative impacts on attracting investments.
- AI can play an important role in the fight against corruption and cross-borders crimes through improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the control and investigation processes.
- However, the use of AI in this field requires close cooperation between SAIs in various countries. Hence, the theme of our 16th meeting is to discuss the modern mechanisms used to combat and prevent corruption crimes through the use of AI technology in detecting and predicting illegal dealings.

Goals

The main goals of this presentation are as follows:

- **Acquainting stakeholders to the importance of using AI in fighting corruption.**
- **Identify risks and challenges facing the usage of AI in fighting corruption.**
- **Propose solutions and recommendations that could help overcome these risks and challenges.**
- **Highlight the importance of SAIs' role in utilizing AI in the fight against corruption.**



Definition, uses and role of AI in fighting corruption

- AI is defined as the ability of systems to keep pace with human intelligence in carrying out different tasks as it has become in the last decades as an indispensable tool in carrying out human activities.
- With the unprecedented global scale of corruption crimes, the anti-corruption field no longer tolerates the luxury of relying on the human element whose actions may often be governed by whims, emotions and selectivity. New technologies have recently been developed to fight corruption relying on the massive development in the field of AI.
- As for the uses of AI and its role in the administrative process, it has been a tool that has proven its effectiveness in reducing human errors, financial waste, and simplifying the administrative process in various fields of employment.

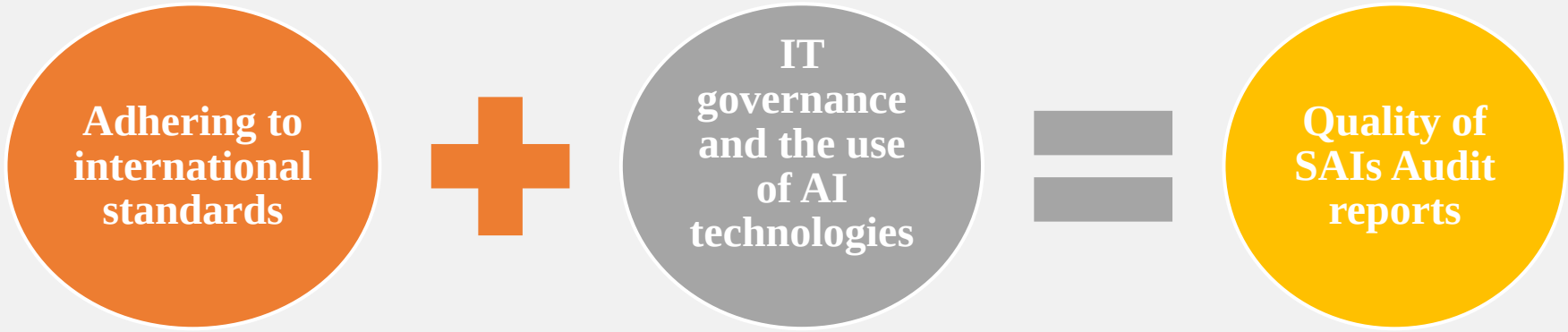
Cont. Definition, uses and role of AI in fighting corruption

The use of AI technology revolves around two elements:

First element: **The human's need for this technology, so that he can benefit from it to achieve prosperity in this age.**

Second element: **Build confidence in ICT use, drive the sustainable development wheel, and increase investments in the public and private sectors, with the need for a general framework that would enhance such a confidence.**

In light of SAIs' assigned role, relying on this technology and gaining confidence as well as the necessary regulatory framework is directly reflected on the quality of the SAIs' reports and enhancing their role in the fight against corruption. This is shown in the following figure:



Cont. Definition, uses and role of AI in fighting corruption

AI-based anti-corruption tools (traditional approach) and anti-corruption efforts supported by AI technologies:

These tools can be illustrated by two approaches

- **Top-down approach (government-led).**
- **Bottom-up approach (citizen-led).**

