



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

CAIDP INDEX 2026

*A comprehensive review of AI policies
and practices worldwide*



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope

The Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP) ***Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index*** (CAIDP Index) is the first global survey to assess progress toward trustworthy AI based on detailed narrative reports, combined with a methodology that produces ratings and rankings for national AI policies and practices.

The **CAIDP Index** has these objectives: (1) to document AI policies and practices, based on publicly available sources, (2) to establish a methodology for the evaluation of AI policies and practices, based on global norms, (3) to provide a basis for comparative evaluation, (4) to provide the basis for future evaluations, and (5) to ultimately encourage all countries to make real the promise of AI that is trustworthy, human-centric, and provides broad social benefit to all.

Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values focuses on human rights, rule of law, and democratic governance metrics. Endorsement and implementation of the OECD/G20 AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence are among the primary metrics. Opportunities for the public to participate in the formation of national AI policy, adoption of the right to algorithmic transparency, and creation of independent agencies to address AI challenges are also among the metrics. Patents, publications, investment, and employment impacts are important metrics for the AI economy, but they are not considered here.

The **CAIDP Index** is published annually and will evolve as country practices change and new issues emerge.

The 2026 Edition

The 2026 edition of the report updates and expands the previous reports. To reflect some of the key discussions and developments in the AI policy landscape, our efforts to enhance usability, and our expansion as an organization, we have also made the following changes for ***CAIDP Index 2026***.

- We updated the metric concerning the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Recognition for full implementation (Y) of the Recommendation requires completion of the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and additional steps.
- We added 10 new country reports to the Index, bringing our total to 90 countries. The new countries for the 2026 edition are: Benin, Ecuador, Greece, Jordan, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Romania, Slovakia, and Tanzania.

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- We introduced a section on AI Literacy to weigh policies promoting education and capacity-building for students, workers, and civil servants. We focus on programs designed to prepare citizens to live and participate in a world shaped by AI.
- The scores for country reports previously published were reviewed and revised based on developments during the past year concerning AI policies and practices.
- The number of researchers participating in the project has grown significantly. More than 500 CAIDP Research Group members representing more than 90 countries contributed updates from 2025. This brings our total contributors above 2000 researchers representing 130 countries.

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The CAIDP AI and Democratic Values report is a trusted global reference.

– *Council of Europe Secretary General Alain Berset (2026)*

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For anyone who wants to engage AI governance seriously, as a researcher, practitioner, educator, or advocate, the CAIDP Index is as close to an essential resource as this field has produced.

– *Carolina Rossini, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2026)*

The Index offers a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and civil society working to ensure that artificial intelligence is developed and deployed in ways that are trustworthy, human-centric, and beneficial to society.

– *David Roldán Martínez, International WoMenX in Business for Ethical AI (2026)*

The CAIDP Index and the work of the CAIDP in general demonstrate the value of civil society engagement as a factor in policy, in this case as an essential evidence-based contribution to the regulation and governance of AI.

– *Hannes Werthner, Digital Humanism (2026)*

The Index is essential for informing anyone curious about the key trends on how nations are responsibly adopting AI.

– *Michael Zimba, Malawi University of Science and Technology (2026)*

The wealth of information in the CAIDP Index is unparalleled and the rigor is uncanny. What an excellent tool for researchers and policy makers!

– *Niovi Vavoula, Université du Luxembourg (2026)*

The CAIDP Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index is a critical resource for practitioners and technology adoption leaders

– *Pablo Molina, Drexel University (2026)*

[CAIDP's study is] a significant milestone that opens the door for us to consider the long-term material impacts of technology, ensuring that our pursuit of innovation consistently protects the intellectual and spiritual well-being of all societies.

– *Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, University of Toronto (2026)*

As the development and use of AI continues to increase exponentially, governments and civil society have struggled to keep pace. [...] This report is essential reading for anyone looking to grasp the key trends that link how nation states are responding to the rise of AI, and for anyone looking to understand the key developments in specific states. It is both thoroughly researched and the product of deep and broad expertise.

– *Edward Santow, Human Technology Institute, UTS (2025)*

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The AIDV Index is an incredibly impressive and valuable compendium. The country reports themselves offer an extremely valuable collection of case studies.

– *Justin Longo, University of Regina (2025)*

The AI and Democratic Values 2024 report is a well-developed and highly technical work that provides essential insights into the intersection of artificial intelligence and democratic governance. This report serves as a crucial tool for understanding how nations can effectively promote and safeguard democratic values in the age of AI. It is an invaluable resource for countries seeking to strengthen democratic principles while leveraging AI responsibly.

– *Armando Guio Español, Berkman Klein Center (2025)*

It is always encouraging to see the progress in AIDV and its contribution to the formation of AI policies around the world.

– *Wonki Min, KAIST (2025)*

The report seeks to shed light on the broad landscape of AI regulation and governance. Accordingly, it seeks to explicate both the challenges and opportunities surrounding the adoption of AI systems, making the AIDV a useful reference document that points towards more inclusive digital futures.

– *Bulelani Jili, Harvard University (2025)*

I endorse this report for its clear and diverse inclusion of countries in both the Global North and the Global South. The report gives an important insight into AI-related activities globally. This is important because AI does not operate in a vacuum, nor does it operate in silos: its impact is intertwined across the globe.

– *Kutoma Wakunuma, De Montfort University (2025)*

The CAIDP 2024 Report continues its tradition of excellence in providing essential insights into the global relationship among democratic values, ethics and the accelerated pace of AI innovation and development. It is an essential tool to understand the nature of AI and its relationship to the public good. At UNESCO, with our global standard on the ethics of AI, we are proud to partner with CAIDP to achieve a technological transition that is fair and sustainable.

– *Former UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at Gabriela Ramos (2024)*

CAIDP's report sheds light on the current landscape of international regulations, national laws and policies emerging from the fascinating and complex field of AI. The report emphasizes the imperative to protect fundamental rights and uphold the rule of law and will serve as a useful roadmap for shaping AI

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governance and to foster and advance a crucial dialogue among diverse stakeholders in the international arena.”

– *Cristos Velasco, DHBW Cooperative State University (2024)*

CAIDP’s flagship report provides insightful information how the AI principles are translated into practice across 75 countries.

– *Wonki Min, SUNY Korea (2023)*

It is a great exercise of comparative digital law in action, providing a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of AI policy also contributing to underline the constitutional relationship between AI & democracy. Digital Democracy and rule of law in the digital context will be the real challenges for the next decade.

– *Oreste Pollicino, Bocconi University (2023)*

A very worthwhile analysis.

– *Stuart Russell, University of Berkeley, California (2022)*

An impressive body of work.

– *Alessandro Acquisti, Carnegie Mellon University (2022)*

An excellent report, a very useful tool for the community and a reference to see nexus between AI and Democratic Values.

– *Leyla Keser, Istanbul Bilgi University (2022)*

A very insightful report on AI laws and policies that addresses significant international developments and provides a terrific comparison of AI laws and policies across 50 countries.

– *Lee J. Tiedrich, Duke University (2022)*

This report is unique in that it compares AI policies and practices around the world and should inspire progress toward trustworthy and human-centric AI. The report also documents the important role of digital rights and consumer groups in this endeavor.

– *Ursula Pachl, European Consumer Association (BEUC) (2022)*

It's rare to read a document that has the potential to influence national policies on artificial intelligence around the world. The country descriptions and evaluations are thoughtfully organized, well-written, and carefully documented. The country rankings enable readers to have a broad understanding of who the leaders are and why, while pointing out what still needs to be done. The AI and Democratic

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Values index gives me hope that AI policy efforts can improve human rights, social justice, and dignity.

– Ben Shneiderman, author, *Human-Centric AI* (Oxford 2022)

In this historical moment of global interest negotiation and competition on AI we are in right now, we urgently need a shared narrative serving the human interest and democracy. With its comprehensive overview of key global and local power actors and initiatives The Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index is an essential instrument for the facilitation of this shared global dialogue on AI now and in many years to come.

– Gry Hasselbalch, *DataEthics.eu*, *InTouchAI.eu* (2022)

This is a very ambitious and important exercise. The outcome is impressive—detailed and rigorous.

– Valsamis Mitsilegas, *Queen Mary University of London* (2022)

This comparative study sheds critical light on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence in democratic societies. AI and Democratic Values is an indispensable reference source for regulators, reporters, academics, and practitioners

– Dr. Pablo G. Molina, *Georgetown University* and founder, *International Applied Ethics and Technology Association* (iaeta.org) (2022)

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A Year in Review

2025: Progress, Backsliding, and Pushing Forward

The *AI and Democratic Values Index (CAIDP Index)*, published annually by the Center for AI and Digital Policy provides a comprehensive review of AI policies and practices worldwide. In this sixth edition, we highlight increased support for the international AI treaty and progress in various countries toward comprehensive AI legislation and the creation of supervisory authorities. We also noted backsliding, particularly with attempts by the US federal government to interfere with state legislation on AI and influence the implementation of the EU AI Act. Despite these setbacks, AI governance continues to move forward, led by international organizations including the United Nations and UNESCO and, increasingly, middle powers, including countries from the Global South.

Progress

In the roughly 20 AI Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law opened for signature, 45 countries have endorsed this first international treaty on AI. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Japan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Uruguay signed in 2025, and Armenia signed in early 2026.¹ The mandate of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), which drafted the Convention, concluded in 2025.² The Treaty extends to South America, North America, Europe, and East Asia. The final meeting reflected the global commitment to the treaty's principles and expanded global outreach. Ecuador joined the meeting as a CAI observer for the first time and committee members engaged in a Thematic Hearing on "Connecting Asia, the Global South, and Europe on Responsible AI in the Public Sector."³ The Declaration on AI and Global Governance⁴ at the conclusion of the Lisbon Forum organized with the GPAI Expert Community⁵ reflected efforts to connect Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia in discussions

¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 31, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

² Council of Europe, *Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/cai>

³ Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *14th Plenary Meeting*, Agenda Items 4, 9 (Nov. 3–5, 2025), <https://rm.coe.int/cai-2025-13-14th-meeting-report/488029e106>

⁴ Lisbon Forum, *Lisbon Declaration on AI and Global Governance* (Oct. 28–29, 2025), <https://rm.coe.int/2025-lisbon-declaration/488029b11d>

⁵ Council of Europe North-South Centre, *Lisbon Forum Declaration on AI and Global Governance Now Published* (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/north-south-centre/-/lisbon-forum-declaration-on-ai-and-global-governance-now-published>

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on AI governance challenges. A proposed Steering Committee on New and Emerging Technologies (CDNET) to complete work on implementation tools for the Framework Convention and to offer advice to the Committee of Ministers on AI governance could further increase the treaty's global support.⁶

Several countries formalized legal frameworks to guide the development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence and to answer questions about liability for harms. China's revised cybersecurity law⁷ defines liability and specifies penalties for individuals and for network operators responsible for "serious" failures such as data breaches or infrastructure failure. Individuals and operators can also be liable for disseminating or failing to stop the spread of prohibited information. In the European Union, Italy charged forward, delivering the first national framework implementing the EU AI Act.⁸ Slovenia⁹ and Hungary, too,¹⁰ passed national acts to create a more robust framework for enforcing the regional act. Even as the European Commission's Digital Omnibus loosens requirements in the name of simplification,¹¹ national governments are developing regulations to provide clarity for companies and protections for their citizens.

Vietnam¹² and Peru¹³ both passed comprehensive, risk-based AI legislation near the end of 2025. Like the EU AI Act, the Vietnamese and Peruvian legal

⁶ Ibid, Agenda Items 10 –11

⁷ National People's Congress China Daily, *AI Support at Heart of Cybersecurity Revision* (Oct. 30, 2025), http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2025-10/30/c_1136472.htm

⁸ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]*, Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

⁹ Uradni List, 3035. *Act on the Implementation of the Regulation (EU) laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (ZIUDHPUDI)*, Official Gazette, page 9899 (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2025-01-3035>

¹⁰ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Decree 344/2025 on the Implementation of the Act Executing the European Union Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Hungary [Korm. rendelet Az Európai Unió mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló rendeletének magyarországi végrehajtásáról]* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-344-20-22>

¹¹ European Commission, *Simplification—Digital Package and Omnibus* (2026), https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14855-Simplification-digital-package-and-omnibus_en

¹² Vietnam News Agency (VNA), *NA Passes First-Ever Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/na-passes-first-ever-law-on-artificial-intelligence-post334057.vnp>

¹³ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PC, that approves the Regulation of the Law No. 31814, Law Promoting the Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Country's Economic and Social Development [Decreto Supremo que aprueba el Reglamento de la Ley No 31814, Ley que promueve el uso de la inteligencia artificial en favor del desarrollo económico y social del país]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

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frameworks require safeguards for high-risk systems and prohibit certain AI applications such as social scoring in the Vietnamese case¹⁴ and mass surveillance and biometric identification (with exceptions) in the Peruvian case.¹⁵ These prohibitions offer a step toward realizing the Global Call for AI Red Lines launched during the UN General Assembly and supported by over 90 organizations, including CAIDP, and AI and governance experts.¹⁶ Most of the provisions of the Peruvian law entered into force at the end of 2025 while Vietnamese law entered into force in March 2026, months after the Korean AI Basic Law promulgated in January 2025.¹⁷ Like the EU law, the Peruvian law has rolling deadlines, including progressive steps over three years toward full implementation of the article on Algorithmic Transparency. Taiwan's AI Basic Act enacted in January 2026 defines principles and a risk-based framework for future legislation.¹⁸

Implementation of global frameworks and governance mechanisms progressed in 2025, too. UNESCO has supported more than 40 countries through the report stage of Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).¹⁹ Countries from the Global South and global majority continue to lead in the completing the RAM. Asia saw the greatest number of completions since the launch of the 2025 Index, with 10 countries—Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam—joining Indonesia. Botswana, Chad, Mauritius, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe joined African countries identified last year, with Rwanda nearing completion. Egypt, listed under

¹⁴ Ministry of Science and Technology, *Details of the Draft Document QPLL* (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2294.htm>; *Luật Trí Tuệ Nhân Tạo* [full text, Vietnamese] (2025), <https://mic.mediacd.vn/document/2025/10/2/250925duthao-luatai-v10-1759393446665893284209.pdf>

¹⁵ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Law Promoting the Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Country's Economic and Social Development*, Art. 23 (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/8619777/7133522-decreto-supremo-n-115-2025-pcm.PDF?v=1757422328>

¹⁶ AI Red Lines, *Global Call for AI Red Lines* (2025), <https://red-lines.ai/#call>

¹⁷ Ministry of Science and ICT, *A New Chapter in the Age of AI: Basic Act on AI Passed at the National Assembly's Plenary Session* (Dec. 26, 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=1071&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

¹⁸ Presidential Order, *Artificial Intelligence Basic Act* (Jan. 8, 2025), https://www.linkedin.com/post/s/luisalbertomontezuma_taiwan-activity-7443304394474979328-ajVp; Office of the President, *Formulate a Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.president.gov.tw/Page/294/50131>

¹⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>; as of 3/31/26, 43 RAM reports are accessible in the Digital Library, though not all of those countries are listed on the Hub as completed. Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Paraguay have published reports but have no profile. Rwanda has a profile, but the report is not available.

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Arab States and Africa, and Oman joined Morocco and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East. Eight countries from Latin America and the Caribbean also published reports since April 2025, including Peru, Paraguay,²⁰ Jamaica, Ecuador, Curaçao, Cuba, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda. The Netherlands became the first European country to complete the process in 2025, with Moldova following in early 2026. Countries have also participated in programs to equip civil servants with basic knowledge about the uses and risks of AI technologies through UNESCO initiative such as the Supervising AI by Competent Authorities program²¹ and the AI Literacy Program for Civil Servants.²²

Beyond the RAM, many countries have taken action to implement the UNESCO Recommendation²³ and OECD AI Principles²⁴ through policies to integrate AI literacy and digital skills into national education programs and support for community-based initiatives. Namibia's national digital strategy emphasizes integrating digital literacy into the national education curriculum, training teachers, and developing community-based digital literacy and AI training programs to empower citizens to know when and how to use AI systems effectively.²⁵ Argentina's Secretariat of Education and Ministry of Human Capital launched a beta version of a program (PAIDEIA) to prepare students in primary and secondary education to "understand and actively participate in a world increasingly mediated by technology."²⁶ The program applies cognitive and durable skills to coding and computer science as well using and developing AI systems. Finland's Ministry of

²⁰ UNESCO Office Montevideo and Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Paraguay: Evaluation of the Status of Artificial Intelligence Preparation [Paraguay: Evaluación del estadio de preparación de la inteligencia artificial]* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396524>

²¹ UNESCO, *Expanding Capacity Building for Competent Authorities on AI: National Trainings across the EU* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/expanding-capacity-building-competent-authorities-ai-national-trainings-across-eu>

²² Christabel Randolph and Merve Hickok, *UNESCO's AI Literacy Training for Civil Servants: Empowering Ethical AI Governance around the World*, UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/articles/unescos-ai-literacy-training-civil-servants-empowering-ethical-ai-governance-around-world-0>

²³ UNESCO Digital Library, *UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Key Facts*, p. 14 (2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385082.page=14>

²⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Building Human Capacity and Preparing for Labour Market Transformation (Principle 2.4)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/ai-principles/P13>

²⁵ Minister of Information and Communications Technology, *National Digital Strategy Namibia 2025–2028*, pp. 61–63 (2025), <https://mict.gov.na/documents/869282/6500577/NDS4+040825.pdf/aeb1c2a6-63a9-f04e-7f78-3e15549eefcf?t=1754320341496>

²⁶ Ministerio de Capital Humano, *Paideia: Argentine Program of Education Innovation with Artificial Intelligence [Paideia: Programa Argentino de Innovación de la Educación con Inteligencia Artificial]*, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/capital-humano/educacion/paideia>

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Education and Culture’s Recommendation on AI also centers AI literacy with attention to legal and ethical issues.²⁷ Finland’s Recommendation identifies competencies students can develop through AI literacy education and the safe use of AI tools in learning. These programs also build citizens’ capacity to engage in AI policymaking.

Japan continues to model action-oriented governance globally, particularly through the country’s leadership engaging with the G7 Hiroshima AI Process (HAIP). The OECD and G7 released the HAIP Reporting Framework in early 2025, and 9 of the 25 companies who have submitted reports as of January 2026, are Japanese.²⁸ Japan explicitly drew on the HAIP to formulate the national AI Act, which is intended to “improve the quality of life of the Japanese people and boost the development of the national economy by promoting AI research, development, and utilization.”²⁹ Japan’s integration of the HAIP in the national AI Act exemplifies how countries can integrate international frameworks and mechanisms into national legislation to ensure citizens’ safety and to build trust.

The AI Action Summit in early 2025 marked a clear shift in the global AI policy agenda from a narrow focus on catastrophic risk at the 2023 Bletchley Safety Summit to a broader emphasis on deployment, economic opportunity, and global governance. The conference also featured many new participants from the Global South. More than 60 countries and major international organizations endorsed a political declaration emphasizing that AI should be “open, inclusive, transparent, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy” and aligned with human rights and sustainability goals.³⁰ Surprisingly, the United States and the United Kingdom chose not to endorse the conference declaration.

The Vatican has also been prominent in discussions on AI governance. Pope Francis’s message to the AI Action Summit stressed the power of the heart over algorithms and reiterated that “the voices of all stakeholders should be taken into account, including the poor, the powerless and others who often go unheard in global

²⁷ Ministry of Education and Culture, *Recommendations for AI* (Sept. 18, 2024), <https://okm.fi/en/project?tunnus=OKM021:00/2024>

²⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *G7 Reporting Framework—Hiroshima AI Process (HAIP) International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems* (2026), <https://transparency.oecd.ai/reports>

²⁹ Public Relations Office Government of Japan, *Act on Promotion of Research and Development, and Utilization of Artificial Intelligence-Related Technology Now in Full Effect*, Policy Related News Series, Vol. 209 (Nov. 2025), https://www.gov-online.go.jp/hlj/en/november_2025/november_2025-08.html

³⁰ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

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decision-making processes”³¹ in discussions on AI governance. The Vatican endorsed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable AI.³² Pope Leo emphasized human dignity, too, telling AI governance leaders “Acknowledging and respecting what is uniquely characteristic of the human person is essential to the discussion of any adequate ethical framework for the governance of AI.”³³ This effort, requires “widespread participation that gives everyone the opportunity to be heard with respect, even the most humble”³⁴ to restore “confidence in the human ability to guide the development of these technologies [...] a confidence that today is increasingly eroded by the paralyzing idea that [AI] development follows an inevitable path.” Actors from politics, business, communities, and religious and other institutions must place this joint responsibility, Pope Leo argued, “before any partisan interest or profit, which is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few.”

Backsliding

The US federal administration’s swift revocation of the 2024 Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI³⁵ marked the beginning of a steady decline in the country’s leadership in trustworthy artificial intelligence and global governance. Administration leaders invoked a race with China and security threats from unnamed adversaries to rationalize an innovation-at-all costs narrative that opposed well-established values for AI governance, including fairness, transparency and

³¹ Holy See, *Message of the Holy Father to the President of Republic of France on the Occasion of the ‘Sommet pour l’Action sur l’Intelligence Artificielle’* (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2025/documents/20250207-messaggio-summit-parigi-ia.html>

³² Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

³³ Holy See, *Message of Pope Leo XIV to Participants in the Second Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Corporate Governance* (Jun. 17, 2025), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/pont-messages/2025/documents/20250617-messaggio-ia.html>

³⁴ Holy See, *Address of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to Participants in the Conference “Artificial Intelligence and Care of Our Common Home” Organized by the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation and the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities* (Dec. 5, 2026), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/december/documents/20251205-conferenza.html>

³⁵ Federal Register, *Executive Order 14110: Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 30, 2023), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/01/2023-24283/safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence>

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accountability, and reliability.³⁶ This narrative has material effects. With the withdrawal from UNESCO³⁷ and opposition to the AI Scientific Panel and the Paris Declaration, the United States has increasingly acted on the world stage as an adversary to the AI governance principles it helped establish.

The United States has threatened progress in the European Union, too. The proposed AI Digital Omnibus would grant companies easier access to data for training models³⁸ without the AI Act protections designed to build trust.

Pushing Forward

Resistance to the Trump Administration has united actors in the United States and globally. California,³⁹ New York,⁴⁰ and Texas,⁴¹ for example, moved forward with new AI safeguards. The US Senate defeated a proposed moratorium on state laws, 99–1.⁴² G20 leaders moved forward with their summit in November despite a US boycott over claims South Africa—which was shunned in international organizations in the 1960s–early 1990s over its apartheid regime—was persecuting

³⁶ Trump White House, *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/>

³⁷ Trump White House, *Withdrawing the United States from International Organizations, Conventions, and Treaties That Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States: Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/01/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-international-organizations-conventions-and-treaties-that-are-contrary-to-the-interests-of-the-united-states/>

³⁸ European Commission, *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the council amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 and (EU) 2018/1139 as regards the simplification of the implementation of harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Digital Omnibus on AI)* (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0836>

³⁹ California Legislative Information, *AB-316 Artificial Intelligence: Defenses*, Chapter 672 (Oct. 14, 2025), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB316; California Legislative Information, *SB-53 Artificial Intelligence Models: Large Developers* (Sept. 29, 2025), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB53

⁴⁰ New York State Senate, *Assembly Bill A6453/A Relates to the Training and Use of Artificial Intelligence Frontier Models* (Dec. 19, 2025), <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A6453/amendment/A>

⁴¹ Senate Research Center, *CSHB 149: Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act* (May 20, 2025), <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/analysis/html/HB00149S.htm>; [full text] <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00149F.pdf>

⁴² 119th Congress, *H.R.1—An Act to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14*, Actions, SA 2814 (Jul. 1, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/all-actions>

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the white minority.⁴³ The G20 Declaration highlighted a broader range of global voices in the discussions on AI, data governance, and innovation for sustainable development.⁴⁴ By contrast, the US State Department media note announcing assumption of the 2026 G20 presidency promises to “return the G20 to focusing on its core mission of driving economic growth and prosperity to produce results.”⁴⁵

Many national governments moved to combat deepfakes and AI-generated nonconsensual sexual material,⁴⁶ especially involving children. Italy’s national AI law criminalizes harmful uses of artificial intelligence, including deepfakes,⁴⁷ making users generating and sharing undressed or otherwise harmful content without consent liable to criminal charges. Italy’s data protection office (*Garante*) also warned companies that own products used to create these images, including Grok and ChatGPT, of their obligation “to design, develop, and make available applications and platforms [...] to ensure that users can use them in compliance with privacy regulations.”⁴⁸ Brazil’s government gave xAI, the company that owns Grok, 30 days to prevent sexualized deepfakes, while Indonesia and Malaysia imposed at least temporary bans on Grok.⁴⁹ China’s Cyberspace Administration published an instrument to standardize the labeling of AI-generated content,⁵⁰ a move that complements earlier restrictions. While Grok and xAI have been named most prominently because of the “spicy” mode on the image generation tool, the United Kingdom’s Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Secretary of

⁴³ John Eligon, *Can the World Move on Without the US? G20 Leaders Gave It a Shot*, New York Times (Nov. 23, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/23/world/africa/g20-united-states.html>

⁴⁴ G20 South Africa 2025, *G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders’ Declaration* (Nov. 22, 2025), <https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-G20-Summit-Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁵ US Department of State, *United States Assumes Presidency of the Group of 20* (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/2025/12/united-states-assumes-presidency-of-the-group-of-20>

⁴⁶ 119th Congress, *S.146—TAKE IT DOWN Act* (May 19, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/146>

⁴⁷ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]*, Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025, Art. 26, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

⁴⁸ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Press Release—Deepfakes, the Guarantor Warns: Fundamental Rights and Freedoms at Risk [Comunicato Stampa—Deepfake, il Garante avverte: A rischio diritti e libertà fondamentali]* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/10207147>

⁴⁹ Justin Hendrix and Ramsha Jahangir, *Tracking Regulator Responses to the Grok “Undressing” Controversy* (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://www.techpolicy.press/tracking-regulator-responses-to-the-grok-undressing-controversy/>

⁵⁰ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Notice on Issuing the “Measures for Identifying Artificial Intelligence-Generated and Synthetic Content”* [关于印发“人工智能生成合成内容标识办法”的通知] (Mar. 14, 2025), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2025-03/14/c_1743654684782215.htm

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State emphasized the broader problem: “The platforms that host such material must be held accountable—including X.” These actions reflect progress in defining liability for users and for providers.

Lost funding has not deterred the United Nations from fulfilling its role as a site for international dialogue and norm-making for AI governance. The 2025 General Assembly formally established the International Scientific Panel on AI, with members selected through early 2026.⁵¹ The first Global Dialogue on AI Governance also took place,⁵² though informally, offering what BRICS leaders called “an inclusive platform within the United Nations for states and stakeholders to discuss the critical issues concerning AI facing humanity today.”⁵³

The Global Dialogue and International Scientific Panel demonstrate the centrality of the United Nations in furthering global AI governance. The AI Red Lines movement also gathered attention at the General Assembly. The next UN Secretary-General will have to navigate an expanded, urgent role amid opposition from a former partner. AI governance will certainly remain a crucial topic in the interactive dialogues with candidates for Secretary-General in 2026.⁵⁴

The UN Secretary-General report on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) demonstrated wide consensus that weapons systems with no human control challenge international humanitarian law.⁵⁵ Discussions in the UN General Assembly in 2025 pushed the idea of a treaty forward with only 5 countries opposing and 5 abstaining on a resolution to hold informal discussions on emerging normative proposals around LAWS.⁵⁶ Countries demonstrated similar support to continue the dialogue on artificial intelligence in the military domain more broadly. 118

⁵¹ UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, *Independent International Scientific Panel on AI* (2025), <https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en>

⁵² UN Secretary-General, *Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General—on the General Assembly Decision on New Artificial Intelligence Governance Mechanisms within the United Nations* (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2025-08-26/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-the-general-assembly-decision-new-artificial-intelligence-governance-mechanisms-within-the-united>

⁵³ BRICS Brasil 2025, *BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence*, Presidency Documents (Jul. 6, 2025), <https://brics.br/en/documents/presidency-documents>

⁵⁴ President of the 80th Session, *Statement of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, HE Ms. Annalena Baerbock, on the Dates for the Interactive Dialogues with Candidates for the Position of Secretary-General* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.un.org/pga/80/2026/01/14/tatement-of-the-president-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-h-e-ms-annalena-baerbock-on-the-dates-for-the-interactive-dialogues-with-candidates-for-the-position-of-secretary-general/>

⁵⁵ UN Secretary-General, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, United Nations Digital Library (2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059475?v=pdf>

⁵⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the First Committee*, 80th Session, Agenda items 90–106. 121, 137 (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/534>

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delegations also supported⁵⁷ a draft resolution demanding human control and oversight over command, control, and communications systems of nuclear weapons.⁵⁸ These resolutions encourage the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS to continue toward an international instrument by the end of 2026. The global movement for AI red lines and UN efforts converge here, against allowing machines to decide and act to end a human life.

The BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence reflects the Global South's leadership in the push to implement AI governance based on shared values and national sovereignty.⁵⁹ At the Global AI for Africa Summit, leaders backed the African Union AI Continental Strategy with plans to bolster data and technological sovereignty and the establishment of the Africa AI Council.⁶⁰ The ASEAN provided concrete guidelines and action steps "to create the ideal conditions for responsible AI to flourish in the region" with the Responsible AI Roadmap⁶¹ and the expansion of the Guide on AI Governance and Ethics to address Generative AI.⁶² Progress in the G20 on data governance, non-discrimination in AI, and innovation for sustainable development owes much to the three consecutive years of leadership by countries in the Global South.⁶³

The G7 continues to offer tools for AI developers and deployers to align their practices with AI principles as part of the commitment to "drive innovation and adoption of secure, responsible, and trustworthy AI that benefits people, mitigates negative externalities, and promotes our national security."⁶⁴ Beyond the Hiroshima Process reporting, the G7 this year moved forward with an AI Adoption Roadmap outlining "the G7's shared vision and practical steps to help our small and medium-

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Possible Risks of the Integration of Artificial Intelligence into Command, Control and Communications Systems of Nuclear Weapons*, 80th Session First Committee, Agenda Item 99 (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/80/L.56>

⁵⁹ BRICS Brasil 2025, *BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence*, Presidency Documents (Jul. 6, 2025), <https://brics.br/en/documents/presidency-documents>

⁶⁰ Global AI Summit on Africa, *The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 4, 2025), [https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligences.pdf](https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa%20Declaration%20on%20Artificial%20Intelligences.pdf)

⁶¹ ASEAN, *ASEAN Responsible AI Roadmap (2025–2030)*, <https://asean.org/book/asean-responsible-ai-roadmap-2025-2030/>

⁶² ASEAN Malaysia 2025, *Chairman's Statement of the 47th ASEAN Summit* (Oct. 26, 2025), <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CHAIRMANS-STATEMENT-47TH-ASEAN-SUMMIT.pdf>

⁶³ G20 South Africa 2025, *G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders' Declaration* (Nov. 22, 2025), <https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-G20-Summit-Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁴ G7 Canada, *G7 Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity*, p. 1 (Jun. 17, 2025), <https://g7.canada.ca/assets/ea689367/Attachments/NewItems/pdf/g7-summit-statements/ai-en.pdf>

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sized enterprises (SMEs) access, understand and adopt AI in ways that drive value and productivity.”⁶⁵ Canada’s G7 Presidency achieved the key outcome of developing the SME AI Adoption Blueprint.⁶⁶

This year has demonstrated again the value of international institutions and multilateralism to move closer to a “world where technology promotes broad social inclusion based on fundamental rights, democratic institutions, and the rule of law,”⁶⁷ even as authoritarianism threatens. International institutions and individual countries have pushed implementation of AI principles forward while demonstrating the benefits of global cooperation. The stakes are too high to upset a growing global consensus for AI governance.

Key Developments 2025

- 45 countries support the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law
- Japan and China pass comprehensive AI legislation; Peru and Vietnam enact laws defining red lines against AI applications that undermine human rights and democratic values; South Korea’s 2025 law comes into effect
- US states adopt innovative AI safeguards while the executive branch withdraws from leadership in AI governance
- EU countries, including Italy, Slovenia, and Hungary, move forward the AI Act, and appoint oversight authorities
- UN establishes the Global Dialogue on AI Governance and an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI
- Countries at AI Action Summit in Paris endorse declaration on “inclusive and sustainable AI” as inequality and sustainability emerge as key governance themes
- UNESCO promotes AI readiness, focusing on the Global South and reaching Europe with the Netherlands and Moldova
- UNESCO begins training of AI Supervisory Authorities
- The South Africa G20 presidency moves forward on inclusive AI governance to protect against discrimination and establishes an institute to assist with AI governance
- ASEAN publishes the ASEAN Responsible AI Roadmap (2025–2030) and the Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, strengthening alignment with foundational AI governance frameworks

⁶⁵ G7 2025 Kananaskis, *Implementing the G7 AI Adoption Roadmap* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://g7.canada.ca/en/news-and-media/news/implementing-the-g7-ai-adoption-roadmap/>

⁶⁶ Government of Canada, *The SME AI Adoption Blueprint* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://isde-isde.canada.ca/site/isde/en/sme-ai-adoption-blueprint>

⁶⁷ Center for AI and Digital Policy, *Home*, <https://www.caidp.org/>

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- African nations support data and technological sovereignty and establish AI Council

2026 Recommendations

- Global support for the International AI Treaty
- Prohibitions on AI systems that undermine human rights and democratic values
- Human oversight of AI systems across the lifecycle
- Bridge the AI safety and fairness agendas
- Implementation and enforcement of AI governance frameworks, such as the EU AI Act and the Hiroshima AI Process
- Algorithmic transparency, including the accountability to contest adverse outcomes
- Liability rules for developers, deployers, and users of AI systems

THE GLOBAL AI POLICY LANDSCAPE⁶⁸

As a field of research, AI policy is rapidly maturing. In the last several years, national governments and international organizations have adopted policy frameworks that explicitly regulate “Artificial Intelligence.”⁶⁹ This has occurred at a rapid pace. While government funding for work on Artificial Intelligence goes back to the mid-1950s, it was many years before governments examined the consequences of this research. That gap is now closing. Governments around the world confront important decisions about AI priorities, AI ambitions, and AI risks. Much of this report concerns the current policies and practices of national governments.

In addition to national governments, many intergovernmental organizations are pursuing AI policies and initiatives. This section provides an overview of these organizations, listed in a simple A to Z. We also note the important work of technical associations and civil society organizations. This section briefly summarizes these activities, as of early 2026.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe (COE) is the continent’s leading human rights organization.⁷⁰ The COE comprises 47 member states, 27 of which are members of the European Union. All COE member states have endorsed the European Convention of Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Article 8 of the Convention concerning the right to privacy has influenced the development of privacy law around the world.

The COE Convention 108 (1981) was the first binding international instrument protecting the individual against abuses that may accompany the collection and processing of personal data and regulating the transborder flow of personal data.⁷¹ In 2018, the Council of Europe amended Convention 108 and opened

⁶⁸ [Editorial note: For the 2025 edition of the *AI and Democratic Values Index*, we removed much of the background text that was typically included in the Global Policy Landscape section and focused on recent developments. These materials are still available in the 2024 edition of AIDV, which is available online at <https://www.caidp.org/reports/aidv-2023/>

⁶⁹ Marc Rotenberg, *Human Rights Alignment: The Challenge Ahead for AI Lawmakers*, in H. Werthner, et al., *Introduction to Digital Humanism*, Springer (Dec. 21, 2023), https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-45304-5_38

⁷⁰ Council of Europe, *Who We Are*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/who-we-are>

⁷¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Details of Treaty No. 108*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/108>

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for signature and ratification the COE Modernized Convention 108+. ⁷² Article 9(1)(c) specifically addresses AI decision-making. As the COE explains, the “modernised Convention extends the catalogue of information to be transmitted to data subjects when they exercise their right of access. Furthermore, data subjects are entitled to obtain knowledge of the reasoning underlying the data processing, the results of which are applied to her/him. This new right is particularly important in terms of profiling of individuals.” ⁷³ Forty-six states have signed the protocol amending the Privacy Convention and 33 have ratified. ⁷⁴

The development of the Framework Convention on AI emerged in response to growing concerns over the artificial intelligence. The Council of Europe initiated discussions on AI governance in 2019, leading to the drafting of a binding legal framework. In 2024, the Council of Europe adopted the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. The AI Treaty aims to ensure that the development and use of AI technologies align with fundamental human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law, addressing risks such as misinformation, algorithmic discrimination, and threats to public institution.

At the time of publication, over 40 countries, counting the individual member states of the European Union, had endorsed the treaty, including Canada, Japan, United States, Ukraine, and Uruguay. ⁷⁵ Leading experts in international law and AI have also endorsed the AI Treaty. ⁷⁶

The Committee on AI (CAI), which drafted the Treaty, completed the mandate in 2025, though a new body with an advisory role is now established. ⁷⁷ The Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET) will coordinate the work of the Council of Europe in the field of new and emerging technologies, ensuring that this work supports innovation, and give its legal and policy expertise. ⁷⁸ CDNET also serves as custodian of the Framework Convention

⁷² Council of Europe, Data Protection, *Modernisation of Convention 108*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108/modernised>

⁷³ Council of Europe, Data Protection, *Modernisation of Convention 108: Overview of the novelties* <https://rm.coe.int/modernised-conv-overview-of-the-novelties/16808accf8>

⁷⁴ Council of Europe, Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁷⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Apr. 7, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list2?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁷⁶ CAIDP, *Council of Europe AI Treaty*, <https://www.caidp.org/resources/coe-ai-treaty/>

⁷⁷ Council of Europe, *Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/cai>

⁷⁸ Council of Europe, *Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET)*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/cdnet>

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until the Conference of the Parties is established. The HUDERIA methodology,⁷⁹ a tool for actors in the public and private sectors to assess the risk and impact assessment of AI systems with an eye to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, also facilitates implementation of the Treaty and its principles.

European Court of Human Rights

The European Court of Human Rights has generated an abundance of case law interpreting Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights on the right to private and family life. This case law will establish governance norms for AI systems. The opinions of the Court on privacy and data protection are widely regarded by other courts. The Court has addressed privacy challenges in relation to telephone conversations, computers, mass surveillance, bulk interceptions of telecommunications and the internet.⁸⁰ The Court have deemed these aspects of personal data protection of fundamental importance to a person's enjoyment of their right to respect for private and family life.

In early 2025, the European Court of Human Rights sponsored a judicial seminar on Protecting Human Rights in a World of Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms and Big Data.⁸¹ A background paper prepared for the session outlined relevant European Court of Human Rights caselaw in three categories: Freedom of expression, right to a fair trial, and prohibition on discrimination.⁸² The paper further detailed specific areas of intersection between the case law of the Court of Human Rights and AI systems, such as facial recognition, the right to be forgotten, bias in the system, reasoned decision-making, and gender-based cyber violence.

European Union

The European Union (EU) was established by the Treaty of Masstricht in 1993. The European Union is a supranational political and economic union of 27 member states. Many institutions in the European Union now play a significant role in the development of AI policies and practices.

⁷⁹ Council of Europe, *HUDERIA—Risk and Impact Assessments of AI Systems* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/huderia-risk-and-impact-assessment-of-ai-systems>

⁸⁰ For an overview of the case law, see European Court of Human Rights, *Mass Surveillance* (Jan. 2022), https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/fs_mass_surveillance_eng.pdf; *Personal Data Protection* (Jan. 2022), https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Data_ENG.pdf

⁸¹ European Court of Human Rights, *Opening of the Judicial Year 2025* (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.echr.coe.int/w/opening-of-the-judicial-year-2025-1>

⁸² European Court of Human Rights, *Protecting Human Rights in a World of Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms and Big Data* (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/seminar-background-paper-2025-eng>

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The EU AI Act, a comprehensive regulation for the governance of AI, was formally adopted in March 2024 by the European Parliament, with a large majority of 523-46 votes in favor of the legislation. The risk-based framework notably includes a category of prohibited AI systems, such as subliminal manipulation, social scoring, scraping of facial images for facial recognition, biometric categorization, and real-time biometric identification. At the time of publication, nearly 200 national supervisory authorities have been selected to ensure the enforcement and implementation of the AI Act, with data protection agencies given a prominent role.

European Commission

The European Commission plays an active role in developing the EU's overall strategy and in designing and implementing EU policies. The Commission is the initiator of EU legislation. AI was identified as a priority when the new Commission, under the Presidency of Ursula von der Leyen, was established in late 2019.⁸³ At that time, von der Leyen recommended new rules on Artificial Intelligence that respect human safety and rights.⁸⁴ Von der Leyen's proposal followed remarks at the G20 summit in 2019 by Chancellor Angela Merkel, who called on the European Commission to propose comprehensive regulation for artificial intelligence: "It will be the job of the next Commission to deliver something so that we have regulation similar to the General Data Protection Regulation that makes it clear that artificial intelligence serves humanity."

European Parliament

The European Parliament is co-legislator, together with the Council of the European Union. The Parliament has convened hearings and adopted resolutions to outline the elements of EU legislation.⁸⁵ One resolution urged the Commission to establish legal obligations for artificial intelligence and robotics, including software, algorithms, and data. A second would make those operating high-risk AI systems strictly liable for any resulting damage. A third resolution on intellectual property rights makes clear that AI should not have legal personality: only people may claim IP rights.

⁸³ CAIDP Update 1.3, *European Commission Proposes Four Options for Ethical AI* (Aug. 2, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/center-for-ai-policy-update-european-commission-proposes-four-options-for-ethical-ai/>

⁸⁴ European Commission, *A Union that Strives for More: The First 100 Days* (Mar. 6, 2020), <https://south.euneighbours.eu/news/union-strives-more-first-100-days/>

⁸⁵ CAIDP Update 1.12, *European Parliament Adopts Resolutions on AI* (Oct. 24, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/caidp-update-european-parliament-adopts-resolutions-on-ai/>

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Two committees in the European Parliament have taken the reins for the EU AI Act. The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO Committee) is responsible for the legislative oversight and scrutiny of EU rules on the single market, including the digital single market, customs, and consumer protection.⁸⁶ The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee) “is responsible for the majority of legislation and democratic oversight of policies that enable the European Union to offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice (Article 3 TEU). While doing so, we ensure, throughout the EU, the full respect of and compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, in conjunction with the European Convention on Human Rights.”⁸⁷

The influential LIBE Committee has also highlighted concerns about AI and fundamental rights and AI in criminal justice.⁸⁸ In February 2020, the Committee held a hearing on Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Law and examined the benefits, risks, and ethical and rights implications of AI, predictive policing, and facial recognition. LIBE worked in association with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the Council of Europe (COE). In November 2020, LIBE issued an opinion concerning AI and the application of international law.⁸⁹

Two Councils

The European Council defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities.⁹⁰ Its members are the heads of state or government of the 27 EU member states, the European Council President, and the President of the European Commission. The European Council is not one of the EU's legislating institutions, so does not negotiate or adopt EU laws. This is the prerogative of the Council of the European Union (Council), composed of representatives of member states' ministers.

