

The Black Futures Summit  
New York City, New York  
September 20-21, 2024  
Action Day Side Events of United Nations Summit of the Future  
**Reynaldo Anderson, PHD**  
Presenter

Afrofuturism, a cultural and artistic movement, merges science and technology, speculative frameworks, and Afrocentricity, and can critique globalization, post-globalization and the emerging technology gap. By envisioning futures through a distinctly Africanist lens, it challenges Western-centric narratives of technology and progress. It highlights the potential exacerbation of socio-economic divides driven by technology while offering a counter-narrative that celebrates African innovation and resilience.

As globalization intensifies, the digital divide expands, disproportionately impacting African nations and their diaspora. The emerging technology gap threatens to marginalize these countries and communities further, limiting their participation in the global digital economy. This disparity is evident in access to information, digital infrastructure, and technological education, which are crucial for socio-economic development.

The African Union (AU) plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. Promoting policies encouraging digital literacy, fostering domestic tech industries, and ensuring equitable internet accessibility are vital steps. The AU can leverage Afrofuturist visions to inspire homegrown technological advancements and cultural productions, highlighting African ingenuity and futurism.

Possible solutions include:

1. Investment in Digital Infrastructure-: Increase funding and collaboration for building robust internet and telecommunications networks.
2. Educational Reforms-: Integrate technology-focused curricula in schools; provide training programs to upskill the workforce for the digital economy.
3. Public-Private Partnerships- To encourage collaborations between governments and tech companies to foster innovation and create sustainable technology ecosystems.
4. Cultural Integration- Use African Futurist and Afrofuturist frameworks in education and media to inspire a new generation of African technologists and scientists.
5. Policy Frameworks- Establish policies like a framework for A.I. ethics that support technological research and innovation, emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility.

Through these measures, the African Union can harness the principles of Afrofuturism to

offer a powerful critique of current global inequalities and promote an inclusive, technologically advanced future for all African nations. This approach not only bridges the technology gap but also empowers Africans to define their futures autonomously, grounded in their rich cultural heritage and innovative potential.



**Reynaldo Anderson, PHD**  
Department of Africology and Africa American Studies  
Temple University