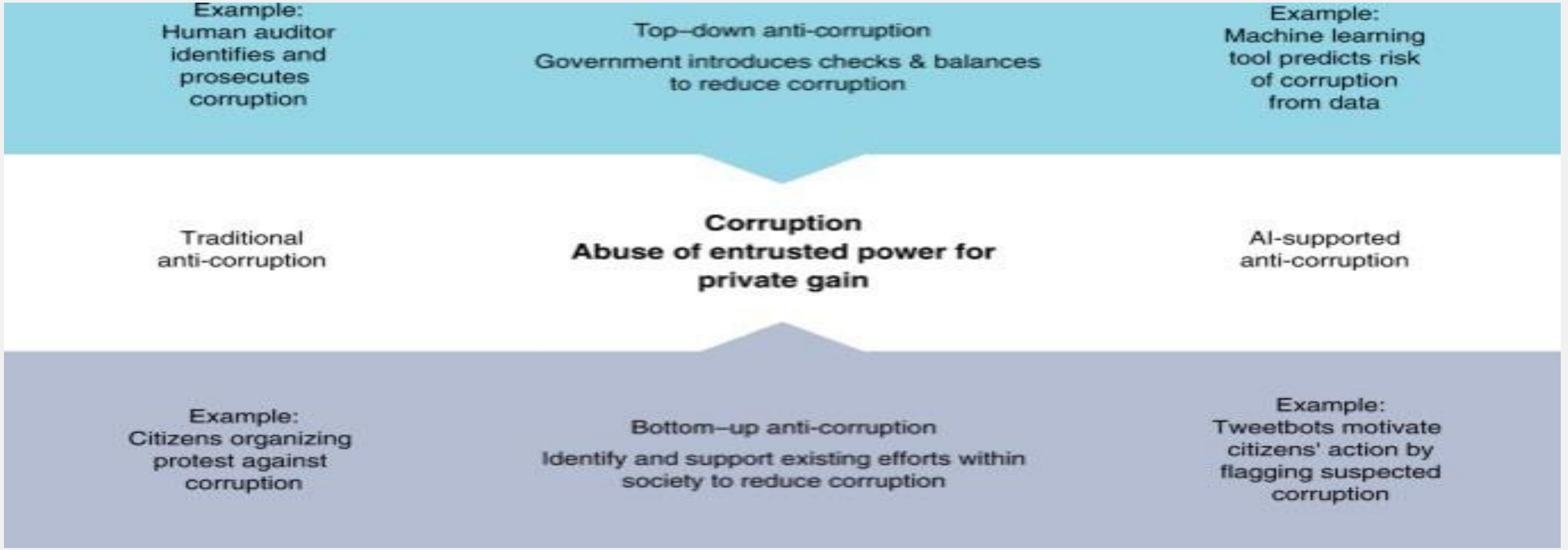
This is illustrated in the following table:

Artificial Intelligence-based Anti-Corruption Tools (AI-ACT)

	Top-Down Approaches	Bottom-Up Approaches
Actors	Criminal investigators, prosecutors, compliance officers, auditors	Journalists, bloggers, civil-society activists, average citizens
Input data	Classified & open government data, crowdsourced data, (social) media text	Open government data, data leaks, crowdsourced data, (social) media text
Algorithmic design	Rather minimize false-negative rate	Rather minimize false-positive rate
Institutional Implementation	Human-out-of-the-loop to escape the corruption trap	Human-in-the-loop to ensure legitimacy

Cont. Definition, uses and role of AI in fighting corruption

Anti-corruption efforts in a traditional work environment as well as those supported by AI can be illustrated in the following figure:



The role of SAIs in managing the risks of the increasing use of AI technologies

The current development in the environment of transactions and information systems entailed a parallel development in anti-corruption methods to reduce the risks of the increasing use of AI in the audited entities, which imposed on SAIs new challenges and roles to deal with such technologies. Hence, SAIs are required to carry out some procedures, such as:

- **Promoting the use of modern technologies and graph analysis in detecting financial and economic violations.**
- **Updating the methodology of external auditing of government accounts through the use of information technology and big data analysis .**
- **Assisting to ensure the compliance with international standards, regulations and frameworks in the field of IT governance.**

Cont. The role of SAIs in managing the risks of the increasing use of AI technologies

- **Promoting legislative and human capabilities of SAIs to keep pace with developments in the field of AI technologies as follows:**

- **Developing and amending audit laws and standards in accordance with the requirements of these technologies in order to protect the AI outputs and the results achieved.**

- **Focusing on SAIs auditors' capacity building to keep pace with developments in the new systems by conducting specialized training courses on the uses of information technology and its latest updates.**

- **Developing policies and standards necessary to ensure the safe and responsible use of AI.**

Cont. The role of SAIs in managing the risks of the increasing use of AI technologies

- Conduct evaluations and reviews of AI systems to ensure their safety and effectiveness.
- Spreading awareness of the risks associated with the use of AI.
- Cooperation with international and regional bodies in the field of AI.
- Establishing specialized work teams in the field of AI.

Through implementing these steps, SAIs can play an effective role in ensuring that AI is used in a safe and responsible manner as well as protecting individuals and society from potential risks.