⁸⁶ European Parliament, *About IMCO, Welcome*, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/imco/about>

⁸⁷ European Parliament, *LIBE, About*, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/about>

⁸⁸ CAIDP Update 1.8 *LIBE Committee of EU Parliament Examines AI Practices, Data Protection* (Sept. 9, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/caidp-update-libe-committee-of-eu-parliament-examines-ai-practices-data-protection/>

⁸⁹ European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, *On Artificial Intelligence: Questions of Interpretation and Application of International Law in so far as the EU Is Affected in the Areas of Civil and Military Uses and of State Authority Outside the Scope of Criminal Justice (2020/2013 (INI))* (Nov. 23, 2020), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/LIBE-AD-652639_EN.pdf

⁹⁰ European Council, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/>

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Court of Justice of the European Union

Although the Court of Justice has yet to rule directly on the EU AI Act, the Court will play a significant role as AI policies evolve and AI law is adopted.⁹¹ The Court issued several judgements that implicate AI systems. In its *Ligue des Droits Humains* Judgment of June 2022, concerning the Passenger Name Records Directive, the Court of Justice reaffirmed the primacy of a human-centered approach to AI. The Court of Justice ruled that machine learning techniques may be incompatible with the protection of fundamental rights.⁹² The Court observed that the opacity of artificial intelligence might make it impossible to understand the reason why a given program arrived at a positive match.⁹³ As the Advocate General had earlier observed, algorithms “must function transparently and that the result of their application must be traceable.”⁹⁴ The Court added in *Ligue des droits humains* that the use of pre-determined criteria also precludes the use of systems that modify “the assessment criteria on which the result of the application of that process is based as well as the weighting of those criteria.”⁹⁵ These holdings could have far-reaching significance for the use of AI techniques by law enforcement agencies and the future interpretation of the EU AI Act.⁹⁶

The Court has also addressed the transparency of automated processing. In the SCHUFA case, the Court of Justice held that the generation of credit scores by credit reference agencies are within the scope of the prohibition on automated decision-making in Article 22(1) of the GDPR.⁹⁷ The practical consequence is that automated decision-making enabled by AI systems will be subject to the GDPR. In another case, the Court found that individuals subject to adverse decisions are

⁹¹ CAIDP Update 1.1, *EU Privacy Decision Will Have Global Consequences* (Jul. 19, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/news-and-events/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy-update-eu-privacy-decision-will-have-global-consequences/>

⁹² Court of Justice of the European Union, *Ligue des droits humains v. Conseil des Ministres*, (Jun. 21, 2022), <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=261282&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=13059170>

⁹³ Court of Justice of the European Union, *Ligue des droits humains*, para. 194

⁹⁴ Opinion of the Advocate General, *Ligue des droits humains*, para. 228

⁹⁵ Court of Justice of the European Union, *Ligue des droits humains*, para. 194

⁹⁶ *CAIDP Statement to the European Data Protection Board on Facial Recognition and Law Enforcement* (Jul. 18, 2022), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8405683363/CAIDP-Statement-EDPB-FRT-01082022.pdf>; Marc Rotenberg, *CJEU PNR Decision Unplugs the “Black Box,”* *European Data Protection Law Review* (2022)

⁹⁷ Court of Justice of the European Union, *Judgment—SCHUFA Holding, Case C-634/21 (Scoring)* (Dec. 7, 2023), <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-634/21>

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entitled to receive meaningful information about the basis of the decision.⁹⁸ In the Court’s words: “The explanation provided must enable the data subject to understand and challenge the automated decision.”

Judgments of the Court concerning data transfers will also impact the development of AI systems. In the 2020 *Schrems II* judgment, the Court struck down the Privacy Shield framework that permitted the transfer of personal data from the European Union to the United States.⁹⁹ The *Schrems II* judgment will likely limit the collection and use of personal data for AI systems.

European Data Protection Board

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) is an independent European body that contributes to the consistent application of data protection rules throughout the European Union and promotes cooperation among the EU’s data protection authorities (DPAs).¹⁰⁰

The EDPB issued several reports in 2024 concerning Artificial Intelligence. A ChatGPT Taskforce expressed preliminary views on lawfulness, fairness, transparency, data accuracy, and the rights of data subjects.¹⁰¹ A July 2024 statement from the EDPB addressed the role of DPAs in the AI Act framework.¹⁰² The Statement described the relationship between the AI Act and the GDPR as “complementary and mutually reinforcing instruments” and recommended a “prominent role” for DPAs due to their experience and expertise in developing guidelines and carrying out enforcement actions on AI-related issues with respect to the processing of personal data. For these reasons and others, the EDPB recommended that DPAs be designated as Market Surveillance Authorities (MSA) under the EU AI Act.

⁹⁸ Court of Justice of the European Union, Press Release No. 22/25, *Automated Credit Assessment: The Data Subject Is Entitled to an Explanation as to How the Decision Was Taken in Respect of Him or Her* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2025-02/cp250022en.pdf>

⁹⁹ CJEU, *The Court of Justice Invalidates Decision 2016/1250 on the Adequacy of the Protection Provided by the EU-US Data Protection Shield* (Jul. 16, 2020), <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-07/cp200091en.pdf>

¹⁰⁰ EDPB, *Who We Are*, https://edpb.europa.eu/about-edpb/about-edpb_en

¹⁰¹ EDPB, *Report of the Work Undertaken by the ChatGPT Taskforce* (May 23, 2024), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2024-05/edpb_20240523_report_chatgpt_taskforce_en.pdf

¹⁰² EDPB, *Statement 3/2024 on Data Protection Authorities’ Role in the Artificial Intelligence Act Framework* (Jul. 16, 2024), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2024-07/edpb_statement_202403_dpasroleaiact_en.pdf

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In December 2024, the EDPB issued an opinion on AI Models.¹⁰³ The report addressed four questions raised by the Irish DPA: (1) when and how an AI model can be considered anonymous; (2) how controllers can demonstrate the appropriateness of legitimate interest as a legal basis in the development and (3) deployment phases; and (4) what are the consequences of the unlawful processing of personal data in the development phase of an AI model on the subsequent processing or operation of the AI model. Among the key findings: “the determination of whether an AI model is anonymous should be assessed, based on specific criteria, on a case-by-case basis”¹⁰⁴; AI models are very likely to require such a thorough evaluation of the risks of Identification”¹⁰⁵; “When there is the finding of an infringement, SAs may impose corrective measures, such as ordering controllers, taking into account the circumstances of each case, to take actions in order to remediate the unlawfulness of the initial processing”;¹⁰⁶ and the lawfulness of the processing should be assessed case-by-case.¹⁰⁷

In 2025, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) played a central role in clarifying the application of EU data protection law to artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on generative AI and cross-border enforcement. The EDPB advanced coordinated enforcement through the establishment and ongoing work of a task force on generative AI, aimed at ensuring consistent supervisory responses among national data protection authorities.¹⁰⁸ In parallel, the EDPB continued to issue guidance and binding decisions under the GDPR’s consistency mechanism, reinforcing a harmonized, rights-based approach to AI governance across the European Union.¹⁰⁹

European Data Protection Supervisor

The European Data Protection Supervisor is the European Union’s independent data protection authority.¹¹⁰ The EDPS responsibilities include the mission to “monitor and ensure the protection of personal data and privacy when EU institutions and bodies process the personal information of individuals.” This AI

¹⁰³ EDPB, *Opinion 28/2024 on Certain Data Protection Aspects Related to the Processing of Personal Data in the Context of AI Models* (Dec. 17, 2024),

https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2024-12/edpb_opinion_202428_ai-models_en.pdf

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 14

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 16

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 32

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 33

¹⁰⁸ EDPB, *Report of the Work Undertaken by the ChatGPT Taskforce* (2025),

https://edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2025-04/edpb_report_chatgpt_taskforce_en.pdf

¹⁰⁹ EDPB, *Annual Report 2025*, https://edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2026-01/edpb_annual_report_2025_en.pdf

¹¹⁰ EDPS, *About*, https://edps.europa.eu/about-edps_en

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work of the EDPS builds on earlier initiatives, including Recommendations on the AI Act (2023) and the EDPS-EDPB Joint Opinion on the AI Act (2021).¹¹¹

The European Data Protection Supervisor undertook many projects related to AI in 2024. In June, the EDPS published Orientations on “generative Artificial Intelligence and personal data protection” to provide EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies with practical advice and instructions on the processing of personal data when using generative AI systems, to facilitate their compliance with the requirements of the data protection legal framework.¹¹² The Guidelines emphasize the general principles of data protection that should help EU institutions comply with the data protection requirements. The European Data Protection Supervisor also supported the work of the Global Privacy Assembly and the G7 DPA Privacy Roundtable, discussed above.

In 2025, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) advanced work on artificial intelligence through a series of detailed supervisory guidelines and policy initiatives aimed at safeguarding fundamental rights. Most notably, the EDPS issued revised guidance on generative AI, providing practical instructions for EU institutions on lawful data processing, transparency, and risk mitigation, including heightened scrutiny of web scraping and training data practices.¹¹³ The EDPS also released comprehensive guidance on AI risk management, offering lifecycle-based frameworks to identify and mitigate risks to personal data and fundamental rights, with particular attention to fairness, accuracy, data minimization, and security.¹¹⁴

G7

The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United

¹¹¹ EDPS, *EDPS Opinion 44/2023 on the Proposal for Artificial Intelligence Act in the Light of Legislative Developments* (Oct. 23, 2023), https://www.edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/opinions/2023-10-23-edps-opinion-442023-artificial-intelligence-act-light-legislative-developments_en; EDPS, *EDPS-EDPB Joint Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act)* (Jun. 18, 2021), https://www.edps.europa.eu/node/7140_en

¹¹² EDPS, *Generative AI and the EUDPR. First EDPS Orientations for Ensuring Data Protection Compliance when Using Generative AI Systems* (Jun. 3, 2024), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2024-06/24-06-03_genai_orientations_en.pdf

¹¹³ EDPS, *EDPS Unveils Revised Guidance on Generative AI, Strengthening Data Protection in a Rapidly Changing Digital Era* (Oct. 28, 2025), https://www.edps.europa.eu/press-publications/press-news/press-releases/2025/edps-unveils-revised-guidance-generative-ai-strengthening-data-protection-rapidly-changing-digital-era_en

¹¹⁴ EDPS, *Guidance for Risk Management of Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Nov. 11, 2025), https://www.edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/publications/guidelines/2025-11-11-guidance-risk-management-artificial-intelligence-systems_en

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States. The members represent the wealthiest liberal democracies. The group is officially organized around shared values of pluralism and representative government. The G7 is also the incubator for significant work on AI policy.

In 2024, Artificial Intelligence was a prominent feature in the G7 Leaders' Communique. G7 leaders said they would “pursue an inclusive, human-centered, digital transformation that underpins economic growth and sustainable development, maximizes benefits, and manages risks, in line with our shared democratic values and respect for human rights.”¹¹⁵ The G7 leaders expressed support for the Hiroshima AI process and the development of a reporting framework for monitoring the International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems.

G7 leaders called attention to labor issues and said they would launch an action plan on the use of AI in the world of work. “We ask our Labor Ministers to develop the action plan, envisaging concrete actions to fully leverage the potential of AI to enable decent work and workers' rights and full access to adequate reskilling and upskilling, while addressing potential challenges and risks to our labor markets.” The G7 leaders endorsed the UN General Assembly Resolution on Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy AI Systems for Sustainable Development and said they would work “towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and achieving digital inclusion.”¹¹⁶

The G7 leaders also recognized the impact of AI on the military domain and the need for a framework for responsible development and use. They stated, “We welcome those who have endorsed the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy (REAIM) and the REAIM Call to Action, and we encourage more States to do so to ensure that military use of AI is responsible, complies with applicable international law, particularly international humanitarian law, and enhances international security.”¹¹⁷

Under Canada's G7 Presidency in 2025, G7 leaders again focused on artificial intelligence, dedicating a statement to AI for Prosperity.¹¹⁸ The leaders committed to collaboration on integrating AI into the public sector to enhance services “while respecting human rights and privacy, as well as promoting transparency, fairness, and accountability.”¹¹⁹ They also laid out action steps to support SMEs to adopt AI,

¹¹⁵ G7 Italia, *Apulia G7 Leaders' Communique*, p. 21 (Jun. 15, 2024), <https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/Apulia-G7-Leaders-Communique.pdf>

¹¹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 22

¹¹⁷ *Ibid*, p. 23

¹¹⁸ G7 Canada, *G7 Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity* (Jun. 17, 2025), <https://g7.canada.ca/assets/ea689367/Attachments/NewItems/pdf/g7-summit-statements/ai-en.pdf>

¹¹⁹ *Ibid*, p. 1

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manage the energy challenges posed by AI, and partner with emerging markets and developing countries to increase access to AI.¹²⁰

France assumed the G7 presidency for 2026.

G7 Privacy Roundtable

In recent years, privacy officials from G7 nations have gathered to host seminars and issue statements in conjunction with the Leaders' Summit. The G7 Privacy officials issued several statements related to AI at the 4th G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities Roundtable in Rome, Italy. First, the 2024 Communique emphasized “the challenges that artificial intelligence (AI) poses to privacy, data protection, and other fundamental rights and freedoms.”¹²¹ In a second statement on AI and Children, the G7 Privacy officials warned about “potential violations of privacy and data protection linked to the use of AI systems which could have serious implications for children and young people.”¹²² The privacy officials identified several threats, including AI-based decision-making, manipulation and deception, and the use of children's data for training AI models. The officials recommended greater emphasis on privacy by design, privacy impact assessments, transparency, and digital literacy.

A third statement explored the role of Data Protection Agencies in fostering trustworthy AI.¹²³ The G7 Privacy officials welcomed the recognition of DPAs in many of the international instruments for AI, including the OECD AI Principles (2019) and the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics (2021), as well as the Bletchley Declaration (2023) and the Seoul Declaration (2024). The privacy officials explained, “many AI technologies, including generative AI, are based on the processing of personal data, which can subject natural persons to unfair stereotyping, bias and discrimination even when not directly processing their respective personal data.” The G7 privacy officials emphasized, “Current privacy and data protection laws apply to the development and use of generative AI products, even as different jurisdictions continue to develop AI-specific laws and policies.” The statement concluded, “Many data protection overarching principles can be transposed into

¹²⁰ Ibid, pp. 2–3

¹²¹ G7 Privacy, Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *G7 DPAs' Communiqué: Privacy in the Age of Data* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2024-10/g7_dpas_rome_roundtable_draft_communique_en.pdf

¹²² G7 Privacy, Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *Statement on AI and Children* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2024-10/statement_on_ai_and_children_en.pdf

¹²³ G7 Privacy, Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *Statement on the Role of Data Protection Authorities in Fostering Trustworthy AI* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2024-10/draft_statement_dpas_governance_trustworthy_ai_en.pdf

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broader AI governance frameworks”; “DPAs supervise a core component of AI”; “DPAs can help address problems at their source”; and “DPAs have experience.”

The 2025 Privacy Roundtable Statement stressed data protection and privacy as necessary conditions for innovation, arguing “When individuals have confidence that their data is protected and used lawfully and responsibly, trust exists; where trust exists, innovation is embraced.”¹²⁴ The data protection and privacy reiterated how organizations can prioritize privacy to support market confidence and individuals’ trust and to protect children while offering specific actions for prioritizing privacy.

G20

The G20 is an international forum made up of 19 countries, the African Union, and the European Union, representing the world’s major developed and emerging economies.¹²⁵ Together, the G20 members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world’s population. According to the OECD, because of its size and strategic importance, the G20 has a crucial role in setting the path for the future of global economic growth.

The 2025 Leaders’ Declaration highlighted advances by the Indian and Brazilian presidencies in facilitating a broader range of global voices in the discussions on AI, data governance, and innovation for sustainable development as exemplified by the Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability theme promoted by the South African G20 presidency.¹²⁶ The G20 also progressed on ensuring more equitable access to AI development and participatory governance through organizations such as the Technology Policy Assistance Facility established with UNESCO to support countries in developing AI policies based on research and best practices. The United States did not attend the meetings in South Africa, alleging the country was violating the rights of white Afrikaners and acting aggressively toward the United States and allies.¹²⁷

The United States assumed the G20 presidency in December 2025, promising “the best is yet to come” at the 2026 summit in Miami.¹²⁸ The United States has not invited South Africa to the meeting, citing “politics of grievance” from South Africa

¹²⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *2025 G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities Roundtable Statement* (Jun. 19, 2025), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2025/js-dc-g7_20250619/

¹²⁵ OECD, *OECD and G20*, <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/oecd-and-g20.html>

¹²⁶ G20 South Africa 2025, *G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders’ Declaration* (Nov. 22, 2025), <https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-G20-Summit-Declaration.pdf>

¹²⁷ Trump White House, *Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/addressing-egregious-actions-of-the-republic-of-south-africa/>

¹²⁸ G20 America 2026, *Miami 2026*, <https://g20.org/>

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and the country’s “radical agendas that have nothing to do with economic growth”—namely discussions on climate change, diversity and inclusion, and aid dependency.¹²⁹

Global Privacy Assembly

The Global Privacy Assembly is the global network of privacy officials and experts. The Global Privacy Assembly meets annually to discuss emerging privacy issues and to adopt resolutions. In recent years, the focus of the GPA has moved toward AI.¹³⁰

In October 2023, the Assembly adopted a resolution on Generative AI Systems. The signatories stressed that they were particularly “concerned by the release—often with insufficient pre-deployment assessment—of generative AI systems to the wider public, which may present risks and potential harms to data protection, privacy and other fundamental human rights if not properly developed and regulated.”¹³¹

The GPA Working Group on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence presented a report at the October 2024 meeting in Jersey.¹³² The Working Group set out a 2024–2025 workplan to (1) establish a clear definition of what constitutes a meaningful human review of automated decisions, (2) report on Generative AI-related work, (3) assess AI auditing capabilities, and (4) examine discrimination in insurance pricing and decisions. In 2025, the GPA adopted a resolution proposed by the Working Group that includes steps organizations can take to ensure meaningful human oversight while acknowledging that “in some circumstances meaningful human oversight may not be possible”¹³³ such as when the scale and timeframe of automated decisions make oversight of individual decisions impractical. The Working Group announced plans to develop a checklist

¹²⁹ US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, *America Welcomes a New G20*, US Embassy & Consulates in South Africa (Dec. 4, 2025), <https://za.usembassy.gov/america-welcomes-a-new-g20/>

¹³⁰ CAIPD Update 1.15, *Privacy Commissioners Adopt Resolutions on AI, Facial Recognition* (Oct. 19, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/caipd-update-privacy-commissioners-adopt-resolutions-on-ai-facial-recognition/>

¹³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative AI* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹³² CNIL, EDPS, PIPC, *Working Group on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2024), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/8.-Ethics-and-Data-Protection-in-AI-Working-Group-Annual-Report.pdf>

¹³³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Meaningful Human Oversight of Decisions Involving AI Systems* (Sept. 2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/GPA-Resolution-Human-Oversight-of-Automated-Decisions.pdf>

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for organizations formulating internal policies on the use of generative AI and compiling DPA's issued AI-related guidelines.¹³⁴

OECD

The OECD is an international organization that “works to build better policies for better lives.”¹³⁵ The goal of the OECD is to “shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.” The OECD has led the global effort to develop and establish the first government-endorsed framework for AI policy. This was a result of a concerted effort by the OECD and member states to develop a coordinated international strategy. The OECD AI Principles also build on earlier OECD initiatives such as the OECD Privacy Guidelines, a widely recognized framework for transborder data flows and the first global framework for data protection.¹³⁶ OECD policy frameworks are not treaties, do not have legal force, and are not directly applicable to OECD member states. However, there are many instances of countries adopting national laws based on OECD policies and a clear convergence of legal norms, particularly in the field of data protection.

OECD publishes regular reports and research aligned with implementation of the AI Principles. A report on AI in government published in 2025 “aims to provide governments with the necessary elements for effective AI use and to identify areas where AI is having an impact and where gaps remain. Future efforts will build on the growing evidence base of policies and use cases, seeking to further assist governments putting in place the enablers, guardrails and engagement mechanisms needed for a strategic and trustworthy approach to AI.”¹³⁷ The organization also partnered with the European Commission to develop a draft framework to guide leaders and policymakers in creating AI Literacy materials and standards toward competence that “empowers learners to understand AI and make decisions about its use in meaningful and ethical ways.”¹³⁸

¹³⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Working Group on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence Report* (Jul. 2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/AIWG-Annual-Report-2025.pdf>

¹³⁵ OECD, *Who We Are*, <https://www.oecd.org/about/>

¹³⁶ OECD, *OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data* (1981, updated Feb. 12, 2002), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2002/02/oecd-guidelines-on-the-protection-of-privacy-and-transborder-flows-of-personal-data_glg255f.html

¹³⁷ OECD, *Governing with Artificial Intelligence: The State of Play and Way Forward in Core Government Functions* (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1787/795de142-en>

¹³⁸ OECD, European Commission, and code.org, *Empowering Learners for the Age of AI: An AI Literacy Framework for Primary and Secondary Education* (2025), <https://ailiteracyframework.org>

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Global Partnership on AI

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) emerged from the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.¹³⁹ GPAI activities are intended to foster the responsible development of AI grounded in “human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.”¹⁴⁰ The GPAI aims to “bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.” GPAI formalized an integration partnership with OECD “for harnessing the potential of AI for Good and for All”¹⁴¹ in 2024. According to a press statement, “The OECD and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) are joining forces to advance an ambitious agenda for implementing human-centric, safe, secure and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) embodied in the principles of the OECD Recommendation on AI.”¹⁴² The OECD further said, “The existing GPAI Expert Support Centres—in Paris, France, Montreal, Canada, and Tokyo, Japan—will continue to take an active role in shaping and advancing the new partnership’s work.”¹⁴³

As of January 2026, GPAI’s members include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States.¹⁴⁴

OECD AI Policy Observatory

The OECD AI Policy Observatory launched in February 2020 provides extensive data and multi-disciplinary analysis on artificial intelligence across a wide range of policy areas.¹⁴⁵ According to the OECD, the AI Policy Observatory is based on multidisciplinary, evidence-based analysis and Global multi-stakeholder partnerships.

¹³⁹ GPAI, *The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence*, <https://gpai.ai>

¹⁴⁰ GPAI, *About GPAI*, <https://gpai.ai/about/>

¹⁴¹ India, Ministry of Electronics & IT, *6th Meeting of the GPAI Ministerial Council Held on 3rd July 2024 at New Delhi [New Delhi Declaration]* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2030534>

¹⁴² OECD, *GPAI and OECD Unite to Advance Coordinated International Efforts for Trustworthy AI* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/speech-statements/2024/07/GPAI-and-OECD-unite-to-advance-coordinated-international-efforts-for-trustworthy-AI.html>

¹⁴³ Ibid

¹⁴⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁴⁵ OECD, *AI Policy Observatory*, <https://www.oecd.ai/>

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Collaboration with United Nations

In September 2024, the OECD and the United Nations announced a collaborative effort to strengthen global AI governance. This partnership focuses on conducting regular, science-based assessments of AI risks and opportunities.¹⁴⁶ The collaboration seeks combines the OECD’s technical expertise with the UN’s global reach to inform policy decisions and promote responsible AI development worldwide. OECD Deputy Secretary General Knudsen said, “The speed of AI technology development and the breadth of its impact requires diverse policy ecosystems to work more cohesively. And in real time. I am delighted that the OECD and the UN will link their efforts to help governments improve the quality and timeliness of their policy response to AI’s opportunities and its risks.” UN Under-Secretary General Gill said, “We will work with all stakeholders, including leading scientists and academic centres from around the globe, to realise this goal.”

United Nations

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has led a global campaign for AI governance over many years. Speaking in February 2025 at the AI Action Summit in Paris, Secretary-General António Guterres said, “We must all work together so that artificial intelligence can bridge the gap between developed and developing countries—not widen it. It must accelerate sustainable development—not entrench inequalities.”¹⁴⁷ Guterres emphasized the need to ensure technology serves humanity, not the other way around. “The creation of an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI will be central to translating this vision into reality,” said the Secretary-General. He also called attention to the growing impact of AI on the climate and sustainability. He concluded, “It is in all our interests for Governments and technology leaders to commit to global guardrails, share best practices and shape fair policy and business models.”

The UN accomplished several milestones toward this goal in 2024. The Pact for the Future, adopted by World Leaders at the Summit for the Future in September 2024, outlined several goals for AI aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, including enhancing international governance of AI for the benefit of humanity.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁶ OECD, *OECD and UN Announce Next Steps in Collaboration on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2024/09/oecd-and-un-announce-next-steps-in-collaboration-on-artificial-intelligence.html>

¹⁴⁷ United Nations, *Secretary-General, at Action Summit, Urges Working Together so Artificial Intelligence Expedites Sustainable Development, Not Creates World of “Haves and Have-Nots”* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sgsm22548.doc.htm>

¹⁴⁸ United Nations, *Pact for the Future A/RES/79/1* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future>

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The Pact also warned of the “risks of existing and potential risks associated with the military applications of artificial intelligence.”¹⁴⁹ The Global Digital Compact, also adopted at the Summit for the Future, established the first universal agreement on the governance of AI. The Compact reiterated calls for building AI capacity in developing nations.

The UN implemented these initiatives in 2025 with the establishment of International Scientific Panel on AI¹⁵⁰ and the first informal Global Dialogue on AI at the 80th General Assembly.¹⁵¹ The panel and dialogue reflect the UN’s centrality in furthering global AI governance, a role validated by the BRICS Leaders’ recognition of the Global Dialogue as “an inclusive platform within the United Nations for states and stakeholders to discuss the critical issues concerning AI facing humanity today.”¹⁵²

UNESCO

In 2020, UNESCO embarked on a project to develop a global standard for Artificial Intelligence. UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay stated, “Artificial intelligence can be a great opportunity to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals. But any technological revolution leads to new imbalances that we must anticipate.”¹⁵³

The UNESCO Recommendation sets out about a dozen principles, five Action Goals, and eleven Policy Actions. Notable among the recommendations is the emphasis on Human Dignity, Inclusion, and Diversity. UNESCO also expresses support for Human Oversight, Privacy, Fairness, Transparency and Explainability, and Safety and Security, among other goals. Understandably, UNESCO is interested in the scientific, educational, and cultural dimensions of AI, the agency’s program focus.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid, p. 19

¹⁵⁰ UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, *Independent International Scientific Panel on AI* (2025), <https://www.un.org/independent-international-scientific-panel-ai/en>

¹⁵¹ UN Secretary-General, *Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General—on the General Assembly Decision on New Artificial Intelligence Governance Mechanisms within the United Nations* (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statements/2025-08-26/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-the-general-assembly-decision-new-artificial-intelligence-governance-mechanisms-within-the-united>

¹⁵² BRICS Brasil 2025, *BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence*, Presidency Documents (Jul. 6, 2025), <https://brics.br/en/documents/presidency-documents>

¹⁵³ UNESCO, *Artificial intelligence with Human Values for Sustainable development*, <https://en.unesco.org/artificial-intelligence>

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The UNESCO Recommendation was adopted in 2021. This is the first global agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.¹⁵⁴ UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay stated, “The world needs rules for artificial intelligence to benefit humanity. The recommendation on the ethics of AI is a major answer. It sets the first global normative framework while giving member states the responsibility to apply it at their level. UNESCO will support its 193 member states in its implementation and ask them to report regularly on their progress and practices.”

UNESCO explained, “The Recommendation aims to realize the advantages AI brings to society and reduce the risks it entails. It ensures that digital transformations promote human rights and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing issues around transparency, accountability and privacy, with action-oriented policy chapters on data governance, education, culture, labour, healthcare and the economy.” The key achievements of the UNESCO AI Recommendation include:

1. Protecting data. The UNESCO Recommendation calls for action beyond what tech firms and governments are doing to guarantee individuals more protection by ensuring transparency, agency and control over their personal data.
2. Banning social scoring and mass surveillance. The UNESCO Recommendation explicitly bans these uses of AI systems.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation. The UNESCO Recommendation establishes new tools that will assist in implementation, including Ethical Impact Assessments and a Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).
4. Protecting the environment. The UNESCO Recommendation emphasizes that AI actors should favor data-, energy-, and resource-efficient AI methods to help ensure that AI becomes a more prominent tool in the fight against climate change and on tackling environmental issues.

The Recommendation aims to provide a basis to make AI systems work for the good of humanity, individuals, societies, and the environment and ecosystems, and to prevent harm. It also aims at stimulating the peaceful use of AI systems. The Recommendation provides a universal framework of values and principles of the ethics of AI. It sets out four values: respect, protection, and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and human dignity; environment and ecosystem flourishing; ensuring diversity and inclusiveness; living in peaceful, just, and interconnected societies.

Further, the Recommendation outlines 10 principles—proportionality and do no harm, safety and security, fairness and non-discrimination, sustainability, right to privacy and data protection, human oversight and determination, transparency and explainability, responsibility and accountability, awareness and literacy—backed by

¹⁵⁴ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380455>

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more concrete policy actions on how they can be achieved. The Recommendation also introduces red lines to unacceptable AI practices. For example, it states that “AI systems should not be used for social scoring or mass surveillance purposes.”

The Recommendation focuses not only on values and principles but also on their practical realization via concrete eleven policy actions. UNESCO encourages Member States to introduce frameworks for ethical impact assessments, oversight mechanisms, etc. Member States should ensure that harms caused through AI systems are investigated and redressed by enacting strong enforcement mechanisms and remedial actions to make certain that human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law are respected.

UNESCO developed the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to assist Member States in implementing the Recommendation.¹⁵⁵ As of early 2026, UNESCO has supported more than 40 countries in assessing their readiness for AI integration along 5 dimensions: legal, social/cultural, scientific/educational, economic, and technical and infrastructural. Country profiles on UNESCO’s Global Hub¹⁵⁶ include key insights and recommendations from the reports, revealing key action steps and common challenges as well as useful approaches to governing AI aligned to the Recommendation.

UNESCO’s Supervising AI by Competent Authorities¹⁵⁷ project, with the assistance of the Center for AI and Digital Policy, provided hands-on training to “equip national authorities with the tools, knowledge, and peer support needed to supervise AI systems effectively.” In 2025, the program delivered sessions to more than 700 civil servants across 12 EU Member States. The program also produced an AI Supervision Toolkit.¹⁵⁸ CAIDP also assisted UNESCO on the AI Literacy Program for Civil Servants,¹⁵⁹ as part of the AI Ethics Experts without Borders (AIEB) network. The program aims to advance national implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation by preparing government official and public services

¹⁵⁵ UNESCO Digital Library, *Readiness Assessment Methodology: A Tool for the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385198>

¹⁵⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

¹⁵⁷ UNESCO, *Expanding Capacity Building for Competent Authorities on AI: National Trainings across the EU* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/expanding-capacity-building-competent-authorities-ai-national-trainings-across-eu>

¹⁵⁸ UNESCO and Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure, *AI Supervision Training Toolkit: Building Capacity and Skills for AI Supervisory Authorities* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396566>

¹⁵⁹ Christabel Randolph and Merve Hickok, *UNESCO’s AI Literacy Training for Civil Servants: Empowering Ethical AI Governance around the World*, UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/articles/unescos-ai-literacy-training-civil-servants-empowering-ethical-ai-governance-around-world-0>

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with the “knowledge, tools, and competencies that can help guide AI adoption in ways that uphold human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.” The European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation also support the project.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

In the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the UN Secretary-General stated, “To address the challenges and opportunities of protecting and advancing human rights, human dignity and human agency in a digitally interdependent age, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will develop system-wide guidance on human rights due diligence and impact assessments in the use of new technologies, including through engagement with civil society, external experts and those most vulnerable and affected.”¹⁶⁰

In September 2021, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called for a moratorium on the sale and use of AI that pose a serious risk to human rights until adequate safeguards are put in place.¹⁶¹ She also called for a ban on AI applications that do not comply with international human rights law. “Artificial intelligence can be a force for good, helping societies overcome some of the great challenges of our times. But AI technologies can have negative, even catastrophic, effects if they are used without sufficient regard to how they affect people’s human rights,” Bachelet said.

The High Commissioner’s statement accompanied the release of a new report on The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age. The UN Report details how AI systems rely on large datasets, with information about individuals collected, shared, merged, and analyzed in multiple and often opaque ways. The UN Report finds that data used to guide AI systems can be faulty, discriminatory, out of date, or irrelevant. Long-term storage of data also poses risks, as data could in the future be exploited in as yet unknown ways.¹⁶²

¹⁶⁰ UN Secretary General, *Report: Roadmap for Digital Cooperation* (Jun. 2020), https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap_for_Digital_Cooperation_EN.pdf

¹⁶¹ UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, *Artificial Intelligence Risks to Privacy Demand Urgent Action—Bachelet* (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27469&LangID=E>; see also *UN Urges Moratorium on AI that Violates Human Rights*, CAIDP Update 2.34 (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8343909663/CAIDP-Update-2.34.pdf>

¹⁶² Human Rights Council, *The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (Sept. 13, 2021), https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session48/Documents/A_HRC_48_31_AdvanceEditedVersion.docx

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UN Special Rapporteur

An extensive 2018 report by a UN Special Rapporteur explored the implications of artificial intelligence technologies for human rights in the information environment, focusing in particular on rights to freedom of opinion and expression, privacy, and non-discrimination.¹⁶³ The Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression defines key terms “essential to a human rights discussion about artificial intelligence”; identifies the human rights legal framework relevant to artificial intelligence; and presents preliminary guidelines to ensure that human rights are considered as AI systems evolve. The report emphasizes free expression concerns and notes several frameworks, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Among the Recommendations, the Special Rapporteur proposed “Companies should make all artificial intelligence code fully auditable and should pursue innovative means for enabling external and independent auditing of artificial intelligence systems, separately from regulatory requirements. The results of artificial intelligence audits should themselves be made public.” The report emphasizes the need for transparency in the administration of public services. “When an artificial intelligence application is being used by a public sector agency, refusal on the part of the vendor to be transparent about the operation of the system would be incompatible with the public body’s own accountability obligations,” the report advises.

An article published in 2024 by the CAIDP founder urged the creation of a Special Rapporteur for AI and Human Rights.¹⁶⁴ Rotenberg wrote, “to effectively navigate the intricate landscape of AI and human rights, there is a pressing need for the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur on AI and Human Rights. This role would not only complement existing efforts but also provide the agility, authority, and competence required to address emerging challenges and safeguard human rights in the digital age.”

UN and Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In 2024, the UN Secretary-General urged the Security Council to act decisively to establish international guardrails for artificial intelligence, warning that

¹⁶³ UN Special Rapporteur, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*, A/73/348 (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://freedex.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2015/files/2018/10/AI-and-FOE-GA.pdf>

¹⁶⁴ Marc Rotenberg, *The Imperative for a UN Special Rapporteur on AI and Human Rights*, *Journal of AI Law and Regulation*, Volume 1, Issue 1, pp. 110–112 (2024), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21552/aire/2024/1/13>

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delays could heighten risks to global peace and security.¹⁶⁵ “Every moment of delay in establishing international guardrails increases the risk for us all,” Mr. Guterres said. “No country should design, develop, deploy or use military applications of AI in armed conflict that violate international humanitarian and human rights laws.” “Recent conflicts have become testing grounds for AI military applications,” he said, citing AI use in autonomous surveillance, predictive policing, and even reported life-and-death decisions.

Particularly alarming, he underscored, is the potential integration of AI with nuclear weapons and the advent of quantum-AI systems that could destabilize global security. “The fate of humanity must never be left to the ‘black box’ of an algorithm,” he stated, stressing the importance of human control over decisions involving the use of force.

The Secretary-General’s remarks follow a long history of efforts to establish rules to limit the use of AI systems in warfare. In fact, one of the first AI applications to focus the attention of global policymakers was the use of AI for warfare.¹⁶⁶ In 2016, the United Nations established the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) following a review of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).¹⁶⁷ In November 2019,¹⁶⁸ the CCW High Contracting Parties endorsed 11 Guiding Principles for LAWS.¹⁶⁹ But concerns about the future of regulation of lethal autonomous weapons remain. At present, some countries believe that current

¹⁶⁵ United Nations, *Humanity’s Fate Can’t Be Left to Algorithms, UN Chief Tells Security Council* (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://un.dk/humanitys-fate-cant-be-left-to-algorithms-un-chief-tells-security-council/>

¹⁶⁶ The Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR), a network of computer scientists based in Palo Alto, California, undertook early work on this topic in the 1980s. CPSR History, <http://cpsr.org/about/history/>; See also David Bellin and Gary Chapman, *Computers in Battle Will They Work?* (1987)

¹⁶⁷ United Nations, *2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, [https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/7C335E71DFCB29D1C1258243003E8724](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/7C335E71DFCB29D1C1258243003E8724)

¹⁶⁸ Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, *Final Report* (Dec. 13, 2019), <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=CCW%2FMSP%2F2019%2F9&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop>

¹⁶⁹ Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons System, *Report of the 2019 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Sept. 25, 2019), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/285/69/PDF/G1928569.pdf?OpenElement>

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international law “mostly suffices” while others believe new laws are needed.¹⁷⁰ Human Rights Watch provided an important overview of country positions on the future of banning fully autonomous weapons in August 2020.¹⁷¹ Concerns over killer reports also arose at the 75th UN Assembly in October 2020. Pope Francis warned that lethal autonomous weapons systems would “irreversibly alter the nature of warfare, detaching it further from human agency.” He called on states to “break with the present climate of distrust” that is leading to “an erosion of multilateralism, which is all the more serious in light of the development of new forms of military technology.”¹⁷² The Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the UN called for a ban on autonomous weapons in 2014.¹⁷³

At the 2022 UN General Assembly, 70 countries endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”¹⁷⁴

¹⁷⁰ Dustin Lewis, *An Enduring Impasse on Autonomous Weapons*, Just Security (Sept. 28, 2020), <https://www.justsecurity.org/72610/an-enduring-impasse-on-autonomous-weapons/>

¹⁷¹ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and#>

¹⁷² Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Seventy-fifth Meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, *The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming our Joint Commitment through Multilateralism* (Sept. 25, 2020), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/unga/2020/25Sept_HolySee.pdf

¹⁷³ Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous weapons systems of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, *On Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effect* (May 13, 2014), [https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/D51A968CB2A8D115C1257CD8002552F5/\\$file/Holy+See+MX+LAWS.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/D51A968CB2A8D115C1257CD8002552F5/$file/Holy+See+MX+LAWS.pdf)

¹⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, 164 states voted in favor¹⁷⁵ of resolution L.56¹⁷⁶ on autonomous weapons systems. The Resolution emphasizes the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. The report presented in July 2024 summarized views from more than 40 Member and Observer States and 28 civil society organizations.¹⁷⁷ The statements reflect a breadth of perspectives and concerns over defining LAWS and whether international law is sufficient for governing these weapons or a new instrument should be developed. Questions about the best approach remain but the Secretary-General noted the urgency “to take preventative action on this issue” and reiterated his call for “the conclusion by 2026, of a legally binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapons that function without human control or oversight and that cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law.”¹⁷⁸ He concluded, “The autonomous targeting of humans by machines is a moral line that must not be crossed.”

The 80th UN General Assembly furthered support for an international instrument to ensure the development and use of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) align with international humanitarian law. Negotiations for a treaty pushed forward with only 5 countries opposing and 5 abstaining on a resolution to extend conversations on beyond the GGE to informal discussions on emerging normative proposals at the General Assembly.¹⁷⁹ Countries also overwhelmingly supported ongoing dialogue on artificial intelligence in the military domain more broadly. 118 delegations supported¹⁸⁰ a draft resolution demanding human control and oversight over the command, control, and communications systems of nuclear weapons.¹⁸¹ These resolutions encourage the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

¹⁷⁵ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/a/79/88>

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid*, p. 18

¹⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the First Committee*, 80th Session, Agenda items 90–106. 121, 137 (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/534>

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid*

¹⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Possible Risks of the Integration of Artificial Intelligence into Command, Control and Communications Systems of Nuclear Weapons*, 80th Session First Committee, Agenda Item 99 (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/80/L.56>

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(CCW) Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS to continue toward an international instrument by the end of 2026.

The Vatican

Pope Francis served as a leading figure in AI policy. In addition to his statements on autonomous weapons, in November 2020 the Pope warned that AI could exacerbate economic inequalities around the world if a common good is not pursued. “Artificial intelligence is at the heart of the epochal change we are experiencing. Robotics can make a better world possible if it is joined to the common good. Indeed, if technological progress increases inequalities, it is not true progress. Future advances should be oriented towards respecting the dignity of the person and of Creation.”¹⁸²

Earlier in 2020, the Pope endorsed the Rome Call for AI Ethics.¹⁸³ The goal of the Rome Call is to “support an ethical approach to Artificial Intelligence and promote a sense of responsibility among organizations, governments and institutions.” The Pope said, “The Call’s intention is to create a movement that will widen and involve other players: public institutions, NGOs, industries and groups to set a course for developing and using technologies derived from AI.” The Pope also said that the Rome Call for Ethics is the “first attempt to formulate a set of ethical criteria with common reference points and values, offering a contribution to the development of a common language to interpret what is human.”¹⁸⁴

The key principles of the Rome Call are 1) Transparency: AI systems must be explainable; 2) Inclusion: the needs of all human beings must be taken into consideration so that everyone can benefit and all individuals can be offered the best possible conditions to express themselves and develop; 3) Responsibility: those who design and deploy the use of AI must proceed with responsibility and transparency; 4) Impartiality: do not create or act according to bias, thus safeguarding fairness and human dignity; 5) Reliability: AI systems must be able to work reliably; 6) Security and privacy: AI systems must work securely and respect the privacy of users. These principles are described as “fundamental elements of good innovation.”

The Pope delivered several speeches on Artificial Intelligence in 2024. Speaking to the G7 leaders in June, the Pope described AI as an “exciting and fearsome” tool, “that can autonomously adapt to the task assigned to it and, if designed this way, can make choices independent of the person in order to achieve

¹⁸² Vatican News, *Pope’s November Prayer Intention: That Progress in Robotics and AI “Be Human”* (Nov. 2020), <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-11/pope-francis-november-prayer-intention-robotics-ai-human.html>

¹⁸³ *Rome Call AI Ethics*, <https://romecall.org>

¹⁸⁴ Pontifical Academy for Life, *Rome Call for Ethics* (Feb. 28, 2020), <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/events/intelligenza-artificiale.html>

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the intended goal.”¹⁸⁵ The Pope called attention to inherent bias in AI systems, particularly those that may be deployed for judicial decision-making, and explained that algorithms are neither objective nor neutral. The Pope also urged world leaders to reconsider the development and use of lethal autonomous weapons and ultimately ban their use. He said, “No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being.”

Speaking to the World Forum in Davos in 2025, the Pope said that AI must promote and never violate human dignity.¹⁸⁶ The Pope said, AI raises “fundamental questions about ethical responsibility, human safety, and the broader implications of these developments for society.” He warned against the risk that AI will be used to advance the “technocratic paradigm,” which subordinates human dignity and fraternity to “the pursuit of efficiency, as though reality, goodness, and truth inherently emanate from technological and economic power.”

Pope Leo XIV stressed to participants at the Second Annual Rome Conference on Artificial Intelligence “the need to weigh the ramifications of AI in light of the ‘integral development of the human person and society’ (Note *Antigua et Nova*, 6). This entails taking into account the well-being of the human person not only materially, but also intellectually and spiritually [...] Ultimately, the benefits or risks of AI must be evaluated precisely according to this superior ethical criterion.”¹⁸⁷ In a later speech, he called for widespread participation and unity “before any partisan interest or profit, which is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few”¹⁸⁸ in a joint responsibility to protect this essential humanity against “the paralyzing idea that [AI] development follows an inevitable path.” Pope Leo also challenged leaders to act against the perceived inevitability of an AI-enabled arms race.¹⁸⁹ He noted that

¹⁸⁵ The Holy See, *Address of His Holiness Pope Francis* (Jun. 14, 2024), <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/june/documents/20240614-g7-intelligenza-artificiale.html>

¹⁸⁶ Vatican News, *Pope to World Economic Forum: AI Must Promote and Never Violate human Dignity* (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-01/pope-francis-sends-message-to-davos.html>

¹⁸⁷ Holy See, *Message of Pope Leo XIV to Participants in the Second Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Corporate Governance* (Jun. 19, 2025), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/pont-messages/2025/documents/20250617-messaggio-ia.html>

¹⁸⁸ Holy See, *Address of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to Participants in the Conference “Artificial Intelligence and Care of Our Common Home” Organized by the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation and the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities* (Dec. 5, 2026), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/december/documents/20251205-conferenza.html>

¹⁸⁹ Holy See, *Address of Pope Leo XIV to Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See* (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/january/documents/20260109-corpo-diplomatico.html>

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artificial intelligence in weapons and other applications “is a tool that requires appropriate and ethical management, together with regulatory frameworks focused on the protection of freedom and human responsibility.”

