



AI Principles for Kenya A Comprehensive Framework for Safe, Secure, Inclusive, Sustainable and Trustworthy AI

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has immense potential to accelerate economic growth, enhance public service delivery, and address pressing societal challenges. However, its rapid adoption also introduces ethical, legal, and socio-economic complexities that require careful governance. Kenya acknowledges AI's transformative power while emphasizing the importance of responsible and inclusive deployment.

Kenya's AI governance framework is informed by international law and human rights instruments, including the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These references provide a foundational basis for AI governance that upholds human dignity and rights.

Regionally, Kenya is guided by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, which emphasize inclusive and sustainable socio-economic transformation. At the international level, Kenya's AI strategy aligns with key processes and reports such as the Global Digital Compact (GDC) agreed upon at the Summit of the Future, the United Nations AI High-Level Advisory Body Report, and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/78/L.49, titled 'Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development,' which collectively provide comprehensive guidance on AI governance.

Global best practices, including the OECD Principles on AI, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030), and the World Bank's Development Report on Data for Better Lives, offer a strong framework for responsible AI governance.

Domestically, Kenya has established key policy instruments, such as the Data Protection Act (2019) and the National ICT Policy (2019), highlighting the country's commitment to data protection, cybersecurity, and inclusive digital transformation. Kenya is also devoted to bridging digital divides and ensuring that the benefits of AI reach all segments of society—particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

The effective governance of AI requires collaboration among government entities, the private sector, academia, civil society, and international organizations. Kenya aims to create a comprehensive and future-focused AI governance framework that aligns with its national development agenda and global commitments, ensuring AI is developed and deployed safely, securely, inclusively, and reliably while upholding human rights and promoting sustainable development.

Core Values

Kenya subscribes to the following core values in AI governance:

- **Safe AI:** Ensuring that AI systems function without harming individuals or communities, while integrating fairness, privacy, and social justice into AI governance.
- **Secure AI:** Safeguarding AI systems against adversarial threats and ensuring resilience by establishing well-defined goals and considerations of ethical standards.





- **Inclusive AI:** Encouraging equal access and representation for all communities, ensuring that AI systems empower underrepresented groups and uphold democratic values.
- **Sustainable AI:** Utilizing AI to promote long-term economic and environmental sustainability with an emphasis on proportionality and a clear purpose.
- **Trustworthy AI:** Fostering public confidence and trust through transparency, accountability, and ethical standards that align with democratic values and human rights.

Core Principles

1. Life-Centered and Human-Centered Design and Accountability:

AI systems must enhance, not replace, human judgment while considering the broader impact on how people live, learn, work, and communicate. Critical healthcare, justice, education, and social services decisions require mandatory human review to ensure oversight and ethical responsibility.

Rationale: A life-centered and human-centered approach ensures AI aligns with human values and the broader ecosystem of life. Organizations must take appropriate measures to ensure AI systems respect democratic values, human rights, and non-discrimination throughout their lifecycle. Ethics Review Boards at national and county levels will audit high-risk AI applications to ensure compliance and accountability. A public AI incident registry will provide transparency, and algorithmic impact assessments (AIAs) will assess potential risks before deployment. Mechanisms for human intervention must be integrated to address unintended outcomes while respecting human rights and fairness.

2. Equity and Fairness:

AI must be developed and deployed to promote fairness, prevent discrimination, and ensure equitable access to opportunities across all demographic groups.

Rationale: Equity and fairness mitigate biases in AI systems, ensuring inclusivity and social justice. AI developers should identify, evaluate, and mitigate biases across the AI lifecycle through diverse internal and independent testing measures. Bias detection frameworks and representative training datasets will be prioritized to address gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities, while dedicated funding will be allocated to solutions that target underrepresented communities. AI should not perpetuate existing biases and should be designed to treat everyone equitably, ensuring alignment with democratic values and ethical considerations.

