Proposal for Pilot Deployment of the “AI Necklace for Child Safety” in South Africa under the Sweden–Africa Cooperation Framework

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to respectfully share a humanitarian technology initiative and kindly request that this message be forwarded to the relevant officer or section within the Embassy responsible for innovation, development cooperation, or public-interest programming.

My name is Jeon Gyu-min, and I serve as Project Coordinator of the AI Necklace for Child Safety Initiative, an independent, non-commercial, and non-governmental effort based in the Republic of Korea. Rooted in a rights-based approach to ethical innovation, our initiative seeks to protect children with developmental and physical disabilities living in humanitarian, refugee, or low-resource environments.

In this context, I wish to present a pilot proposal that may align with Sweden’s development cooperation priorities in South Africa—particularly our shared commitments to inclusive development, human rights, and technology for social good. Sweden has maintained a long-standing presence across Africa through bilateral partnerships and multilateral engagement with the African Union. It has also demonstrated leadership in global dialogues on digital inclusion and responsible AI.

South Africa, in turn, plays a pivotal role in regional governance and rights-based innovation through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its post-apartheid policy frameworks. These intersecting policy environments provide fertile ground for testing ethical, community-centered technology solutions.

South Africa continues to face structural barriers in delivering support to children with disabilities, particularly those living in informal settlements, refugee households, or historically underserved communities. Stigma, infrastructural gaps, and cost barriers often result in these children being excluded from assistive services. In response, our initiative proposes the pilot deployment of the AI Necklace for Child Safety—a low-cost, offline wearable device designed to support the daily functioning and safety of children with developmental and physical disabilities in such environments.

The device offers real-time verbal prompts to assist the child in daily routines and alerts caregivers via a paired mobile application in cases of distress or deviation from expected behavior. It operates entirely offline, collects no personal data, and is fully compliant with global standards on data protection and ethical AI, including the GDPR, COPPA, and the Council of Europe’s guidelines on children’s rights in the digital environment.

A fully operational prototype can be locally assembled and field-tested for approximately 1,000 USD, a cost I am prepared to personally cover for the purposes of this pilot. The modular and locally adaptable design allows for community-based implementation, with the potential to create dignified work opportunities for refugee caregivers, technicians, and unemployed youth. The project is closely aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9, and 10, the African Union’s Digital Transformation Strategy, and the G7 Hiroshima Principles on AI.

For local collaboration in South Africa, we identify promising synergies with:

1. Afrika Tikkun, which delivers holistic development services for children and youth in Johannesburg and Cape Town;

2. and the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, which provides advocacy and support to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—including children with disabilities.

Both organizations share a rights-based and community-grounded approach consistent with our own mission and with Sweden’s values and priorities in the region.

This proposal is entirely non-commercial, self-funded, and guided by humanitarian principles. To support your review, I have prepared a comprehensive 260-page technical dossier, along with a two-page executive summary. I would be pleased to share the summary first and can provide the full dossier in secure, non-editable PDF/A format upon request.

If the Embassy considers this concept relevant to its work, I would welcome any opportunity to receive guidance on local partnership frameworks, regulatory considerations, or avenues for constructive engagement. I remain available to share further materials or participate in a virtual consultation at your convenience.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to Sweden’s leadership in ethical, inclusive innovation—supporting children with disabilities in South Africa and beyond.

We believe this pilot could serve as a low-risk, high-impact demonstration of Sweden’s leadership in ethical and inclusive innovation across the African region.

Sincerely,  
 Jeon Gyu-min  
 Project Coordinator and Founder  
 AI Necklace for Child Safety Initiative  
 Hanbat National University  
 Daejeon, Republic of Korea