Technical Societies

Technical societies have also played a leading role in the articulation of AI principles. The IEEE led several initiatives, often in cooperation with government policymakers, to develop and promote Ethically Aligned Design (EAD).¹⁹⁰ The initial report, *A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems*, was published in 2015. The IEEE published the second edition in 2017.¹⁹¹ In 2019 the IEEE issued a Positions Statement on Artificial Intelligence, concluding that “AI systems hold great promise to benefit society, but also present serious social, legal and ethical challenges, with corresponding new requirements to address issues of systemic risk, diminishing trust, privacy challenges and issues of data transparency, ownership and agency.”¹⁹²

In November 2022, the IEEE Board approved the IEEE Standard for Operator Interfaces of Artificial Intelligence. The standard defines a set of operator interfaces frequently used in AI applications and highlights various types of operators, such as those related to basic mathematics, neural networks, and machine learning.¹⁹³ As of 2025,¹⁹⁴ the IEEE Standards Association includes the 7000 standards series to address transparency, privacy, algorithmic bias, and accountability in AI and other autonomous systems and a personal credentialing and product certification program to be compatible with the EU AI Act. The South African Chair’s Summary following the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) High-Level Event 2025, co-sponsored by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, and several other UN entities, called on countries to empower digital and education ministers through political support and funding to carry out the “skills development,

¹⁹⁰ IEEE Standards Association, *Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (AIS)*, <https://standards.ieee.org/initiatives/autonomous-intelligence-systems/>

¹⁹¹ IEEE Standards Association, *IEEE Releases Ethically Aligned Design, Version 2 to Show "Ethics in Action" for the Development of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (A/IS)* (Dec. 12, 2017), https://standards.ieee.org/news/2017/ead_v2.html

¹⁹² IEEE, *Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 24, 2019), <https://globalpolicy.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/IEEE18029.pdf>

¹⁹³ IEEE Standards Association, *IEEE Standard for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Model Representation, Compression, Distribution, and Management* (Mar. 2022), <https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/2941/10363/>

¹⁹⁴ IEEE Standards Association, *IEEE Standards Commitment to Advancing AI Governance Includes Impactful Contributions to New International AI Standards Exchange* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://standards.ieee.org/news/ieee-standards-commitment-to-advancing-ai-governance-includes-impactful-contributions-to-new-international-ai-standards-exchange/>

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infrastructure investment, and knowledge sharing” needed to “ensure that all countries can benefit equitably.”¹⁹⁵

ACM, an international society of computer scientists and professionals, has also contributed to the global AI policy landscape.¹⁹⁶ In 2017 ACM released a Statement on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability, identifying key principles to minimize bias and risks in algorithmic decision-making systems, including transparency, accountability, explainability, auditability, and validation.¹⁹⁷ In 2020, in response to growing concerns about the use of facial recognition technologies in public spaces, ACM released another statement addressing the unique issues of biometric data systems and the potential bias and inaccuracies that have significant consequences for violation of human rights.¹⁹⁸ A 2023 Statement addressed emerging challenges of generative AI and proposed several new principles, including Limits and guidance on Deployment and Use, Ownership, Personal Data Control, and Correctability.¹⁹⁹

ACM supported efforts in the United States and Europe to ensure AI use aligned with the organization’s code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. In a statement on the inappropriate use of AI Chatbots,²⁰⁰ the organization expressed deep concerns about chatbots and similar tools that “engage in interactions of a sensual, sexual, or suggestive nature with minors” and urged “investigation and oversight of any such design or deployment.” An ACM brief called on policymakers and legislators to draft laws against technology-facilitated domestic violence, human

¹⁹⁵ WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, *Chair’s Summary: WSIS Accelerating Vision & Empowerment* (Jul. 7–11, 2025), <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Files/outcomes/WSIS20HighLevelEvent2025-ChairsSummary.pdf>

¹⁹⁶ Association for Computing Machinery, www.acm.org/public-policy

¹⁹⁷ ACM U.S. Public Policy Council, *Statement on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability* (Jan. 12, 2017), https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/publicpolicy/2017_usacm_statement_algorithms.pdf

¹⁹⁸ ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee, *Statement on Principles and Prerequisites for the Development, Evaluation and Use of Unbiased Facial Recognition Technologies* (Jun. 30, 2020), <https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/ustpc-facial-recognition-tech-statement.pdf>

¹⁹⁹ ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee, *Statement on Principles for the Development, Deployment and Use of Generative AI Technologies* (Jun. 27, 2023), <https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/ustpc-approved-generative-ai-principles>

²⁰⁰ ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee, *Statement on the Inappropriate Use of AI Chatbots* (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/usacm/ai/ai-chatbot-statementsept-2025.pdf>

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trafficking, and child exploitation.²⁰¹ The ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee’s recommendations to include AI education and workforce training were included in the AI Action Plan.²⁰² The Europe Technology Policy Committee submitted a policy brief to EU AI Act policymakers with recommendations to “enable true environmental accountability in the EU AI Act.”²⁰³

Legal Societies

Legal societies are also playing a more prominent role in the AI policy landscape. The European Law Institute has published several reports and recommendations on AI law and policy.²⁰⁴ In 2024, the International Bar Association endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.²⁰⁵

Civil Society

Civil society organizations engage in AI policymaking through a variety of means. Whether researching AI-related justice issues like facial recognition in public spaces, submitting comments, or sitting in the rooms where policymakers make decisions on legislation, civil society organizations hold government leaders accountable for rights-violating AI uses and help develop more just policies. This section highlights some recent engagement by civil society organizations.

²⁰¹ Jody R. Westby and Simson L. Garfinkel, *Technology Policy Can Curb Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Crimes against Children*, ACM Technology Policy Council, TechBriefs, Winter 2025, no. 12 (2025), <https://dl.acm.org/doi/epdf/10.1145/3717828>

²⁰² ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee, *Comments in Response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy Request for Information on the Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan* (Mar. 14, 2025), <https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/acm---ustpc-comments-on-ai-action-plan-final-submitted.pdf>

²⁰³ ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee, *Policy Brief on the EU AI Act for True Environmental Accountability* (Jun. 2, 2025), https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/europe-tpc/acm_climate_disclosure_final.pdf

²⁰⁴ See, for example, European Law Institute, *ELI Guiding Principles and Model Rules on Algorithmic Contracts* (2022), <https://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu/projects-publications/current-projects/current-projects/eli-guiding-principles-and-model-rules-on-algorithmic-contracts/>

²⁰⁵ International Bar Association, *The IBA Is the First Association of Legal Practitioners to Endorse the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2, 2024), <https://www.ibanet.org/The-IBA-is-the-first-association-of-legal-practitioners-to-endorse-the-Council-of-Europe-Framework-Convention-on-Artificial-Intelligence>

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Global Efforts

International organizations such as the G20 provide channels for representatives from civil society. In 2024, for example, Brazil launched the G20 Social to “increase the participation of non-governmental actors in G20 activities and decision-making processes.”²⁰⁶ The São Luís Declaration, a joint statement on inclusive AI by the civil, labor, think-tank, and women engagement groups, emerged from meetings leading up to the Social Summit held in connection with the Leaders’ Summit.²⁰⁷

Other global meetings and venues such as the AI Safety Summit also include civil society organizations. The Sixth Athens Roundtable on AI and the Rule of Law in December 2024 brought together over 130 leading AI decision-makers in person and more than 800 participants online. The event emphasized the urgency of establishing robust, globally coordinated accountability mechanisms to safeguard the rule of law, democratic values, and global well-being. Key discussions centered on enforcing global standards for AI risk management, building an interoperable ecosystem for AI evaluations, and ensuring transparency and accessible information flows.

Africa

In Africa, civil society organizations have actively engaged with continental initiatives surrounding AI governance, exemplified by an open letter published in July 2024 addressing the African Union (AU).²⁰⁸ The letter was coordinated by Pollicy and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) and supported by a coalition comprising various organizations including Mozilla, Paradigm Initiative, African Internet Rights Alliance, and the Women of Uganda Network. The letter was issued in response to the endorsement of the Continental AI Strategy and the African Digital Compact by African ICT and Communications Ministers, applauding the AU for its visionary leadership and collective effort.

Signatories expressed significant concerns regarding the effectiveness of implementation at the national level, emphasizing that the transformative potential of these continental frameworks depends heavily on their translation into binding domestic policies. The coalition highlighted the importance of protecting African

²⁰⁶ G20 Brasil 2024, *G20 Social* (2024), <https://g20.gov.br/en/g20-social>

²⁰⁷ T20, Brasil 2024, *São Luís Declaration: A Joint Statement from Engagement Groups to the G20 States on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://www.t20brasil.org/en/news/82/sao-luis-declaration-a-joint-statement-from-engagement-groups-to-the-g20-states-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁰⁸ Pollicy, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), & Kristophina Shilongo, *We Submitted an Open Letter to the African Union. Here Is What We Learned about AI Policymaking in Africa*, Mozilla (Aug. 12, 2024), <https://foundation.mozilla.org/en/blog/we-submitted-an-open-letter-to-the-african-union-here-is-what-we-learned-about-ai-policymaking-in-africa/>

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societies from potential negative impacts of AI, such as misinformation and AI-enabled propaganda, stressing the critical necessity of robust policies addressing data governance and fundamental rights. Recommendations included calling upon African Heads of State to actively participate in discussions during the AU Assembly, urging AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat to underscore the importance of the AU Data Policy Framework, and advocating for strengthened partnerships between civil society, communities, and AU bodies like AUDA-NEPAD. The letter strongly emphasized collaborative governance as essential, underlining civil society's willingness to partner with political leaders to ensure AI development truly benefits all Africans, reflecting a collective vision toward digital transformation rooted firmly in human rights and ethical standards.

Americas

Civil society organizations continue to advocate for individual rights in their struggle against facial recognition in public spaces. In Argentina, the Civil Rights Association (*Asociación por los Derechos Civiles*, ADC) organized against facial recognition in 2020–2023.²⁰⁹ A judge ruled the system implemented in Buenos Aires unconstitutional in 2022.²¹⁰ The Coalition Rights on the Net (*Coalizão Direitos na Rede*) in cited several examples of arrests after mistaken identity in a 2024 open letter advocating for the Brazilian AI regulation to ban facial recognition technologies.²¹¹ This action continues research informing the public on facial recognition in public spaces by Brazilian think tank Instituto Igarapé²¹² and a 2018 class action by the Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection before the São Paulo Court of Justice in 2018.²¹³

In Mexico, the multi-stakeholder National Alliance on Artificial Intelligence (ANIA, *Alianza Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial*) revitalized the charge for a national AI strategy with the Proposal for a National AI Strategy for Mexico, 2024–

²⁰⁹ Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, *ConMiCaraNo*, <https://conmicarano.adc.org.ar/>

²¹⁰ Future of Privacy Forum, *Judge Declares Fugitive Facial Recognition System Unconstitutional* (Sept. 30, 2022), <https://fpf.org/blog/judge-declares-buenos-aires-fugitive-facial-recognition-system-unconstitutional/>; See also Judicial Branch of the City of Buenos Aires, *Judicial Decision on the Administrative and Tribute Litigation No. 4* (Sept. 7, 2022), <https://www.cels.org.ar/web/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/reconocimientofacialsentencia070922.pdf>

²¹¹ Coalizão Direitos Na Rede (Coalition Rights on the Net), *Open Letter: Advocating for Brazilian AI Regulation that Protects Human Rights* (Jul. 8, 2024), <https://direitosnarede.org.br/2024/07/08/open-letter-advocating-for-brazilian-ai-regulation-that-protects-human-rights/>

²¹² Instituto Igarapé, *Facial Recognition in Brazil* (Accessed Feb. 3, 2025), <https://igarape.org.br/infografico-reconhecimento-facial-no-brasil/>

²¹³ Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor, *ViaQuatro* (Aug. 30, 2018), https://idec.org.br/sites/default/files/acp_viaquatro.pdf

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2030.²¹⁴ ANIA brings together experts from academia, private enterprise, government, and NGOs to conduct roundtables, offer public webinars and workshops, research AI use cases, and collaborate with other regional leaders.

In the United States, a variety of civil society organizations, including the Center for AI and Digital Policy, engage in policymaking and public advocacy. The Algorithmic Justice League, led by Dr. Joy Buolamwini,²¹⁵ unites these areas with testimony to Congress and statements to legislators, organizing and capacity-building through public campaigns, and media such the documentary *Coded Bias*.²¹⁶ Buolamwini's study, *Gender Shades*, co-authored with former Google AI Ethics co-lead Timnit Gebru,²¹⁷ prompted her advocacy and activism. Gebru's organization, Distributed AI Research Institute, centers research that aims to "mitigate/disrupt/eliminate/slow down harms caused by AI technology, and cultivate spaces to accelerate imagination and creation of new technologies and tools to build a better future."²¹⁸ DAIR centers research on the real, present harms of AI technologies in society.

Asia

AI Safety Asia (AISA), co-founded in 2024 by Lyantoniette Chua, Senior Policy Advisor and Fellow at the Center for AI and Digital Policy is a global non-profit organization dedicated to the international governance of safe AI, beginning with initiatives in Southeast Asia. By promoting safe and governed AI in Asia, AISA aims to mitigate catastrophic risks, reduce adverse societal impacts, and unlock equitable socioeconomic development for 60% of the global population. Through programs such as the AISA Governance Academy and the Southeast Asia Policy Observatory, AISA seeks to enhance AI safety governance, upskill civil servants, incubate junior researchers, and foster cross-disciplinary collaboration. AISA has conducted AI Safety Roundtables in Manila, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok, convening stakeholders to discuss regional opportunities, challenges, and strategies for AI safety governance.

AISA joined with Asia Society France at the AI Action Summit in Paris, France, in February 2025, to convene a high-level dialogue in Paris on the sidelines

²¹⁴ ANIA, *About ANIA [Sobre ANIA]* (2024), <https://www.ania.org.mx/>

²¹⁵ Algorithmic Justice League, *About* (2025), <https://www.ajl.org/about>

²¹⁶ Algorithmic Justice League, *Policy/Advocacy* (2025), <https://www.ajl.org/library/policy-advocacy>

²¹⁷ Joy Buolamwini and Timnit Gebru, *Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification*, Proceedings of Machine Learning Research 81, no. 1 (2018), <https://proceedings.mlr.press/v81/buolamwini18a/buolamwini18a.pdf>

²¹⁸ DAIR, *Research Philosophy* (2024), <https://www.dair-institute.org/research/>

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of the AI Action Summit titled *From Oil to Water: Governing AI as a Global Public Good—A Europe-Asia Dialogue*.

Europe

Civil society organizations across Europe have issued an urgent collective response to the third draft of the EU Code of Practice for General Purpose AI (GPAI) models, warning that crucial protections for fundamental rights and child safety have been significantly weakened. The joint letter,²¹⁹ endorsed by influential groups including the Ada Lovelace Institute, ARTICLE 19, 5Rights Foundation, and The Future Society, criticized the relegation of fundamental rights concerns such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII) to voluntary measures listed in an appendix, rather than central obligations. According to these groups, this approach drastically shifts responsibility for assessing risks from GPAI model providers to downstream system developers, undermining the accountability envisioned by the EU AI Act. Furthermore, the coalition asserts that by reducing fundamental rights issues to mere "potential considerations," the code becomes incompatible with established international frameworks, such as the International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI, which explicitly acknowledges these harms. They also highlighted inadequacies in current industry safety frameworks cited by the drafters, pointing out that prominent frameworks from companies including Meta and Google notably fail to address critical risks related to human rights, discrimination, and child safety.

Civil society organizations urged EU policymakers to ensure the code aligns firmly with the original intent of the AI Act, maintaining mandatory protections rather than permitting companies to selectively recognize or ignore systemic risks. The signatories concluded that without these revisions, the code risks normalizing a regulatory landscape in which safeguarding fundamental rights and protecting vulnerable groups become discretionary rather than obligatory moral imperatives.

²¹⁹ *Civil Society's Urgent Warning: The EU's Code of Practice for General Purpose AI Final Draft Cannot Abandon Fundamental Rights, and Protections for Children*, Center for Democracy & Technology (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://cdt.org/insights/joint-civil-society-letter-urging-the-eu-institutions-to-protect-fundamental-rights-in-the-code-of-practice-for-general-purpose-ai-final-draft/>; [pdf] <https://cdt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Joint-Letter-CSO-CoP.pdf>

COUNTRY REPORTS

Argentina

In 2025, Argentina's data protection agency released guidelines on transparency in artificial intelligence while the Secretariat of Education's AI literacy program, PAIDEIA, launched in the beta stage.

National AI Strategy

The former Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT) published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in 2019.²²⁰ The plan includes two priority initiatives: Digital Agenda Argentina 2030²²¹ and the National Strategy for Science, Technology, and Innovation, Argentina Innovates 2030.²²²

With the goal of positioning Argentina as a regional leader on AI, the ten-year strategy seeks to transform the country through AI, leveraging the technology in pursuit of developmental objectives built on the UN's sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Strategy aims to minimize the potential risks of AI development and implementation for Argentinean society by protecting personal data and individual privacy through guidelines for the design of AI systems consistent with ethical and legal principles. The strategy also proposes to analyze the impact in the production scheme, to measure effects on labor force, and to prevent automate systems from reproducing or reinforcing discriminatory or exclusionary stereotypes. The cross-cutting themes in the Strategy are Ethics and regulation, Communication and awareness building, and International co-operation.

As the wide range of topics indicates, the Strategy requires a whole-of-government effort that brings together different government ministries under the leadership of the Digital Agenda Executive Roundtable (*Mesa Ejecutiva Agenda Digital*), which ended in 2019. This effort is supported by twenty different government agencies, as well as a Multi-sectoral Committee of Artificial Intelligence and a Scientific Committee of experts.

²²⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI National Plan* (2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/Argentina>

²²¹ Presidency of the Nation, *Argentina Digital Agenda — Decree 996/2018* (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/195154/20181105>

²²² Presidency of the Nation, *National Artificial Intelligence Plan Argentina (Plan Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República de Argentina)* (2019), <https://oecd-opsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Argentina-National-AI-Strategy.pdf>

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The 2019 National AI Strategy for Argentina set out ambitious goals that built on other national strategies developed under the former President Mauricio Marci, just before President Alberto Fernandez was elected in December 2019. The Executive Branch under the Fernandez administration published the Productive Development Plan Argentina 4.0 in April 2021.²²³ An initiative of the now-dissolved National Ministry of Productive Development, aims to promote the incorporation of technologies 4.0—including AI—in the national production chain. The Argentina 4.0 Plan does not refer to the National AI Strategy. In November 2021, the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs also adopted the Artificial Intelligence Program.²²⁴ The aim is to foster the responsible use of technology, such as artificial intelligence, “that contribute to consolidating Argentine technological sovereignty in the 4.0 revolution.”²²⁵

Local Strategies

The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires launched Future City: AI Strategy in August 2021.²²⁶ The Plan outlines three objectives:

- Use AI for the city’s development
- Use AI for the benefit of the citizens
- Use cross-cutting tools to ensure the city’s sustainability

Under this strategy, the Buenos Aires government has established Buenos Aires AI Lab (*BA Laboratorio IA*), which provides opportunities for training and professional development to youth and serves as a hub for facilitating R&D and application of AI. As with the National Plan, one of the key aspects of the Buenos Aires strategy is that it aims to foster mechanisms and tools for the development and use of AI technology that respects fundamental values and human rights.²²⁷

The Ministry of Government of the Province of Buenos Aires (*Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*) released guidelines for using generative AI in the

²²³ Ministry of Productive Development, *Productive Development Plan: Argentina 4.0* (Apr. 2021), https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/plan_de_desarrollo_productivo_argentina_4.0.vf_2.pdf

²²⁴ Secretary for Strategic Affairs, *Resolution 90/2021* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-90-2021-357421>

²²⁵ National Executive Branch, *Decree 970/2020* (Dec. 1, 2020), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/decreto-970-2020-344786/texto>

²²⁶ Buenos Aires Secretary of Innovation and Digital Transformation, *Future City: Artificial Intelligence Plan for the City [Ciudad Futuro: Plan Estratégico Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 13, 2021), <http://buenosaires.gob.ar/jefaturadegabinete/innovacion/noticias/ciudad-futuro-el-primer-plan-de-inteligencia-artificial-de>

²²⁷ *Ibid*

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public administration.²²⁸ The guidelines outline eight key principles to ensure the safe and appropriate use of AI in public administration, including 1) Authorization for Use; 2) Ethical Behavior; 3) Transparency of the tools; 4) Confidentiality and Data Protection; 5) Information Security in not entering sensitive information in AI systems; 6) Evaluation of AI Outputs to ensure human oversight for accuracy, relevance, data sensitivity, bias, and legal compliance; 7) Prohibited Uses to mandate human intervention in decision-making, especially in matters affecting rights, accreditation, verifications, civil applications, or legal investigations; and 8) Training and Continuous Learning for public officials. The Undersecretariat of Digital Government is responsible for overseeing this initiative to protect human rights, foster responsible innovation, and ensure human oversight in AI applications across Buenos Aires' public sector.

Public Participation

Since the development of Argentina's national AI strategy, the government has taken further steps to increase public participation in AI-related initiatives. The Agency for Access to Public Information (*Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública*, AAIP) launched a program in 2023²²⁹ focused on AI transparency and the protection of personal data. To further support these efforts, the AAIP published the Guide to Transparency and the Protection of Personal Data in Responsible AI,²³⁰ outlining AI's potential risks and challenges and offering guidance on implementing responsible AI principles throughout the AI lifecycle. These efforts reflect Argentina's aim to ensure AI development aligns with societal values and effectively addresses public concerns.

The AAIP oversaw a public consultation on a proposed update of the Personal Data Protection Law (*Ley 25.326*) in 2022.²³¹ A webpage on the project reported

²²⁸ Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, *Resolution 4/2025 that Approves the “Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration of the Province of Buenos Aires [Resolución 4/2025 de la Subsecretaría de Gobierno Digital del Ministerio de Gobierno que Aprueba las “Dícticos de uso de Inteligencia Artificial Generativa en la Administración Pública de la Provincia de Buenos Aires”]*, Boletín 29939 (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://normas.gba.gob.ar/ar-b/resolucion/2025/4/493209>

²²⁹ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Program for Transparency and Protection of Personal Data in the Use of Artificial Intelligence — Resolution 161/2023* (Sept. 4, 2023), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/programa-de-transparencia-y-proteccion-de-datos-personales-en-el-uso-de-la-inteligencia>

²³⁰ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Guide for Transparency and Personal Data Protection in Responsible AI* (Sept. 16, 2024), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/aaip-argentina-guia-para-usar-la-ia-de-manera-responsable.pdf>

²³¹ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Comenzó la consulta pública sobre la propuesta de anteproyecto de Ley de Protección de Datos Personales* (Sept. 12, 2022),

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more than 123 participants from civil society, organizations, universities, and public and private institutions submitted opinions and documents and includes summaries of roundtables to inform the bill submitted in 2023.²³² The site references informational documents, including the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

Argentina's Library of Congress (*Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación*) dedicated an edition of the Legislative Dossier to artificial intelligence.²³³ The Dossier includes bills, international frameworks such as the OECD AI Principles, and judicial decisions related to AI. The issue provides basic information such as the definition of artificial intelligence and impacts as well as relevant legislation.

Data Protection

Article 43 of Argentina's Constitution guarantees an individual's access to personal data in private and public registries, and exercise agency over how that data is used. Argentina's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) follows international standards regarding basic personal data rules and had even been deemed adequate by the European Commission.²³⁴ A new proposal put forward by the former administration to reform the PDPL and related legislation has been stalled in the National Congress. The purpose of this reform is not only for the country to keep its international status as a jurisdiction that provides an adequate level of protection, particularly after the passing of the European General Data Protection Regulation, but also to keep its data protection regime up to date with the technological and legal developments that have taken place in recent years. Two new bills to modernize the PDPL, one in the Chamber of Deputies (*Cámara de Diputados*),²³⁵ and one in the

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comenzo-la-consulta-publica-sobre-la-propuesta-de-anteproyecto-de-ley-de-proteccion-de>

²³² Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Personal Data Protection Bill [Proyecto de Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]*, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/aaip/datospersonales/proyecto-ley-datos-personales>

²³³ Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación, *Dossier legislative: Inteligencia artificial*, Vol. XIII, no. 312 (Apr. 2025), <https://bcn.gob.ar/uploads/Dossier-312-Legis-nacional-Inteligencia-Artificial-Abril-2025.pdf>

²³⁴ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World – Argentina* (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?c=AR>

²³⁵ Honorable Cámara de Diputados de la Nación, *Personal Data Protection Regime [Proyecto de ley 1948-D/2025 — Régimen de protección de datos personales]* (2025), <https://www4.hcdn.gob.ar/dependencias/dsecretaria/Periodo2025/PDF2025/TP2025/1948-D-2025.pdf>

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Senate (*Senado*)²³⁶ may succeed in modernizing the law though they remain under committee consideration with no plenary vote recorded in either chamber.

The Agency for Access to Public Information (*Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública*, AAIP) is Argentina's data protection authority. Although the AAIP enjoys functional autonomy by law, the agency remains under the National Executive Branch from a structural perspective; an aspect that, with the absence of proper mechanisms, has led civil society groups to question the impartiality and independence of the appointment process of its Executive Director.²³⁷

Following an extended public consultation, the AAPI took up 80 for the revised Personal Data Protection Law articles in the final proposal and modified 43 based on public comments. The reform package was presented to Argentina's government for review before introduction to the National Congress of Argentina in June 2023.²³⁸

AAIP issued a resolution that established the Transparency and Protection of Data Program on the use of AI.²³⁹ This program has the objective of enhancing regulatory frameworks and strengthening state powers necessary for the development and use of AI, based on the assumption that the state is responsible for guaranteeing the effective exercise of citizens' rights regarding transparency and the protection of personal data. The Resolution included the formation of the Observatory on AI, an initiative to foster governance and community engagement. A week after this Resolution was created, Argentina's President Chief of Staff issued Administrative Decision No. 750/2023, which created an Inter-Ministerial roundtable on AI.²⁴⁰

As a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (*Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos*, RIPD), which comprises 16 data protection authorities of 12 countries, the AAPI endorsed the General

²³⁶ Honorable Senado de la Nación Argentina, *Personal Data Protection Regime [Expediente S-0644/2025—Régimen de protección de datos personales]*

<https://www.senado.gob.ar/parlamentario/comisiones/verExp/644.25/S/PL>

²³⁷ Association for Civil Rights, *Observations of the ADC on the Proposed Candidate for the Director of the Agency of Access to Public Information* (Mar. 17, 2021),

<https://adc.org.ar/2021/03/17/observaciones-de-la-adc-a-la-candidatura-propuesta-para-la-direccion-de-la-agencia-de-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica/>

²³⁸ National Executive Branch, *The National Executive Branch Sent the Personal Data Protection Bill to Congress* (Jun. 30, 2023), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-poder-ejecutivo-nacional-envio-al-congreso-el-proyecto-de-ley-de-proteccion-de-datos>

²³⁹ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Resolution No 161/23* (Sept. 2023), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/293363/20230904>

²⁴⁰ M. O'Farrell Mairal, *Agency of Access to Public Information Creates Transparency and Personal Data Protection Program for Using Artificial Intelligence*, Lexology (Oct. 5, 2023), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d4c2fb3b-4502-46af-8831-783ee5946503>

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Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence²⁴¹ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.²⁴²

In May 2023, the RIPD data protection authorities initiated a coordinated action regarding ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, on the basis that it may entail risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the processing of their personal data. Concerns regarding the risk of misinformation. “ChatGPT does not have knowledge and/or experience in a specific domain, so the precision and depth of the response may vary in each case, and/or generate responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones.”²⁴³

Argentina’s AAIP has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2018.²⁴⁴ AAIP co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics,²⁴⁵ 2020 Resolution on AI and Accountability,²⁴⁶ 2022 Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,²⁴⁷ and the 2023 Resolution on Generative AI.²⁴⁸

²⁴¹ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 21, 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai-en.pdf>

²⁴² Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 21, 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

²⁴³ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Authorities from the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data Begin a Coordinated Action in Relation to ChatGPT* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

²⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

²⁴⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁴⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

²⁴⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁴⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Argentina is also party to Council of Europe Convention 108 since June 2019. Argentina became the 23rd state to ratify 108+ on data protection in 2023.²⁴⁹

Building on these initiatives, in July 2024 the Argentine Congress proposed the establishment of a Federal Observatory on AI²⁵⁰ to guide ethical AI policy, enhance transparency, and ensure that AI systems respect constitutional rights. The Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)²⁵¹ praised Argentina's efforts, particularly the AAIP guidelines' focus on transparency and data protection, which is aligned with global standards such as the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics.

Algorithmic Transparency

Argentina ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108+, granting Argentines the right to information on algorithmic logic as well as access to correction.²⁵² The AAIP²⁵³ published a preliminary draft of the Guide on Transparency and Personal Data Protection for Responsible AI,²⁵⁴ which outlines challenges and risks associated with AI while providing recommendations for implementing these principles throughout the AI lifecycle, in 2024. The guide promotes algorithmic transparency in the AI lifecycle and ensures data subjects are

²⁴⁹ Council of Europe, *Argentina Becomes the 23rd State to Ratify Convention 108+ on Data Protection* (Apr. 17, 2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/-/argentina-ratifies-convention-108-during-the-privacy-symposium>

²⁵⁰ Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, *Bill No. 3900-D-2024 — Establishing the Federal Observatory on Artificial Intelligence* (currently under deliberation) (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://digitalpolicyalert.org/event/21749-introduced-bill-establishing-the-federal-observatory-on-artificial-intelligence-bill-no-3900-d-2024>

²⁵¹ Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP), *Comments to the Agency for Access to Public Information (AAIP) of the Government of the Argentine Republic - Consultation on AAIP Guide to Using Artificial Intelligence Responsibly* (Oct. 29, 2024), <https://files.constantcontact.com/dfc91b20901/9606ce1c-1bdb-4e26-8ee9-60314f3d40ac.pdf>

²⁵² Boletín Oficial, *Ley 27699, Protección de People with Respect to the Automatic Treatment of Personal Data [Protección de las Personas con Respecto al Tratamiento Automatizado de Datos de Carácter Personal]* (Nov. 20, 2022), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/276783/20221130>

²⁵³ Data Guidance, *Argentina: AAIP Publishes Guide on Transparency and Personal Data Protection in AI* (Sept. 17, 2024), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/argentina-aaip-publishes-guide-transparency-and>

²⁵⁴ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *Guide for Private and Public Entities for Transparency and Protection of Personal Data for Responsible AI [Guía para entidades públicas y privadas en materia de Transparencia y Protección de Datos Personales para una Inteligencia Artificial responsable: Versión preliminar]* (Sept. 27, 2024), https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/aaip-argentina-guia_para_usar_la_ia_de_manera_responsable.pdf

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provided with relevant information regarding the AI system. Public consultation on this guide was opened after its publication.²⁵⁵

The AAPI provided interpretation guidelines of the Personal Data Protection Act²⁵⁶ through Resolution No. 4/2019²⁵⁷ in which it recognizes that, under the right of access enshrined in the current data protection law, data subjects have the right to request from data controllers an explanation about the logic used by any system that reaches decisions solely based on automated processing of data and which can affect citizens or have pernicious legal effects on them.²⁵⁸

The AAPI's proposed reform Act includes the right of citizens to get information about "the existence of automated decision systems, including those that create digital profiles," as well as "meaningful information" about the logic applied by those systems.²⁵⁹ A formal right to object to a decision based solely on automatic processing methods is also included in the proposal.²⁶⁰

The RED Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects also provide guidance on algorithmic transparency such that "The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience."²⁶¹

²⁵⁵ Agencia de Acceso a la Información Pública, *AAIP Guide for the Responsible Use of AI* (2024), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/guia-de-la-aaip-para-usar-la-inteligencia-artificial-de-manera-responsable>

²⁵⁶ UNODC, *Personal Data Protection Act [Translation]* (2000), <https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res//uncac/LegalLibrary/Argentina/Laws/Argentina%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Act%202000.pdf>

²⁵⁷ Government of Argentina, *Resolution 4 /2019, Guiding Criteria and Indicators for Best Practices in the Application of Law No. 25.326* (2019), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-4-2019-318874>

²⁵⁸ *Annex I of Resolution 4/2019* (IF-2019-01967621-APN-AAIP), <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/315000-319999/318874/norma.htm>.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid*, Article 28 (h) of the draft Bill

²⁶⁰ *Ibid*, Article 32 of the draft Bill

²⁶¹ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RED), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), p. 17, www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai-en.pdf

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Data Scraping

The AAIP and 16 of its international counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy in 2024.²⁶² The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”²⁶³ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”²⁶⁴

Data scraping generally involves the automated extraction of data from the web. The statements responded to increasing incidents involving data scraping, particularly from social media companies and the operators of other websites that host publicly accessible data. Scraped personal information can be exploited for targeted cyberattacks, identity fraud, monitoring, profiling and surveillance purposes, unauthorized political or intelligence gathering purposes, unwanted direct marketing or spam.

Use of AI in Public Administration

Argentina is among the Latin American and the Caribbean countries that have been utilizing AI in the public sector. Some of the implementations include Prometea,²⁶⁵ developed in 2017, which is a virtual assistant that anticipates case solutions (based on previous cases and solutions) and helps assemble judicial case files. Laura, an application developed by the Ministry of Finance of the Province of

²⁶² ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

²⁶³ Regulatory Supervision Information Commissioner’s Office of the United Kingdom, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2023/js-dc_20230824/

²⁶⁴ ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

²⁶⁵ OECD, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean: AI Use Cases in LAC governments* (Mar. 2022), <https://oecd-opsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/lac-ai.pdf>

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Cordoba, automates tasks in bureaucratic procedures.²⁶⁶ One of the most controversial uses was the use of AI by the Government of the Province of Salta, which implemented a system to predict teenage pregnancy and school dropout using machine learning algorithms trained on personal, environmental, and health data collected in low-income districts of Salta City in 2016 and 2017.²⁶⁷ The program came to an end following the 2019 national and state elections when the new administration terminated several programs, including the use of algorithms to predict pregnancy.²⁶⁸

The Undersecretariat of Information Technologies enacted a resolution delineating a comprehensive framework of ethical principles and recommendations for the design, development, implementation, and use of AI projects in the public service.²⁶⁹ The Ministry of Justice launched the National Comprehensive Program of Artificial Intelligence in Justice.²⁷⁰ The National Program aims to apply AI in strategic areas that directly impact the lives of citizens, especially in justice and public administration, health, and education and training.²⁷¹ The Ministry of Security furthered the use of AI systems in the justice system with the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Unit Applied to Security (UIAAS)²⁷² to enhance crime prevention and investigation using AI tools like social media monitoring, facial recognition, and predictive algorithms.

Facial Recognition

Several documented cases of facial recognition technology use have been reported in various cities and localities as well as at the provincial level in the country. Facial recognition systems being deployed include: for the identification and capture

²⁶⁶ Ibid

²⁶⁷ Wired, *The Case of the Creepy Algorithm That 'Predicted' Teen Pregnancy* (Feb. 16, 2022), <https://www.wired.com/story/argentina-algorithms-pregnancy-prediction/>

²⁶⁸ TNI, *What Artificial Intelligence is Hiding, Microsoft and Vulnerable Girls in Northern Argentina* (Feb. 23, 2023), <https://www.tni.org/en/article/what-artificial-intelligence-is-hiding>

²⁶⁹ Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros Subsecretaría de Tecnologías de la Información, *Resolution 2/2023: Guidelines for Reliable Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 1, 2023), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/287679/20230602>

²⁷⁰ Government of Argentina, *Resolution 149/2024* (May 6, 2024), <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-149-2024-398921>

²⁷¹ World Law Group, *The National Artificial Intelligence Program: Harnessing Technology for the Common Good in Argentina*, (Oct. 21, 2024), <https://www.theworldlawgroup.com/membership/news/news-the-national-artificial-intelligence-program-harnessing-technology-for-the-common-good-in-argentina-1>

²⁷² Government of Argentina, *Resolution 710/2024* (Jul. 26, 2024), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/311381/20240729>

of fugitives (in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires);²⁷³ for the identification of missing persons and of people with criminal backgrounds (town of Tigre, Buenos Aires province);²⁷⁴ for the use of the police to surveil mass gatherings (Mendoza province);²⁷⁵ or for the prevention and prosecution of crimes (Salta province).²⁷⁶ The program in the City of Buenos Aires in particular was denounced by the UN Special Rapporteur for the Right of Privacy as a technology whose “proportionality” was questionable when compared to the “serious privacy implications” for people not related to any crime and for not carefully updating and checking for accuracy.²⁷⁷ Human Rights Watch also denounced the system, noting the illegal exposure of minor’s personal information.²⁷⁸ The City legislature approved a bill in 2020 to authorize the use of AI for the purpose of capturing fugitives.²⁷⁹ But it has been alleged that this fact does not alter the unconstitutional character of the Buenos Aires program.²⁸⁰ The increasing and unaccountable use of this technology led to the creation of a national campaign by the Association for Civil Rights (*Asociación por los Derechos Civiles*), a well-known Argentinian human rights organization. With the slogan: “Con mi Cara No” (“Not with my face”), the organization aims to raise

²⁷³ Al Sur, *Facial Recognition in Latin America: Trends in the Implementation of a Perverse Technology* (2021), p. 11, https://www.alsur.lat/sites/default/files/2021-11/ALSUR_Reconocimiento_facial_en_Latam_ES.pdf

²⁷⁴ Ambito, *Tigre Implemented a New Facial Recognition System* (May 10, 2019), <https://www.ambito.com/municipios/municipios/tigre-lanzo-un-nuevo-sistema-reconocimiento-facial-n5030978>

²⁷⁵ El Sol, *Facial Recognition: More Than 100 People with Arrest Warrants Found* (May 20, 2019), <https://www.elsol.com.ar/reconocimiento-facial-hallaron-a-mas-de-100-personas-con-pedido-de-captura>

²⁷⁶ Salta Government, Secretary of Press and Communication, *Facial Recognition Cameras Lead to the Detention of a Person with an Arrest Warrant* (Jun. 19, 2019), <https://www.salta.gob.ar/prensa/noticias/las-camaras-de-reconocimiento-facial-permitieron-detener-a-una-persona-con-pedido-de-captura-64939>

²⁷⁷ OHCHR, *Statement to the Media by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy, on the Conclusion of His Official Visit to Argentina, 6–17 May 2019* (May 17, 2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2019/05/statement-media-United-nations-special-rapporteur-right-privacy-conclusion-his?LangID=E&NewsID=24639>

²⁷⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Argentina Publishes Personal Data of Boys and Girls Accused of Crimes Online* (Oct. 9, 2020), <http://www.hrw.org/es/news/2020/10/09/argentina-publica-en-linea-datos-personales-de-ninos-y-ninas-acusados-de-cometer>

²⁷⁹ Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, *The Buenos Aires Legislature Should Reject the Use of Facial Recognition Technology for the Surveillance of Public Space* (Oct. 21, 2020), <https://adc.org.ar/2020/10/21/la-legislatura-portena-debe-rechazar-el-uso-de-la-tecnologia-de-reconocimiento-facial-para-la-vigilancia-del-espacio-publico/>

²⁸⁰ iProfessional, *Now they come for your face? This Expert Warns of the Dangers of Facial Recognition* (May 10, 2020), <https://www.iprofesional.com/tecnologia/338236-reconocimiento-facial-advierten-sobre-peligros-en-argentina>

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awareness about the dangers facial recognition technologies pose to citizens, particularly when their data is included within opaque and unaccountable systems.²⁸¹ A trial judge declared the implementation of the Fugitive Facial Recognition System (SRFP, for its name in Spanish) by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires unconstitutional.²⁸²

The Court of Appeals of the City of Buenos Aires confirmed the unconstitutionality of the use of the Fugitive Facial Recognition System implemented by the Buenos Aires City Government in 2023.²⁸³ The use of SRFP is currently suspended. Meanwhile on the national level, the Artificial Intelligence Applied to Security Unit (UIAAS) plans to use facial recognition to predict future crimes.²⁸⁴ AI may be used to cross-reference databases related to the commission of crimes (such as records of convictions, arrests, etc.) with others related to criminals and other persons of interest to generate predictions. UIAAS also expects to deploy facial recognition software to identify “wanted persons,” patrol social media, and analyze real-time security camera footage to detect suspicious activities.

Environmental Impact of AI

In Argentina, the role of AI in environmental management is becoming increasingly important as it has the potential to address critical challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. AI is already being used in initiatives such as the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP)²⁸⁵ World Environment Situation Room (WESR),²⁸⁶ which uses AI for real-time analysis of environmental data. This includes monitoring CO2 levels, sea level rise and other key indicators to inform policy decisions and improve environmental sustainability.

²⁸¹ Association for Civil Rights, *Con Mi Cara No: Facial Recognition in Buenos Aires*, <https://conmicarano.tedic.org/>

²⁸² Future of Privacy Forum, *Judge Declares Fugitive Facial Recognition System Unconstitutional* (Sept. 30, 2022), <https://fpf.org/blog/judge-declares-buenos-aires-fugitive-facial-recognition-system-unconstitutional/>; See also Judicial Branch of the City of Buenos Aires, *Judicial Decision on the Administrative and Tribute Litigation No. 4* (Sept. 7, 2022), <https://www.cels.org.ar/web/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/reconocimientofacialsentencia070922.pdf>

²⁸³ CELS, *The Court of Appeals of the City of Buenos Aires Confirmed the Unconstitutionality of the Use of the Fugitive Facial Recognition System (SRFP) Implemented by the Buenos Aires City Government* (Apr. 29, 2023), <https://www.cels.org.ar/web/en/2023/04/the-court-of-appeals-of-the-city-of-buenos-aires-confirmed-the-unconstitutionality-of-the-use-of-the-fugitive-facial-recognition-system-srfp-implemented-by-the-buenos-aires-city-government/>

²⁸⁴ Government of Argentina, *Resolution 710/2024* (Jul. 26, 2024), <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/311381/20240729>

²⁸⁵ United Nations Environment Programme, *How Artificial Intelligence Is Helping Tackle Environmental Challenges* (Nov. 7, 2022), <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-artificial-intelligence-helping-tackle-environmental-challenges>

²⁸⁶ UN Environment Programme, *World Environment Situation Room* (2024), <https://wesr.unep.org/>

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AI also plays an important role in monitoring emissions, optimizing the use of renewable energy and supporting smarter environmental policies. However, there is growing concern about the environmental costs of AI, particularly in terms of data processing and e-waste. Argentina's growing focus on AI for sustainability must balance the technology's environmental impact with its benefits.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Argentina has been very critical about the development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems, particularly those without significant human involvement. Argentina has set out a strong position in public statements as well as within international organizations, including during meetings regarding the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Within the framework of those meetings, Argentina stressed the need “to preserve meaningful human control at all phases of the development and use” of weapons systems.²⁸⁷ On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, Argentina raised several concerns over fully autonomous weapons, including the risks of reprisal, retaliation, and terrorism.²⁸⁸ And Argentina has called for a “preemptive prohibition of the development of lethal autonomous systems.”²⁸⁹

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Argentina voted in favor of the resolution on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The resolution stressed the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems and ways to address the related challenges and concerns they raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and on the role of humans in the use of force.