3. Transparency and Public Trust:

AI systems must be transparent in their decision-making processes, providing clear explanations and ensuring public access to information.

Rationale: Transparency fosters trust and accountability, enabling citizens to understand and challenge AI decisions that impact their lives. Organizations must provide meaningful and publicly accessible documentation on AI systems' capabilities, limitations, and intended use. Clear reporting mechanisms will help prevent misinformation and promote ethical AI use. Public awareness initiatives and explainability tools should empower users to make informed decisions.

4. Safety, Security, and Resilience

AI must be designed to withstand risks and adversarial threats, ensuring resilience and continuous performance in critical applications.

Rationale: AI systems should incorporate robust safety mechanisms to prevent misuse, adversarial attacks, and unintended harmful consequences. Security controls, including cybersecurity measures and physical





safeguards, must be in place to protect against external threats and insider risks. To prevent adversarial misuse and insider threats, invest in robust security controls, including cybersecurity and physical security. Conduct regular safety evaluations and risk assessments to ensure AI systems remain resilient over time.

5. International Collaboration and Ethical AI Development:

Kenya will actively engage in international cooperation to promote safe, secure, inclusive, and trustworthy AI development while aligning engagements with its core values.

Rationale: International cooperation is essential for harnessing AI to achieve sustainable development, economic prosperity, and peace and security. Kenya will collaborate with other countries and institutions to advance safeguards, share best practices, and facilitate responsible information sharing. To ensure accountability, Kenya will encourage responsible information sharing and incident reporting among government entities, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Kenya will engage with AI-leading companies, multilateral frameworks, and other relevant inclusive multilateral or bilateral engagements that promote inclusivity and prevent a race to the bottom. Kenya will remain guided by its core values and act in good faith to avoid being drawn into geopolitical contestations, focusing instead on deploying AI for the public good. Additionally, Kenya holds the view that AI should not be used for life-and-death decisions in military applications. Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAW) must always involve meaningful human oversight, ensuring that humans remain in the decision-making loop.

6. Environmental Sustainability:

AI development must prioritize tackling global challenges such as climate change, health, and education in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while also promoting energy efficiency and supporting environmental conservation efforts.

Rationale: Sustainable AI practices minimize environmental footprints and aid in achieving global climate objectives. AI should be utilized to tackle challenges like climate change, resource management, and environmental protection. Promoting the adoption of energy-efficient AI technologies and evaluating their lifecycle impact will foster responsible environmental stewardship and benefit the public good.

7. Inclusive Participation and Cultural Relevance:

AI must be designed with active participation from diverse communities, reflecting Kenya's cultural and linguistic diversity.

Rationale: Inclusion ensures AI serves the needs of all citizens, respecting local values and traditions. Engaging stakeholders from different communities, including marginalized groups, will promote the equitable adoption of AI-driven solutions. Public consultations and participatory design processes will ensure AI solutions are contextually relevant and socially beneficial.

8. Robust Governance and Adaptive Regulation

A dynamic regulatory framework must be in place to oversee AI development, ensuring compliance with evolving ethical and legal standards.

Rationale: Kenya will adopt international technical standards and governance frameworks to align with evolving global best practices. This will enhance regulatory adaptability in a rapidly changing AI landscape and ensure that AI systems operate with a clear purpose, proportionality, and accountability.

Call to Action

This statement calls upon all stakeholders, government, private sector, civil society, and the international community to embrace and implement these AI governance principles, which have embedded equity,





accountability, and sustainability into every aspect of AI development. This will enable Kenya to harness technology to drive economic growth and build a prosperous future where every citizen thrives.

“Harnessing AI is not about machines - it’s about dignity, justice, and our shared humanity.”

Endorsed by: Parliament of Kenya, Council of Governors, Private Sector Federation, Academia, Civil Society, and Development Partners.

*Designed and Developed : Executive office of the President, Office of the Special Envoy on Technology Kenya, Ministry of ICT*DE , Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KICTANET, GPSDD*