International agreements and conferences in the field of the use of AI in the fight against corruption

A number of international agreements have been concluded to benefit from AI in the fight against corruption, and the following are the most prominent agreements in this regard:

- **UNESCO Convention on Information Crimes, adopted in 2001, criminalizes a number of IT related crimes, including in the use of information technology in committing corruption offences.**
- **The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was adopted in 2003 and it calls on States parties to take measures to combat corruption, including the use of modern technologies.**
- **The United Nations Declaration on AI for Sustainable Development was issued in 2020 and calls for the responsible and ethical use of AI, including in the fight against corruption.**

Cont. International agreements and conferences in the field of the use of AI in the fight against corruption

- The memorandum of understanding signed in 2021 between the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Attorney General of the Italian Court of Cassation, with the aim of launching cooperation between the United Nations and the Italian Foundation in researching the applications of AI against different forms of crime.
- Digital Transformation Report in the field of combating money laundering and terrorism financing for operational authorities in October 2021 which is approved by the FATF Group and the Egmont Group.
- Conference on the risks of modern technology in money laundering and terrorism financing operations and methods to combat them held in February 2018 in Luxor - Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ways to employ AI in the fight against corruption and cross-borders crimes (AI is a new weapon to fight corruption)

SAIs and law enforcement bodies tend to rely on AI to help in fighting corruption and money laundering crimes, as these technologies, which apply machine learning, big data, and deep learning, could examine huge volumes of transactions quickly and effectively, which is vital to detect suspicious activities.

Cont. Ways to employ AI in the fight against corruption and cross-borders crimes (AI is a new weapon to fight corruption)

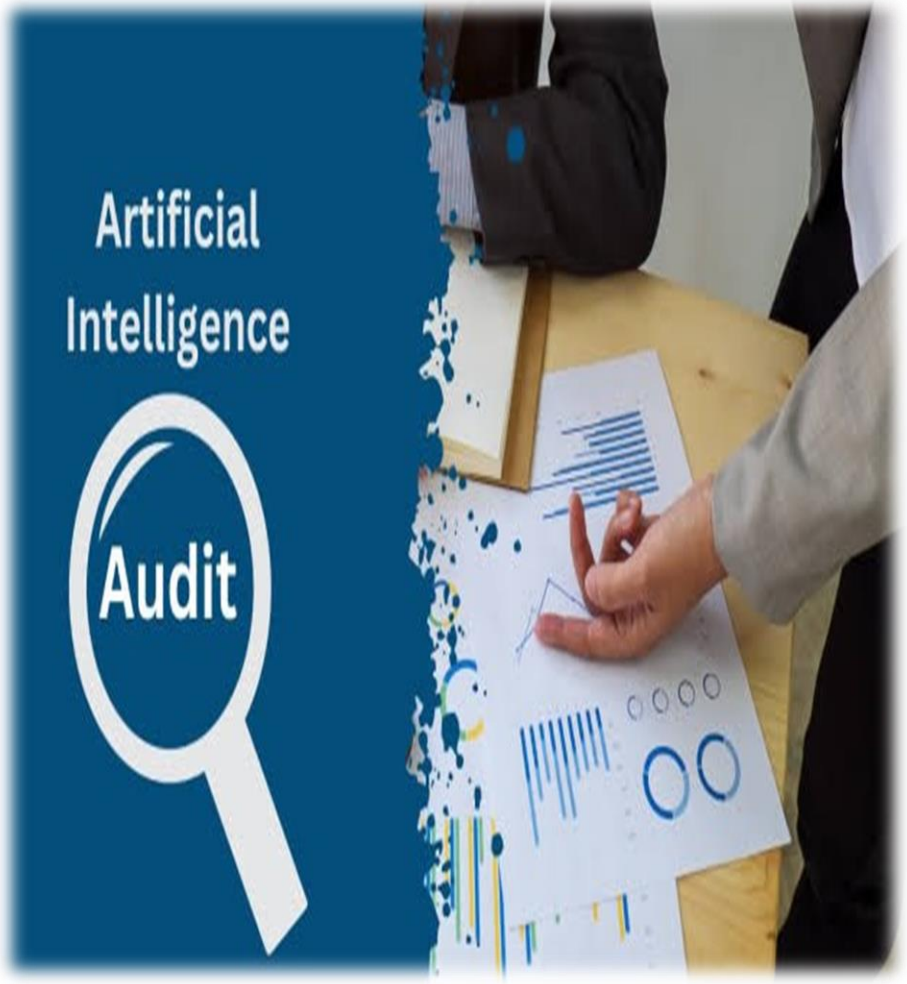
AI can be used to combat corruption and cross-borders crimes in a large number of areas, including:

- **Enhancing transparency**
- **Preventing corruption**
- **Detection of corruption cases**
- **Investigations of transnational crimes**
- **Tracking cross-borders criminals**

Cont. Ways to employ AI in the fight against corruption and cross-borders crimes (AI is a new weapon to fight corruption)

AI can be utilized to raise the efficiency of audit operations exercised by SAIs in several aspects, including:

- **Improving the electronic reporting and monitoring by creating online platforms that help citizens easily report corruption, and with using AI those reports could be effectively monitored.**
- **AI can analyze historical data to detect future corruption patterns which help in taking preventive measures.**
- **Providing periodic reports and data-based analysis to guide anti-corruption efforts.**



Cooperation between SAIs in the use of AI to fight corruption and cross-border crimes

The Importance of Cooperation between SAIs

Cooperation between SAIs is considered essential to achieve the following objectives:

- **Unite efforts in addressing common challenges in corruption and cross-borders crimes.**
- **Exchanging experiences and knowledge on the use of AI in the fight against corruption and transnational crimes.**
- **Cooperation in enhancing the human and technical capabilities necessary to use AI in combating corruption and cross-borders crimes.**

The experience of the ASA in the field of using information technology and AI techniques

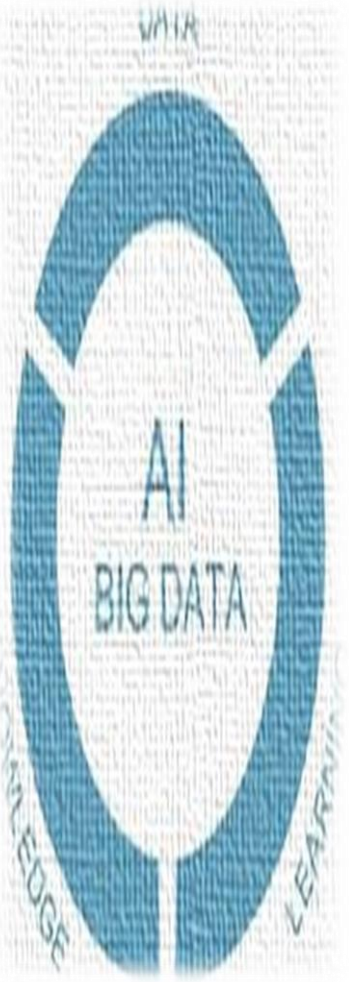
- In August 2021, a cooperation protocol was concluded between the ASA and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) for a period of 3 years, with regard to digital transformation and automation, aiming to enhance efforts to modernize the ASA's information infrastructure through promoting the ASA's technological capabilities as well as digital transformation system.

- Based on this protocol, electronic control applications will be developed based on big data techniques, through which it will be possible to provide electronic connectivity with the authorities of the State administrative apparatus in order to effectively control them, which in turn will raise the efficiency of the comprehensive control process.

The ASA's experience in the field of using information technology and AI techniques

- **Some practical cases in the field of big data, which are included within the most important pillars of AI technologies applied to the Egyptian work environment, were presented by the ASA during the proceedings of the INTOSAI WGBD 7th Meeting, which was held in the Arab Republic of Egypt in September 2023 in the field of:**

- **Auditing e-commerce through the processing of big data through the application to the taxes system.**
- **Auditing in a big data environment using AI techniques and geographic information systems.**
- **Modern methods in the techniques of analyzing and monitoring big data in the audit environment by applying to credit granting operations in banks.**



Conclusion

- There are challenges facing AI technologies represented in the ability to deal with and use these technologies on the one hand while on the other hand the necessity to have available a large bulk of accurate data that helps AI programs to make the right decisions that contribute to the achievement of the desired results.
- Despite this, AI has an effective role in fighting corruption and eliminating all its forms as well as improving performance within government units, in addition to its use as an effective tool for SAIs to control all forms of corruption and work on discovering and eliminate them.

Recommendations

- **SAIs should develop the human and technical capabilities to effective use of AI. This could be achieved through :**

- **Training on AI techniques: Members of SAIs should receive appropriate training in AI techniques including AI fundamentals, different types of AI techniques, and AI anti-corruption applications.**

- **Development of AI tools and techniques: SAIs should develop AI tools and techniques specialized in fighting corruption by thus fulfilling SAIs' specific needs in this area.**

Recommendations

- **SAIs should develop the necessary policies and procedures to regulate the use of AI in the fight against corruption, in order to ensure that AI is used in a safe and responsible manner, and in accordance with human rights principles. Such policies and procedures may include:**

- **A policy for the use of AI in the fight against corruption, specifying the general objectives and procedures in this regard.**
- **Procedures for evaluating the accuracy and effectiveness of AI systems used in the fight against corruption.**
- **Procedures to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of AI.**

Recommendations

- **International cooperation to enhance SAIs' capacity using AI in the fight against corruption. The potential cooperation areas include:**

- **Sharing experiences and knowledge with peer SAIs in other countries.**

- **Coordinating joint efforts towards the implementation of joint projects to use AI in the fight against corruption.**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