Argentina was one of the 70 countries that endorsed a 2022 joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the UN General Assembly meeting. In this joint statement, States urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures,

²⁸⁷ United Nations, *Statement to the Convention on Conventional Weapons Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Mar. 26, 2019), https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CCW_GGE.1_2019_3_E.pdf

²⁸⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

²⁸⁹ United Nations, *Statement to the Convention on Conventional Weapons Fifth Review Conference* (Dec.12, 2016), <https://meetings.unoda.org/ccw-revcon/convention-certain-conventional-weapons-fifth-review-conference-2016>

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such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”²⁹⁰

Argentina endorsed, along with more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states, the Belén Communiqué,²⁹¹ which calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force. Argentina voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241²⁹² on lethal autonomous weapons systems, which takes up several of the points expressed in Resolution L.56. Most recently, the country also supported a draft resolution that calls for open informal consultations that shall be open to the full participation of all member states and observer states, international and regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and civil society, including the scientific community and industry.²⁹³

AI Literacy

Argentina’s Secretariat of Education (*Secretaría de Educación*), under the Ministry of Human Capital (*Ministerio de Capital Humano*), oversees the Argentine Program of Education Innovation with Artificial Intelligence (PAIDEIA) to “develop key skills in students from primary to secondary education, preparing them to understand and actively participate in a world increasingly mediated by technology.”²⁹⁴ PAIDEIA emphasizes human cognition skills across three objectives including computational thinking, application of AI, and development of AI.²⁹⁵ The program aligns with a humanist vision of AI as a tool for human development,

²⁹⁰ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – *Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

²⁹¹ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

²⁹² UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution 78/241* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4033027?ln=en&v=pdf>

²⁹³ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L.77* (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4065061?ln=en&v=pdf>

²⁹⁴ Ministerio de Capital Humano, *Paideia: Argentine Program of Education Innovation with Artificial Intelligence* [Paideia: Programa Argentino de Innovación de la Educación con Inteligencia Artificial], <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/capital-humano/educacion/paideia>

²⁹⁵ *Ibid*, *Reach of the PAIDEIA Program* [Alcance del Programa PAIDEIA], <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/capital-humano/educacion/paideia/alcance-del-programa-paideia>

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“derived from the ancient Greek *paideia* meaning education, formation, or growth.”²⁹⁶ The program has launched in a beta phase with plans for gradual national implementation.²⁹⁷ The Secretariat of Education released a guide for AI in education as part of the PAIDEIA program.²⁹⁸

Human Rights

According to the Freedom House 2024 report, Argentina is “Free,” receiving overall a score of 85/100.²⁹⁹ The Freedom House country report highlights concerns regarding democratic backsliding. Citizens continue to use social media to mobilize protests on political and social issues although new president Javier Milei has implemented restrictions on protests. The President has also dismantled several ministries, reducing their number from 20 to 8. Some controversial reforms have also been engaged regarding women, gender, and Indigenous affairs, raising concerns regarding the protection of vulnerable groups. On the other hand, in June 2024 the Argentine Chamber of Deputies proposed a bill to create an AI regulatory framework with INTI oversight, penalties for non-compliance, and an advisory board for ethical and human rights impact assessment.³⁰⁰

In the international arena, Argentina has shown a strong commitment to the protection of human rights, including international and regional initiatives that pertain to AI.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As part of the G20 and as a prospective member to the OECD, Argentina has endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles.³⁰¹ According to an OECD report, several

²⁹⁶ Ibid, *Vision of Artificial Intelligence in Education [Visión de la Inteligencia Artificial en Educación]*, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/capital-humano/educacion/paideia/vision-de-la-inteligencia-artificial-en-educacion>

²⁹⁷ Ibid, *Content and Resources [Contenidos. Y Recurso—PAIDEIA]*, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/capital-humano/educacion/paideia/contenidos-y-recursos-paideia>

²⁹⁸ Ministerio de Capital Humano, Secretaría de Educación, *Guide for the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Education [Guía para la Integración de las Inteligencias Artificiales en Educación]* (2025),

https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/documento_guia_de_integracion_vf_digital.pdf

²⁹⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Argentina* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/argentina/freedom-world/2025>

³⁰⁰ Chamber of Deputies, *Proposed Bill that Establishes the Legal Regime Applicable for the Responsible Use of AI* (Jun. 10, 2024),

<https://www.diputados.gov.ar/comisiones/permanentes/clgeneral/proyecto.html?exp=3003-D-2024>

³⁰¹ OECD, *OECD Takes First Step in Accession Discussions with Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru and Romania* (Jan. 225, 2022), <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/oecd-takes-first-step-in-accession-discussions-with-argentina-brazil-bulgaria-croatia-peru-and-romania.htm>

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policies of Argentina's national AI strategy align with the G20 AI principles. These include the comprehensive, human-centered and human rights-focus nature, which aligns with the Principles for Responsible Stewardship of Trustworthy AI (Section 1). Argentina's investment initiatives, the focus on conditions for AI development, educational plans and international engagements implement Section 2 of the G20 AI Principles (National Policies and International Co-operation for Trustworthy AI).³⁰²

In October 2023, the OECD's *The State of the Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* noted that Argentina's Ethics Principles for the Development of AI reflect the five value-based OECD AI Principles and the five recommendations to national governments.³⁰³

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Argentina contributed as an Observer State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.³⁰⁴ However, Argentina has signed this first legally binding treaty on AI and human rights.³⁰⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Argentina is a UNESCO member and adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI during the 41st General Conference in November 2021.

Argentina is part of the Regional Council comprising national and local governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, established through collaboration between UNESCO and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) in support of ethical AI.³⁰⁶ Argentina signed the Santiago Declaration to Promote

³⁰²OECD/CAF, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, OECD Public Governance Reviews (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1f334543-en>; OECD Policy Observatory, *AI in Argentina, AI Policies in Argentina* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/argentina>

³⁰³ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* (Oct. 2023), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en

³⁰⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

³⁰⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

³⁰⁶ UNESCO, *Chile Will Host the First Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial and High Level Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 25, 2023),

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Ethical Artificial Intelligence that resulted from the first council meeting.³⁰⁷ The declaration establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy, and data protection. Argentina also signed the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias,³⁰⁸ which establishes the commitment to promote governance frameworks and AI ecosystems for a safe, inclusive, ethical and responsible development of AI within the Latin American region.

Despite a record of international collaboration, Argentina refused to sign the UN Pact for the Future, which included the Global Digital Compact, a comprehensive framework for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence in 2024.³⁰⁹

Argentina has taken a clear step to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence by beginning the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).³¹⁰

Evaluation

Argentina's comprehensive, ambitious, and human-centered national strategy reflects the country's interest in matching socioeconomic development with strong human rights commitments in the design and development of AI. Despite the initial enthusiasm that surrounded the launching of the Plan, the new government seems to have abandoned this path. It remains to be seen how the Productive Development Plan Argentina 4.0 will be operationalized in practice. Despite significant progress in modernizing data protection law and bringing it up to international standards, the deployment of facial recognition systems has raised widespread concern that AI could be used for purposes that violate individual rights. This threat is especially

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/chile-will-host-first-latin-american-and-caribbean-ministerial-and-high-level-summit-ethics>

³⁰⁷ High-Level Ministerial Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, *Declaration of Santiago "To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean"* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

³⁰⁸ Digital Policy Alert, *Argentina: Signed Cartagena de Indias Declaration for Governance, the Construction of AI Ecosystems and the Promotion of AI Education in an Ethical and Responsible Manner in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://digitalpolicyalert.org/event/22018-signed-cartagena-de-indias-declaration-for-governance-the-construction-of-ai-ecosystems-and-the-promotion-of-ai-education-in-an-ethical-and-responsible-manner-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

³⁰⁹ UN, *World Leaders Pledge Bold Action to Protect Present, Future Generations amid Climate Crisis, Conflicts Gripping Globe, as General Assembly Adopts Pact for Future* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12627.doc.htm>

³¹⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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concerning given recent reports of democratic backsliding. The non-signing of the Pact for the Future or the adoption of the Council of Europe's AI Treaty could represent a significant change of foreign policy to the detriment of human rights safeguards.

Argentina has the resources and the infrastructure to pursue regional leadership. Argentina has signed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics and, with the collaboration of the CAF, is on its path to its implementation. Argentina has also been calling for a prohibition and regulation of autonomous weapons.

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Australia

In 2025, Australia updated the National AI Policy along with the related impact assessment and procurement tools. The country also furthered implementation of the Guidelines for the responsible use of AI in the public service.

National AI Strategy

The Australian government published a Roadmap for AI in 2019 to “help develop a national AI capability to boost the productivity of Australian industry, create jobs and economic growth, and improve the quality of life for current and future generations.”³¹¹ Australia’s AI Technology Roadmap is intended to help guide future investment in AI and provide a pathway to ensure Australia captures the full potential of AI.³¹² The Roadmap identifies three domains of AI development and application where AI could transform Australian industry based on existing strengths and comparative advantages, opportunities to solve Australian problems, and opportunities to export solutions to the rest of the world. These domains are Health, Aging, and Disability; Cities, Towns, and Infrastructure (including connected and automated vehicle technology); and National Resources and Environment (building on strengths related to mining and agriculture). The Roadmap also elaborates necessary foundations for realizing these goals in terms of data governance, ethics, trust research, skills, and infrastructure, while underscoring its complementarity with the OECD AI Principles.

Australia also published an AI Ethics Framework in 2019 to “help guide businesses and governments looking to design, develop, and implement AI in Australia.”³¹³ Key goals are to achieve better outcomes, reduce the risk of negative impact, and practice the highest standards of ethical business and good governance. The eight AI Ethics Principles are Human, social, and environmental wellbeing;

³¹¹ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), *Artificial Intelligence Roadmap* (Nov. 2019), <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/technology-space/ai/Artificial-Intelligence-Roadmap>

³¹² Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), *Artificial Intelligence Roadmap: Solving Problems, Growing the Economy and Improving Our Quality of Life* (2019), <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/technology-space/ai/artificial-intelligence-roadmap>

³¹³ Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, *Towards an Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework* (Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/towards-artificial-intelligence-ethics-framework>

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Human-centered values; Fairness; Privacy protection and security; Reliability and safety; Transparency and explainability; Contestability and Accountability.³¹⁴

In 2020, the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) launched a public consultation to inform the AI Action Plan,³¹⁵ which was published in 2021 as part of the Digital Economy Strategy.³¹⁶ This plan aims to position Australia as a leader in developing and adopting “trusted, secure, and responsible AI,” enhancing business productivity, building a skilled workforce, and addressing national challenges.”³¹⁷ The Plan created the National AI Centre (NAIC) and four Capability Centres to support SMEs and promote ethical AI.³¹⁸ DISR subsequently took over administration of the NAIC to strengthen government-industry engagement on AI.³¹⁹

Australia's AI Strategy includes coordinated initiatives for responsible AI development and adoption. After a public consultation launched in 2023 on safe and responsible AI in Australia, including the need to regulate AI,³²⁰ the government's interim response in January 2024 concluded that the current regulatory framework likely did not sufficiently address known risks presented by AI systems.³²¹

Following the AI Strategy and interim public consultation response, DISR established a temporary AI Expert Group to advise on measures for testing, transparency, and accountability in high-risk AI contexts and ensure system safety.³²²

³¹⁴ Hon. Karen Andrews MP, Archived Content, *Businesses Ready to Test AI Ethics Principles* (Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/media-releases/businesses-ready-test-ai-ethics-principles>

³¹⁵ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Australia's AI Action Plan: Discussion Paper* (Jun. 22, 2021), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/australias-ai-action-plan-discussion-paper>

³¹⁶ Department of Industry, Science and Resources—Digital Economy Branch, *Australia's Digital Economy* (Mar. 30, 2022),

<https://web.archive.org/awa/20220816053410mp> /<https://digitaleconomy.pmc.gov.au/>

³¹⁷ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *An Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence in Australia* (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/action-plan-artificial-intelligence-australia>

³¹⁸ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *National Artificial Intelligence Centre*, <https://www.industry.gov.au/science-technology-and-innovation/technology/national-artificial-intelligence-centre>

³¹⁹ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), *National Artificial Intelligence Centre* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/industries/technology/National-AI-Centre>

³²⁰ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Responsible AI in Australia: Have Your Say* (Jun. 1, 2023), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/responsible-ai-australia-have-your-say>

³²¹ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *The Australian Government's Interim Response to Safe and Responsible AI Consultation* (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/supporting-responsible-ai>

³²² Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *The Hon Ed Husic MP: New Artificial Intelligence Expert Group* (Feb. 14, 2024),

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Comprising 12 industry, academic, and legal experts, the group operated through September 2024, with plans for a permanent group expected.³²³

DISR launched the Voluntary AI Safety Standard in September 2024³²⁴ to establish consistent practices and help organizations manage AI risks, aligning with the broader objectives of the AI Action Plan. The standard provides guidance on the safe and responsible use of AI through ten voluntary guidelines emphasizing testing, transparency, and accountability. The AI Impact Navigator, a tool launched by the NAIC in October 2024, will assist users in implementing the Voluntary AI Safety Standard and in evaluating the impact of their AI systems.³²⁵

DISR also laid a path toward regulating the use of AI in high-risk settings with the release of a proposal paper outlining definitions, principles, and mandatory guardrails, including for the use of general-purpose AI systems.³²⁶ These guardrails reference international AI regulations and include five of the most agreed-upon goals in the AI policy realm: fairness, accountability, transparency, rule of law, and fundamental rights. In the public consultation of the proposed guardrails, the Australian Human Rights Commission highlighted that ‘the proposed guardrails do not specify the need for high-risk AI to comply with human rights obligations’ and recommended it to explicitly include human rights considerations.³²⁷ Public consultation has since closed but how and if DISR implements feedback remains to be seen.³²⁸

The government has also acted to strengthen existing laws in areas that will help to address known harms with AI. This includes the implementation of privacy law reforms, including an in-principle agreement to require non-government entities

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/husic/media-releases/new-artificial-intelligence-expert-group>

³²³ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *New Expert Group Will Help Guide the Future of Safe and Responsible AI in Australia* (Feb. 14, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/new-expert-group-will-help-guide-future-safe-and-responsible-ai-australia>

³²⁴ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Voluntary AI Safety Standard* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/voluntary-ai-safety-standard>

³²⁵ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *AI Impact Navigator Will Help Australian Companies Tackle the Challenges of AI* (Oct. 21, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/ai-impact-navigator-will-help-australian-companies-tackle-challenges-ai>

³²⁶ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-Risk Settings: Proposals Paper* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/ai-mandatory-guardrails>

³²⁷ Australian Human Rights Commission, *Guardrails for High-Risk AI, Submission by the Commission* (Oct. 30, 2024), <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/legal/submission/guardrails-high-risk-ai>

³²⁸ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-Risk Settings: Proposals Paper, Published Responses*, <https://consult.industry.gov.au/ai-mandatory-guardrails/submission/list>

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to conduct a privacy impact assessment to identify and manage, minimize or eliminate risks, which is already a requirement for government entities and an amendment to the Online Safety Act 2021.³²⁹ A proposed amendment to existing communications legislation targeted misinformation and disinformation³³⁰ but was withdrawn in committee over censorship concerns.³³¹

Australia launched the National AI Plan in December 2025 to deliver three goals (1) capture the opportunity by building smart infrastructure, backing domestic AI capability, and attracting global investment (2) spread the benefits through widespread AI adoption, supporting and training Australian workers, and improved public services (3) keep Australians safe with legislative and regulatory frameworks that mitigate AI harms, while promoting widespread responsible practices and international engagement that upholds Australia's values.³³² The Plan signals the government's confidence that existing legal frameworks "can apply to AI and other emerging technologies" to mitigate AI harms, while committing to continue assessing adequacy.³³³ The confidence in existing frameworks suggests a preference for regulatory flexibility over the adoption of a comprehensive AI-specific framework.

While the AI Strategy and bodies like the Australian Human Rights Commission recognize the need for regulation, Australia lacks a specific federal framework for AI. The Senate formed the Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence to explore potential opportunities and challenges.³³⁴ Based on these findings, the Committee recommends that the Australian Government implement comprehensive AI legislation to regulate high-risk uses, support sovereign AI

³²⁹ Parliament of Australia, *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024* (Nov. 29, 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r7284

³³⁰ Parliament of Australia, *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024* (Oct. 23, 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/bd/bd2425/25bd014

³³¹ Parliament of Australia, *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024 [Provisions]: Report* (Nov. 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/MisandDisinfobill/Report

³³² Department of Industry Science and Resources, *National AI Plan* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-ai-plan>

³³³ *Ibid.*, pp. 28-30

³³⁴ Parliament of Australia, *Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)* (Mar. 26, 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Adopting_Artificial_Intelligence_AI

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development, address workplace risks, ensure fair compensation for creatives, and prioritize transparency, privacy, and sustainable infrastructure growth.³³⁵

Bringing greater transparency to AI adoption in the country, the National AI Centre launched the Responsible AI Index 2025 to benchmark organizational governance maturity across fairness, safety, and transparency metrics.³³⁶ The Index assessed 500 Australian organizations and provided a public dashboard for tracking national progress on responsible AI adoption, with 12 percent of organizations classified as “leading” and 17 percent in the “emerging” category.

International Cooperation on Safe and Responsible AI

Australia and Singapore signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2024. The MOU renews a shared commitment to “further cooperate and leverage on Australia and Singapore’s comparative strengths to ensure the participants can realize the benefits of AI and minimise any risks, and also shape the development of international AI-related frameworks, policies and standards” from a 2020 MOU.³³⁷

Australia participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023.³³⁸ Australia thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that “for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

³³⁵ Senate Committees, *Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence: Final Report* (Nov. 26, 2024),

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Adopting_Artificial_Intelligence_AI/AdoptingAI/Report

³³⁶ National Artificial Intelligence Centre, *Responsible AI Index 2025: National Benchmark Report* (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/australias-national-benchmark-responsible-ai-adoption-now-available>

³³⁷ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence between Australia and Singapore* (Dec. 16, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/memorandum-understanding-cooperation-artificial-intelligence-between-australia-and-singapore>

³³⁸ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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At the subsequent AI Safety Summit—which was renamed the AI Action Summit—Australia joined 90+ countries in endorsing the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable AI Statement and co-led the AI safety, trust, and governance initiatives.³³⁹

Public Participation

The Australian government has responded to recommendations and feedback from the public in national efforts on AI and digital policy, including the AI Ethics Framework and Supporting Responsible AI discussion paper.³⁴⁰ The Australian Government opened a public consultation³⁴¹ as part of a review of the Online Safety Act 2021.³⁴²

The Australian government published an interim response to the Safe and Responsible AI in Australia discussion paper in early 2024.³⁴³ The government committed to developing a regulatory environment that builds community trust and promotes AI adoption. Subsequently, DISR issued a formal request for comment on Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-risk Settings.³⁴⁴ The views were asked on the proposed guardrails, high-risk AI definition, and regulatory options for mandating the guardrails.

³³⁹ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Australia Signs Paris AI Action Summit Statement* (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/australia-signs-paris-ai-action-summit-statement>

³⁴⁰ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Australia's Artificial Intelligence Ethics Principles: How We Developed the Principles* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-artificial-intelligence-ethics-principles>; Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Supporting Responsible AI: Discussion Paper* (Jan. 17, 2023), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/supporting-responsible-ai>

³⁴¹ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Consultation Open for the Online Safety Act Review* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/departments/media/news/consultation-open-online-safety-act-review>

³⁴² Federal Register of Legislation, *Online Safety Act 2021* (Oct. 14, 2024), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2021A00076/latest/text>

³⁴³ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *The Australian Government's Interim Response to Safe and Responsible AI Consultation* (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/australian-governments-interim-response-safe-and-responsible-ai-consultation>

³⁴⁴ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Safe and Responsible AI in Australia: Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-Risk Settings* (Sept. 2024), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/ai-mandatory-guardrails>

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The Therapeutic Goods Administration of the Department of Health and Aged Care³⁴⁵ and Department itself issued separate calls for public consultation in September 2024 as they reviewed their legislative frameworks to “clarify and strengthen legislation and regulation for AI in Australia’s health care settings.”³⁴⁶ In particular, they sought feedback on stakeholders, what about AI to regulate, and how to prevent AI harms and enable the benefits. The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit adopted an inquiry into the use and governance of artificial intelligence systems by public sector entities in September 2024.³⁴⁷

The Australian Treasury opened a formal request for comment for a Review of AI and the Australian Consumer Law (ACL).³⁴⁸ The review will examine the ACL’s fitness to address consumer harms and support responsible use of AI. Inputs are sought to determine if provisions on product safety, prohibitions on businesses for deceptive conduct and unfair contract terms, prohibitions on false representations, etc., sufficiently safeguard and provide remedies against consumer harm. The review also seeks input on whether there are ambiguities around ACL’s application to AI and how it can be addressed.

Data Protection

In February 2023, the Australian Attorney-General's Department released its review of the Privacy Act 1988,³⁴⁹ a significant step initiated in 2020.³⁵⁰ The review was initiated after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommended reforms to “ensure consumers are adequately informed, empowered

³⁴⁵ Department of Health and Aged Care, *Consultation: Clarifying and Strengthening the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/consultation/consultation-clarifying-and-strengthening-regulation-artificial-intelligence-ai>

³⁴⁶ Department of Health and Aged Care, *Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: Legislation and Regulation Review* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://consultations.health.gov.au/medicare-benefits-and-digital-health-division/safe-and-responsible-artificial-intelligence-in-he>

³⁴⁷ Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, *Inquiry into the Use and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Systems by Public Sector Entities* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Accounts_and_Audit/Public_sector_use_of_AI

³⁴⁸ Treasury, *Review of AI and the Australian Consumer Law* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2024-584560>

³⁴⁹ Attorney-General’s Department, *Privacy Act 1988* (Nov. 30, 2024), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A03712>

³⁵⁰ Attorney-General’s Department, *Privacy Act Review Issues Paper* (Oct. 30, 2020), <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/publications/review-privacy-act-1988-cth-issues-paper>

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and protected, as to how their data is being used and collected.”³⁵¹ The Privacy Act Review Report³⁵² includes 116 recommendations based on 30 “key themes and proposals” from stakeholders. “The proposed reforms are aimed at strengthening the protection of personal information and the control individuals have over their information. Stronger privacy protections would support digital innovation and enhance Australia’s reputation as a trusted trading partner,” according to the Attorney-General’s Department.

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner welcomed the release of the report. “This is an important milestone as we move towards further reform of Australia’s privacy framework,” said Angelene Falk, the Australian Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner at the time of the report’s release. “As the privacy regulator we see the proposal to introduce a positive obligation that personal information handling is fair and reasonable, as a new keystone of the Australian privacy framework. This shifts the burden from individuals, who are currently required to safeguard their privacy by navigating complex privacy policies and consent requirements, and places more responsibility on the organisations who collect and use personal information to ensure that their practices are fair and reasonable in the first place.”

The Government released its Response to the Privacy Act 1988 Review, noting 10 proposals, agreeing in-principle to 68, and fully agreeing to 38 proposals, including that “further consideration should be given to enhanced risk assessment requirements in the context of facial recognition technology and other uses of biometric information and that this work should be coordinated with the Government’s ongoing work on Digital ID and the National Strategy for Identity Resilience.”³⁵³

These reforms build on Australia’s efforts to enact regulation for accountability and data protection. The Privacy APP Code 2017 requires agencies subject to the Privacy Act (Australian Government Agencies—Governance) to conduct privacy impact assessments for all “high privacy risk projects.”³⁵⁴ Furthermore, section 33D of the Privacy Act grants the Commissioner authority to

³⁵¹ Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, *Digital Platforms Inquiry—Final Report* (Jul. 26, 2019), <https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/publications/digital-platforms-inquiry-final-report>

³⁵² Department of the Attorney-General, *Review of the Privacy Act 1988* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.ag.gov.au/integrity/consultations/review-privacy-act-1988>

³⁵³ Attorney-General’s Department, *Government Response to the Privacy Act Review Report* (Sept. 28, 2023), <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/publications/government-response-privacy-act-review-report>

³⁵⁴ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *When Do Agencies Need to Conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment?* (Sept. 14, 2020), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-guidance-for-organisations-and-government-agencies/government-agencies/australian-government-agencies-privacy-code/when-do-agencies-need-to-conduct-a-privacy-impact-assessment>

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require an agency to provide impact assessments whenever an activity or function may have a “significant impact on the privacy of individuals.”³⁵⁵

The Privacy Act also builds on efforts to address privacy concerns raised by facial recognition and other biometric technology. The Federal Attorney-General referred positively to the 2022 Human Technology Institute (HIT) report outlining a Facial Recognition Model Law to address “threats to Australians’ privacy and other human rights” using a risk-based approach.³⁵⁶ The Federal Attorney-General noted that the Model Law is “a way of striking the right balance, endorsing, in principle, a risk assessment approach to regulating facial recognition and other biometric technologies.”³⁵⁷

The Parliament approved a bill to amend the Privacy Act 1988 to implement reforms that include “creating a statutory tort for serious invasions of privacy” and amending the Criminal Code Act 1995 to introduce two offenses for doxxing.³⁵⁸ The Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 received Royal Assent in December 2024, with most provisions commencing immediately.³⁵⁹ Further obligations such as automated decision-making transparency will be phased in through December 2026.³⁶⁰

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).³⁶¹ Australia supported the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology³⁶² but did not support the 2018 Declaration on Ethics

³⁵⁵ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Chapter 10: Directing a Privacy Impact Assessment* (Jan. 2023), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/about-the-OAIC/our-regulatory-approach/guide-to-privacy-regulatory-action/chapter-10-directing-a-privacy-impact-assessment>

³⁵⁶ Human Law Technology, *A Blueprint for Regulation of Facial Recognition Technology* (Sept. 27, 2022), <https://www.uts.edu.au/news/2022/09/blueprint-regulation-facial-recognition-technology>

³⁵⁷ Human Technology Institute, *Facial Recognition Technology: Towards a Model Law* (2026), <https://www.uts.edu.au/human-technology-institute/projects/facial-recognition-technology-towards-model-law>

³⁵⁸ Parliament of Australia, *Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024* (Nov. 18, 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/bd/bd2425/25bd016

³⁵⁹ Parliament of Australia, *Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (Dec. 10, 2024), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2024A00128/asmade/text>

³⁶⁰ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Chapter 1: APP 1 Open and Transparent Management of Personal Information*, <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles/australian-privacy-principles-guidelines/chapter-1-app-1-open-and-transparent-management-of-personal-information>

³⁶¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

³⁶² Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles->

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and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,³⁶³ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,³⁶⁴ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.³⁶⁵

Algorithmic Transparency

Australian law does not explicitly protect a right to algorithmic transparency. However, the transparency and explainability, contestability, and accountability principles in the AI Ethics Framework provide guidance for organizations³⁶⁶ and the 2024–2025 National Action Plan³⁶⁷ charges the Attorney-General’s Department and DISR to “create transparency in the use of automated decision making and artificial intelligence.” The Australian Government released the Transparency of Automated Decision Making (AU0024) to address public concerns about the transparency and integrity of government decisions made using automated systems and AI.³⁶⁸

These actions follow reports and advice from various agencies to establish algorithmic transparency as a right. In early 2019, the Australian Human Rights Commission called for an AI Policy Council to guide companies and regulators regarding artificial intelligence technology. “When companies use AI decision-making systems, they must build them in a way that allows a person to understand the basis of decisions that affect them. This is fundamental to ensuring accountability and will be really important for all companies that use AI,” Human Rights

and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf

³⁶³ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁶⁴ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

³⁶⁵ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³⁶⁶ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Australia’s AI Ethics Principles* (Accessed Dec. 8, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-artificial-intelligence-ethics-principles/australias-ai-ethics-principles>

³⁶⁷ Open Government Partnership, *Australia’s Third Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2024–2025* (Accessed Dec. 8, 2024), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Australia_Action-Plan_2023-2025_December.pdf

³⁶⁸ Open Government Partnership, *Australia: Transparency of Automated Decision Making (AU0024)*, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/australia/commitments/AU0024/>

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Commissioner Ed Santow said.³⁶⁹ The Australian Human Rights Commission published the Human Rights and Technology report recommending the government to legislate a right to contest automated decisions and introduce a requirement for transparency in AI systems used for significant decisions.³⁷⁰

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) emphasized the need for greater transparency in its 2023 response to the Safe and Responsible AI in Australia discussion paper.³⁷¹ The OAIC highlighted that “most Australians view transparency about the use of AI and the right to request information on how AI decisions are made as essential preconditions for its responsible deployment in decision-making.”

The Senate Economics References Committee's Interim Report on international digital platforms in 2023 included a chapter on algorithmic transparency.³⁷² Chapter 6 outlines risks such as misinformation, echo chambers, and biases in automated decision-making, stressing the need for algorithm disclosure, especially in content curation and targeted ads. The report called for regulation to ensure algorithms promote fairness, accuracy, privacy, and user safety.³⁷³ An interim report released by the Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence in October 2024³⁷⁴ recommended that mandatory transparency and disclosure requirements for AI-generated content should be developed before the 49th Parliament election.³⁷⁵

³⁶⁹ James Eyers, *Call for “AI Policy Council” to Govern How Algorithms Use Personal Information*, Financial Review (Mar. 15, 2020), <https://www.afr.com/technology/call-for-ai-policy-council-to-govern-how-algorithms-use-personal-information-20190315-h1cej1>

³⁷⁰ Australian Human Rights Commission, *Human Rights and Technology: Final Report*, p. 14 (Mar. 2021), <https://humanrights.gov.au/resource-hub/by-resource-type/publications/technology-and-human-rights/final-report-summary-human-rights-and-technology>

³⁷¹ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *OAIC Submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources—Safe and Responsible AI in Australia Discussion Paper* (Sept. 21, 2023), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/engage-with-us/submissions/oaic-submission-to-the-department-of-industry-science-and-resources-safe-and-responsible-ai-in-australia-discussion-paper>

³⁷² Parliament of Australia, *Influence of International Digital Platforms* (Nov. 2023), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Digitalplatforms/Report

³⁷³ Parliament of Australia, *Influence of International Digital Platforms: Chapter 6: Algorithmic Transparency* (Nov. 2023), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Digitalplatforms/Report/Chapter_6_-_Algorithmic_transparency

³⁷⁴ Parliament of Australia, *Interim Report* (Oct. 2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Adopting_Artificial_Intelligence_AI/AdoptingAI/Interim_report

³⁷⁵ Parliament of Australia, *Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2024), [https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/RB000493/toc_pdf/SelectCommitteeonAdoptingArtificialIntelligence\(AI\).pdf](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/RB000493/toc_pdf/SelectCommitteeonAdoptingArtificialIntelligence(AI).pdf)

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In its formal response to the Select Committee's report, issued in August 2025, the Australian government accepted in principle the recommendation for mandatory transparency requirements. The Minister for Communications announced that the government would direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to develop a mandatory code of practice for digital platforms under the Online Safety Act. This code will require designated platforms to provide clear, plain-language explanations of how their recommender systems and content moderation algorithms work, and to produce annual transparency reports on their operation and impact. A draft of the code is expected to be released for public consultation in early 2026.³⁷⁶

The OAIC released a report and recommendations on Automated decision-making and public reporting under the Freedom of Information Act, assessing “how transparent Australian Government agencies are about their use [Automated Decision Making] ADM in decision making process.”³⁷⁷ The report assesses how agencies authorized to use ADM disclose their use of ADM as required under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act). The report found that 17 percent of agencies reviewed disclosed the use of ADM, while 2 percent were identified as “likely using ADM” but did not disclose this publicly. As a result, the report recommended agencies to disclose their status regardless of whether they’re actually using ADM, and expanded on the information that should be published if ADM is used.

Data Scraping

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) and 16 of its international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy.³⁷⁸ The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful

³⁷⁶ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, *Government Response to Select Committee Report on Digital Platforms* (Aug. 2025), <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/departments/media/publications/algorithmic-transparency-response-2025>

³⁷⁷ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Automated Decision-Making and Public Reporting under the Freedom of Information Act* (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/information-commissioner-decisions-and-reports/foi-reports/Automated-decision-making-and-public-reporting-under-the-Freedom-of-Information-Act>

³⁷⁸ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 2024), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2024/js-dc_20241028/

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scraping.”³⁷⁹ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”³⁸⁰

The OAIC’s press release places the joint initiative in the context of national efforts to hold industry accountable to privacy laws, noting “The joint initiative, with its focus on the implications of AI large language models, coincides with the OAIC recently publishing detailed guidance on privacy and developing and training generative AI models.”³⁸¹ These guidelines establish that the collection and use of publicly available data for AI training must meet a “fair and reasonable” standard, defining specific criteria for lawful data collection practices. The OAIC identified six factors to consider when determining whether web scraping is fair, including the sensitivity of information, intended purpose, risk of harm to individuals, and whether individuals intentionally made the information public. The guidelines provide practical guidance for organizations developing AI systems with scraped data and represent a concrete implementation step for Australia’s commitment to ethical AI development while ensuring consistent privacy protections across technologies and data sources.

Privacy Commissioner Carly Kind’s statement in August 2024 on the OAIC decision against investigating Clearview AI cited the initial joint statement on data scraping to reiterate companies’ obligations to protect personal information.³⁸² In 2021, the Australian Information Commissioner declared that Clearview AI must “cease collecting images from individuals in Australia” and delete images it previously collected because the company had violated the Privacy Act and several

³⁷⁹ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Global Expectations of Social Media Platforms and Other Sites to Safeguard against Unlawful Data Scraping* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/news/media-centre/global-expectations-of-social-media-platforms-and-other-sites-to-safeguard-against-unlawful-data-scraping>

³⁸⁰ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-up Joint Statement on Data Scraping* (Oct. 29, 2024), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/news/media-centre/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping>

³⁸¹ Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Guidance on Privacy and Developing and Training Generative AI Models* (Oct. 23, 2024), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-guidance-for-organisations-and-government-agencies/guidance-on-privacy-and-developing-and-training-generative-ai-models>

³⁸² Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, *Statement on Clearview AI* (Aug. 21, 2024), <https://www.oaic.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-on-clearview-ai>

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Australian Privacy Principles in its use of facial recognition technology to collect images and biometric templates from people in Australia. Kind reiterated that “the determination against Clearview AI still stands” and promised guidance for companies seeking to develop and train AI models.

Use of AI in Public Administration

After a scandal involving an automated system issuing unlawful and inaccurate debt notices, the Australian government has worked to establish principles and procedures for the responsible use of AI systems in public administration. These efforts culminated in the Policy for the Responsible Use of AI in Government, which took effect on September 1, 2024.³⁸³

From 2016 through 2019, the Australian government agency Services Australia used an automated debt recovery system known as Robodebt to calculate overpayments and issue debt notices to welfare recipients. Robodebt was an automated data matching system that compared the records of Services Australia payment compliance program with averaged income data from the Australian Taxation Office. Robodebt was suspended in 2019 following investigations by the Commonwealth Ombudsman,³⁸⁴ two Senate Committees,³⁸⁵ and several legal challenges,³⁸⁶ including class-action lawsuits against the government. In one such suit, Federal Court Justice Bernard Murphy condemned the Government in his ruling and approved a \$1.8 billion settlement, including repayments of debts paid, wiping of outstanding debts, and legal costs.³⁸⁷ In October 2022, the newly elected

³⁸³ Digital Transformation Agency, *Policy for the Responsible Use of AI in Government* 1.1 (Sept. 1, 2024), <https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/policy>

³⁸⁴ Commonwealth Ombudsman, *Lessons Learnt about Digital Transformation and Public Administration: Centrelink's Online Compliance Intervention* (Jul. 2017), https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/48813/AIAL-OCI-Speech-and-Paper.pdf

³⁸⁵ Matthew Doran, *Centrelink Debt Recovery Program to Be Investigated at Senate Committee Today*, ABC News (Mar. 7, 2017), <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-08/centrelink-debt-recovery-program-to-be-investigated/8334072>; Parliament of Australia, *Centrelink's Compliance Program*, https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Centrelinkcompliance

³⁸⁶ Victoria Legal Aid, *Learning from the Failures of Robodebt—Building a Fairer, Client-centred Social Security System* (Nov. 14, 2023), <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/learning-from-the-failures-of-robodebt>; Luke Henriques-Gomes, *Centrelink Cancels 40,000 Robodebts, New Figures Reveal: Robodebt Faces Landmark Legal Challenge over ‘Crude’ Income Calculations*, The Guardian (Feb. 6, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/feb/06/robodebt-faces-landmark-legal-challenge-over-crude-income-calculations>

³⁸⁷ Rebecca Turner, *Robodebt Condemned as a “Shameful Chapter” in Withering Assessment by Federal Court Judge*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC News) (Jun. 11, 2021),

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government effectively forgave the debts of 197,000 people that were still under review.³⁸⁸

A Royal Commission into the Robodebt scheme issued a report³⁸⁹ detailing the human impact of system and its errors, including false or incorrectly calculated debt notices; negative consequences on the physical and mental health of debt notice recipients, often among the most vulnerable; and the lawfulness of the scheme.

In August 2023, the House of Representatives passed a formal motion apologizing for the scheme on behalf of the Parliament. In November 2023, the Australian government formally accepted or accepted in principle all 56 recommendations in the Royal Commission report.³⁹⁰ In the Government Response, the Prime Minister and Cabinet promised increased funding to implement the recommendations aligned to reforms aimed at “building trust in government, investing in a capable public sector, delivering strong institutions[,] and ensuring humans are put back at the centre of human services and service delivery.”

In September 2023, the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) established the Artificial Intelligence in Government Taskforce.³⁹¹ The Chief Executive Officer for the DTA cited the government’s role in setting an example for the safe and ethical use of AI technologies, adding “We don’t want to be left behind but we do want to protect government systems and ensure we’re ultimately benefiting the wider Australian community.” The Taskforce comprising representatives from multiple Australian Public Service (APS) agencies identified four key principles for implementing AI safely and responsibly in the public sector: “1) AI should be deployed responsibly in low-risk situations, 2) Transparency and explainability: tell when AI is used and why its use was warranted, 3) Privacy protection and security: use only public information, and 4) Accountability and human centred decision-making: final word should be with a human.”³⁹²

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-11/robodebt-condemned-by-federal-court-judge-as-shameful-chapter/100207674>

³⁸⁸ Matthew Doran, *Robodebt Cases Dumped and Debts Wiped Amid Royal Commission into Controversial Scheme*, ABC News (Oct. 11, 2022), <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-11/robodebt-reviews-wiped-government-clears-final-remnants-scheme/101523702>

³⁸⁹ Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme, *Report* (Jul. 2023), <https://robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2023-09/rrc-accessible-full-report.PDF>;

³⁹⁰ Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Government Response to the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme* (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resources/government-response-royal-commission-robodebt-scheme>

³⁹¹ Digital Transformation Agency, *The AI in Government Taskforce: Examining Use and Governance of AI by the APS* (Sept. 20, 2023), <https://www.dta.gov.au/blogs/ai-government-taskforce-examining-use-and-governance-ai-aps>

³⁹² Antonino Niefli, *Ethical AI and the Australian Public Sector: Plotting an Unknown Course*, Parliament of Australia, Flagpost (Nov. 13, 2023),

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The AI Taskforce released initial interim guidance on government use of publicly available generative artificial intelligence (AI) platforms.³⁹³ According to the Guidance, one of the golden rules that Australian Public Service staff should consider for the responsible use of generative AI tools is: “you should be able to explain, justify and take ownership of your advice and decisions.” In addition, the Interim Guidance encouraged all APS staff to “read and understand Australia’s AI Ethics Principles,” and outlined steps to adhere to the Principles.³⁹⁴

The Australian government issued the Data and Digital Government Strategy: The data and vision for a world-class APS to 2030.³⁹⁵ The Data and Digital Government Strategy is accompanied by an Implementation Plan and a Roadmap timeline. With the Strategy, the government commits to “improving and maintaining trust in its use of data and digital technology through adopting a whole-of-government Data Ethics Framework [...] and adopting AI technologies in safe, ethical and responsible ways.”³⁹⁶

Building on the Strategy, the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting released a National Framework for using AI in government.³⁹⁷ This framework establishes a consistent and holistic approach to AI assurance across all aspects of government.³⁹⁸ Shortly after release of the national framework, the Digital Transformation Agency’s Policy for the responsible use of AI in government took effect.³⁹⁹ The policy outlines an adaptive whole-of-government framework that attempts to unite uses of AI in Public Administration and strengthen public trust in the Government’s use of AI.⁴⁰⁰ Adherence is mandatory for non-corporate Commonwealth entities, excepting national defense matters and members of the national intelligence community, who

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/Flag_Post/2023/November/Ethical_AI_and_the_Australian_public_sector

³⁹³ Digital Transformation Agency and Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Interim Guidance on Government Use of Publicly Available Generative Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 22, 2023), <https://architecture.digital.gov.au/guidance-generative-ai>

³⁹⁴ Ibid

³⁹⁵ Australian Government, *Data and Digital Government Strategy: The Data and Vision for a World-Class APS to 2030* (Dec. 15, 2023),

https://www.dataanddigital.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2025-10/Data%20and%20Digital%20Government%20Strategy%20v1.0_0.pdf

³⁹⁶ Ibid, p. 23

³⁹⁷ Department of Finance, *National Framework for the Assurance of Artificial Intelligence in Government* (Jun. 21, 2024), <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/public-data/data-and-digital-ministers-meeting/national-framework-assurance-artificial-intelligence-government>

³⁹⁸ Ibid

³⁹⁹ Artificial Intelligence in Government, *Policy for the Responsible Use of AI in Government*, 2.0 (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/policy>

⁴⁰⁰ Australian Government, *Artificial Intelligence in Government, Policy Aims*, <https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/aim>

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are encouraged to adopt elements of the policy that do not compromise national security.⁴⁰¹ Government agencies are also required to designate accountable official(s) to assume responsibility for their respective agency's implementation of the Policy.⁴⁰² These officials are tasked with ensuring AI tools align with the core principles outlined in the National Framework for the Assurance of AI in Government, including human oversight and privacy protection. Additionally, Section 5.2 of the policy requires agencies to publish public transparency statements detailing AI use cases, risk mitigation strategies, and human oversight mechanisms. The Senate Select Committee on Adopting AI emphasized in its October 2024 interim report that such disclosures are critical to rebuilding public trust after systemic failures such as the Robodebt scandal.⁴⁰³

Australia's AI Plan for the Australian Public Service 2025 outlines the government's approach to leveraging AI to enhance public service delivery, framed around the goal of delivering "better services faster."⁴⁰⁴ The plan provides a platform for fostering AI literacy and capacity-building among public servants, supported by designated Chief AI Officers tasked with driving AI adoption across agencies. To support the AI Plan for the Australian Public Service 2025, the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) published three initiatives. First, the update to the Policy for the Responsible Use of AI in Government addresses the evolving capabilities of AI, strengthens accountability requirements, and mandates impact assessments for specified use cases.⁴⁰⁵ Second, the AI Impact Assessment Tool introduces a standardized tool for managing impacts and risks against Australia's AI Ethics Principles.⁴⁰⁶ Third, the Guidance on AI Procurement in Government comes with a checklist and detailed guidance expanding on each stage of the procurement process, highlighting AI-specific risks and considerations.⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰¹ Digital Transformation Agency, *Policy for the Responsible Use of AI in Government* (Sept. 1, 2024), <https://architecture.digital.gov.au/responsible-use-of-AI-in-government>

⁴⁰² Australian Government, Digital Transformation Agency, *Standards for Accountable Officials*, <https://architecture.digital.gov.au/standard-accountable-officials>

⁴⁰³ Parliament of Australia, *Chapter 5 — Automated Decision-making* (2024), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Adopting_Artificial_Intelligence_AI/AdoptingAI/Report/Chapter_5_-_Automated_decision-making

⁴⁰⁴ Australian Government, *AI Plan for the Australian Public Service 2025* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/australian-public-service-ai-plan-2025>

⁴⁰⁵ Digital Transformation Agency, *AI Policy Update: Strengthening Responsible Use across Government* (Jan. 12, 2025), <https://www.dta.gov.au/articles/ai-policy-update-strengthening-responsible-use-across-government>

⁴⁰⁶ Digital Transformation Agency, *Artificial Intelligence Impact Assessment Tool* (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.digital.gov.au/ai/impact-assessment-tool>

⁴⁰⁷ BuyICT, *Guidance on AI Procurement in Government* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.buyict.gov.au/sp?id=buyer&kb=KB0011755>; Digital Transformation Agency, *AI Policy Overhauled with New Impact Assessment Tool and Procurement Guidance* (Dec. 2, 2025),

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Use of AI in Education

In May 2022, in a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by for children’s education during the pandemic, Human Rights Watch analyzed the technical and policy features of Minecraft: Education Edition used in Australia. Human Rights Watch found that the endorsements of this online learning platform put at risk or directly violated children’s rights due their tracking abilities for advertising purposes.

Following the report, education ministers agreed to develop an evidence-based, best practice framework to guide schools in harnessing AI tools to support teaching and learning, and to establish a Taskforce to develop the framework. The Taskforce issued the Australian Framework for Generative AI in Schools in November 2023.⁴⁰⁸ The framework relies on key principles such as Human and Social Wellbeing, including the use of AI tools “in ways that respect and worker rights, including individual autonomy and dignity”; Transparency, including explainability: “vendors ensure that end users broadly understand the methods used by generative AI tools and their potential biases”; Fairness; Accountability; Privacy, Security and Safety: safe and ethical use of generative AI tools; best practice implementation of generative AI tools in the classroom to lift student outcomes; reducing workload burden and administration using generative AI tools; and establishing education-specific standards and governance to meet the needs of Australian schools.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education, and Training tabled its report, *Study Buddy or Influencer*,⁴⁰⁹ following its Inquiry into the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Australian Education System.⁴¹⁰ The Committee’s 25 recommendations explore how Australian schools can maximize the opportunities presented by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) while successfully mitigating the risks of using the emerging technology

<https://www.dta.gov.au/media-releases/ai-policy-overhauled-new-impact-assessment-tool-and-procurement-guidance>

⁴⁰⁸ National AI in Schools Taskforce, *Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools* (Nov. 17, 2023), <https://www.education.gov.au/schooling/resources/australian-framework-generative-artificial-intelligence-ai-schools>

⁴⁰⁹ House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education, and Training, *Study Buddy or Influencer* (Aug. 2024),

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Former_Committees/Employment_Education_and_Training/AIineducation/Report

⁴¹⁰ House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education, and Training, *Inquiry into the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Australian Education System* (May 24, 2023),

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Former_Committees/Employment_Education_and_Training/AIineducation

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and ensuring adequate safeguards and guardrails are in place to prevent misuse. The recommendations focus on integrating GenAI into Australia's national curriculum as a study buddy for all students.

Use of AI in the Military

Although Australia participates in forums on AI use in the military, the Defence Digital Strategy and Roadmap 2024 did not explicitly include a plan for integrating AI systems.⁴¹¹ The roadmap outlines a vision for a “secure, integrated, and scalable digital environment to compete and succeed in the digital age,” but only briefly mentions the use of modern technologies such as AI and business process mining to inform and enhance defense operations.

Australia is also collaborating with international allies to develop advanced AI capabilities in defense. Under the AUKUS security pact,⁴¹² Australia is working alongside the United States and the United Kingdom on next-generation military technologies, including AI, quantum computing, and autonomous systems. Early AUKUS initiatives have explored AI-enabled battlefield decision-making and autonomous vehicle deployment. However, these developments necessitate strong ethical and legal oversight.

Moreover, Australian universities are collaborating with industry and government to train students in applied AI and other emerging technologies as part of Australia's Next Generation Graduates Program. The program seeks to create a skilled workforce that will enhance Australia's defense and aerospace sectors while leveraging engagement with Australia's First Nations peoples.⁴¹³

Environmental Impacts of AI

Although AI technology is seen as a possible solution to clean energy and sustainability, Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO),⁴¹⁴ has shifted focus to the potential

⁴¹¹ Australian Government, Defence, *Defence Digital Strategy and Roadmap 2024* (Aug. 27, 2024), <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/strategic-planning/defence-digital-strategy-roadmap-2024>

⁴¹² Louisa Brooke-Holland, *AUKUS Pillar 2: Advanced Military Capabilities*, House of Commons Library (Sept. 02, 2024), <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9842/CBP-9842.pdf>

⁴¹³ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), *Applied AI and Digital Innovation for Defence and Aerospace Applications*, <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/funding-programs/funding/next-generation-graduates-programs/awarded-programs/applied-ai-and-digital-innovation-for-defence-and-aerospace-applications>

⁴¹⁴ Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), *AI for Clean Energy and Sustainability*, <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/funding-programs/funding/Next-Generation-Graduates-Programs/Awarded-programs/AI-Clean-Energy-Sustainability>

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environmental impacts of AI technology. This focus is expected to progress considering Australia's aim to "become a host for AI data [centers] in the Asia-Pacific region."⁴¹⁵ Australia's DISR commissioned a 2021 report to review the energy efficiency of data centers. The report found that "[g]rowth in edge computing (the use of data centres close to the point of use), which is required to support applications such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality, is likely to increase energy demand."⁴¹⁶ Beyond data center energy impacts, the DISR proposal for mandatory guardrails included environmental impacts among those organizations should consider in assessing whether the use of an AI system is "high-risk."⁴¹⁷

Australia was one of 19 signatories to the Net Zero Government Initiative at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP27).⁴¹⁸ The Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy, which outlines the Australian government's approach to achieve net zero government operations by 2030, set energy efficiency and environmental standards for new data centers.⁴¹⁹ As part of these efforts, the Digital Transformation Agency established a new Data Centre Panel to "help promote sustainable practices across the data centre market [...] to reach net zero."⁴²⁰

⁴¹⁵ Australian Trade and Investment Commission, *Artificial Intelligence and Data Centres: Helping to Power Digital Transformation*, <https://international.austrade.gov.au/en/do-business-with-australia/sectors/technology/ai-and-data-centres#ref3>

⁴¹⁶ Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, *International Review of Energy Efficiency in Data Centres*, Commissioned Report by Fiona Brocklehurst, Ballarat Consulting (Sept. 2021), <https://www.dccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/international-review-energy-efficiency-data-centres.pdf>

⁴¹⁷ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-Risk Settings: Proposals Paper* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://consult.industry.gov.au/ai-mandatory-guardrails>

⁴¹⁸ Department of Finance, *APS Net Zero Emissions by 2030* (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/climate-action-government-operations/aps-net-zero-emissions-2030>

⁴¹⁹ Department of Finance, *Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy* (2023), https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-11/Net_Zero_Government_Operations_Strategy.pdf

⁴²⁰ Digital Transformation Agency, *New Data Centre Panel* (May 18, 2023), <https://www.dta.gov.au/blogs/new-data-centre-panel>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Australia voted in favor⁴²¹ of resolution L.56⁴²² on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems” from humanitarian, legal, security, technological, and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force. The Resolution mandated the UN Secretary-General prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

In addition, Australia is a high contracting party to the convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁴²³ Australia has also endorsed the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).⁴²⁴ Australia made a submission to the Secretary-General’s Report on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in May 2024,⁴²⁵ indicating that the government “considers that the CCW is the most appropriate framework for multilateral discussions on LAWS” and reinforced its compromises to IHL and ethical standards. The submission also called attention to a joint proposal Australia co-sponsored to the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE).⁴²⁶ The Proposal introduces a two-tier approach that involves total bans on specific LAWS (e.g., those designed to target civilians or civilian objects) and the imposition of restrictions on other systems to ensure adherence to IHL.⁴²⁷

⁴²¹ Stop Killer Robots, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁴²² General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Resolution L56* (Oct.12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁴²³ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Resolution A/RES/78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 28, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf?fe=true>

⁴²⁵ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Australia’s Submission to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Report on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (May 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Australia-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Australia-EN.pdf)

⁴²⁶ *Ibid*

⁴²⁷ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons System, *Draft Articles on Autonomous Weapon Systems: Prohibitions and Other Regulatory Measures on the Basis of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)*, CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.10 (Aug. 26, 2024), https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_

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In October 2022, Australia was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.⁴²⁸ In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁴²⁹

Australia participated in the Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) international summit, co-hosted by the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea.⁴³⁰ Government representatives, including Australia, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain, stressing that AI in the military domain should be “employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁴³¹ Australia has also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁴³² Australian commissioners and experts joined the Global Commission on Responsible AI in the Military Domain in the Hague.⁴³³

Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (2024)/CCW-GGE.1-2024-WP.10.pdf

⁴²⁸ Stop Killer Robots, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

⁴²⁹ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th UN General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴³⁰ Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain, *REAIM 2023 Programme* (2023), <https://ream2023.org/>

⁴³¹ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁴³² US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁴³³ The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, *Global Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (GC REAIM)* (Accessed Nov. 11, 2024), <https://hcss.nl/gcreaim-commissioners/>

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The second edition of the REAIM was held in Seoul, South Korea, on September 9–10, 2024.⁴³⁴ The Summit led to the adoption of the Blueprint for Action on the responsible use of AI in the military domain, endorsed by Australia.⁴³⁵ This commitment builds on the groundwork from the 2023 summit in The Hague, proposing broader guidance for the ethical and responsible application of AI in military contexts, emphasizing compliance with international law, human accountability, reliability, human involvement, and data governance.

AI Literacy

Australia’s updated National AI Plan⁴³⁶ includes supporting and training workers as Action 5 under the goal to spread the benefits of AI.⁴³⁷ The Government supports lifelong learning in the plan and detailed under the Jobs and Skills Australia 2025 Generative AI report.⁴³⁸ Industry partners including Microsoft are assisting the expansion of AI Literacy Hubs across the country for all citizens to promote “inclusive AI upskilling across Australia.” However, the plan does not define AI literacy.

The National AI Plan adds AI to the digital literacy competency already embedded in the education system.⁴³⁹ The curriculum will build on the 2023 Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools,⁴⁴⁰ which “seeks to guide the responsible and ethical use of generative AI tools in ways that benefits students, schools and society.” The Framework defines guidelines around key principles, including Transparency, which specifies that “School communities understand how generative AI tools work, how they can be used, and when and how these tools are impacting them,” requiring vendors to ensure users “broadly

⁴³⁴ The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, *Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM), Seoul, South Korea* (2024), <https://hcss.nl/global-commission-on-responsible-artificial-intelligence-in-the-military-domain-gc-reaim-seoul-south-korea-conference-meeting-2/>

⁴³⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

⁴³⁶ Department of Industry, Science and Resources, *National AI Plan* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-ai-plan>

⁴³⁷ Ibid, *Action 5: Support and Train Australians*, <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-ai-plan/spread-benefits#action-5-support-and-train-australians>

⁴³⁸ Jobs and Skills Australia, *Our Gen AI Transition—Implications for Work and Skills* (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/publications/generative-ai-capacity-study-report>

⁴³⁹ Department of Education, *Australian Curriculum* (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.education.gov.au/australian-curriculum>

⁴⁴⁰ National AI in Schools Taskforce, *Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools* (2023), <https://www.education.gov.au/download/17416/australian-framework-generative-artificial-intelligence-ai-schools/35400/australian-framework-generative-ai-schools/pdf>

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understand” how the tools work and their biases.⁴⁴¹ The Framework also includes principles on Fairness and Accountability, as well as Privacy and Data Rights. However, the Framework does not specify how to use AI in those ways or specify vendors. The report on the Framework following the annual review in 2024 “found that the Framework not only correctly identified and made provision for existing challenges but also effectively predicted emerging and current risks, such as the increased use of AI deep fakes.” The review noted updates to the national curriculum (Version 9.0)⁴⁴² to support teacher and school training on AI, elaborate on AI content, and identify potential research into AI’s impact on learning outcomes.

Human Rights

Human rights are respected and protected through various laws in Australia at the federal, state and territory levels, through the Australian Constitution, and the common law.⁴⁴³ Australia has formally agreed to be bound as a party to seven core international human rights treaties,⁴⁴⁴ including as an original signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁴⁴⁵ Under the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011, all bills and legislations are scrutinized against these covenants and conventions for compatibility with human rights and freedoms.⁴⁴⁶

Freedom House ranked Australia very highly (95/100) in 2025 and reported that, “Australia has a strong record of advancing and protecting political rights and civil liberties. Challenges to these freedoms include the threat of foreign political influence, harsh policies toward asylum seekers, discrimination against LGBT+ people, legal constraints on the press, and ongoing difficulties ensuring the equal rights of First Nations Australians.”⁴⁴⁷ Although Australia has maintained its “free” ranking, the score declined from 97 in 2021.⁴⁴⁸

⁴⁴¹ Ibid, p. 6

⁴⁴² Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, *The Australian Curriculum Version 9.0* (2026), <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

⁴⁴³ Attorney-General’s Department, *Human Rights Protections*, <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-protections>

⁴⁴⁴ Attorney-General’s Department, *International Human Rights Systems*, <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/international-human-rights-system>

⁴⁴⁵ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia’s Commitment to Human Rights*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/human-rights>

⁴⁴⁶ Attorney-General’s Department, *Human Rights Scrutiny*, <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny>

⁴⁴⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Australia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/australia/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁴⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2021: Australia* (2021), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/australia/freedom-world/2021>

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Australia also ranks highly in the Freedom House Freedom on the Net report, scoring 76/100 in 2024. Although Australia ranks highly in access to information, the report warns of proposed legislation that “sought to increase online surveillance and limit the security of encrypted communications.”⁴⁴⁹

Human rights and Artificial Intelligence came together in the Australian Human Rights Commission 2023 report to DISR on Safe and Responsible AI. The report outlined human rights risks of AI, called for government action to “ensure human rights-centred design in the deployment of new and emerging technologies (including AI),” and supported human rights impact assessments to increase public trust.⁴⁵⁰ The Commission reiterated the need to center human rights in the development and deployment of AI systems in a 2024 report the Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence.⁴⁵¹ The report provided 6 recommendations to the Select Committee to “address risks that are not currently within the scope of the existing regulatory framework.”

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Australia has endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles. Australia has been actively aligning its policies with the OECD AI Principles, including through the AI Ethics Principles, the creation of NAIC, and the Voluntary AI Safety Standard. The OECD notes the Australia Roadmap for AI, the AI Ethics Framework, and the Australia’s AI Standards Roadmap, “intended to identify priority areas for AI standards development and a pathway for Australian leadership on international standardization activities for AI.”⁴⁵² The OECD also notes the work of Australia on trustworthy AI for health.

Australia joined the Global Partnership on AI as a founding member in June 2020.⁴⁵³ Minister Andrews stated, “Australia is committed to responsible and ethical

⁴⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Australia* (2024),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/australia/freedom-net/2024>

⁴⁵⁰ Australian Human Rights Commission, *The Need for Human Rights-Centred Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 26, 2023), <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/legal/submission/need-human-rights-centred-ai>

⁴⁵¹ Australian Human Rights Commission, *Adopting AI in Australia* (May 15, 2024), https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/select_committee_on_adopting_artificial_intelligence_0.pdf

⁴⁵² OECD, G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Examples of National AI Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>; OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies* (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1cd40c44-en>

⁴⁵³ Hon Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, *Australia Joins Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 16, 2019),

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use of AI. Membership of the GPAI will allow Australia to showcase our key achievements in AI and provide international partnership opportunities which will enhance our domestic capability.” Andrews further stated, “Membership of the GPAI will build on the work the Government started at last year’s National AI Summit, which brought together 100 AI experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities which AI will present for the Australian economy.”

Australia actively participated in the G20 meetings held in Brazil in 2024 and it also endorsed the Maceio Ministerial Declaration of the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).⁴⁵⁴ The declaration calls for international cooperation to establish transparent and reliable AI guidelines to ensure equitable global benefits, human rights, and ethical standards. The declaration also highlights AI’s potential in addressing challenges like climate change and health crises, urging investments in digital infrastructure and skills to maximize its positive impact.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Australia participated in the negotiation and drafting process for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁴⁵⁵ The first-of-its-kind global framework, the treaty aims to ensure “respect of human rights, the rule of law and democratic legal standards in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems.”⁴⁵⁶ Australia has not yet signed the treaty.⁴⁵⁷

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/articles/australia-joins-global-partnership-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁵⁴ G7G20 Documents Database, *Digital Economy Working Group Maceio Ministerial Declaration* (2024), <https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-digital-economy-ministers-ministers-language-g20-dewg-maceio-ministerial-declaration>

⁴⁵⁵ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁵⁶ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law* (2024), <https://edoc.coe.int/en/artificial-intelligence/11926-council-of-europe-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights-democracy-and-the-rule-of-law.html>

⁴⁵⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 1, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Australia endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in 2021.⁴⁵⁸ The Australian AI Action Plan contains no explicit reference to the Recommendation because the Plan was published before.⁴⁵⁹ However, the recent responsible use of AI in government policy⁴⁶⁰ and the national data sharing framework signal progress.⁴⁶¹ A comprehensive assessment, such as the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) could help Australia evaluate the effectiveness of policy and further implement the UNESCO Recommendation. However, Australia has not initiated the RAM.⁴⁶²

Evaluation

Australia has set out an AI Roadmap and an AI Ethics Framework, in addition to endorsing the OECD/G20 AI Principles. The Government is implementing these values-based principles through practical initiatives such as the National Artificial Intelligence Center (NAIC) based on the country's AI Ethical Principles. The AI Ethical Principles are built upon OECD values.⁴⁶³ Australia has encouraged public participation in the development of AI policy, joined the Global Partnership on AI, and has a strong record on human rights. Australia has independent agencies, including a national regulator for privacy and freedom of information⁴⁶⁴ and a human rights commission that is engaged in AI oversight. Australia was also a cosponsor of the GPA resolution on Accountability in the development and use of AI.

Although Australia has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI, the Government has not conducted a comprehensive assessment to evaluate their effectiveness and further implement the UNESCO Recommendation.

⁴⁵⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 31, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁵⁹ Department of Industry, Science, Energy, *Australia's AI Action Plan* (Jun. 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Australia_AI_Action_Plan_2021.pdf

⁴⁶⁰ Digital Transformation Agency, *Standard for Accountability*, <https://architecture.digital.gov.au/standard-accountable-officials>

⁴⁶¹ Office of National Data Commissioner, *Introducing the DATA Scheme* (Apr. 2023), <https://www.datacommissioner.gov.au/the-data-scheme>

⁴⁶² UNESCO AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁴⁶³ OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On*, No. 3 (Oct. 2023), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en

⁴⁶⁴ Office of the Australian Information Commission, *Human Rights and Technology Discussion Paper* (Dec. 2019), https://tech.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-12/TechRights2019_DiscussionPaper.pdf

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The modernization of Australia’s data protection law to better protect human rights continues to progress, most recently with the amendments to the Privacy Act passing through Parliament. In addition, Australia’s national AI strategy continues to develop, including the release of the Voluntary AI Safety Standard, which aims to “ensure that the development and deployment of AI systems in Australia in legitimate but high-risk settings is safe and can be relied on, while ensuring the use of AI in low-risk settings can continue to flourish largely unimpeded.”⁴⁶⁵ Concerns exist regarding facial recognition.

⁴⁶⁵ National Artificial Intelligence Centre, *Voluntary AI Safety Standard* (Aug. 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-09/voluntary-ai-safety-standard.pdf>

Austria

In 2025, Austria progressed on implementing the EU AI Act by operationalizing advisory and supervisory bodies. The AI Advisory Board and AI Stakeholder Forum will contribute to the newly established AI Monitor. Austria signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable AI at the AI Action Summit.

National AI Strategy

The Austrian Government presented the national AI strategy, Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030 (AIM AT 2030), in August 2021.⁴⁶⁶ The objectives are: Using AI for the common good; Positioning Austria as an international hub of AI research and innovation; Boosting Austria's economy through strategic AI use.

AIM AT 2030 is guided by the two cornerstones of the European AI strategy: an ecosystem for trust and an ecosystem for excellence. Austria not only supports increased cooperation at the European level, as proposed in the European Commission's White Paper on AI⁴⁶⁷ and the EU AI Act,⁴⁶⁸ but also intends to shape national AI ecosystems in line with the European AI strategy.⁴⁶⁹

The Austrian strategy is based on a human-centered approach to AI to ensure that resources are used to support fundamental European values and respect and guarantee fundamental rights such as privacy and the principle of equality. Citizens' involvement is also identified as key.⁴⁷⁰ Regarding ethical principles, the strategy refers to the European High-Level Expert Group on AI's Ethics guidelines for

⁴⁶⁶ Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), *Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Austrian Federal Government, AIM AT 2030* (2021), https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-10/Artificial%20Intelligence%20Mission%20Austria%202030_AIM_AT_2030.pdf

⁴⁶⁷ European Commission, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence: A European Approach to Excellence and Trust*, COM(2020) 65 final (Feb. 19, 2020), https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/commission-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-feb2020_en.pdf

⁴⁶⁸ European Union, EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence and Amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828* (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

⁴⁶⁹ Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), *AIM AT 2030*, p. 15 (2021), https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/sites/default/files/202310/Artificial%20Intelligence%20Mission%20Austria%202030_AIM_AT_2030.pdf

⁴⁷⁰ *Ibid*, p. 17

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trustworthy AI.⁴⁷¹ Accordingly, AI systems must fulfill three basic principles to be considered trustworthy. They must:

- “be lawful by respecting all existing laws and regulations;
- respect ethical principles and values such as equality and fairness; and
- be robust, both in a technical sense and from a societal perspective.”⁴⁷²

AIM AT 2030 also mentions the need to establish a clear legal framework that releases innovation in science and economy, reduces uncertainties and at the same time guarantees legal certainty. The Austrian Federal Government supported the creation of a Europe-wide legal framework for AI applications to avoid isolated national solutions, a project realized with the EU AI Act.

The AI Implementation Plan introduced in 2024 is an interim report that serves as a significant addition and clarification to the AIM AT 30 and aligns “with fundamental European values and the European legal framework.”⁴⁷³

The Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology oversees AI policy under the broad category of “Innovation.” The Ministry also engages with research, policy, governance, industrial competitiveness, sustainability, and international cooperation.⁴⁷⁴

Austria’s 11-member AI Advisory Board established in early 2024 includes experts from academia, law, and ethics. This board advises the federal government on AI regulatory measures and ethical concerns and assists in incorporating EU AI Act guidelines into national policy frameworks.⁴⁷⁵

Austria is proactively planning for emerging and future AI-related technologies. The Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), established a national roadmap, Virtual Worlds and Immersive Technologies 2035, detailing recommendations for action with the goal for Austria to effectively develop in extended reality (XR).⁴⁷⁶ The roadmap highlights the need

⁴⁷¹ High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI* (2019), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

⁴⁷² Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), *AIM AT 2030*, p. 22 (2021), https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-10/Artificial%20Intelligence%20Mission%20Austria%202030_AIM_AT_2030.pdf

⁴⁷³ Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), *Implementation Plan 2024*, <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/innovation/publikationen/ikt/ai/Umsetzungsplan-2024.html>

⁴⁷⁴ Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), *Innovation*, <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/innovation.html>

⁴⁷⁵ Digital Austria, *Topics, Artificial Intelligence, AI Advisory Board* (2026), <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/Themen/KI/AI-Advisory-Board.html>

⁴⁷⁶ Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), *Roadmap of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure* (Jun. 21, 2025), <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/en/topics/innovation/publications/virtual-worlds.html>

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for domestic policy and legal frameworks as well as advocacy for these frameworks at the EU level to foster EU development and sovereignty of this technology.

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Austria is bound by the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁴⁷⁷ Austria's DSA Accompanying Act (*DSA-Begleitgesetz*) has been in force since February 2024.⁴⁷⁸

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Austria is bound by the EU AI Act.⁴⁷⁹ Austria's Service Desk for Artificial Intelligence (AI Service Desk) under the Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR) supports implementation of the EU AI Act and serves as a public information hub.⁴⁸⁰ Austria has not designated a single point of contact under the EU AI Act or specified the supervisory role of the AI Service Desk.⁴⁸¹ The Service Desk coordinates with the AI Advisory Board and AI Forum to advise the Federal Government on national AI strategy, policies, and implementation.⁴⁸²

⁴⁷⁷ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and Amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁴⁷⁸ Federal Ministry, Judiciary, *Digital Services Act* (2024), <https://www.bmj.gv.at/themen/EU-und-Internationales/Digital-Services-Act.html>

⁴⁷⁹ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act*, European Parliament Legislative Resolution of 13 March 2024 on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and Amending Certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD)), P9_TA(2024)0138,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

⁴⁸⁰ Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, *Service Desk for Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.rtr.at/rtr/service/ki-servicestelle/KI-Servicestelle.en.html>

⁴⁸¹ European Commission, *Market Surveillance Authorities under the AI Act* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/market-surveillance-authorities-under-ai-act#1720699867912-2>

⁴⁸² Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes, *Consolidated Federal Law: KommAustria Act*, Article 20c, Federal Law Gazette I No. 6/2024 (Jan. 1, 2024), <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/NormDokument.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001213&Paragraf=20c>; Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes *Consolidated Federal Law: Telecommunications Act 2021*, Article 194, Federal Law Gazette I No. 6/2024 (Jan. 1, 2024), <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/NormDokument.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20011678&Paragraf=194a>

Public Participation

Experts and other stakeholders were involved in the development of the national AI strategy through the AI Stakeholder Forum,⁴⁸³ and through the consultation among government entities.⁴⁸⁴ The strategy also provides for broad participation of civil society organizations, intermediaries, and citizens in the implementation of the measures. The Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR) created an AI Service Desk to serve as a “point of contact and information hub for the general public” on AI. The service desk also supports implementation of the EU AI Act.⁴⁸⁵ The AI Stakeholders Forum also promotes exchange between the Federal Government and the country’s diverse stakeholders in the field of artificial intelligence. As of December 2024, the Forum consisted of 29 different associations and interest groups. The central task of the Forum is to connect participating organizations, disseminate information and news on AI, and promote synergies.⁴⁸⁶

The Federal Government endeavors to formulate its target provisions in close coordination and comprehensive agreement with the fundamental values and objectives of the European Union. Austria is thus also contributing to the promotion of Europe's industrial and technical performance regarding AI.

Data Protection

Austria is an EU Member State, so the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁴⁸⁷ applies. The Austrian Data Protection Act (DSG) supplements the GDPR.⁴⁸⁸

Following the EU AI Act’s policy framework on AI systems, Austria has strengthened its data privacy measures. New policies require detailed impact

⁴⁸³ Digital Austria, *AI Governance in Austria* (2026), <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/themen/kuenstliche-intelligenz/ki-organisation.html>

⁴⁸⁴ Digital Austria, *Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/verwaltung/strategien/ki-aim-at-2030.html>

⁴⁸⁵ Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, *Service Desk for Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.rtr.at/rtr/service/ki-servicestelle/KI-Serviceestelle.en.html>

⁴⁸⁶ Digital Austria, *AI Governance in Austria* (2026), <https://www.digitalaustria.gv.at/themen/kuenstliche-intelligenz/ki-organisation.html>

⁴⁸⁷ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and on the Free Movement of Such Data (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

⁴⁸⁸ Austria Data Protection Authority, *Federal Act Concerning the Protection of Personal Data (Datenschutzgesetz - DSG)* (May 25, 2018), https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/ErV/ERV_1999_1_165/ERV_1999_1_165.html

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assessments for systems handling sensitive data or biometric recognition. These updates further Austria's commitment to protecting data privacy and human rights.⁴⁸⁹

According to Article 35(4) GDPR, national supervisory authorities shall compose and publish the list of processing operations that requires performing a data protection impact assessment. According to the list established by the Austrian Data Protection Authority (*Datenschutz behörde*, DPB), a data protection impact assessment is necessary in cases involving AI, including:

- assessment or classification related to a person's work, economic situation, health, preferences and interests, reliability or behavior, location or movements and that is based solely on automated processing and may have negative legal, physical, or financial consequences
- evaluating the behavior and other personal aspects in cases that may be used by third parties to make automated decisions that have legal effects on the persons evaluated or similarly significantly affect them
- using or applying new or novel technologies or organizational solutions in processing data that make it difficult to assess the impact on data subjects and the social consequences, in particular through the use of artificial intelligence and the processing of biometric data beyond the real-time reproduction of facial images
- where the use of algorithms makes it possible to take decisions that significantly affect the data subject by going beyond the processing operations normally expected of a data subject⁴⁹⁰

Austria also transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)⁴⁹¹ with the DSG.⁴⁹² The Austrian National Council approved the Austrian

⁴⁸⁹ Austria Data Protection Authority, *Legal Sources [Rechtsquellen]*, <https://dsb.gv.at/rechte-pflichten/rechtsquellen>

⁴⁹⁰ European Data Protection Board, *Regulation of the Data Protection Authority on Processing Operations for which a Data Protection Impact Assessment Is Required (DSFA-V)* (2018), https://edpb.europa.eu/sites/default/files/decisions/at_sa_dpia_final_decision.pdf

⁴⁹¹ European Parliament, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the Purposes of the Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences or the Execution of Criminal Penalties, and on the Free Movement of Such Data, and Repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁴⁹² Federal Legal Information System, *Federal Act Concerning the Protection of Personal Data (Datenschutzgesetz - DSG)* (May 25, 2018), https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erw/ERV_1999_1_165/ERV_1999_1_165.html

Data Access Act (*Datenzugangsgesetz*, DZG) to implement the EU Data Governance Act in 2025.⁴⁹³

Austria is a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data.⁴⁹⁴

The Austrian DPA is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002. The DPA did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁹⁵ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁴⁹⁶ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁴⁹⁷ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁴⁹⁸

Algorithmic Transparency

Austria is subject to the GDPR, as well as Convention 108+ since July 2022.⁴⁹⁹ The Austrian Data Protection Act implements the GDPR, ensuring Austrians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁵⁰⁰

The case of the Data Protection Authority's (DSB) ruling with a tool developed by the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS) demonstrates the DPB's regulatory role and the checks in support of innovation. After the DSB banned

⁴⁹³ Parlament Österreich, *Data Access Act – DZG (127. D.B.) [Datenzugangsgesetz, DZG]* (Jun. 18, 2025), <https://www.parlament.gv.at/gegenstand/XXVIII/I/127?selectedStage=100>

⁴⁹⁴ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁴⁹⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁴⁹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴⁹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 20, 2023), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/edps-gpa-resolution-on-generative-ai-systems_en.pdf

⁴⁹⁹ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR; Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

⁵⁰⁰ Federal Chancellery of Austria, *Federal Act concerning the Protection of Personal Data (DSG)* (2018), https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erw/ERV_1999_1_165/ERV_1999_1_165.html

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an AMS algorithm designed to support AMS staff in their daily advising to job seekers in 2020, the Austrian Federal Administrative Court (BVwG) overruled the initial ruling on appeal in 2025.⁵⁰¹ The appeal successfully demonstrated the lack of reliance on automatic decisions, making the ruling that the AMS did not have a suitable legal basis for automated decision-making under Article 22 GDPR moot.⁵⁰² According to the BVwG, “Investigations demonstrated that advisors had a substantive role in the decision-making process, rather than a merely formal one. Furthermore, [...] the controller implemented clear internal guidelines and measures to comply with them. Therefore, the Court concluded that there was no automated decision-making.”⁵⁰³ Still, the CEO of the AMS says that the tool will not be revived as too much time has passed and the tool is likely outdated.”

The Austrian Government launched the AI Monitor, a dashboard that provides information about Austria’s usage and the opportunities, and challenges associated with AI. Publicly available at digitalaustria.gv.at, the AI Monitor allows citizens greater AI oversight. The Monitor will be updated annually and include a “broad range of quantitative data, alongside short introductions to lighthouse projects and initiatives within the Austrian AI ecosystem and contributions by the Austrian AI Advisory Board and the AI Stakeholder Forum.”⁵⁰⁴

Facial Recognition

Since December 2017, 25 E-Gates, where border controls are supported by facial recognition, have been installed at the Vienna International Airport in Austria. Manual border controls have also remained in place.⁵⁰⁵

After a one-year test phase, facial recognition for law enforcement has been in regular operation in Austria since August 2020. The police can use digital image

⁵⁰¹ Austrian Press Agency (OTS), *Data Protection and Innovation Compatible – Court Rules in Favor of AMS after Years of Legal Battle over AMS Algorithm* (2025),

https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20250904_OTSO0060/datenschutz-und-innovation-vereinbar-gericht-gibt-ams-nach-jahrelangem-rechtsstreit-um-ams-algorithmus-recht

⁵⁰² GDPR Hub, *BGH / W256 2235360-1* (2025), [https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=BVwG - W256 2235360-1](https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=BVwG_-_W256_2235360-1)

⁵⁰³ Austrian Press Agency (OTS), *Data Protection and Innovation Compatible – Court Rules in Favor of AMS after Years of Legal Battle over AMS Algorithm* (2025),

https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20250904_OTSO0060/datenschutz-und-innovation-vereinbar-gericht-gibt-ams-nach-jahrelangem-rechtsstreit-um-ams-algorithmus-recht

⁵⁰⁴ OECD.AI, *AI Monitor* (Jul. 9, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/ai-monitor-2797>

⁵⁰⁵ Passenger Self Service, *Vienna International Airport Installs ABC eGates from Secunet* (Dec. 19, 2017), <https://www.passengerselfservice.com/2017/12/vienna-international-airport-installs-abc-egates-secunet/>

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comparison only if they suspect the commission of an intentional judicially punishable act in the case of unknown perpetrators. The Ministry of the Interior published information about the use of the software after parliamentary inquiries.⁵⁰⁶ Accordingly, the Federal Criminal Police Office may use the system to investigate intentional acts authorized by the judiciary regardless of the level of punishment for an offense.⁵⁰⁷

The Austrian supervisory authority (*Datenschutzbehörde, DSB*) issued a decision in 2023 against the facial recognition company Clearview AI, which maintains a database of over 30 billion facial images collected globally. The DSB found Clearview AI to have violated several GDPR provisions, citing a lack of lawfulness, fairness, and transparency in processing the complainant's personal data, and of illegally scanning and extracting uniquely identifying facial features of the complainant. Clearview AI was ordered to delete the complainant's personal data and designate a representative within the European Union⁵⁰⁸ but not required to pay a fine.⁵⁰⁹ Austrian privacy group noby filed a criminal complaint in Austria in 2025, accusing Clearview of illegally collecting photos to build its facial recognition database violating GDPR provisions.⁵¹⁰

The ID Austria mobile app (previously Digitales Amt) was officially launched in 2025. The app aims to improve services for digital ID, electronic signatures, and qualified signatures. The login process has also been updated to allow users to log in using fingerprint, facial recognition, or their device password/PIN.⁵¹¹

Automated Tax Fraud Detection

The Austrian Ministry of Finance operates the Predictive Analytics Competence Center (PACC), which automates review to facilitate a more efficient

⁵⁰⁶ Federal Ministry of the Interior, *Query Response Parliamentary Question No. 2648/J: "Findings from the Test Operation of the Face Recognition System (2662/AB)"* (Sept. 4, 2020), https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVII/AB/AB_02662/index.shtml#

⁵⁰⁷ Florian Terharen-Schoenherr, *Facial Recognition Technology: Regulations and Use – Austria* (Apr. 6, 2021), <https://iclg.com/briefing/16092-facial-recognition-technology-regulations-and-use-austria>

⁵⁰⁸ European Data Protection Board, *Decision by the Austrian SA against Clearview AI Infringements of Articles 5, 6, 9, 27 of GDPR* (May 12, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2023/decision-austrian-sa-against-clearview-ai-infringements-articles-5-6-9-27_en

⁵⁰⁹ NOYB, *Clearview AI data use deemed illegal in Austria, however no fine issued* (May 10, 2023), <https://noyb.eu/en/clearview-ai-data-use-deemed-illegal-austria-however-no-fine-issued>

⁵¹⁰ Reuters, *Clearview AI Faces Criminal Complaint in Austria for Suspected Privacy Violations* (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/society-equity/clearview-ai-faces-criminal-complaint-austria-suspected-privacy-violations-2025-10-28/>

⁵¹¹ ID Austria, *Simple Online Identification with ID Austria* (2025), <https://www.id-austria.gv.at/en>

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risk management structure with increased efficiency in auditing, fraud prevention, and tax collection.⁵¹²

PACC reviewed approximately 6 million income tax disclosures and 1.4 million applications for COVID-19 assistance payments using machine learning to derive potential fraud scenarios from a variety of historical data sources. The reviews facilitate the selection of tax audits, plausibility checks of tax returns, and the evaluation of start-ups and applications of all kinds. The Ministry of Finance claims that this will make it easier to detect tax evasion, including customs fraud.⁵¹³

According to a Ministry of Finance's press release on the 2023 annual balance sheet, PACC's analysis identified 375,000 cases out of 34 million as potentially implausible, targeting them for further investigation into tax evasion and fraud.⁵¹⁴ For the 2024 cycle, PACC's automated reviewed analyzed 6.6 million tax cases and reviewed 23.4 million compliance cases, helping to detect false declarations, fraud attempts, and fake companies.⁵¹⁵ This work generated about €354 million in extra tax revenue. In one example, a farm failed to report vehicle sales and was required to pay over €300,000 in back taxes. The Ministry said that PACC plans to expand the use of AI and generative models to make Austria's financial administration even more effective.

User Tracking and Website Analytics

Many websites use tracking technologies to track users and show them personalized advertisement. The Austrian Data Protection Authority (DSB), after declaring the use of Google Analytics illegal,⁵¹⁶ held a similar decision on the Facebook Login and Meta Pixel tools provided by Meta.⁵¹⁷ If these tools are used,

⁵¹² Federal Ministry of Finance, *Predictive Analytics Competence Center* (2022), <https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/betrugsbekampfung/einheiten-betrugsbekampfung/Predictive-Analytics-Competence-Center.html>

⁵¹³ Austria Press Agency, *BMF/Special Unit PACC: Around 6 Million Employee Assessments and 1.4 Million Applications for COVID-19 Aid Payments Checked in 2021: Predictive Analytics in the Fight against Organized Tax Evasion and Tariff Fraud* (Sept. 11, 2022), https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20220911_OTSO004/bmfspezialeinheit-pacc-2021-rund-6-mio-arbeitnehmerveranlagungen-und-14-mio-antraege-auf-covid-19-hilfszahlungen-ueberprueft

⁵¹⁴ Regfollower, *Austria Generates Additional EUR 185 Million in Tax Income from AI* (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://regfollower.com/austria-generates-additional-eur-185-million-in-tax-income-from-ai/>

⁵¹⁵ Federal Ministry of Finance, *Last Year, the Ministry of Finance Generated €354 Million in Additional Tax Revenue Thanks to AI Methods [Finanzministerium lukrierte im Vorjahr 354 Mio. Euro Steuermehreinnahmen dank KI-Methoden]* (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.bmf.gv.at/presse/pressemeldungen/2025/august/pacc-ki.html>

⁵¹⁶ GDPRhub, *DSB (Austria) – 2021-0.586.257 (D155.027)* (Dec. 12, 2021), [https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=DSB_\(Austria\)_-2021-0.586.257_\(D155.027\)](https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=DSB_(Austria)_-2021-0.586.257_(D155.027))

⁵¹⁷ GDPRhub, *DSB (Austria) – 2022-0.726.643* (Mar. 3, 2023), [https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=DSB_\(Austria\)_-2022-0.726.643](https://gdprhub.eu/index.php?title=DSB_(Austria)_-2022-0.726.643)

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data is inevitably transferred to the United States, where the data is at risk of intelligence surveillance. Such transfer would contravene the Court of Justice of the European Union's (CJEU) 2020 *Schrems II* decision as the transferred data would not grant a level of protection equivalent to that guaranteed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).⁵¹⁸ According to the European Center for Digital Rights (noyb), "there is no information if a penalty was issued or if the DSB is planning to also issue a penalty. The GDPR foresees penalties of up to €20 million or 4% of the global turnover in such cases, but data protection authorities seem unwilling to issue fines, despite controllers ignoring two CJEU rulings for more than two years."⁵¹⁹

Environmental Impact of AI

Austria's 2024 AI Implementation Plan identifies Climate Neutrality and Sustainability as a Key Area from and through AI.⁵²⁰ The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive requires environmental impact assessments for 89 types of projects, including industrial plants, expected to have "substantial adverse impact on the environment." However, the directive contains threshold values and criteria that could allow some AI systems or data centers to avoid assessment.⁵²¹

Austria joined over 100 countries to discuss the link between AI and energy at the AI Action Summit in Paris. The discussions aimed to share knowledge, support investments in sustainable AI systems, promote global dialogue on AI and the environment, and welcome the creation of an observatory on AI's energy impact with the International Energy Agency. Austria signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet, along with 62 other countries.⁵²²

⁵¹⁸ European Parliament, *The CJEU Judgment in the Schrems II Case* (2020), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/652073/EPRS_ATAG\(2020\)652073_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/652073/EPRS_ATAG(2020)652073_EN.pdf)

⁵¹⁹ NOYB, *Austrian DSB: Meta Tracking Tools Illegal* (Mar. 16, 2023), <https://noyb.eu/en/austrian-dsb-meta-tracking-tools-illegal>

⁵²⁰ Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), *Implementation Plan 2024 [Umsetzungsplan 2024]* (Aug. 2024), <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/innovation/publikationen/ikt/ai/Umsetzungsplan-2024.html>

⁵²¹ Business Service Portal, *Environmental Impact Assessment* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.usp.gv.at/themen/betrieb-und-umwelt/betriebliches-standortmanagement/umweltvertraeglichkeitspruefung.html>

⁵²² Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Austria supports developing a legally binding instrument that would ban autonomous weapons and systems that are not meaningfully controlled by humans.⁵²³ At the virtual conference, Safeguarding Human Control over Autonomous Weapon Systems in 2021, the Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria situated the country as the vanguard of many disarmaments, non-proliferation, and arms control issues.⁵²⁴ They also talked about the challenges of AI and questioned algorithms that make death or life decisions based on ethics, morality, and law and called for a legal norm in the form of a treaty to ensure human control.⁵²⁵

Austria has continued this stance through efforts at the UN and REAIM conferences.⁵²⁶ The country emphasized the need for a legally binding instrument to regulate autonomous weapons and highlighted both humanitarian, environmental and security-risks in remarks during the informal consultations on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) at the UN General Assembly.⁵²⁷ Austria's submission to the Secretary-General Report in response to Resolution 79/239 emphasized the interface of AI and autonomous weapons and the need to link military-AI governance with international humanitarian law.⁵²⁸ Prior to submitting the report, Austria hosted the first Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems Humanity at the

⁵²³ DW Akademie, *Austria Wants Ethical Rules on Battlefield Killer Robots* (Nov. 15, 2020), <https://www.dw.com/en/austria-wants-ethical-rules-on-battlefield-killer-robots/a-55610965>

⁵²⁴ Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, *Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS)*, <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems>

⁵²⁵ EventMaker, *Safeguarding Human Control over Autonomous Weapons Systems, Speakers: High-Level Opening Panel* (Sept. 15, 2021), https://eventmaker.at/bmeia/laws_conference_2021/speakers.html

⁵²⁶ For example, see Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>; US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial and Autonomy, Endorsing States* (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁵²⁷ Republic of Austria, *Remarks by the Republic of Austria*, Open Informal Consultations held in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 79/62, New York (12–13 May 2025), <https://unodaweb-meetings.unoda.org/public/2025-05/LAWS%20informal%20consultations%20-%20Humanitarian%20considerations%20-%20Austria.pdf>

⁵²⁸ UN General Assembly, *UNGA Resolution 79/239, Submission by Austria* (2025), <https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Eightieth session %282025%29/79-239-Austria-en.pdf>

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Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation,⁵²⁹ where more than 1000 participants from 140 countries discussed international regulation of autonomous weapons and the challenges of a legally binding document.

AI Literacy

Austria's Artificial Intelligence Strategy, AIM at 2030, recognizes that AI will fundamentally change teaching and learning processes. As a result, the Federal Government aims to establish Digital Basic Education as a compulsory subject for children and adolescents. Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) posits this education will be essential for successful digital transformation, AI topics and related ethical questions can be addressed as pedagogical concepts.⁵³⁰ The BMK AI Implementation Plan 2024 aims to ensure 80 percent of the population develops digital skills by 2030, an increase from the 63 percent assessed to possess them in 2023.⁵³¹ The Implementation Plan identifies increasing AI skills among teachers, students, and researchers as essential to minimize potential risks associated with AI use.⁵³² The Digital Skills Initiative (DKO) established in 2022 offered a strategy for realizing this goal and asserting Austria's leadership in digital competency with particular attention to the "training of educators, leveraging and supporting best practices, showcasing the public sector as a role model, addressing the IT skills shortage, offerings in the field of AI literacy."⁵³³

⁵²⁹ Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Europe and International Affairs, *2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems, Chair's Summary* (Apr. 30, 2024), https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/AWS_2024/Chair's_Summary.pdf

⁵³⁰ Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), *Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030 (AIM AT 2030)*, p. 37 (2021), https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/sites/default/files/202310/Artificial%20Intelligence%20Mission%20Austria%202030_AIM_AT_2030.pdf

⁵³¹ Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), *Implementation Plan 2024 [Umsetzungsplan 2024]*, p. 40 (Aug. 2024), <https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/innovation/publikationen/ikt/ai/Umsetzungsplan-2024.html>

⁵³² *Ibid*, p. 48

⁵³³ European Union, *Austria—Digital Skills Initiative* (Aug. 6, 2025), <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/about/national-coalitions/austria-digital-skills-initiative>

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Human Rights

The 2025 Freedom House report scores Austria highly for political rights and civil liberties with (93/100) and designates the country as “Free.”⁵³⁴ Austria was the 70th country to join the United Nations and is party to the most important international legal instruments for the protection and defense of human rights.⁵³⁵

With regards to AI policy, as part of the objectives contained in its AI Strategy, Austria states that it will deploy AI responsibly targeting the common good relying on fundamental human rights,⁵³⁶ aligned with the Council of Europe 2020 Recommendation to member states and the international treaty.⁵³⁷ Austria reiterated the need that “All uses of AI must remain firmly anchored in international humanitarian and human rights law. [...] AI technology should [...] be aimed at promoting human rights” at the UN Security Council open debate on AI and international peace and security.⁵³⁸

OECD AI Principles

Austria has endorsed the OECD and G20 AI Principles.⁵³⁹ Regarding implementation, the OECD notes that Austria is actively involved in relevant international organizations, the EU, and other processes and its AI strategy specifically addresses “human-centered values and fairness, robustness, security and safety, inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being, investing in AI R&D and providing an enabling policy environment for AI.”⁵⁴⁰

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Austria contributed as a Council of Europe and EU member state in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights,

⁵³⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Austria* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/austria/freedom-world/2025>

⁵³⁵ United Nations, *The United Nations in Vienna*, <https://www.unvienna.org/>

⁵³⁶ *AIM AT 2030*

⁵³⁷ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁵³⁸ Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York, *Security Council Open Debate—Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Artificial Intelligence and International Peace and Security* (Sept. 25 2025), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oev-new-york/news/statements-and-speeches/2025/09/security-council-open-debate-maintenance-of-international-peace-and-security-artificial-intelligence-and-international-peace-and-security>

⁵³⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁵⁴⁰ OECD AI Observatory, *AI Mission Austria 2030*, <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-24233>

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Democracy and the Rule of Law. Austria endorsed the international treaty as part of the European Union.⁵⁴¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Austria endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.⁵⁴² The Austrian Commission for UNESCO created an Advisory Board on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. The Advisory Board aims to exchange information on developments related to AI and the UNESCO Recommendation, advise the National Contact Point at the Austrian Commission for UNESCO, and support measures to raise awareness and initiate a dialogue in society on the ethical implications of AI.⁵⁴³

Austria's TU Wien Informatics program became the first to hold a UNESCO Chair on Digital Humanism in 2023. The UNESCO Chair was part of a collaboration among the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research; Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology; Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs; and the City of Vienna. Following UNESCO's AI ethics recommendations, the Chair seeks to lay scientific groundwork for meaningful regulations and foster an interdisciplinary approach to educating future IT professionals.

Austria has taken steps to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence through initiatives tied to the 2021 national AI strategy and digital decade. The country's programs for digital skills development, environmental protection, and creation of an AI oversight body demonstrate this progress. Austria has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵⁴⁴

Evaluation

The Austrian AI strategy released in late 2021 follows the larger goals of the EU strategy, emphasizing both excellence and the protection of fundamental rights.

⁵⁴¹ Council of Europe Portal, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁵⁴² UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁴³ Austrian Commission for UNESCO, *New Advisory Board on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence at the Austrian UNESCO Commission* (Jul. 6, 2023), <https://www.unesco.at/presse/artikel/article/neuer-fachbeirat-ethik-der-ki>

⁵⁴⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Austria has emphasized public participation in the development of the national AI strategy and receives expert advice from the Austrian Council on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, which has stressed the importance of human-centric AI.

Austria ranks highly for traditional human rights protection and is active at the OECD, although it is not a member of the Global Partnership on AI. Austria ratified the Modernized Convention 108 of the Council of Europe, which includes an important provision on algorithmic transparency. This should avoid any doubts in the future regarding the scope of application of the right to algorithmic transparency. With the adoption of the EU AI Act, Austria shall establish a national supervisory mechanism which, it is to be hoped, will be an independent and will take the protection of human rights seriously. Concerns persist regarding the use of AI techniques for facial surveillance and predictive policing.

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Azerbaijan

In 2025, Azerbaijan approved the Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2028 and developed technical standards related to AI risk assessments and model training.

National AI Strategy

In recent years, Azerbaijan has taken an active interest in Artificial Intelligence and new technologies to reform the country's economy and extend internal security and policing.⁵⁴⁵ The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan announced in February 2022 that the country would establish an AI Strategy.⁵⁴⁶ In March 2024, Acting Chairperson of the Innovation and Digital Development Agency of the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport Inara Valiyeva declared that a roadmap for the national AI strategy “is now at the approval stage.”⁵⁴⁷ The Minister of Digital Development and Transport announced the draft Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2028 for the development of artificial intelligence in October 2024.⁵⁴⁸ The minister's announcement focused on investment for startups and research to “establish a platform for the exchange of ideas and experience among all participants in the innovation ecosystem.” The minister emphasized the plan to integrate sustainable development principles in the agenda but did not mention ethical or human rights principles such as transparency or fairness.

The Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2028 was approved by Presidential Decree in March 2025.⁵⁴⁹ The Strategy outlines a national roadmap for AI development, focusing on innovation, public services, and capacity building. The AI strategy includes key objectives on developing a skilled workforce; establishing data governance systems to facilitate AI development while enhancing data quality; and

⁵⁴⁵ Vahid Aliyev, *Azerbaijan's Newfound Orientation towards Artificial Intelligence and Robots* (May 20, 2020), https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vahid-Aliyev/publication/341598034_Azerbaijan's_newfound_orientation_towards_Artificial_Intelligence_and_Robots/links/5ec9301092851c11a8817e42/Azerbaijans-newfound-orientation-towards-Artificial-Intelligence-and-Robots.pdf

⁵⁴⁶ Azernews, *Azerbaijan to Develop National Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Feb. 11, 2022), <https://www.azernews.az/nation/189013.html>

⁵⁴⁷ Trend News Agency, *Azerbaijan's National AI Strategy Nears Approval* (Mar. 19, 2024), <https://en.trend.az/business/it/3876181.html>

⁵⁴⁸ Nazrin Abdul, Azernews, *Azerbaijan Announces Draft Strategy for Artificial Intelligence Development* (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.azernews.az/business/232395.html>

⁵⁴⁹ Innovation and Digital Development Agency, “*Artificial Intelligence Strategy*” *Approved—What to Expect?* (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://idda.az/en/news/artificial-intelligence-strategy-approved-what-to-expect>

ensuring transparency, mitigating bias, and enhancing cybersecurity through regulatory frameworks.

As part of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2025–2028,⁵⁵⁰ the Azerbaijan Standardization Institute adopted several national AI standards in 2025 to establish common rules for the functioning of AI systems across various platforms and industries and to ensure interoperability. The standards address risk management, using machine learning, assessing the robustness of neural networks, and managing systems more broadly.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution Analysis and Coordination Centre (4SIM), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Platform, played a key role in preparing the roadmap for shaping Azerbaijan's National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence.⁵⁵¹ In parallel, the Azerbaijan is also preparing a digital development strategy,⁵⁵² including a data management strategy,⁵⁵³ with the support of the World Bank.

In 2016, Azerbaijan approved the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Telecommunications and Information Technologies in the Azerbaijan Republic (Roadmap).⁵⁵⁴ The Roadmap focuses on Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector and sets three main strategic targets: 1) Improve governance structures

⁵⁵⁰ Azerbaijan Standardization Institute, *New State Standards in the Field of Artificial Intelligence Have Been Adopted in the Country [Ölkədə Süni İntellekt sahəsində yeni dövlət standartları qəbul edilib]* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://azstand.gov.az/az/xeberler/olkede-suni-intellekt-sahesinde-yeni-dovlet-standartlari-qebul-edilib>; Azerbaijan Standardization Institute, *New State Standard in the Field of Artificial Intelligence Has Been Adopted in the Country (Ölkədə Süni İntellekt sahəsində yeni dövlət standartı qəbul edilib)* (Jul. 28, 2025), <https://azstand.gov.az/az/xeberler/olkede-suni-intellekt-sahesinde-yeni-dovlet-standarti-qebul-edilib>

⁵⁵¹ Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *A Roadmap for the Development of a National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence Has Been Presented* (Jan. 26, 2023), <https://economy.gov.az/az/post/1131/suni-intellekt-uzre-milli-strategiyanin-hazirlanmasi-%20ucun-vol-xeritesi-teqdim-olunub>

Qabil Asirov, *Roadmap for Azerbaijan's National AI Strategy Has Been Prepared*, Azernews (Apr. 13, 2023), <https://www.azernews.az/nation/208630.html>

⁵⁵² E-Government, *The Document on Digital Development Strategy of Azerbaijan Republic Was Prepared on the Basis of Initial Modules by World Bank Group* (Jun. 6, 2023), <https://www.e-gov.az/en/news/read/881>

⁵⁵³ Report News Agency, *Azerbaijan, World Bank Developing Strategy* (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://report.az/en/infrastructure/azerbaijan-world-bank-developing-strategy/>

⁵⁵⁴ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Strategic Roadmap for Development of Telecommunications and Information Technologies in Azerbaijan Republic* (Dec. 6, 2016), <https://monitoring.az/assets/upload/files/6683729684f8895c1668803607932190.pdf>

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and strengthen ICT; 2) Increase productivity and operational efficiency of the business environment; 3) Digitize government and social environment.⁵⁵⁵

In February 2021, Azerbaijan adopted its 2030 Vision: National Priorities on Socio-Economic Development,⁵⁵⁶ which highlighted the importance of technological transformation.

Both the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport have been active in areas related to AI adoption. The Ministry of Economy manages the Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution established by Presidential Decree of January 6, 2021. The mandate of the center is to respond to global challenges and trends including artificial intelligence.⁵⁵⁷ In October 2021, another Presidential Decree established the Innovation and Digital Development Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport. This decision aimed to “improve governance in the field of digitalization, innovation, high technologies and communications in the Republic of Azerbaijan.”⁵⁵⁸

Public Participation

Azerbaijan has a law that promotes public participation in the formulation and implementation of government policies.⁵⁵⁹ Membership of the public council is open to everyone and elections are held to elect members of the public council.⁵⁶⁰ As a member of the Council of Europe (CoE), the country is committed to implement the Council of Europe (CoE) National Action Plan for the Promotion of Open Government 2020–2022, through the adoption and implementation of an expanded

⁵⁵⁵ Asian Development Bank, *Country Diagnostics Azerbaijan: Country Digital Development Overview*, p. 2 (Jan. 2019), <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/484586/aze-digital-development-overview.pdf>

⁵⁵⁶ President of Azerbaijan, *Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development* (Feb. 2, 2021), <https://president.az/en/articles/view/50474>

⁵⁵⁷ Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Fourth Industrial Revolution* (2026), <https://www.economy.gov.az/en/page/dorduncu-senaye-inqilabi>

⁵⁵⁸ Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Innovation and Digital Development Agency Public Legal Entity* (2021), <https://mincom.gov.az/en/ministry/structure/innovation-and-digital-development-agency-public-legal-entity>

⁵⁵⁹ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Public Participation* (Nov. 22, 2013), https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Azerbaijan_Azerparticipate.pdf

⁵⁶⁰ Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Elections to Public Council Under Ministry of Digital Development and Transport Held* (Oct. 21, 2024), <https://mincom.gov.az/en/media-en/news/elections-to-public-council-under-ministry-of-digital-development-and-transport-held>

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CoE Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022–2025, which among several goals, is intended to enhance digitalization, improve civilian oversight, expand public participation, and prevent corruption.⁵⁶¹

Azerbaijan is part of the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) to encourage a bottom-up dialogue between civil society and other democratic governance actors around four goals: global development education, youth co-operation, women’s empowerment, and migration.

Nevertheless, no record of public consultations in connection with developing AI initiatives, including the AI Strategy, which outlines broad stakeholder engagement, has been found.

Data Protection

Data Protection is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Article 32, paragraph VIII establishes the right to inviolability of private life, and states that the “scope of the personal information, as well as the conditions of their processing, collection, passing, use and protection is prescribed by law.”⁵⁶²

The country’s data protection laws currently encompass three bodies of legislation:⁵⁶³ 1) the Law on State Secrets,⁵⁶⁴ 2) the 1998 Law on Data, Data Processing and Data Protection, and 3) the 2010 Law on Personal Data.⁵⁶⁵

The Personal Data Law provides for data subjects’ right to be informed, right to access, right to rectification, right to erasure, right to object opt-out, and right not to be subject to automated decision-making (unless this is required by law). The Law regulates the collection, processing and protection of personal data, in the public and private sectors. The Law also covers cross-border transfer of personal data and the rights and obligations of public bodies and local authorities, individuals, and legal entities operating in this field.

⁵⁶¹ Council of Europe, *Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022–2025* (Feb. 1, 2022), <https://rm.coe.int/action-plan-azerbaijan-2022-2025-eng/1680a59aa3>

⁵⁶² President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, *Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (Nov. 27, 1995), <https://president.az/en/pages/view/azerbaijan/constitution>

⁵⁶³ Council of Europe. *Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022-2025* (Feb 1, 2022), <https://rm.coe.int/action-plan-azerbaijan-2022-2025-eng/1680a59aa3>

⁵⁶⁴ Republic of Azerbaijan, *Law of 7 September 2004 No. 733-IIQ: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Ədliyyə Nazirliyi Hüquqi aktların vahid elektron bazası, Dövlət sirri haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu* (Sept. 7, 2004), <https://e-qanun.az/framework/5526>; CIS Legislation, *Law of the Azerbaijan Republic of September 7, 2004 No. 733-IIQ: About the State Secret*, unofficial AI translation (Amended Dec. 19, 2023), <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=7434>

⁵⁶⁵ Milli Məjlis [National Assembly] of the Republic of the Azerbaijan, *Law No 998-IIIQ: Fərdi məlumatlar haqqında* (May 11, 2010), <https://meclis.gov.az/news-qanun.php?id=1201&lang=az>

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The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport is the authority tasked with the implementation of this Law.⁵⁶⁶ A 2018 Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan authorized the ministry, formerly known as the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and High Technologies,⁵⁶⁷ to exercise the authority to avoid infringements of the provision of the law, ensure information security, verify compliance in collection, processing and protection of personal data, and keep registry on information resources related to personal data. The State Security Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and Special State Protection Service are also involved in the implementation of the data protection legal regime.⁵⁶⁸

Azerbaijan is party to Convention 108 or Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data.⁵⁶⁹ Convention 108 reaffirms the fundamental values of respect for privacy. Article 5 defines the need for personal data to be “obtained and processed fairly and lawfully.” Convention 108 requires Azerbaijan to establish an independent data protection authority.

The Council of Europe (CoE) Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022–2025 has a specific chapter on data protection and artificial intelligence. Azerbaijan is committed to:

- Move closer to signing and ratifying the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+)
- Adopt legislation compliant with the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108)
- Establish a dedicated independent authority for personal data protection
- Disseminate and implement Council of Europe guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence
- Conduct an awareness-raising campaign on the importance of data protection for the benefit of the local population

The Chief of Special Communication and Information Security State Service of Azerbaijan, Tural Mammadov, said during the Cyber-Secure Economy: Reforms, Innovative Approaches and Solutions event in 2022 that a draft law on ensuring

⁵⁶⁶ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, *Decree No.1464 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (Oct. 11, 2021), <https://mincom.gov.az/storage/pages/1015/34a816171817c6fe6feadf9e170def84.pdf>

⁵⁶⁷ E-gov, *Regulations of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (Jan. 12, 2018), <https://www.e-gov.az/en/news/read/630>

⁵⁶⁸ Council of Europe, *Data Protection Systems in the Republic of Azerbaijan* (Dec. 2016), <https://rm.coe.int/16806ee927>

⁵⁶⁹ Council of Europe Portal, *Data Protection: Azerbaijan* (May 3, 2010), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/azerbaijan>

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personal data protection has been prepared in Azerbaijan based on European standards, the GDPR in particular.⁵⁷⁰

The Electronic Security Service under Azerbaijan's Ministry of Digital Development and Transport has drafted a new version of the law on the Protection of Personal Data. Reportedly, the amendments seek to “balance security and [...] ensure the reliable protection of citizens’ rights.”⁵⁷¹

Azerbaijan is not an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly and has not sponsored the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics,⁵⁷² the 2020 Resolution on AI and Accountability,⁵⁷³ the 2022 Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology, or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁵⁷⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Azerbaijan has neither signed nor ratified the protocol modernizing Convention 108, which provides for algorithmic transparency.⁵⁷⁵ National legislation does not provide for algorithmic transparency.

AI Readiness and Digitization

The Azerbaijan government has taken concrete steps to promote technology innovation. In June 2019, Presidential Decree 718 created a Centralized Government Cloud⁵⁷⁶ for the effective organization of the formation, storage, maintenance and integration of state information systems and reserves. The Decree also supports innovative solutions based on Artificial Intelligence and robotics and committed

⁵⁷⁰ Azernews, *Azerbaijan Applying Effective Measures to Ensure Population's Protection from Cyber Attacks* (Sept. 21, 2022), <https://www.azernews.az/business/199707.html>

⁵⁷¹ Report News Agency, *Azerbaijan updates law on protection of personal data* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://report.az/en/ict/azerbaijan-updates-law-on-protection-of-personal-data>

⁵⁷² International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵⁷³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁵⁷⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Charter of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 26, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁵⁷⁶ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Strategic Roadmap for Development of Telecommunications and Information Technologies in Azerbaijan Republic* (Dec. 6, 2016), <https://monitoring.az/assets/upload/files/6683729684f8895c1668803607932190.pdf>

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Azerbaijan to use “machine learning” (M2M), “artificial intelligence” (EU), “big data,” and “internet of things” (IoT) as bases for providing public services in the country.

The e-Gov Development Center of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations organized the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Digital Governance. The first panel discussions were dedicated to the transformation of healthcare with AI, the second panel focused on AI and society, and the last session addressed the future of artificial intelligence and how it will change human life.⁵⁷⁷

The Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) held several events dedicated to AI and machine learning. The events focused on exchanging views and experience on the development of AI and machine learning with the involvement of government agencies, private companies, scientific and educational institutions, and civil society.⁵⁷⁸

In October 2022, a mission of the Center for Analysis and Coordinator of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) participated in a “Global Dialogue: The role of artificial intelligence in the new global development—innovation and inclusiveness,” presenting the measures taken by the government on the digital economy in the country.⁵⁷⁹

AI and the Judiciary

The Head of the Innovation and Digital Development Agency of Azerbaijan, Inara Valiyeva, announced the introduction of the Unified Court System based on AI for 2023. The Unified Court System is currently operating in test mode in coordination with the Supreme Court with about 50,000 documents used in the

⁵⁷⁷ State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Digital Governance Has Ended* (Apr. 28, 2021), <https://www.digital.gov.az/en/media/press/the-international-conference-on-artificial-intelligence-in-digital-governance-has-ended>

⁵⁷⁸ Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, *Another Artificial Intelligence Event Organized* (Nov. 27, 2021), <https://old.economy.gov.az/en/article/suni-intellekt-uzre-novbeti-tedbir-teshkil-edilib/32162>; The Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, *Sessions Held within “Trends of the Fourth Industrial Revolution” Event* (Feb. 24, 2022), <https://www.economy.gov.az/en/article/dorduncu-senaye-i-nqilabinda-trendler-movzusunda-tedbir-cherchivesinde-sessiyalar-kechirilib/32341>.

⁵⁷⁹ Azertag, *Azerbaijan’s Center for Analysis and Coordination of Fourth Industrial Revolution Attends International Event in Geneva* (Oct. 12, 2022), https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijans_Center_for_Analysis_and_Coordination_of_Fourth_Industrial_Revolution_attends_international_event_in_Geneva-2331065

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creation of the system.⁵⁸⁰ Azerbaijan plans to focus on improving the quality of decision-making and management by using Big Data and AI technologies.⁵⁸¹ The project, conducted with the cooperation of the Council of Europe for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the World Bank, includes an automated random allocation of cases based on criteria regarding subject matter, weight of the case, and the court's or judge's caseload; a "fast-track procedure for uncontested small claims; an "e-Order" automated system"; and a unified judicial portal.⁵⁸²

The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport and the Ministry of Justice jointly launched the E-qanun.ai, an AI-driven search platform for Azerbaijan's legal documents and legislative database.⁵⁸³ The platform was developed as part of the implementation of the national AI Strategy to support natural language processing priorities outlined in subsection 8.2.2 of the Strategy.

Biometrics

The Law on Biometric Data adopted in 2008 determines the formation and requirements for biometric information resources, the organization and purpose of the biometric identification system, and the application of biometric technologies. The law also regulates the relations arising in this area. Azerbaijan began issuing biometric-based electronic identity cards in September 2018. The cards contain information on place of residence and marital status as well as photos and fingerprints if the citizen is over age 15.⁵⁸⁴

AI Surveillance

A Freedom House 2022 report indicated that "state surveillance is pervasive, though the exact extent to which security agencies monitor ICT activity or track users

⁵⁸⁰ Report News Agency, *Azerbaijan Creates Unified Judicial System Based on Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 16, 2022), <https://report.az/en/ict/azerbaijan-creates-unified-judicial-system-based-on-artificial-intelligence/>

⁵⁸¹ Ibid

⁵⁸² Judge Dr. Ramin Gurbanov, Project Coordinator, President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), *Azerbaijan: e-Courts and the Joint Achievements in Digitalization of Justice* (Jun. 2021), <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/3ecf7262788a3ec69c8a45bbd3342a28-0080022021/related/29-06-21-Presentation-e-Court-WB-Dr-Ramin-Gurbanov.pdf>; European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, *Strengthening the Efficiency and Quality of the Judicial System in Azerbaijan* (Mar. 2019–Feb. 2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/strengthening-the-efficiency-and-quality-of-the-judicial-system-in-azerbaijan>.

⁵⁸³ Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, *E-qanun.ai Platform Officially Presented* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.mincom.gov.az/en/media-en/news/e-qanunai-platform-officially-presented>

⁵⁸⁴ Azerbaijan Milli Majlis [National Assembly], *Law No. 651–IIIQ: Biometric Data Law (Ədliyyə Nazirliyi Hüquqi aktların vahid elektron bazası, Biometrik informasiya haqqında)* (Jun. 13, 2008), <https://e-qanun.az/framework/15144>

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remains unclear.”⁵⁸⁵ Usage of surveillance tools by the Azerbaijani Government was also reported by Amnesty International.⁵⁸⁶ The OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) named Azerbaijan’s surveillance a Digital Autocracy.⁵⁸⁷ A report by Open Tech found that Azerbaijan is one of several countries where censorship, facial recognition, and access to encrypted communication have been prevalent as forms of information control.⁵⁸⁸

The Law on Operative-Search Activity authorizes agencies to conduct surveillance without a court order in cases where it is regarded as necessary to prevent serious crimes against individuals or especially dangerous crimes against the state. The vaguely written provision leaves the law open to abuse. It has long been believed that the State Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs monitor the communications of individuals, especially foreigners, prominent political activists, and business figures.⁵⁸⁹

In 2015, leaked documents showed that the Azerbaijani government was a client of the Italian surveillance company Hacking Team.⁵⁹⁰ In the previous year, Citizen Lab reported that the government was using RCS (Remote Control System) spyware sold by Hacking Team. The RCS endpoint was active in Azerbaijan between June and November 2013. Azerbaijan hit international headlines in 2013 when the results of the October presidential elections were accidentally released before voting began.⁵⁹¹ RCS allows anyone with access to activate a targeted device’s camera and microphone and to steal videos, photos, documents, contact lists, and emails.⁵⁹²

⁵⁸⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom of the Net 2022* (2022),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2022>

⁵⁸⁶ Amnesty International, *Demand an End to the Targeted Surveillance of Human Rights Defenders* (Aug. 16, 2016), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/targeted-surveillance-human-rights-defenders/>

⁵⁸⁷ Miranda Patrucic and Kelly Bloss, *Life in Azerbaijan’s Digital Autocracy: ‘They Want to be in Control of Everything’* (Jul. 18, 2021), <https://www.occrp.org/en/the-pegasus-project/life-in-azerbajians-digital-autocracy-they-want-to-be-in-control-of-everything>

⁵⁸⁸ Valentin Weber, *The Worldwide Web of Chinese and Russian Information Controls*, p. 20, https://public.opentech.fund/documents/English_Weber_WWW_of_Information_Controls_Final.pdf

⁵⁸⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2021* (2021),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2021>

⁵⁹⁰ Cora Currier, *A Detailed Look at Hacking Team’s Emails About Its Respective Clients* (Jul. 7, 2015), <https://theintercept.com/2015/07/07/leaked-documents-confirm-hacking-team-sells-spyware-repressive-countries/>, also see Amnesty International, *New EU Dual Use Regulation Agreement “A Missed Opportunity” to Stop Exports of Surveillance Tools to Repressive Regimes* (Mar. 25, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/03/new-eu-dual-use-regulation-agreement-a-missed-opportunity-to-stop-exports-of-surveillance-tools-to-repressive-regimes/>

⁵⁹¹ Citizen Lab, *Mapping Hacking Team’s “Untraceable” Spyware* (Feb. 17, 2014), <https://citizenlab.ca/2014/02/mapping-hacking-teams-untraceable-spyware/>

⁵⁹² Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2021* (2021),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2021>

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In 2017, Amnesty International reported that Azerbaijani human rights activists, journalists, and political dissidents have been the targets of a sustained spear phishing campaign using emails and Facebook chat, apparently aimed at gaining access to their personal information and private communications.⁵⁹³ In the same year, malware targeted Azerbaijani dissidents.⁵⁹⁴

An April 2018 report by Qurium revealed that Azerbaijan had purchased specialized security equipment, in particular Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) technology, from the Israeli company Allot Communications for some \$3 million.⁵⁹⁵

In October 2018, Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that Israel's Verint Systems had sold surveillance equipment and software to the Azerbaijani government. Local police later used the equipment to identify the sexual orientation of users on Facebook.⁵⁹⁶ Haaretz reported that a few years after Verint's systems began being used Azerbaijani police arrested and tortured 45 gay men and transgender women.⁵⁹⁷

In July 2021, an investigative initiative led by Forbidden Stories concluded that the Pegasus software produced by the Israeli cybersurveillance company NSO Group was used in Azerbaijan to target more than 40 Azerbaijani journalists.⁵⁹⁸ Reporters with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which was among the groups working on the project, found some 250 potential targets in Azerbaijan, the majority of whom were "dissidents, activists, journalists, and opposition politicians." The report added that "journalists came under particular pressure, with dozens of prominent names, including OCCRP's Khadija Ismayilova, appearing on the list."⁵⁹⁹

The day full-scale war erupted between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High

⁵⁹³ Amnesty International, *Azerbaijan: Activists Targeted by "Government-Sponsored" Cyberattack* (Mar. 10 2017), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/03/azerbaijan-activists-targeted-by-government-sponsored-cyber-attack/>

⁵⁹⁴ Amnesty International, *False Friends: How Fake Accounts and Crude Malware Targeted Dissidents in Azerbaijan* (Mar. 10, 2017), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2017/03/false-friends-spearphishing-of-dissidents-in-azerbaijan/>

⁵⁹⁵ Qurium, *Corruption, Censorship and a Deep Packet Inspection Vendor* (Apr. 10, 2018), https://www.qurium.org/alerts/azerbaijan/corruption_censorship_and_a_dpi_vendor/

⁵⁹⁶ Haaretz, *Revealed: Israel's Cyber-Spy Industry Helps World Dictators Hunt Dissidents and Gays* (Oct. 20, 2018), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-israel-s-cyber-spy-industry-aids-dictators-hunt-dissidents-and-gays-1.6573027>

⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹⁸ Amnesty International, *Massive Data Leak Reveals Israeli NSO Group's Spyware Used to Target Activists, Journalists, and Political Leaders Globally* (Jul. 19, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/07/the-pegasus-project-2/>

⁵⁹⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2021* (2021), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2021>

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Technologies throttled mobile and fixed-line broadband internet across Azerbaijan and blocked a number of social media platforms and websites, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Skype. The action lasted 46 days, Azerbaijan's longest internet disruption to date.⁶⁰⁰

Facial Recognition

A 2019 report by Qurium indicated that Azerbaijan's government may be using facial-recognition technology. Qurium identified an AzerTelecom server running the software.⁶⁰¹

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies (now Ministry of Digital Development and Transport) developed a Public-Private Partnership with SVORT and Sinam to establish AzInTelecom LLC. AzInTelecom is developing a new generation cloud digital signature called SIMA.⁶⁰² SIMA's initial purpose is to facilitate access to e-government services but will expand to the use of services through banks, mobile operators, internet providers, and household appliance stores. SIMA combines face recognition, public key, and cloud technologies and is based on biometric authentication.

Based on SIMA signatures, the Information Computing Centre is developing a payment system with face recognition technology.⁶⁰³ Users scan their identity card and verify their identity via face recognition through the front camera of the mobile devices.⁶⁰⁴ E-signatures are regulated by the Law of Azerbaijan on Electronic Signature and Electronic Document of March 9, 2004.⁶⁰⁵ No amendments were introduced concerning SIMA, biometric authentication, or facial recognition.

Smart Cities

As part of its plan to repopulate the Karabakh area following the war with Armenia, Azerbaijan plans to build Smart Cities/Villages in Zangilan. After the first

⁶⁰⁰ Ibid

⁶⁰¹ Qurium, *Find Face and Internet Blocking in Azerbaijan* (Dec. 3, 2019), <https://www.qurium.org/alerts/azerbaijan/find-face-and-internet-blocking-in-azerbaijan/>

⁶⁰² Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan, *New Generation Digital Signature Presented in Azerbaijan – SIMA* (Feb. 11, 2022), <https://mincom.gov.az/az/media/xeberler/azerbaycanda-yeni-nesil-reqemsal-imza-teqdim-edilib-sima1431>

⁶⁰³ Xeberler, *A Payment System Will Be Introduced in Azerbaijan* (Nov. 5, 2021), <https://xeberler.az/new/details/azerbaycanda-uztanima-ile-odenis-sistemi-tetbiq-edilecek--27254.htm>

⁶⁰⁴ Sadraddin Aghjaye, *Azerbaijan Eyes Creating New Payment Service Using e-Signature Capabilities (Interview)* (Mar. 14, 2022), <https://en.trend.az/business/3568769.html>

⁶⁰⁵ Digital Trade Hub of Azerbaijan, *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Electronic Signature and Electronic Document* (Mar. 9, 2004), <https://dth.az/legal-framework>

pilot project of the Aghali village, three additional smart villages were planned for 2023.⁶⁰⁶

The President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, announced in January 2021 that “settlements recently liberated from Armenian occupation will be re-established based on the concept of smart city/village.”⁶⁰⁷ The Concept of Smart Cities and Smart Villages was later approved by presidential order.⁶⁰⁸ The Smart City/Village concept is to be implemented through working groups representing various ministries.⁶⁰⁹ A publication of the Baku Research Institute provides insights about the Smart Cities concept as a means to promote sustainable development of territories and attract population back.⁶¹⁰ The World Bank published a framework and Smart Villages Readiness Index for Azerbaijan to support the country in ensuring that economic opportunities, access of service, and governance are applied in the process.⁶¹¹

Environmental Impact of AI

The Minister of Digital Development and Transport emphasized the country’s attention the principles of sustainable development in its technology and innovation agenda in his announcement of the national strategy for AI development.⁶¹² However, no available policies demonstrate how officials plan to implement the principles.

⁶⁰⁶ Asif Mehman, *Azerbaijani State to Fund Implementation of “Smart Village” Project in Aghdam* (Sept. 6, 2023), <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3793294.html>; Dilara Aslan Özer, *Daily Sabah, Azerbaijan to Build 3 More “Smart Villages” in Zangilan by End of 2023* (Sept. 22, 2022), <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/azerbaijan-to-build-3-more-smart-villages-in-zangilan-by-end-of-2023/news>.

⁶⁰⁷ Ruslan Rehimov, AA (Anadolu Agency), *Azerbaijan to Build “Smart Cities” in Liberated Regions* (Jan. 26, 2021), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/azerbaijan-to-build-smart-cities-in-liberated-regions/2123643>

⁶⁰⁸ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Order No. 2584 on Developing the Concept of Smart City and Smart Village* (Apr. 19, 2021), <https://minenergy.gov.az/en/prezidentin-ferman-ve-serencamlari/page/3>

⁶⁰⁹ Ruslan Rehimov, AA (Anadolu Agency), *Azerbaijan to Build ‘Smart Cities’ in Liberated Regions* (Jan. 26, 2021), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/azerbaijan-to-build-smart-cities-in-liberated-regions/2123643>

⁶¹⁰ Baku Research Institute, *Building Smart Cities and Villages in Azerbaijan: Challenges and Opportunities* (Aug. 6, 2021), <https://bakuresearchinstitute.org/en/building-smart-cities-and-villages-in-azerbaijan-challenges-and-opportunities/>

⁶¹¹ World Bank, *A Framework for Developing Smart Villages in Azerbaijan* (Oct. 19, 2021), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/azerbaijan/publication/a-framework-for-developing-smart-villages-in-azerbaijan>

⁶¹² Nazrin Abdul, *Azernews, Azerbaijan Announces Draft Strategy for Artificial Intelligence Development* (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.azernews.az/business/232395.html>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

During his swearing-in ceremony in February 2024, Azerbaijan's President, Ilham Aliyev stated, "Today, in the field of industrial development, in military industrial complex and, in general, in the military field, technological development and superiority are of great importance. Everyone saw this during the Second Karabakh War and the anti-terrorist operation. [...] Technological development, digitization, cybersecurity, application of artificial intelligence—all these should become part of our daily life. Government agencies, the private sector, and all other segments of society must be ready for this. [...] I do not see any dangers or threats to Azerbaijan but I know why—because they know that our response will be merciless, it will be crushing, and it will be given regardless of anything. Therefore, if we do not achieve technological development, if there are just a few thousand not tens of thousands of Azerbaijanis in this business, we may be overtaken. Therefore, I think that all institutions and, at the same time, society should know and see this as a duty."⁶¹³

Azerbaijan is not a party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW),⁶¹⁴ although the country participated as an observer on CCW meetings on killer robots in November 2019.⁶¹⁵ Azerbaijan is not among the countries that support a ban on lethal autonomous weapons.⁶¹⁶ At the Plenary meeting on December 22, 2023, Azerbaijan abstained from voting on General Assembly Resolution 78/241, which asks UN Secretary-General António Guterres to seek the views of countries and other stakeholders on addressing the challenges of autonomous weapons systems from various perspectives and report back in the second half of 2024.⁶¹⁷

⁶¹³ Report News Agency, *Inauguration Ceremony of President Ilhan Aliyev Held at Milli Majlis* (Feb. 14, 2024), <https://report.az/en/domestic-politics/inauguration-ceremony-of-president-ilham-aliyev-held-at-milli-majlis/>

⁶¹⁴ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Jun. 25, 2024), <https://www.un.org/disarmament/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw/>

⁶¹⁵ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Final Report of the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Conventional Weapons*, CCW/MSP/2019/9 (Nov. 13–15, 2019), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/343/64/PDF/G1934364.pdf?OpenElement>

⁶¹⁶ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

⁶¹⁷ Human Rights Watch, *Resounding Support for Killer Robots Treaty* (May 2, 2024), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/02/resounding-support-killer-robots-treaty>

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Over the last decade, Azerbaijan has steadily built up its armed forces and purchased weapons from Russia, Israel, and Türkiye.⁶¹⁸ Azerbaijan also developed drone arsenal composed of Turkish and Israeli UAVs.⁶¹⁹

In 2016, during the Four-Day War, also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in which the Azerbaijani Armed Forces faced the Armenian-backed Artsakh Defense Army, Azerbaijan used the Harop UAV to hit many targets, including artillery, air defense systems, and a busload of Armenian troops.⁶²⁰ As Forbes reported,⁶²¹ the Harops were supplied by Israel. In 2017 a team from Aeronautics was in Azerbaijan to finalize a contract for Orbiter 1K kamikaze drones and were asked to attack enemy positions. Apparently when the Israeli drone operators refused, “senior representatives of the company took control and operated the craft themselves, ultimately missing their targets.” Israeli authorities imposed a two-year ban on Aeronautics for this stunt. But when the ban expired in 2019, the company promptly announced a \$13m deal to sell drones to Azerbaijan. In the longer term, Azerbaijan plans to produce a licensed copy of the Orbiter known as Zarba themselves.

An Azerbaijani company announced in 2018 that it was working on three different sizes of kamikaze drones,⁶²² including one with an 11-pound warhead able to cruise for three hours looking for targets, while another company announced manufacturing kamikaze-drone called Bat.⁶²³

Algorithm Watch reported that Azerbaijani forces used at least three different models of drones capable of identifying and destroying a target automatically⁶²⁴ and

⁶¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

⁶¹⁹ Centre for Strategic and International Studies, *The Air and Missile War in Nagorno-Karabakh: Lessons for the Future of Strike and Defence* (Dec. 8, 2020), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/air-and-missile-war-nagorno-karabakh-lessons-future-strike-and-defense>

⁶²⁰ Forbes, *The Weird and Worrying Drone War in the Caucasus* (Jun. 22, 2020), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidhambling/2020/06/22/the-weird-and-worrying-drone-war-in-the-caucasus/?sh=5a3148f145da>

⁶²¹ *Ibid*

⁶²² Azeri Defence, *Azerbaijani Company Has Made Prototype of Three Kinds of Loitering Munitions* (Mar. 15, 2018), <https://web.archive.org/web/20180528041925/http://en.azeridefence.com/azerbaijani-company-has-made-prototype-of-three-kinds-of-loitering-munitions/>

⁶²³ Azernews, *Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences Produces Kamikaze Drone* (Apr. 26, 2018), <https://www.azernews.az/nation/138175.html>

⁶²⁴ Algorithm Watch, *The Year Algorithms Escaped Quarantine: 2020 in Review* (Dec. 28, 2020), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/review-2020/>

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several autonomous weapons in the Second Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, known as the 2020 War.⁶²⁵

The 2020 War raised serious questions concerning the legality of UAVs and autonomous weapons. Ulrike Franke, autonomous weapons expert from the European Council on Foreign Relations, saw a watershed in warfare and commented: “The really important aspect of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, in my view, was the use of these loitering munitions, so-called “kamikaze drones”—these pretty autonomous systems.”⁶²⁶ Human Rights Watch, in a statement to support the International Committee of the Red Cross initiative to ban Killer Robots, indicated: “the increased use of weapons systems with autonomy in today’s armed conflicts underscores the importance of creating a new international legal standard now, before it is too late.”⁶²⁷

The Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh was dissolved in 2024.⁶²⁸ In 2023, with Russia distracted and bogged down by its war in Ukraine, Azerbaijan launched a blockade of Nagorno Karabakh, eventually seizing the region and causing the majority of its Armenian population to flee.⁶²⁹

In the preliminary report on the draft of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, Azerbaijan was referenced as a case of the use of AI technologies in armed conflicts. The report concluded that: “from the point of view of international humanitarian law, it is highly recommended to have certain regulations concerning the use of AI in military technology, so-called lethal autonomous weapons.”⁶³⁰

⁶²⁵ Robyn Dixon, Washington Post, *Azerbaijan’s Drones Owned the Battlefield in Nagorno-Karabakh — And Showed Future of Warfare* (Nov. 11, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/nagorno-karabakh-drones-azerbaijan-armenia/2020/11/11/441bcbd2-193d-11eb-8bda-814ca56e138b_story.html

⁶²⁶ Deutsche Welle, *DW Report on Cyber and Autonomous Weapons: Future Wars — And How to Prevent Them* (Jun. 7, 2021), <https://www.dw.com/en/dw-report-on-cyber-and-autonomous-weapons-future-wars-and-how-to-prevent-them/a-57801575>

⁶²⁷ Human Rights Watch, *International Committee of the Red Cross Backs Killer Robot Ban* (May 13, 2021), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/13/international-committee-red-cross-backs-killer-robot-ban>

⁶²⁸ CNN, *Nagorno-Karabakh to Officially Dissolve, Marking an End to Its Decades-Long Struggle* (Sept. 28, 2023), <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/09/28/europe/nagorno-karabakh-officially-dissolve-intl/index.html>

⁶²⁹ Simon Anglim, *Azerbaijan’s Victory: Initial Thoughts, Observations (and Caveats for the ‘Innovative’)*, Military Strategy Magazine 7, no. 3, pp. 10–17 (2021), <https://www.militarystrategymagazine.com/article/azerbaijans-victory-initial-thoughts-and-observations-and-caveats-for-the-innovative/>

⁶³⁰ UNESCO, *Compilation of Comments Received from Member States on the First Draft of the Recommendation* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000376747>

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AI Literacy

There is growing emphasis on digital skills and AI readiness in Azerbaijan's AI strategy and educational policy. UNESCO reported that Azerbaijan's education authorities define digital literacy as a basic competency for all learners and data classes will be integrated throughout the educational path.⁶³¹ However, there is no documented national program for the public or for civil servants nor a publicly available AI or digital literacy curriculum or standards.

Human Rights

Azerbaijan is a Member State of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe. Azerbaijan endorsed the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶³² and ratified the European Convention on Human Rights. Azerbaijan also has human rights obligations at the regional⁶³³ and universal levels.

The 2025 Freedom House report on Azerbaijan ranks the country as “Not Free” with a score of 7 out of 100.⁶³⁴ Among key aspects, the report cited the concentration of power in the authoritarian regime headed by President Ilham Aliyev since 2003 and his family. According to Freedom House, “Corruption is rampant, and the formal political opposition has been weakened by years of persecution. The authorities have carried out an extensive crackdown on civil liberties in recent years, leaving little room for independent expression or activism.” The fleeing of nearly all ethnic Armenians from the Nagorno-Karabakh region following Azerbaijani control in 2023 also contributed to the country's “not free” status.

Azerbaijan scores 34/100 on internet freedom.⁶³⁵ Internet freedom continues to be restricted with blocked access to several social media sites and self-censorship through a media registry. “The government also launched a media registry, required by the new media law adopted in 2022, and rejected the applications of several independent news outlets to join the registry. Prosecution of activists for their online

⁶³¹ UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report: Azerbaijan, Technology* (Aug. 5, 2024), <https://education-profiles.org/northern-africa-and-western-asia/azerbaijan/~technology>

⁶³² International Justice Resource Center, *Azerbaijan Factsheet* (Jul. 2019), <https://ijrcenter.org/country-factsheets/country-factsheets-europe/azerbaijan-human-rights-factsheet/>

⁶³³ Council of Europe, *46 Member States* (2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/46-members-states>

⁶³⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Azerbaijan* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-world/2025>

⁶³⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Azerbaijan* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2024>

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criticism of the government continued during the coverage period. Additionally, activists faced online harassment, doxing, and blackmail.”⁶³⁶

The Council of Europe (CoE) Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022–2025 includes strategic programming to align legislation, institutions, and practices further with CoE standards in human rights, the rule of law, and democracy.⁶³⁷ Among the objectives of the Action Plan are: the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁶³⁸ and the identification of areas for cooperation in artificial intelligence.

Azerbaijan is also part of Partnership for Good Governance, through which the European Union and the Council of Europe cooperate to strengthen governance in the Eastern Partnership region⁶³⁹ and advance localized efforts to improve “stability, prosperity, and resilience.”⁶⁴⁰

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Azerbaijan is a member of neither the OECD nor the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)⁶⁴¹ and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁶⁴² The OECD Development Centre has been supporting Azerbaijan in the promotion of enterprise digitalization. A 2022 study highlighted the significance of digitalization to allow Small Medium Enterprises access to strategic resources and integration into global markets.⁶⁴³

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Azerbaijan contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human

⁶³⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2023: Azerbaijan* (2023), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/azerbaijan/freedom-net/2023>

⁶³⁷ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2022–2025* (Feb. 1, 2022), <https://rm.coe.int/action-plan-azerbaijan-2022-2025-eng/1680a59aa3>

⁶³⁸ United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals* (2023), <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

⁶³⁹ Diplomatic Service of the European Union, *Eastern Partnership* (Mar. 17, 2022), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eastern-partnership_en

⁶⁴⁰ European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, *Partnership for Good Governance in Azerbaijan* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/cooperation-programmes/partnership-for-good-governance-azerbaijan>

⁶⁴¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶⁴² OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁶⁴³ OECD, *Promoting Enterprise Digitalisation in Azerbaijan* (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1787/6a612a2a-en>

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Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁴⁴ However, Azerbaijan has not signed the treaty.⁶⁴⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Azerbaijan is a UNESCO member since 1992 and is one of the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁶⁴⁶ Azerbaijan has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁶⁴⁷ a foundational tool for countries to implement the UNESCO Recommendation.

Evaluation

Azerbaijan has set an ambitious goal of embracing new technologies to propel the economic growth of the country. The digitalization process in Azerbaijan has been accelerating and has stimulated several initiatives, including the release of a National AI Strategy and AI standards supporting its implementation. The country has not yet signed the protocol modernizing Convention 108 nor created an independent agency or mechanism for data (and AI) oversight to modernize its data protection law regime. Concerns exist that, with the use of AI, Azerbaijan is turning into a “digital autocracy.” The country has not endorsed any declaration against the use of LAWS and has been a laboratory for their use.

⁶⁴⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁴⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁶⁴⁶ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁴⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Bahrain

In 2025, Bahrain launched a National AI Policy to guide the use of AI in the public sector. The country also published an AI readiness assessment report built on the UNESCO RAM.

National AI Strategy

The Bahraini government and legislature have initiated and operationalized a multi-layered framework including a national policy, a regionally aligned ethical manual to ensure cultural and legal interoperability, and a binding standalone law to regulate high-risk applications and establish legal certainty. The Kingdom of Bahrain envisions AI development and application as an opportunity to establish the country's leadership in digital transformation and a tool to improve services to citizens and streamline government processes more broadly.⁶⁴⁸ Fundamental principles for the National AI Policy⁶⁴⁹ (iGA National Policy) include human decision-making and control; safety and prevention of harm; fairness, equity, and non-discrimination; transparency and explainability; responsibility, accountability, and awareness; integrity and non-fabrication; privacy and data protection; reliability and safety; investment; promotion innovation; and protection of intellectual property rights. The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) structured the National AI Policy structured around four key pillars: Policies and Legislation, AI Use and Adoption, Awareness and Education, and Enhancing Local and International Cooperation.

Bahrain adopted the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Guiding Manual on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence to promote the AI use consistent with human values, local laws, and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁶⁵⁰ The guide focuses on four main values: promoting human dignity and autonomy; respecting Islamic Sharia, the Constitution, and cooperation among GCC countries; protecting the environment and promoting sustainability; and achieving human well-being. The principles center on four areas: human autonomy and decision-making;

⁶⁴⁸ Government of Bahrain, *Artificial Intelligence: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Bahrain* (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/ExploreBahrain/ArtificialIntelligence>

⁶⁴⁹ Information & eGovernment Authority, *General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 5–6 (May 20, 2025), [https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National Digital Policies/General Policy for the Use of AI - Final 30 Jul 2025.pdf](https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National%20Digital%20Policies/General%20Policy%20for%20the%20Use%20of%20AI%20-%20Final%2030%20Jul%202025.pdf)

⁶⁵⁰ Gulf Cooperation Council, *Guiding Manual on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Use in Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Version 1*, pp. 3–4 (Nov. 2023), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/f863157d-2753-4ef7-a4dd-21f8f7c01cdb/The+Guiding+Manual+on+the+Ethics+of+Artificial+Intelligence+for+GCC+Member+States.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=psWZnfZ>

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system safety and harm prevention; justice, fairness, and non-discrimination; and privacy and data protection.

A 2023 Telecommunications Plan⁶⁵¹ and iGA National Policy are part of government plans to transition Bahrain to a knowledge-based economy that keeps pace with the global trends in science and technology.⁶⁵² In the opening of the 5th legislative cycle of 2019, for example, H.M. King Hamada bin Isa Al Khalifa directed the government to undertake a national plan to increase the readiness for the digital economy “by adopting and employing artificial intelligence technology in the production and service sectors, through the establishment of the necessary systems and technical frameworks, as well as through encouraging quality investments, in order to guarantee the maximum benefit to our national economy.”⁶⁵³

The broader strategic digital and economic initiatives include the Kingdom’s Economic Vision 2030,⁶⁵⁴ which addresses AI policy and development in the country.⁶⁵⁵ The Digital Transformation Journey of the Kingdom focuses on fostering an innovation ecosystem for the use of emerging technologies for the benefit of the Bahraini society. The Kingdom “encourages those involved in designing, developing, and deploying new technologies to ensure that they are consistent with the Kingdom’s values and adhere to international norms and standards.”⁶⁵⁶

AI Legislation

Bahrain’s Shura Council unanimously approved a new standalone law to regulate AI in April 2024.⁶⁵⁷ The law identifies offenses for manipulating content

⁶⁵¹ Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, *Sixth National Telecommunication Plan* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.mtt.gov.bh/projects/sixth-national-telecommunications-plan>

⁶⁵² Oxford Business Group, *Viewpoint: King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa* (2020), <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/articles-interviews/eye-on-the-future-king-hamad-bin-isa-al-khalifa-on-modernisation-and-the-ongoing-transition-to-a-knowledge-based-economy-viewpoint>

⁶⁵³ Bahrain News Agency, *HM King Opens Second Session of 5th Legislative Term* (Oct. 13, 2019), <https://www.bna.bh/en/HMKingopenssecondsessionof5thLegislativeTerm.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1+DnPyGy%2FzC+rQlxqVtgB48bs=>

⁶⁵⁴ Bahrain’s National Portal, *The Economic Vision 2030 Bahrain* (2016), <https://www.mofne.gov.bh/en/project-initiatives/bahrain-economic-vision-2030/>

⁶⁵⁵ Information & eGovernment Authority, *Emerging Technologies* (2022), <https://www.iga.gov.bh/en/category/emerging-technologies>

⁶⁵⁶ Bahrain’s National Portal, *Government of Bahrain’s Digital Transformation Journey* (Jan. 16, 2022), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/BahrainAtAGlance/BahrainDigitalGovernmentJourney/>

⁶⁵⁷ Shura Council, *Proposed Law Regulating Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Their Uses* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://perma.cc/PBY7-CD94>

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without consent, punishable by fines and imprisonment.⁶⁵⁸ The AI Regulation Law also requires ministers to establish sector-specific regulations.⁶⁵⁹ The Council of Representatives is reviewing the law.

Public Participation

Since 2016, Bahrain has been very active in promoting and developing public participation in relation to its digital services and technology. This has consistently involved a theme of strong encouragement of citizens and users to engage with the government via primarily digital means and social media. Bahrain's eGov Strategy 2016 included a digitized National Suggestions and Complaints System, an open data platform, and continued encouragement of uptake of eGovernment services. In 2018, the strategy directly prioritized objectives including "Nurturing active participation and engagement with constituents."⁶⁶⁰

The iGA National Policy specifies where updates will be posted and provides an email address connected to an invitation that "All comments and suggestions related to the General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Kingdom of Bahrain are welcomed and appreciated."⁶⁶¹ The invitation notes that feedback will help improve the document and ensure it is comprehensive and aligned with the user's needs.

The Public consultation on the implementation of at least six draft regulations to complement the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL)⁶⁶² resulted in the

⁶⁵⁸ Gulf Daily News Online, *New Law to Regulate Use of AI Approved in Bahrain* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/new-law-to-regulate-use-of-ai-approved-in-bahrain-djpvmm4r>

⁶⁵⁹ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Parliamentary Actions on AI Policy*, Bahrain (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.ipu.org/impact/democracy-and-strong-parliaments/artificial-intelligence/parliamentary-actions-ai-policy>

⁶⁶⁰ Government of Bahrain, *The Information & eGovernment Authority's Strategy, eGov Strategy 2018*, https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en!/ut/p/z0/fY69TsNQDEZfxUtmX4r6wwhUImWgSAyUu1ROY27cJnZ661Tk7QIMTIyfdM7RhxF3GJWuksjFINppf8TF_mYzD-XqMYTy5XUdFttYtZwtH263dzN8Y8VnjP9DU0WO53O8x3gwdf5y3FXa71mLQJUNDt4wnERTbV0RKmoyiUItSZxaSHblrB2rw9GGrDwWIXNLzjW49XK4FOEnIPppuf9DqQ18B-RBm8si49w8TyZacT-9PT-DVRXnPM!/

⁶⁶¹ Information & eGovernment Authority, *General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence*, p. 13 (May 20, 2025), <https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National Digital Policies/General Policy for the Use of AI - Final 30 Jul 2025.pdf>

⁶⁶² Bahrain News Agency, *Consultation on Implementing Bahrain's Personal Data Protection Law Launched Online* (Jun. 14, 2021), <http://bna.bh/en/HMKingissuesdecree46/ConsultationonimplementingBahrainsPersonalDataProtectionLawlaunchedonline.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1+DhLTzyak+XqL0ckS1SQmlDM=>

enactment of ten ministerial resolutions in March 2022 to align the PDPL more closely to international standards and the GDPR.⁶⁶³

In the Digital Government Strategy 2022, the government developed the “Leave No One Behind” digital policy to focus on citizen needs, underpinned by the Digital First principle.⁶⁶⁴ This principle prioritizes the design of public services digitally first to encourage citizens voicing their concerns and opinions via portals such as Tawasul. The design should require citizens and corporations to supply data only once to a government entity and the pooling of government data for greater public accessibility and civic engagement, which supports Bahrain’s Digital Identities initiative.

Bahrain has established a system to receive public feedback on how to run services more efficiently and effectively. However, outcomes and findings from participatory action are not always publicly available.

Data Protection

Bahrain has led the region in the enactment of legislation aligned to the highest global standards. The Kingdom was the second state in the Gulf Region, following Qatar, to address personal data protection as a right, with the enactment of Law No. (30) of 2018 with Respect to Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL).⁶⁶⁵ The Royal Decree No (78) of 2019 established the Personal Data Protection Authority (PDPA),⁶⁶⁶ and granted the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf the chair of the Board of Directors of the PDPA.⁶⁶⁷ The PDPA has the responsibility to enforce the law and investigate potential violations.

The PDPL, inspired by the EU GDPR, entered into effect in August 2019. The Law protects the rights of individuals regarding the collection, processing, and

⁶⁶³ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World: Bahrain* (Jan. 17, 2024),

<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=BH>

⁶⁶⁴ Kingdom of Bahrain, *Digital-First Policies: Bahrain’s Digital Path* (Jul. 30, 2024),

https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/HomeNationalPortal/ContentDetailsPage!/ut/p/z0/1Y67bsJAEV_ZVO4RDPYxEAZgoQTiYSAxGMbtLZH9oTnrLEXIM_HUPGo6O69Oro6oGENWsyRC-PZibFt3-h42_14xWTwjgb90L8WQ7n8WjaxeKkggUJfIK-hpKv2Rjj72TQD_ujCCM8v_DvfqfQGdOPPI7WKdSbUkCNKk7eOVLUjuWInd_AaamrA0LK0sFN_bi0gRYUxspV95VnLW9IVNnpWK54e5tHpWftMm5YG-sqpzljKl5XKDaTVYdvXk5AeziS-M!/

⁶⁶⁵ Information Guide, *Personal Data Protection, Law No. 30 of 2018 with Respect to Personal Data Protection* (2018), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/ab8b334e-8c6f-4ff9-90b6-94135da559ca/Law+No.+%2830%29+of+2018+DPL.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=oFapPNI>

⁶⁶⁶ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Royal Decree No. 78*, Lexis Middle East (2022),

https://www.lexismiddleeast.com/law/Bahrain/Decree_78_2019/en

⁶⁶⁷ Akin Gump, *Bahrain Ministry of Justice to Act as Data Protection Authority* (Oct. 15, 2019),

<https://www.mondaq.com/data-protection/857510/bahrain-ministry-of-justice-to-act-as-data-protection-authority>

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storage of their personal data (whether by automatic or manual means), and establishes obligations to data controllers or data processors in their relationship with data owners or subjects.⁶⁶⁸

The PDPL shares similarities with the GDPR⁶⁶⁹ in the rights to notification of data collection and processing, right to erasure, and right of rectification, but differs in some specifics related to the right to be informed (Article 18) and the right to object to processing of personal data (Articles 19, 20, and 21). Exceptions to the right not to be subject to decision-making based on solely automated means (Article 22), the absence of the right to data portability, and the shorter period of response to data subjects' requests (15 days vs one month in the GDPR) are important differences.

Unlike the GDPR, the PDPL mandates data managers to recognize the right of Bahraini data owners to object to personal data that causes harm or distress to the data owner or any persons. Prior written approval from the Personal Data Protection Authority is mandatory before processing certain personal data. Article 58 defines criminal and civil penalties for violations including prison, in specified cases, in contrast with GDPR where only monetary penalties are defined.

Following public consultations, the Minister of Justice issued ten decisions to guide implementation of the PDPL. These decisions specified technical requirements to protect personal data, rules and procedures for processing, the transfer of data outside of Bahrain, conditions for creating publicly accessible personal data records, and administrative fees and policies.⁶⁷⁰ Terms and language such as transparency and accountability are mentioned briefly, as well as human rights and freedoms.

Other laws that provide general rights to privacy, including digital privacy,⁶⁷¹ are: Article 26 of the Kingdom's constitution, which safeguards confidentiality of

⁶⁶⁸ DLA Piper, *Bahrain Publishes Personal Data Protection Law* (Sept. 17, 2018), <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/qatar/insights/publications/2018/09/bahrain-publishes-personal-data-protection-law/>

⁶⁶⁹ Securiti, *Bahrain's PDPL vs. GDPR* (2023), <https://securiti.ai/bahrain-pdpl-vs-gdpr/>

⁶⁷⁰ Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, *The Minister of Justice Issues Ten Decisions to Implement the Personal Data Protection Law* (Mar. 20, 2022), <https://www.moj.gov.bh/index.php/en/news-archived-291>

⁶⁷¹ Government of Bahrain, Information Guide, *Personal Data Protection* (Mar. 25, 2025), https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en!/ut/p/z1/tZLNcoIwFIVfhY1L5l6CELe2TovtjFotlTk4AYKmsHlXtT9PX3DXhWIXzSp35pxJzvkuMFgBU_wkN9xKrfi-mVMWrr1xgNHgHjGazEYYTqMBJfTOh858SH4LvNcY8WU5Hs6nDyMP-x6wW_x44QzxNv9FAenyL4EBM7ksIPUDUpQlJS6hNHT7WZ-6WVksl_OQC-oFNCiwVefKGruFNfNmLVQPeabfrWO3wtlJtSl0lcOMb2sulXT2YiOP-3Obxx7WormKwrHayLyZjaiPbc1OwS13TK2tyFtpVyr_nOpKaUn7zytcnrFD0ILreoRd75ZA2qSgFwUBgeQkxQfESdVs2uLP6KIEJ668Db7K98OBzZssGillxaeF1T9yWwgFporjuBr4X-5uHn3fTdZHXp0B3kwjw!!/

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postal, telegraphic, telephonic or electronic communication;⁶⁷² Law No. 16 on Electronic Transactions; Law No. 48 on Telecommunications;; Law No. 60 on Information Technology Crimes; and Law No. 16 on Protection of State Information and Documents.⁶⁷³

Previous laws related to data protection that complement PDPL also include the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law 2006 and Labour Law 2012, which regulates data protection between employees and employers⁶⁷⁴

In January 2017, Bahrain ratified the Arab Treaty on Combating Cybercrime to establish new rules on retaining user data and real-time monitoring of activities

Bahrain is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁶⁷⁵ Bahrain's Personal Data Protection Authority gained Observer status for the 2025 GPA session and will hold the status through the 2028 closed session.⁶⁷⁶ Bahrain neither sponsored nor endorsed the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics,⁶⁷⁷ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,⁶⁷⁸ the 2022 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,⁶⁷⁹ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁶⁸⁰

⁶⁷² Constitute Project, *Bahrain's Constitution of 2002 with Amendments through 2017* (Aug. 26, 2021), https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Bahrain_2017.pdf?lang=en

⁶⁷³ Council of Europe, *Bahrain* (May 28, 2020), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/-/bahrain>

⁶⁷⁴ OneTrust DataGuidance, *Bahrain Data Protection Overview* (Aug. 2021), <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/bahrain-data-protection-overview>

⁶⁷⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁶⁷⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Observers* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-observers/>

⁶⁷⁷ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁷⁸ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁶⁷⁹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022) <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶⁸⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

Bahrain has not enacted specific algorithmic transparency legislation. However, the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence⁶⁸¹ establishes a binding framework for government agency practices. The iGA National Policy codifies transparency and explainability; fairness, equity, and non-discrimination, and privacy and data protection. The PDPL in Article 15, requires permission from the Authority before the automated processing of personal data of sensitive nature, biometric data, genetic data, linking data to two or more data controllers for different purposes. Article 22 includes the right to object to decisions based solely on automated processing for purposes of assessing performance at work, financial standing, credit scoring, reliability or conduct. Yet the PDPL does not include provisions to ensure transparency in the methods of processing.

According to Bahrain's National Digital Portal, the country introduced legal frameworks to protect individual privacy and reduce algorithmic biases in 2024. Bahrain has enacted a new AI regulatory framework which consists of 38 articles, imposing fines of up to BD1,000 for using AI in decision-making without human oversight. More severe penalties, including fines up to BD2,000, apply to AI misuse that infringes privacy, promotes discrimination, or deviates from intended purposes.⁶⁸²

Previously, Bahrain joined other member states of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) to adopt the Riyadh AI Call for Action Declaration (RAICA) during the Global AI Summit of 2022.⁶⁸³ The Declaration marks a commitment to develop AI technology that benefits people, communities, and nations. Item 4 of the Call for Action addresses safeguards to prevent unfairness of algorithms against individuals due to their orientation, culture, gender, or race.

Mass Surveillance

Amnesty International reported about an ongoing investigation on the use of Pegasus Spyware to infect the devices of three political activists in Bahrain in

⁶⁸¹ Information & eGovernment Authority, *General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (May 20, 2025), [https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National Digital Policies/General Policy for the Use of AI - Final 30 Jul 2025.pdf](https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National%20Digital%20Policies/General%20Policy%20for%20the%20Use%20of%20AI%20-%20Final%2030%20Jul%202025.pdf)

⁶⁸² Hyscaler, *Bahrain Pioneers AI Regulation with New Standalone Law* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://hyscaler.com/insights/bahrain-pioneers-ai-regulation/>

⁶⁸³ WIRED, *The Key Wins of Saudi Arabia's Global AI Summit* (Sept. 27, 2021), <https://wired.me/technology/saudi-arabia-global-ai-summit/>

2021.⁶⁸⁴ The misuse of the spyware provided by Israeli NSO Group to trace mobile phones targeted at least 50,000 devices of journalists and human rights activists. According to Citizen Lab, Bahraini authorities used cyber surveillance since 2013, including phone forensics technology sold by Israeli company Cellebrite to extract private data from the devices of arrested activists.⁶⁸⁵

The Carnegie Endowment for Peace report on AI surveillance, found that Bahrain is using facial recognition for smart policing, mainly from Chinese technology providers such as Dahua.⁶⁸⁶ Reports of use of surveillance cameras in public spaces also surfaced.

The OHCHR reiterated concerns about surveillance of individuals and groups cooperating with the United Nations.⁶⁸⁷ The Ministry of Interior has issued statements warning about legal procedures against activists and their followers who participate in cybercrime on social media.⁶⁸⁸

The Cybercrimes Directorate and the Cyber Safety Directorate monitor social media and websites to identify and prevent crimes, including forbidden speech, false news, and threats to national security. “Department officials receive training to identify “permitted speech and forbidden speech,” whether it is text, video, or audio.⁶⁸⁹

Bahrain’s eGovernment authority released the “BeAwareBahrain” app to “ensure the safety of all its citizens and residents.”⁶⁹⁰ The app alerted individuals in case of close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and was able to confirm the location of people who had moved more than 15 meters from their phone. A 2020 report by Amnesty International on 11 countries using data tracking apps for COVID-19 concluded that the BeAwareBahrain app was among “the most alarming tools [...] carrying out live or near-live tracking of users’ locations by frequently uploading

⁶⁸⁴ Amnesty International, *Bahrain: Devices of Three Activists Hacked with Pegasus Spyware* (Feb. 18, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/bahrain-devices-of-three-activists-hacked-with-pegasus-spyware/>

⁶⁸⁵ The Citizen Lab, *From Pearl to Pegasus. Bahraini Government Hacks Activists with NSO Group Zero-Click iPhone Exploits* (Aug. 24, 2021), <https://citizenlab.ca/2021/08/bahrain-hacks-activists-with-nso-group-zero-click-iphone-exploits/>

⁶⁸⁶ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Global Expansion of AI Surveillance* (Sept. 2019), https://carnegieendowment.org/files/WP-Feldstein-AISurveillance_final1.pdf

⁶⁸⁷ OHCHR, *Report Details Disturbing Trends as Reprisals Continue against People Cooperating with the UN* (Sept. 29 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/report-details-disturbing-trends-reprisals-continue-against-people>

⁶⁸⁸ Ministry of Interior of Bahrain, *Anti-Cyber Crime Message on Twitter* (May 21, 2019), https://twitter.com/moi_bahrain/status/1130802153663213568

⁶⁸⁹ BCHR, *Bahrain: The “Cyber Safety Directorate” Monitors Internet Activity in Style Similar to Big Brother* (Nov. 25, 2013), <http://bahrainrights.net/?p=5973>

⁶⁹⁰ Ministry of Health, *BeAwareBahrain* (2023), <https://healthalert.gov.bh/en/category/beaware-bahrain-app>

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GPS coordinates to a central server.”⁶⁹¹ The surveillance activities included the real-time broadcast of users’ locations to a government database, the publication of online sensitive information linked to their national ID, and the enforced use of a Bluetooth bracelet during quarantine.

Biometric Identification

Bahrain has integrated biometrics and digital IDs as part of the Digital First Policy. The use of a nationwide digital identity scheme to include Sijilat (the Commercial Registration Portal), the National Taxation System, and Sehati (the National Social Health Insurance Program), aims to facilitate users access to government services through one-time input into the system.⁶⁹² Users can visit a Government Service Center if they lack internet access. The iGA provided the ID card & Birth Certificate eServices through the unified MyGov app in 2025.⁶⁹³ In an interview, the iGA Chief Executive stated that the new card functions as an ICAO-compliant digital travel document.⁶⁹⁴ The card also uses advanced fingerprint matching technology to securely verify the holder's identity.

Bahrain introduced biometric identification for automated border control in Bahrain International Airport (BIA) in 2019, as part of the Airport Modernization Programme (AMP).⁶⁹⁵ In July 2022, Bahrain joined the Global Entry Partnership, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program for expedited entry into the U.S. for pre-approved, low-risk travelers. The program makes use of facial recognition and travelers can make use of biometric kiosks at airports to process them.⁶⁹⁶

Tamkeen (Labour Fund), Bahrain’s government agency promoting private-sector business and individual development, launched digital onboarding using biometric identification to register customers. Tamkeen uses B2B payment integrated

⁶⁹¹ Amnesty International, *Bahrain Kuwait and Norway Contact Tracing Apps among Most Dangerous for Privacy* (Jun. 16, 2020), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/06/bahrain-kuwait-norway-contact-tracing-apps-danger-for-privacy/>

⁶⁹² Kingdom of Bahrain, *Digital-First Policies: Bahrain’s Digital Path* (Jul. 30, 2024), https://bh.bh/new/en/digitalfirst_en.html

⁶⁹³ Bahrain News Agency, *iGA facilitates Access to ID Card, Birth Certificate Services via MyGov App* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1+DsGId77r3jhz7FB%2FBbCEsEM=>

⁶⁹⁴ Daily Tribune– News of Bahrain, *Bahrain’s Next-Gen ID Card: A Game-Changer for Travel and Technology* (Mar. 2, 2025), <https://www.newsofbahrain.com/bahrain/109426.html>

⁶⁹⁵ Security World Market, *Bahrain Enhances Border Control with Biometric Identification* (Jun. 6, 2019), <https://www.securityworldmarket.com/me/Newsarchive/bahrain-enhances-border-control-with-biometric-identification1>

⁶⁹⁶ Frank Hersey, *Bahrain Latest Addition to US Biometric Global Entry Partnership*, BiometricUpdate (Jul. 18, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202207/bahrain-latest-addition-to-us-biometric-global-entry-partnership>

with BENEFIT Pay.⁶⁹⁷ BenefitPay is a financial network established in 1997 under license of the Central Bank of Bahrain.⁶⁹⁸ Benefit uses facial recognition for validation and authentication of users, recognizing all GCC IDs and passports of all nationalities. The service is available for FinTech, insurance, and investment companies to curtail cybercrime.⁶⁹⁹

With the growing trend towards digitization, only around 5% of transactions require physical contact, mainly for issues related to issuing residence permits and biometric updates. New initiatives include a national birth system, digital archiving of records, and a Central Population Registration System.⁷⁰⁰

Environmental Impact of AI

Bahrain revised its strategy roadmap in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to reprioritize digital projects and ensure alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.⁷⁰¹ The government continues to drive its National Digital Economy Strategy (NDES) for 2022–2026⁷⁰² to build a strong and sustainable digital economy. This effort is aligned with the Kingdom of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030,

⁶⁹⁷ Government of Bahrain, *National Portal of the Kingdom of Bahrain*, https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en!/ut/p/z1/rVLLbslwEPwVesgx8SYmr95SRGkRjwoKJb4gJziPktghGGj_vka0BypelerbWjOzszuLCJohwuk2T6nMBaeFqkPizJ-G4JiWZ3U9PMEQDJ3WyG-D2QEbvR0DAOP2HuC-uFPfcjxA5BY-WP2W-dxU_H4fPAeRr3XxxZAB1_jTxFBJOaykhkKWSq2laglLeaMa5CJkmmw2uTxsIHkflnWgEZiIxt7HKt5ybjUgH_P2jgw93pVnC9QuFgktu0noPs4wnoTfKpTz3R126VmQpPEik33x-ZF9w4_wUAuSw_ZlxpkOM2J1I46FxY87VGoTLqniWqFMZ_3Fz32mrU7eXvqxUJVMCCS_Yh0exfElad00JEh_MOeIS9FJGaJaxmtbGp1XcmZbW-10CD3W5npEKkBTNiYWyWGpwiZWktzP3GoqqcTEoPf-Z6t50MBjqJ7GLbC-6-AKLSLMY!/dz/d5/L3dHQSEvUUt3SS9nQSEh/

⁶⁹⁸ Benefit, *The Pulse of Bahrain* (2023), <https://benefit.bh/>

⁶⁹⁹ News of Bahrain, *BENEFIT Holds Identification and Verification Service Workshops* (Jul. 25, 2022), <https://www.newsofbahrain.com/business/82774.html>

⁷⁰⁰ Biometric Update, *Bahrain Sees High Uptake of Digital ID, CRVS Services through Online Platforms* (Feb. 5, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202402/bahrain-sees-high-uptake-of-digital-id-crvs-services-through-online-platforms>

⁷⁰¹ Kingdom of Bahrain, *The Information & eGovernment Authority's Strategy*, https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en!/ut/p/z0/fY69TsNQDEZfxUtmX4r6wwhUImWgSAyUu1ROY27cJnZ661Tk7QIMTIyfdM7RhxF3GJWuksjFlNppf8TF_mYzD-XqMYTy5XUdFtytZwtH263dzN8Y8VnjP9DU0WO53O8x3gwdf5y3FXa71mLQJUNDt4wnERTbV0RKmoyiUltSZxaSHblrB2rw9GGrDwWIXNLzjW49XK4FOEnIPppufu9DqQ18B-RBm8si49w8TyZacT-9PT-DVRXnPM!/

⁷⁰² Kingdom of Bahrain, *National Digital Economy Strategy* (Mar. 2025), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/49ed95ce-58db-4908-8085-c82656d6af77/National+Digital+Economy+Strategy.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=pwiSJDs>

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which seeks to ensure “a safe, secure, sustainable and attractive environment and world class infrastructure.”⁷⁰³

Bahrain has developed ethics to guide the responsible development and adoption of AI in the country, including a principle that “AI systems should be developed and used in a way that is sustainable and minimizes their environmental impact.”⁷⁰⁴

AI is also a driver of sustainable development in Bahrain. The University of Bahrain and the Benefit Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding to use AI and advanced computing for research and innovation into sustainable energy, climate change, and sea-level prediction.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Bahrain is a High Contracting party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons’ (CCW)⁷⁰⁵ and a member of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).⁷⁰⁶ In a statement presented during the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies (GGW) on LAWS Meeting in Geneva in 2022, the NAM called for the negotiation of a “legally binding international instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on lethal autonomous weapons systems.”⁷⁰⁷

Bahrain voted for the UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241⁷⁰⁸ on lethal autonomous weapons systems, which directed the UN Secretary-General to prepare

⁷⁰³ Kingdom of Bahrain, *The Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain*, https://www.moh.gov.bh/Content/Files/Vision_2030.pdf

⁷⁰⁴ Kingdom of Bahrain, *Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 24, 2024), https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/en/BNP/HomeNationalPortal/ContentDetailsPage!/ut/p/z1/vZJLb4JAFIX_Ci5ckrk8hSXW-kqNFUWFjRlgwFGcQRy1_fcd2hSGovddHaTnHNzz_kuitAaRQxfal4F5QwX8h9G9kYbWTB0ngBee6YOs6Xr292JBpOBgVbfBdoiACKYef6039PA1FD0iB_uPA8e838J3IVrg63rnqnPBwZMG_1LFKGoTGiKQmxkhq1ZppolrquaSeo2AJDjTOcpbGbkltTb-qEiVJsURizckNYG3DMz0IRW6LsKctTfmhDSnMqcKHszidBE6lkvCikrPqstQ0VKbAggSJ4SZOTnFAJmtGESgdIghQFzQmTNsxSpeIxlzNO9aQ_o0S_F1nzD2eBI5t6GU9tvWtMn2ukfha5umVvYN20Q22CGwR9sJ1B3zRtx-9YHRTKJt3Q44k7wsIVxQwXh3kec7_SG8IaNx0Eflk6e54jDxJmksabwKt_xn1nDBUHoIgODjGO1X3vnNdZNviknut1geZeYBX/

⁷⁰⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁰⁶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups—CCW* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

⁷⁰⁷ Non-Aligned Movement, *Working Paper by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Other State parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)* (Jul. 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WP-NAM.pdf>

⁷⁰⁸ Automated Decision Research, *State Positions: Bahrain*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/bahrain/

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a report reflecting the views of member and observer states. Bahrain also supported the more recent UN General Assembly Resolution L.77. The resolution raised concerns about the impact of autonomous weapons on global security and regional and international stability and provides for open consultations to consider the Secretary-General's report.

Bahrain also endorsed the Political Declaration resulting from the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023) co-hosted by the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea in November 2023.⁷⁰⁹ The Declaration followed a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of AI in the military domain issued during the summit.⁷¹⁰

AI Literacy

The Third Pillar of the iGA National AI Policy is dedicated to Awareness and Education.⁷¹¹ Objectives center on raising awareness among government employees “about the latest AI technologies and how to benefit from them in service development” and ensuring they have the technical capabilities use the technology safely and effectively. Rules and requirements instruct government entities to provide training programs but no specific initiatives are proposed.

The National Digital Economy Strategy 2022–2026⁷¹² envisions a future-ready workforce where graduates “are equipped with advanced digital skills and are prepared for future job markets.” Strategic initiatives include incorporating ICT curriculum in primary and secondary education as well as empowering the Skills Bahrain program and incentivizing other upskilling and reskilling programs.⁷¹³

⁷⁰⁹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁷¹⁰ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁷¹¹ Information & eGovernment Authority, *General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 10–11 (May 20, 2025), <https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Publications/National Digital Policies/General Policy for the Use of AI - Final 30 Jul 2025.pdf>

⁷¹² Government of Bahrain, *National Digital Economy Strategy*, p. 6 (Mar. 2025), <https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/wcm/connect/49ed95ce-58db-4908-8085-c82656d6af77/National+Digital+Economy+Strategy.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=pwiSJDS>

⁷¹³ *Ibid*, p. 10

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Human Rights

Bahrain supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁷¹⁴ The Prime Minister has expressed the importance of the UDHR in public statements.⁷¹⁵ The country has completed four cycles of Universal Periodic Reviews, the most recent in November 2022.⁷¹⁶ The UPR of Bahrain noted the recommendations of various states for Bahrain to ratify international human rights covenants. The country made a voluntary pledge and commitment to implement projects of the national human rights plan (102 projects), for 2022–2026 and to submit voluntary reports every two years on the ongoing efforts to enhance the country’s human right system.⁷¹⁷

Bahrain is one of the 16 State Parties to the Arab Charter on Human Rights and has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).⁷¹⁸

Freedom House rated Bahrain as “Not Free” (12/100) in 2025.⁷¹⁹ Restrictions to freedom of expression and beliefs and the use of spyware and surveillance technology to target activists and dissidents are areas of concern. Internet freedom in Bahrain remained restricted in 2024 with content critical of the government blocked and removed. Freedom House notes that despite the continued use of social media for activism, self-censorship prevailed due to fear of state surveillance.⁷²⁰

⁷¹⁴ UN Bahrain, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Our Shared Values and Path to Solutions* (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://bahrain.un.org/en/255528-universal-declaration-human-rights-75-our-shared-values-and-path-solutions>

⁷¹⁵ Bahrain News Agency, *HRH Prime Minister Highlights Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Dec. 8, 2018), <https://www.bna.bh/en/ConstitutionalCourttoconsiderConstitutionalCase1/HRHPrimeMinisterhighlightsUniversalDeclarationofHumanRights.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDktmz32o3rvQb7QWjpEbQ0M%3D>

⁷¹⁶ United Nations Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Bahrain* (2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/bh-index>

⁷¹⁷ United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Bahrain*, (Jan. 11, 2023), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/52/4>

⁷¹⁸ United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, *Ratification Status for Bahrain*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=13&Lang=en

⁷¹⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Bahrain* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/bahrain/freedom-world/2025>

⁷²⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2025: Bahrain* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/bahrain/freedom-net/2025>

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Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perception Index ranks Bahrain 76th of 180 countries with a score of 42/100.⁷²¹ Bahrain showed significant progress in 2024 with a move up eleven places to 53.⁷²²

Although Bahrain granted amnesty to over 2,500 prisoners in 2024,⁷²³ Human Rights Watch reported on the ongoing imprisonment of human rights defenders, some for more than a decade, and pro-democracy activists and abysmal conditions and denial of adequate healthcare in prisons. Limits on freedom of expression and the return of the death penalty, especially given unfair trials, remain concerns.⁷²⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Bahrain is not a member of the OECD and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁷²⁵ Bahrain has not submitted reports to the OECD AI Policy Observatory in relation to ongoing policies, strategies, or activities associated with AI.⁷²⁶ Bahrain has launched initiatives such introducing AI and cybersecurity into education that align with the OECD AI principles. Bahrain is a member of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness created in 2021 to implement reforms to improve governance structures and cooperation.⁷²⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Bahrain has not endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, the first legally binding international AI treaty.⁷²⁸

⁷²¹ Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index* (2023)

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023/index/bhr>

⁷²² Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index* (2024),

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024/index/bhr>

⁷²³ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025, Bahrain: Events of 2024*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/bahrain>

⁷²⁴ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2024, Bahrain: Events of 2023*, https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/bahrain?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAst67BhCEARIsAKKdWOIMPuCV_m45obpoTCUyKVf0hCineKJ6Mg5Q3oWaPUPyf4LWbQsvTgaAgCiEALw_wcB

⁷²⁵ OECD, *OECD AI Principles Overview: Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (May 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁷²⁶ OECD.AI, *National AI Policies & Strategies*, <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/overview>

⁷²⁷ OECD, *MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance & Competitiveness for Development, 2021 Ministerial Conference* (2021), <https://www.oecd.org/en/regions/middle-east-and-north-africa.html>

⁷²⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Apr. 5, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Bahrain is a UNESCO member since 1972⁷²⁹ and is one of the member States which endorsed the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁷³⁰ Bahrain has published a readiness assessment report⁷³¹ based on the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM). However, UNESCO does not yet feature Bahrain with a country profile.⁷³² Key recommendations in the report include developing data infrastructure; inclusive STEM education focusing on women, youth, and people with disabilities; national campaigns and outreach to promote AI literacy and public trust; and research focused on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of AI as well as system development.⁷³³

Evaluation

Bahrain's National AI Policy incorporated principles from the GCC AI Ethics Guide and UNESCO Recommendation to drive AI development aligned to ethical and human-centered principles. Combined with the Economic Vision 2030, Digital Government Strategy 2022, and Digital Economy Strategy 2022–2026, the Kingdom of Bahrain has provided a roadmap and KPIs for the governance of AI. The participation of multiple governmental agencies advancing the digitalization and AI plans is a strength in the pathway to governing AI.

In terms of data protection and independent oversight, the alignment of the Bahrain's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) to GDPR, and the draft regulations for Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) are positive steps, which can be enhanced by the adoption of legislation to enforce algorithmic transparency and the creation of an independent data and AI supervisory authority.

Although Bahrain has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights, the country stands as “not free” in relation to human rights protection. Concerns exist regarding the use of AI for mass surveillance purposes.

⁷²⁹ UNESCO, *Member States, Bahrain*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/bh>

⁷³⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁷³¹ Government of Bahrain, *UNESCO's Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Methodology Report – RAM* (Nov. 12, 2025), [https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Agencies/Kingdom of Bahrain AI RAM Report.pdf](https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Agencies/Kingdom%20of%20Bahrain%20AI%20RAM%20Report.pdf)

⁷³² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁷³³ Government of Bahrain, *UNESCO's Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Methodology Report – RAM*, pp. 10–11 (Nov. 12, 2025), [https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Agencies/Kingdom of Bahrain AI RAM Report.pdf](https://www.iga.gov.bh/Media/Agencies/Kingdom%20of%20Bahrain%20AI%20RAM%20Report.pdf)

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Bangladesh

In 2025, Bangladesh submitted a draft National AI Policy for public consultation. The country also completed the UNESCO RAM process and published the report.

National AI Strategy

Bangladesh published its National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence in March 2020.⁷³⁴ The goal is to make Bangladesh a “technologically advanced nation by the next decade.” The National AI Strategy is driven by the slogan “AI for Innovative Bangladesh.” To create a “sustainable AI Ecosystem,” the report proposes six strategic pillars:

- research and development
- skilling and reskilling of AI workforce
- data and digital infrastructure
- ethics, data privacy, security & regulations
- funding and accelerating AI startups
- industrialization for AI technologies

Each pillar consists of a strategic brief, a roadmap, action plan, related stakeholders and lead ministries. Finally, a summary roadmap in the report includes steps for the development of AI over the next five years. Under the Ethics, Data Privacy, Security & Regulations pillar, the Bangladeshi government aims to create a new set of AI ethics guidelines to address issues such as fairness, safety, cybersecurity, and transparency. The ICT Division and Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs intended to formulate Right to Explanation (RTE) Guideline for AI Algorithm.⁷³⁵

The national Parliament passed the Agency to Innovate (a2i) Bill 2023, creating the a2i as Bangladesh’s national innovation agency, a statutory body. The a2i is a flagship program of the 2019 Smart Bangladesh’s Vision 2041 and its 20-year

⁷³⁴ Information and Communication Technology Division, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence Bangladesh* (Mar. 2020), https://file-rangpur.portal.gov.bd/files/pbs2.dinajpur.gov.bd/files/1885c0a0_28a4_4fcc_8d4d_dcd7ce23fd8b/7b684f19a15dfcd0f542382764572486.pdf

⁷³⁵ Ibid, pp. 40-41

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Perspective Plan,⁷³⁶ which aim to utilize technology for societal advancement by 2041. The Vision and Perspective Plan focus on four institutional pillars: governance, democratization, decentralization, and capacity building. As part of the three-prong strategy for Bangladesh's Innovation Economy, the Plan aims to leverage the fourth industrial revolution, including AI and smart machines, for competitiveness and a low-carbon economy. To this end, Bangladesh aims to develop a robust legal framework and governance structure for e-government.⁷³⁷

Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Anisul Huq announced the government's initiative to draft a law on AI in February 2024. The Minister emphasized plans to consult with international stakeholders before finalizing the act.⁷³⁸ Minister Huq led a discussion with the Ministry of Posts on the draft framework for the AI law, stressing the importance of addressing critical aspects related to human welfare and the ethical use of AI. He highlighted the commencement of discussions on AI's legal framework, with a focus on safeguarding human rights and promoting the beneficial application of AI across various sectors.⁷³⁹ A draft policy⁷⁴⁰ was released in 2024 but is no longer available on the Ministry website.

A formal AI policy initiative under a Steering Committee in July 2025.⁷⁴¹ The initiative contributes to a vision to develop a “responsible, inclusive, and innovation-driven national framework for artificial intelligence that empowers every citizen and industry.” The committee held three meetings in 2025 and released a draft AI policy for public consultation in early 2026. Bangladesh released a revised National AI policy in February 2026.⁷⁴² The draft policy charges the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs with drafting “comprehensive AI liability legislation” by 2028.

⁷³⁶ General Economics Division (GED) Bangladesh Planning Commission Ministry of Planning, *Making Vision 2041 a Reality: Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021–2041* (Mar. 2020), <https://oldweb.lged.gov.bd/uploadedddocument/unitpublication/1/1049/vision%202021-2041.pdf>

⁷³⁷ Bangladesh Parliament, *Legislation* (Mar. 2024), <https://www.parliament.gov.bd/acts-of-parliament>

⁷³⁸ Dhaka Tribune, *Govt to Make Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/339317/anisul-govt-to-make-law-on-artificial>

⁷³⁹ Dhaka Tribune, *Law Minister: Draft of Law on AI and Its Use to Be Formulated by September* (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/laws-rights/342388/draft-of-law-on-ai-and-its-use-to-be-formulated-by>

⁷⁴⁰ Regulations.ai, *Bangladesh—National AI Policy* (2024) (Apr. 2, 2024), <https://regulations.ai/regulations/RAI-BD-NA-NAI2DXX-2024>

⁷⁴¹ AI Policy National Initiative, *AI Policy for Bangladesh* (2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/>

⁷⁴² AI Policy National Initiative, *Bangladesh National AI Policy 2026–2030, Draft v2* (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/docs/national-ai-policy-bangladesh-2026-2030-draft-v2.0.pdf>

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Public Participation

The National AI Strategy of Bangladesh identified engagement with media and civil societies for creating a “robust ethics, data privacy, security and regulations guideline” for emerging technologies.⁷⁴³ As part of its National Internet of Things (IoT) Strategy, the Bangladesh government proposed to establish “an Advisory Committee including representatives from Government, industry, academia, and community” to provide ongoing guidance in the emerging areas of IoT.⁷⁴⁴

The Bangladeshi government sought civil society input on the draft of the Cyber Security Act in 2023, receiving around 900 recommendations in the two weeks of the comment period.⁷⁴⁵ Bangladesh's first National AI-driven design competition, National AI Art-A-Thon, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) under the Bangladesh's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministerial Division, brought together a diverse group of people —professional and student artists, creators, architects, designers, content makers, and technologists—for a creative challenge that used artificial intelligence to reinterpret and showcase Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage.⁷⁴⁶

The Steering Committee overseeing the AI Policy national initiative held a public consultation on the first draft of the National AI policy during 2 weeks in early 2026.⁷⁴⁷ The website for the national initiative includes all meeting notes and recordings for the Steering Committee; however, the comments received from the consultation are not available

Data Protection

Although the Constitution of Bangladesh does not explicitly grant the fundamental right to privacy, Article 43 of the Constitution recognizes this right

⁷⁴³ Information and Communication Technology Division, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence Bangladesh*, pp. 40-41 (Mar. 2020), https://file-rangpur.portal.gov.bd/files/pbs2.dinajpur.gov.bd/files/1885c0a0_28a4_4fcc_8d4d_dcd7ce23fd8b/7b684f19a15dfcd0f542382764572486.pdf

⁷⁴⁴ Information and Communication Technology Division, *National Internet of Things Strategy*, p. 11 (Mar. 2020), <https://ictd.gov.bd/pages/legislative-informations/national-internet-of-things-strategy-bangladesh-4e9ee4-69414b22c4774958d7b55699>

⁷⁴⁵ Amnesty International, *Bangladesh: Government Must Remove Draconian Provisions from the Draft Cyber Security Act* (Sept. 5, 2023), www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/08/bangladesh-government-must-remove-draconian-provisions-from-the-draft-cyber-security-act/

⁷⁴⁶ UNDP Bangladesh, *First-Ever AI Art-A-Thon to Reimagine Heritage through Human-AI Synergy* (Apr. 20, 2025), <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/first-ever-ai-art-thon-reimagine-heritage-through-human-ai-synergy>

⁷⁴⁷ AI Policy National Initiative, *AI Policy for Bangladesh, Public Consultation* (2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/feedback>

under certain restrictions and states that, “every citizen shall have the right, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of the security of the State, public order, public morality or public health – (a) to be secured in his home against entry, search and seizure; and b) to the privacy of his correspondence and other means of communication.”⁷⁴⁸

Bangladesh proposed a draft Data Protection Act in 2022.⁷⁴⁹ One critic noted that “The proposed Data Protection Act 2022 and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Regulation for Digital, social media and OTT Platforms, 2021 attempt to protect citizen information against American tech companies, but both draft regulations grant Bangladesh authorities powers to control everything on the Bangladeshi internet.”⁷⁵⁰ The purpose of this law is to provide security for personal data. The law does not provide a definition of personal data.⁷⁵¹ The proposed data protection law mandates storage of citizen data within Bangladesh. “The localization of the data within Bangladesh gives authorities broad powers to access people’s personal data without judicial oversight and accountability for any violation of people’s right to privacy,”⁷⁵² wrote Amnesty International in feedback to the proposed bill.

In November 2023, the Cabinet of Bangladesh gave its approval in principle to the Draft Data Protection Act 2023. The Act shall now be enacted by the Parliament.⁷⁵³ The revised Act addressed stakeholders’ feedback on the transition period and data localization requirements. However, the definition of personal data

⁷⁴⁸ Sadiya S. Silvee and Sabrina Hasan, *The Right to Privacy in Bangladesh in the Context of Technological Advancement*, International and Comparative Law Journal 1(2) (Dec. 8, 2018), <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3298069> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3298069>

⁷⁴⁹ Information and Communication Technology Division, *The Proposed Data Protection Act 2022* (Jul. 16, 2022), <https://www.cirt.gov.bd/acts/data-protection-act>; [unofficial translation] https://dpo-india.com/Resources/Privacy_Regulations_in_Asia_Pacific_Countries/The-Data-Protection-Act-2022-Bangladesh.pdf

⁷⁵⁰ Nilesh Christopher, *Bangladesh’s New Data Protection Law Grants More Power to the State than Its People*, Rest of World (Aug. 24, 2022), <https://restofworld.org/2022/newsletter-south-asia-bangladeshs-data-protection-law/>

⁷⁵¹ Harisur Rohoman, *Data Protection Act 2022: More Questions than Answers*, Dhaka Tribune (Oct. 16, 2022), <https://www.dhakatribune.com/op-ed/2022/10/17/data-protection-act-2022-more-questions-than-answers>

⁷⁵² Amnesty International, *Bangladesh: New Data Protection Bill Threatens People’s Right to Privacy* (Apr. 27, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/bangladesh-new-data-protection-bill-threatens-peoples-right-to-privacy/>

⁷⁵³ Dhaka Tribune, *Cabinet Gives In-Principle Approval to Draft Personal Data Protection Act* (Nov. 27, 2023), <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/government-affairs/332341/cabinet-gives-in-principle-approval-to-draft>

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was not addressed.⁷⁵⁴ The Act provides for the establishment of a Board in charge of overseeing data protection in the country. The Board shall be constituted by the Government and consisting of a chairman and four members.

The Telecommunications Act (2000) is a law “for the purpose of development and efficient regulation of telecommunication systems and telecommunication services in Bangladesh.”⁷⁵⁵ Under Section 67 (b) of the Act no person can “intercept any radio communication or telecommunication nor shall [utilize] or divulge the intercepted communication, unless the originator of the communication or the person to whom the originator intends to send it has consented to or approved the interception or divulgence.” Under Section 97 of the Act, the government may ask the telecommunication operator to maintain records relating to the communications of a specific user under the broad definition of National Security and Public Interest.

The Information Communication Technology Act (2006) imposes responsibility on any individual or body corporate handling personal or sensitive data and requires them to maintain and implement reasonable security practices.⁷⁵⁶ Section 46 of the Information Communication Technology Act states that the state can intercept, monitor, or decrypt data in the interest of:

- state sovereignty, integrity, or security
- relations with foreign states
- public order
- preventing the commission of or incitement to commit any offense relating to the above
- investigation of any offense

The Digital Security Act came into force in October 2018 and pertained to “offences committed through digital devices.”⁷⁵⁷ Section 26 of the Act provides for “punishment for unauthorized collection, use etc. of identity information.” The Digital Security Act 2018 repealed 5 provisions of the Information Communication

⁷⁵⁴ Atlantic Council South Asia Center, *Bangladesh Draft Data Protection Act 2023: Potential and Pitfalls* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Bangladesh-Draft-Data-Protection-Act-2023-Potential-and-Pitfalls.pdf>

⁷⁵⁵ Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, *The Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001* (Apr. 16, 2001), <https://btrc.gov.bd/site/view/law/->

⁷⁵⁶ Bangladesh Computer Council, *ICT Act 2006* (Jan. 30, 2023), <https://bcc.portal.gov.bd/site/page/8a843dba-4055-49af-83f5-58b5669c770d/->

⁷⁵⁷ Official Gazette, *Digital Security Act 2018*, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (Oct. 8, 2018), https://www.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res/digital-security-act-2018_html/Digital_Security_Act_2018.pdf

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Technology Act 2006 including section 57, which was deemed to be in violation of rights protected under the Bangladesh Constitution.⁷⁵⁸

Bangladesh's parliament passed the Cyber Security Act (CSA), replacing the Digital Security Act of 2018, to combat cybercrime and disinformation. The CSA outlines measures for detecting, preventing, and prosecuting crimes committed through digital or electronic means. Additionally, Section 5 of the Act establishes a National Cyber Security Agency, which will operate under the ICT Division to fulfill the Act's objectives, including supervising and coordinating with the National Computer Emergency Response Team, Computer Emergency Teams, or the Computer Incident Response Team.

The Cyber Security Act has largely been critiqued as a replication of the DSA. As Amnesty International reported, “The only changes the CSA makes are related to sentencing, which can be summarized as follows: lowering the maximum applicable prison sentence for eight [offenses], removing a sentence of imprisonment for two [offenses], increasing the maximum applicable fine for three [offenses] and removing the higher applicable penalty for all repeat [offenses].”⁷⁵⁹

Bangladesh's interim government enacted the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025,⁷⁶⁰ replacing the CSA. The new ordinance introduces provisions criminalizing the unlawful use of artificial intelligence (AI)—such as unauthorized access using AI tools, identity theft, and improper use of personal data—making the ordinance the country's first binding legal measures to directly address AI risks.⁷⁶¹ The ordinance represents a strong step towards enforceable law that recognizes AI could accelerate cybersecurity threats. Additionally, the ordinance signals Bangladesh's government concerns about AI threats (e.g., deepfakes, impersonation, and automated attacks). Still, the Cyber Security Ordinance faces international criticism for the lack of oversight structures, algorithmic accountability frameworks, or safeguards for civil liberties. The Cyber Security Ordinance's ambiguous terms could pose serious risk of government overreach and violation of human rights.

⁷⁵⁸ Clooney Foundation for Justice and Center for Governance Studies (CGS), *The Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006: Bangladesh's Zombie Cyber Law* (Nov. 2024), https://cfj.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Bangladesh-ICT-Act-Report_November-2024-1.pdf

⁷⁵⁹ Amnesty International, *Bangladesh: Open Letter to the Government: Feedback on Proposed Cyber Security Act* (Aug. 22, 2023), www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/7125/2023/en/

⁷⁶⁰ *Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025* (Ordinance No 25 of 2025), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/398270759_The_Cyber_Security_Ordinance_2025_An_Unofficial_English_Translation_1

⁷⁶¹ Human Rights Watch, *Joint Letter to Bangladesh Chief Adviser Yunus, Regarding Follow-up on Human Rights CSO Meeting during UNGA 2025* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/10/19/joint-letter-to-bangladesh-chief-adviser-yunus>

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Algorithmic Transparency

While there is no explicit right to algorithmic transparency in Bangladeshi law, the government acknowledged the lack of transparency of machine learning. The national AI strategy identified a Right to Explanation Guideline for AI Algorithms as one of the outcomes and noted GDPR as a potential model for integrating this right into the national legal framework.⁷⁶²

Under the principle of oversight and accountability, the second draft of the National AI Policy 2026–2030 stresses an individual’s right to “clear accessible explanation of outcomes, contestability, and human review”⁷⁶³ when affected by high-impact decisions.

Biometric Identification

Since 2008, the Election Commission of Bangladesh has issued a National Identity Card (NID) which is compulsory for every Bangladeshi citizen over the age of 18 for voting and for availing 22 types of services, including banking, taxpayer identity number (TIN), driving license, and passport. In 2016, the government started issuing a machine readable “smart NID card” with a chip that can store encrypted data such as biometric and identification data for enhancing security and reducing forgery.⁷⁶⁴ In June 2023, authority for issuing NID cards was transferred from the Election Commission to the Bangladesh Home Ministry.⁷⁶⁵ This change, part of the National Identity Registration Act, aims to streamline citizen identification processes.

⁷⁶² Information and Communication Technology Division, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence Bangladesh*, pp. 41, 47 (Mar. 2020), https://file-rangpur.portal.gov.bd/files/pbs2.dinajpur.gov.bd/files/1885c0a0_28a4_4fcc_8d4d_dcd7ce23fd8b/7b684f19a15dfcd0f542382764572486.pdf

⁷⁶³ AI Policy National Initiative, *Bangladesh National AI Policy 2026–2030, Draft v2*, p. 14 (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/docs/national-ai-policy-bangladesh-2026-2030-draft-v2.0.pdf>

⁷⁶⁴ Mizan Rahman, *Bangladesh Launches Smart National ID Cards*, Gulf Times (Oct. 16, 2016), <https://web.archive.org/web/20180517001739/http://www.gulf-times.com/story/515953/Bangladesh-launches-smart-national-ID-cards>

⁷⁶⁵ BiometricUpdate, *Home Affairs Dept to Become National ID-Issuing Authority in Bangladesh* (Jun. 15, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202306/home-affairs-dept-to-become-national-id-issuing-authority-in-bangladesh>

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Environmental Impact of AI

The draft National AI Policy 2024 emphasizes Sustainability as a Key Principle, aiming to develop AI technologies that minimize their carbon footprint and promote environmentally friendly practices.⁷⁶⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Bangladesh is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁷⁶⁷ Bangladesh engages actively in discussions surrounding lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). At a 2016 UN General Assembly, Bangladesh's representative noted Bangladesh is “of the view that further attention of the international community is required in this area so that consensus can be reached in near future so that use of such weapons can be regulated by international laws and regulations.”⁷⁶⁸ In October 2023, at the 78th UN General Assembly, Bangladesh voted in favor of resolution L.56, emphasizing the international community's need to address concerns regarding autonomous weapons.⁷⁶⁹ Bangladesh advocates for a comprehensive assessment of these systems' compliance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights laws. Bangladesh is part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the CCW,⁷⁷⁰ which supports negotiating a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons. The NAM emphasizes the urgency of regulating emerging technologies related to autonomous weapons systems through a legally binding instrument under the Convention.

⁷⁶⁶ Regulations.ai, *Bangladesh—National AI Policy (2024)* (Apr. 2, 2024), <https://regulations.ai/regulations/RAI-BD-NA-NAI2DXX-2024>

⁷⁶⁷ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁶⁸ Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York, *Intervention [...] in the Thematic Discussion on “Conventional Weapons” in the First Committee* (Oct. 19/20, 2016), <https://nypm.mofa.gov.bd/pages/static-pages/6952667c35ce18e1c05a97aa>

⁷⁶⁹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Statement by Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Thematic Debate: “Conventional Weapons” First Committee 78th Session United Nations General Assembly* (Oct. 2023), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Eighth_session_\(2023\)/Bangladesh.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Eighth_session_(2023)/Bangladesh.pdf)

⁷⁷⁰ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups—CCW* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

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AI Literacy

The Bangladesh United Nations Development Programme recognized the importance of equipping young professionals, one-third of Bangladesh’s population, with AI Literacy skills to thrive in a technology-driven world. Bangladesh’s UNDP made a commitment to empower youth providing AI skills to strengthen the national innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Bangladesh’s UNDP commitment to empower youth with AI skills alongside public and private sector partnerships resulted in programs to support youth-led start-ups, to expand access to software programming certifications and to connect youth with job opportunities.⁷⁷¹

The draft National AI Policy frames public awareness campaigns as foundational to and charges the government with creating education programs to build public trust, digital literacy, and acceptance of AI systems.⁷⁷² More specific skills-based and digital literacy initiatives emphasize objectives to build an AI-ready workforce and AI use and development. For example, the policy proposes introducing AI and computational thinking education beginning in grades 8 or 9 to build foundational skills in math, programming, and machine learning.⁷⁷³ The goal is to “cultivate a generation capable of innovating, not just consuming, within the global AI ecosystem.” Under Education, Research, and Development, the National AI Policy acknowledges AI ethics and over-reliance on AI under the Risk Management and Accountability Measures.⁷⁷⁴

Human Rights

Freedom House ranked Bangladesh as “Partly Free” with a score of 44/100 for political and civil rights in the 2026 Freedom in the World Report.⁷⁷⁵ The report highlights reforms to pen political and civic space since the ruling Awami League (AL) was overthrown in 2024 after 15 years in power. Extralegal violence and political persecution remain problems, however. The country’s first general election

⁷⁷¹ Bangladesh United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Empowering Youth with Digital Skills and AI* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/news/empowering-youth-digital-skills-and-ai>

⁷⁷² AI Policy National Initiative, *Bangladesh National AI Policy 2026–2030, Draft v2*, p. 23 (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/docs/national-ai-policy-bangladesh-2026-2030-draft-v2.0.pdf>

⁷⁷³ Ibid, p. 38

⁷⁷⁴ Ibid, p. 28

⁷⁷⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2026: Bangladesh* (2026), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/bangladesh/freedom-world/2026>

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in more than a decade were “conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner in line with international standards.”⁷⁷⁶

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) noted concerns over excessive use of force by security forces against protesters in n August 2024 before the AL was overthrown. The OHCHR received multiple reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and suppression of political dissent. The report called for independent investigations into these incidents to ensure accountability.⁷⁷⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Bangladesh is not a member of the OECD or the G20 and has not endorsed AI principles.⁷⁷⁸ Bangladesh does not participate in the Global Partnership on AI.⁷⁷⁹ The draft National AI Policy⁷⁸⁰ commits to endorsing the principles as a non-member state under the International Alignment and Cooperation foundation. The country is still early in the process of implementing policies to ensure the human-centered development of trustworthy AI.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Bangladesh has not endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democratic Values, and Rule of Law.⁷⁸¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Bangladesh officially endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in 2021 and has since taken steps to integrate principles

⁷⁷⁶ South Asia Newslog, *BNP Wins Over Two-Thirds Majority in 13th Bangladesh General Elections* (Feb. 13, 2026), <https://southasia.news.blog/2026/02/13/bnp-wins-over-two-thirds-majority-in-13th-bangladesh-general-elections/>

⁷⁷⁷ UN Human Rights Office of the High Commission, *Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protest and Unrest in Bangladesh*, (Aug 16 , 2024), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/OHCHR-Preliminary-Analysis-of-Recent-Protests-and-Unrest-in-Bangladesh-16082024_2.pdf

⁷⁷⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁷⁷⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁷⁸⁰ AI Policy National Initiative, *Bangladesh National AI Policy 2026–2030, Draft v2*, p. 25 (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://aipolicy.gov.bd/docs/national-ai-policy-bangladesh-2026-2030-draft-v2.0.pdf>

⁷⁸¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 28, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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including transparency, fairness, and human-centered AI development into national frameworks.⁷⁸²

UNESCO collaborated with Bangladesh's ICT Ministry and Aspire to Innovate (a2i) to conduct the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) released in April 2025. UNESCO highlights the country's advances in AI research, AI startups, the training of models on Bengali, and the draft National AI Strategy as positive directions for AI development.⁷⁸³ Recommendations center on ensuring the AI strategy and policy are inclusive and rights-protecting, strengthening the data protection and cybersecurity regimes, and developing a more structured AI and digital literacy curriculum.

Evaluation

Bangladesh set out a national strategy for AI that recognizes the importance of AI ethics and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The data protection ordinance in 2025 marked an improvement and there is support in the national AI strategy for a GDPR-style law and for an explicit right of algorithmic transparency in the draft National AI Policy 2024. Bangladesh's extensive biometric identification program through the national ID system remains concerning, especially with ongoing violence even after the change in government in late 2024.

⁷⁸³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Bangladesh* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/bangladesh>

Belgium

In 2025, Belgium released a Charter for the Responsible Use of AI in Public Services and designated authorities for the protection of fundamental rights in line with Article 77 of the EU AI Act.

National AI Strategy

In October 2022, the Council of Ministers of the Belgian Federal Government approved a National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence, reducing the fragmentation of regional AI strategies to “exploit the opportunities offered by AI to the full” in a Smart AI Nation.⁷⁸⁴ The Plan centers on nine objectives: “(1) Promoting trustworthy AI; (2) Guaranteeing cybersecurity; (3) Strengthening Belgium’s competitiveness and attractiveness through AI; (4) Developing a data-driven economy and a high-performance infrastructure; (5) AI at the heart of healthcare; (6) Driving more sustainable mobility; (7) Protecting the environment; (8) Better lifelong training; (9) Providing citizens with better services and protection.” A steering committee created by FPS Policy and Support (BOSA) and the FPS Economy executes and coordinates the Convergence Plan.

The Convergence Plan envisions a “Smart AI Nation in which truly every citizen shares in the benefits AI provides.”⁷⁸⁵ To achieve a Smart AI Nation “we must take particular care to protect fundamental rights such as privacy and non-discrimination, and ensure that new technologies are developed within an appropriate ethical and legal framework.” Under the first objective, the Convergence Plan references steps toward an EU AI Act and acknowledges “new rights and obligations may be needed to ensure that the framework for AI innovation provides the necessary protection [...] and that it is accessible and transparent to all users of AI services.” Dialogue with citizens, raising awareness about AI uses and harms, and studying impacts on individuals and societies are other action items.⁷⁸⁶

At the beginning of 2024, Belgium launched a call for candidates to set up a Data and AI Ethics Advisory Committee for the federal administration. Its members

⁷⁸⁴ FPS Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence*, <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/themes/digital-administration/digital-strategy-and-policy/national-convergence-plan-development>

⁷⁸⁵ FSP Policy and Support BOSA, *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence: Becoming an AI Smart Nation*, p. 3 (Oct. 2022), https://bosa.belgium.be/sites/default/files/content/images/DigitaleOverheid/AI/Plan_AI_EN.pdf

⁷⁸⁶ Ibid, pp. 5–8

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were officially appointed by ministerial decree on May 8, 2024.⁷⁸⁷ The creation of this Committee has several objectives, including raising awareness among civil servants in relation to the use of data and AI and its ethical considerations; preserving human oversight; and respect for values such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

In 2019, the Information Report on the necessary cooperation between the Federal State and the federated entities regarding the impact, opportunities, possibilities and risks of the digital “smart society” was released by a working group created by the Belgian Senate that has been meeting since 2018.⁷⁸⁸ Their findings and recommendations are grouped in six chapters: governance, ethics and human rights, and legislation; economy, labor market and taxation; education and training; attention economy: impact on people; privacy and cybersecurity; research and development. The report states that “The development and use of artificial intelligence shall be based on the following guiding principles: prudence, vigilance, loyalty, reliability, justification and transparency, accountability, limited autonomy, humanity, human integrity, and balancing of individual and collective interests.” “Fundamental rights, in particular human dignity and freedom, and privacy, must be the basis and starting point for all actions and legislation in the field of artificial intelligence.”⁷⁸⁹

AI Regulations in the Federated States

The national Convergence Plan centers on working “in synergy with the federated states that have been pursuing a very dynamic policy for the introduction of AI for several years.”⁷⁹⁰ Belgium is a federal state with three regions as well as three communities, all of which have their own government, and many of which have also developed strategies and initiatives on digitalization or AI. “The Flemish Community, the French Community and the German-speaking Community are

⁷⁸⁷ FPS BOSA, *Appointment of the Data and AI Ethics Advisory Committee for the Federal Administration* (May 8, 2024), <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/news/appointment-data-and-ai-ethics-advisory-committee-federal-administration>

⁷⁸⁸ Sénat de Belgique, *Rapport d'information relatif à la nécessaire collaboration entre l'État fédéral et les entités fédérées en ce qui concerne les retombées, les opportunités, les potentialités et les risques de la « société intelligente » numérique* (Mar. 2019), <https://www.senate.be/www/webdriver?MItabObj=pdf&MIcolObj=pdf&MInamObj=pdfid&MItypeObj=application/pdf&MIvalObj=100664119>

⁷⁸⁹ Sénat de Belgique, *Rapport d'information relatif à la nécessaire collaboration entre l'État fédéral et les entités fédérées en ce qui concerne les retombées, les opportunités, les potentialités et les risques de la « société intelligente » numérique*, (Mar. 2019), <https://www.senate.be/www/webdriver?MItabObj=pdf&MIcolObj=pdf&MInamObj=pdfid&MItypeObj=application/pdf&MIvalObj=100664119>

⁷⁹⁰ Ibid, p. 3

divided according to language and culture. They are responsible for language, culture, education, audiovisual media, and individual assistance such as specific parts of health policy and social welfare. The regions (the Flemish Region, the Brussels Capital Region and the Walloon Region) are divided based on territory.”⁷⁹¹ They are responsible for the economy, employment, housing, public works, energy transportation, environmental and spatial planning and have some things to say concerning international affairs. The Federal Government is responsible for foreign affairs, defense, justice, finance, social security, healthcare and internal affairs.

The Flemish Region (*Vlaanderen*) released the Flanders Radically Digital program in 2019, which was renewed as Flanders Radically Digital II (VRD2) in 2021. This regional digital strategy aims to foster digital public services, data processing, and automation in the public sector.⁷⁹² The strategy focuses specifically on algorithmic transparency, privacy, explainability, and human-centered, safe, sustainable, and trustworthy AI.⁷⁹³ The plan includes the allocation of 5 million euros to initiatives related to AI ethics and education.⁷⁹⁴ Another AI Action plan,⁷⁹⁵ covering 2024–2028, continued these efforts following a positive external evaluation of progress.

In 2022, the Flemish government adopted a new strategy for data governance, which also comprises initiatives for ethical data use, privacy, transparency, and AI analytics for the public sector.⁷⁹⁶ In September 2024, in continuation of the Flemish Government’s commitment to AI, a project to make Flemish Public Administration AI-ready was launched.⁷⁹⁷

⁷⁹¹ Belgium.be, Belgian Federal Government, *Belgium, A Federal State*, https://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/federale_staat

⁷⁹² Digitaal Vlaanderen, *Flanders Radically Digital II [Vlaanderen Radicaal Digitaal II]*, <https://www.vlaanderen.be/uw-overheid/werking-en-structuur/hoe-werkt-de-vlaamse-overheid/informatie-en-communicatie/vlaanderen-radicaal-digitaal-ii>

⁷⁹³ De Vlaamse minister van Werk, Economie, Innovatie en Sport, *QUATERNOTA AAN DE VLAAMSE REGERING. Betreft: Vlaams Beleidsplan Artificiële Intelligentie* (2019), https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/sites/default/files/quaternota_aan_de_vlaamse_regering_-_vlaams_beleidsplan_artificiele_intelligentie.pdf

⁷⁹⁴ Flanders Department for Economy, Science and Innovation, *Vlaams actieplan Artificiële Intelligentie gelanceerd* (Mar. 22, 2019), <https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/nieuws/vlaams-actieplan-artificiele-intelligentie-gelanceerd>

⁷⁹⁵ Flanders Minister of Economy, Innovation, Labor, Social Economy and Agriculture, *Memo to the Flemish Government regarding Flemish Artificial Intelligence Policy Plan AI Research Program—Working Year 2024 [Betreft: Vlaams Beleidsplan Artificiële Intelligentie 2024–2028, Onderzoeksprogramma AI - werkjaar 2024]* (2024), <https://live-ewi-ai.rcaonline.be/sites/default/files/2024-04/Vlaams%20Beleidsplan%20AI%202024-2028.pdf>

⁷⁹⁶ Digitaal Vlaanderen, *Actieplan 2022: Vlaamse Datastrategie* (Feb. 2022), https://assets.vlaanderen.be/image/upload/v1647858968/Vlaamse_datastrategie_kacrph.pdf

⁷⁹⁷ UNESCO, *AI-Ready Flemish Public Administration* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics/flemish-government>

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The Walloon government published the Digital Wallonia 2019–2024 strategy “based on values including a cross-disciplinary approach, transparency, coherence, openness and flexibility.”⁷⁹⁸ In 2019, the Walloon government also launched the regional strategy DigitalWallonia4.ai. The strategy aims to accelerate the development of the Walloon AI ecosystem and “sustainably include Wallonia in national and European AI initiatives in order to build a foundation of trust around transparent, ethical and responsible AI.”⁷⁹⁹

In 2022, the Brussels Capital Region started a pilot project with the FARI Institute, a non-profit initiative led by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université Libre de Bruxelles, to develop an AI strategy for the region.⁸⁰⁰ In January 2023, FARI published outcomes from the 2022 Conference on AI, Data and Robotics in Cities, including recommendations from the Observer Committee for the Brussels Capital Region. The recommendations included raising AI awareness and literacy; governing with various stakeholders, including citizens; determining AI-related responsibilities; collaborating on multi- and interdisciplinary levels; (responsibly) enabling data flows; reusing and readapting the existing AI guidelines, principles, and regulations.⁸⁰¹ The adoption of the 2022 Convergence Plan was also preceded by several initiatives at national and European level.

EU Digital Services Act

The EU Digital Services Act (DSA) applies in Belgium.⁸⁰² The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.

As required by DSA, Belgium designated competent authorities to implement provisions of the DSA. As numerous competences are involved in the

⁷⁹⁸ Digitalwallonia.be, *Digital Wallonia 2019–2024* (Jun. 2018), <https://www.digitalwallonia.be/en/posts/digital-wallonia-2019-2024>

⁷⁹⁹ Digitalwallonia.be, *DigitalWallonia4.ai : Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Citizens and Companies in Wallonia* (Apr. 2019), <https://www.digitalwallonia.be/en/posts/digitalwallonia4-ai-artificial-intelligence-at-the-service-of-citizens-and-companies-in-wallonia/>

⁸⁰⁰ FARI, *AI Strategy for the Brussels Region* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.fari.brussels/research-and-innovation/project/ai-strategy-for-the-brussels-region>

⁸⁰¹ FARI, Brussels Conference 2022: Summary and Recommendations, *What Can the Brussel Capital Region Do to Foster Responsible AI?* (Jan. 2023), https://issuu.com/faribrussels/docs/en.fari_conference_summary_2022

⁸⁰² Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

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implementation of the DSA, at federal and community level, four competent authorities have been designated in Belgium.⁸⁰³

A Bill to implement the DSA was introduced to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives on January 31, 2024. The Bill aims to harmonize Belgian legislation with the new requirements for digital services under the DSA. Key provisions include the designation of the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT) as the competent authority to supervise the provisions of the DSA at the federal level, the issuance of decrees designating the competent authorities for federated entities, and the establishment of a cooperation agreement between the federal state and the communities. The Bill introduces additional obligations for providers of very large online platforms and search engines. These obligations include the management, assessment, and limitation of systemic risks and the implementation of crisis response mechanisms. They apply to platforms and search engines with an average monthly number of users in the EU of 45 million or more. The Bill also proposes changes to other aspects of Belgian law to align with the DSA and introduces sanctions for non-compliance with orders issued by the competent authorities.⁸⁰⁴

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Belgium is bound by the EU AI Act.⁸⁰⁵ Belgium's FSA Policy and Support (BOSA) identifies the EU AI Act as an important aid in implementing the National Convergence Plan. A Royal Decree established the

⁸⁰³ Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications, *Digital Services Act: Belgium Has Designated Its Four Competent Authorities to Enforce the Provisions of the European Regulation Brussels* (May 24, 2024), <https://www.bipt.be/consumers/publication/digital-services-act-belgium-has-designated-its-four-competent-authorities-to-enforce-the-provisions-of-the-european-regulation-brussels>

⁸⁰⁴ La Chambre.Be, *Draft law implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 [...] on a single market for digital services and amending [...] relating to the status of the regulator of the Belgian postal and telecommunications sectors [Document parlementaire 55K3799: Project de loi mettant en oeuvre le règlement (UE) 2022/2065 [...] à un marché unique des services numériques et modifiant [...] au statut du régulateur des secteurs des postes et des télécommunications belges]* (Apr. 18, 2024),

<https://www.dekamer.be/kvvcr/showpage.cfm?section=/flwb&language=fr&cfm=/site/wwwcfm/flwb/flwbn.cfm?lang=N&legislat=55&dossierID=3799>

⁸⁰⁵ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

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Steering Committee as the primary federal contact on matters related to AI policy, alongside the Federal Government Data Ethics and AI Advisory Committee established in 2023.⁸⁰⁶

Belgium has not designated an official single point of contact for the EU AI Act but has identified a number of authorities to protect fundamental rights in line with Article 77.⁸⁰⁷ Belgium has designated 18 authorities at the federal level as well as authorities for each of the regions. Some of these authorities, such as Unia, an institute for equality, overlap. The data protection authority is also listed, along with bodies dedicated to cybersecurity, policing, and migration.

Belgium voted against EU AI Code of Conduct, or the General-Purpose AI Code of Practice, over copyright issues. Commenting on the vote, the federal minister for Digitalisation, Vanessa Matz, told the press, “Belgium and other European countries have emphasised that this is not the end of the process. The Commission has acknowledged that the code may need to be evaluated and amended sooner than legally required. I will continue to work with the relevant services to ensure that AI models take the interests of journalists, publishers, producers and creators into account.”⁸⁰⁸ The General-Purpose AI Code of Practice is a voluntary tool to help industry comply with the AI Act’s obligations for providers of general-purpose AI models.⁸⁰⁹

Public Opinion

A 2019 opinion survey by AI4Belgium, a committee under the FSA BOSA, examined the public perception of AI, its perceived impact, and the role the government should play in AI implementation.⁸¹⁰ According to the survey, 76% of the respondents hold a positive attitude towards technological developments, while only 6% hold a negative attitude. Most respondents were worried about the loss of

⁸⁰⁶ Service Public Federal Economie, PME, Classes Moyennes et Energie, *Royal Decree Instituting a Steering Committee on Artificial Intelligence [Arrêté royal instituant un Comité d’orientation en matière d’intelligence artificielle]*, Moniteur Belge n.121, 6 June 2024 (May 25, 2024), https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2024/06/06_1.pdf#Page201

⁸⁰⁷ SPF Economie, PME Classes Moyennes et Energie, *List of Belgian Authorities Charged with the Protection of Fundamental Rights [Liste des autorités belges en charge de la protection des droits fondamentaux (Article 77 AI Act)]* (Mar. 2025), <https://economie.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Files/Online/Liste-des-autorites-belges-en-charge-de-la-protection-des-droits-fondamentaux.pdf>

⁸⁰⁸ Belga News Agency, *Belgium Votes against EU AI Code of Conduct amid Copyright Concerns* (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://www.belganewsagency.eu/belgium-votes-against-eu-ai-code-of-conduct-amid-copyright-concerns>

⁸⁰⁹ European Commission, *The General-Purpose AI Code of Practice* (Jul. 10, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/contents-code-gpai>

⁸¹⁰ AI4Belgium, *Artificial Intelligence Perception [Perception intelligence artificielle]* (Feb. 2019), <https://bosa.belgium.be/sites/default/files/content/documents/DTdocs/AI/Etude-Perception-intelligence-artificielle-Ipsos.pdf>

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privacy, security and integrity of their personal information (85%), less use of human common sense (85%), less human interaction (83%) and the loss of trust and control over robots and artificial intelligence (77%).

When asked which activity to prioritize, the highest priority concerned “the management of ethical risks around AI. For example, discrimination, privacy, etc.” (74%). This was followed by “supporting employees and employers in the transition to AI in the workplace” (65%); “improving public service through AI” (58%); “supporting research and development (R&D) and innovation in the field of AI” (52%); “facilitating and supporting enterprise access to AI technologies” (48%); and “supporting start-ups engaged in AI” (45%). The majority of citizens suspect that AI will increase inequality between highly educated and low- or unskilled people (66%) and between persons with a privileged background and persons without one (60%).

Public Participation

As part of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2024, Belgium launched a pioneering democratic initiative: a citizens’ panel on artificial intelligence (AI).⁸¹¹ This initiative underlines the country's commitment to an inclusive and participatory approach towards the formulation of European policies in the field. The citizens' panel, which is made up of 60 people selected at random from over 16,000 invitations sent out across Belgium, brought together all strata of the population in terms of age, gender, levels of education, and other demographic criteria. This diversity ensured that the discussions and recommendations reflect a wide range of perspectives and experiences rooted in people's lived experiences.⁸¹²

Belgian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs described the initiative as their determination “to put the Belgian people at the heart of the decision-making process.”⁸¹³ Civil society must be heard on issues as important as artificial intelligence and contribute towards ambitious policies that meet their expectations.” The panel’s conclusions were compiled into a report, which featured 9 key messages aimed at contributing to Belgian and EU policy on AI. These messages reflected citizens’ aspirations for a responsible, ambitious, and beneficial approach to AI to ensure that

⁸¹¹ Belgian Federal Government, *Belgium Launched AI Presidency Citizen Panel* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/launch-of-citizens-panel-on-artificial-intelligence/>

⁸¹² Belgian Federal Government, *Belgian Citizens Meet to Reflect on AI* (May 29, 2024), <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/policy-areas/highlighted/belgian-citizens-meet-reflect-ai>

⁸¹³ Belgian Federal Government, *Belgium Launched AI Presidency Citizen Panel* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/launch-of-citizens-panel-on-artificial-intelligence/>

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AI serves the interests of all and leaves no one behind.⁸¹⁴ On May 25, 2024, the report was presented and debated in Brussels, in the presence of Belgian and European politicians, representatives of civil society and tech companies.⁸¹⁵

Data Protection

Since Belgium is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is directly applicable in Belgium. Taking stock of the GDPR, the Belgium Privacy Commission was reformed in 2018. It is now called the Belgian Data Protection Authority (DPA) and aims to ensure compliance with the GDPR.⁸¹⁶ The DPA has direct sanctioning powers as well as extended enforcement capabilities. The Belgian DPA published guidance on the interplay between the GDPR and the AI Act on September 19, 2024.⁸¹⁷

In March 2022, the DPA expressed concern over the Belgian draft legislation on amending the Act of December 3, 2017, establishing the Data Protection Authority. In particular, the DPA mentioned that the draft law jeopardizes its efficiency and independence.⁸¹⁸ The draft legislation introduces parliamentary interference regarding the DPA internal organization and setting its priorities. The European Data Protection Board expressed similar concerns in its letter of April 2022 in support of the Belgian DPA.⁸¹⁹ The reform proposal of the DPA Act amending the law of December 3, 2017, was approved and entered into force on June 1, 2024.⁸²⁰

⁸¹⁴ Belgium EU Presidency, *The Citizen's Panel on AI Issues Its Report* (May 22, 2024), <https://wayback.archive-it.org/12710/20241018172535/https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/the-citizens-panel-on-ai-issues-its-report/>

⁸¹⁵ Belgium EU Presidency, *beEU Citizen Panel Closing Event* (May 25, 2024), <https://wayback.archive-it.org/12710/20240718214829/https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/beeu-citizen-panel-closing-event/>

⁸¹⁶ PWC Legal, *The New Belgian Data Protection Authority: Who's Who and How Will It Work* (Jan. 23, 2019), <https://www.pwclegal.be/en/news/the-new-belgian-data-protection-authority---whos-who-and-how-wil.html>

⁸¹⁷ Belgium DPA, *Artificial Intelligence Systems and the GDPR A Data Protection Perspective*, (Sep 19, 2024), <https://www.gegevensbeschermingsautoriteit.be/publications/information-brochure-on-artificial-intelligence-systems-and-the-gdpr.pdf>

⁸¹⁸ Belgian Data Protection Authority, *A New Draft Law Threatens the Independence and Functioning of the BE DPA* (Mar. 8, 2022), <https://www.dataprotectionauthority.be/citizen/a-new-draft-law-threatens-the-independence-and-functioning-of-the-be-dpa>

⁸¹⁹ European Data Protection Board letter (Apr. 6, 2022). https://edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2022-04/edpb_letter_out_2022-0022_belgian_draft_legislation_en.pdf

⁸²⁰ Data Protection Authority, *A New Chapter for the APD – Amendment of the Law and New ROI*, (May 31, 2024), <https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be/citoyen/actualites/2024/05/31/un-nouveau-chapitre-pour-lapd-modification-de-la-loi-et-nouveau-roi>

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Belgium also established a Federal Data and AI Ethics Advisory Committee to promote ethical AI use in public administration, with objectives that include raising awareness among civil servants on data and AI ethics.⁸²¹

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Belgium transposed⁸²² the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED).⁸²³ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination,⁸²⁴ and “will in particular ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”⁸²⁵

Following the transposition of the EU Law Enforcement Directive in Belgian law, the Supervisory Body for Police Information, “the oversight body which looks at how the police use information (COC) was reformed to function as an independent data protection body.”⁸²⁶ It is intended to oversee how the police use data.⁸²⁷

Both the DPA and the COC are members of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA). The DPA co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence⁸²⁸ but did not endorse the 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁸²⁹ 2022 GPA

⁸²¹ FPS BOSA, *Appointment of the Data and AI Ethics Advisory Committee for the Federal Administration* (May 8, 2024), <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/news/appointment-data-and-ai-ethics-advisory-committee-federal-administration>

⁸²² Belgian Official Journal, *Act on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data* (Jul. 30, 2018), <https://www.dataprotectionauthority.be/publications/act-of-30-july-2018.pdf>

⁸²³ *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁸²⁴ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁸²⁵ European Commission, *Legal Framework of Data Protection in the EU*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁸²⁶ Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society Report 2020: Belgium* (2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/belgium/>

⁸²⁷ Supervisory Body for Police Information, <https://www.contrôleorgaan.be/en/>

⁸²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁸²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

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Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁸³⁰ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁸³¹

Belgium is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁸³²

In 2019, a national human rights institution, the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, was established. Its main goal is to facilitate cooperation between the existing human rights oversight mechanisms and fill the gaps in the existing landscape.⁸³³ More specifically, it “ensures that the use of new technologies and the digitalisation of society contribute to strengthening our rights rather than limiting them.”⁸³⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Belgium is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Belgians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁸³⁵ They also have the right to meaningful

⁸³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁸³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁸³² Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁸³³ European Networks of National Human Rights Institutions, *ENNHRI Welcomes New Law Adopted on National Human Rights Institution in Belgium* (May 9, 2019), <http://ennhri.org/news-and-blog/ennhri-welcomes-new-law-adopted-on-national-human-rights-institution-in-belgium/>

⁸³⁴ Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, *Technology, Digitalisation and Human Rights, What Does FIRM/IFDH Do?*, <https://www.federalinstitutehumanrights.be/en/uw-rechten/themes/technology-digitalisation-and-human-rights>

⁸³⁵ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

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contestation.⁸³⁶ Belgium has signed but not yet ratified Convention 108+.⁸³⁷ Belgium's ratification is required for the Convention to enter into force.

In 2019, the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights issued its first opinion on the use of algorithms and artificial intelligence by the administration and argued in favor of more transparency from public authorities.⁸³⁸

Algorithm Registers

Brussels, in collaboration with eight other cities across Europe and with the help of Eurocities' Digital Forum, adopted an algorithm register, the Algorithmic Transparency Standard. The data officer for the Brussels Capital region will oversee the register, which allows residents to access information about the use of algorithms by municipalities and their impact. The register includes information such as the type and purpose of an algorithm, the department using the algorithm, the geographical area and domain it relates to, and a risk category. The register also references the data source and training data, any bias and mitigation, and human oversight. This initiative builds on similar algorithm registers launched in Amsterdam and Helsinki.

According to André Sobczak, Secretary General, Eurocities, "The efforts undertaken by these cities aim to set a standard for the transparent and ethical use of algorithms while their use is still in its relative infancy across city administrations in Europe. In this way, they seek to offer both a safeguard for people whose data may be used by algorithms, and have created a validated model that other cities can use straight away."⁸³⁹

AI in Public Administration

The Council of Ministers proposed the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Ethics on Data and Artificial Intelligence for the federal

⁸³⁶ Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁸³⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 8, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list;?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

⁸³⁸ Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, *L'IFDH demande plus de transparence sur l'utilisation des algorithmes par les autorités* (Oct. 7, 2021), <https://www.federalinstitutehumanrights.be/en/nieuws/lifdh-demande-plus-de-transparence-sur-lutilisation-des-algorithmes-par-les-autorites>

⁸³⁹ Eurocities, *Nine Cities Set Standards for the Transparent Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 23, 2023), <https://eurocities.eu/latest/nine-cities-set-standards-for-the-transparent-use-of-artificial-intelligence/>

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administration⁸⁴⁰ to a) empower civil servants in the use of data and AI, b) raise awareness among civil servants about the ethical aspects of data use, and c) show citizens that the Federal Administration is setting an example and dealing with digital technology in an ethical and innovative way. The committee was established in 2024.⁸⁴¹

In January 2024, Wallonia announced its aim to integrate AI into the public service sector.⁸⁴² To this end, Wallonia launched a public call for the development of a Proof of Concept (PoC) with public entities.⁸⁴³ The Flemish region also initiated a project in 2024 to ensure the Flemish Public Administration AI-ready.⁸⁴⁴ This project is funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support. UNESCO's Ethics of AI Unit, Social and Human Sciences Sector, is tasked with implementing the project, which will leverage UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

The Council of Europe Technical Support Project launched an initiative to strengthen the administrative capacity of equality bodies in Belgium (as well as Finland and Portugal) over 2024–2026, increasing the Belgian Interfederal Center for Equal Opportunities (Unia) readiness to uncover discrimination in AI deployment in public administration and support those facing discrimination by AI, in line with Council of Europe standards.⁸⁴⁵

As part of Objective 9 of the National AI Convergence Plan to “provide citizens with better services and better protection,”⁸⁴⁶ the AI4Belgium Ethics and

⁸⁴⁰ News.belgium, *Création d'un comité consultatif d'éthique des données et de l'intelligence artificielle* (Jul. 7, 2023), <https://news.belgium.be/fr/creation-dun-comite-consultatif-dethique-des-donnees-et-de-lintelligence-artificielle>

⁸⁴¹ FPS Justice, *Ministerial Degree Appointing the Members of the Advisory Committee on Data Ethics and Artificial Intelligence of the Federal Administration [Arrêté ministériel portant désignation des membres du Comité Consultatif d'Ethique des Données et d'Intelligence Artificielle de l'administration fédérale]* (May 8, 2024), https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/article.pl?language=fr&sum_date=2024-05-29&lg_txt=F&numac_search=2024004813

⁸⁴² Wallonia Regional Government of Belgium, *Wallonia to Integrate AI into Public Services* (Jan 7, 2024), <https://www.digitalwallonia.be/fr/publications/ia-services-publics/>

⁸⁴³ Ibid

⁸⁴⁴ UNESCO, *AI-Ready Flemish Public Administration* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics/flemish-government>

⁸⁴⁵ Council of Europe, *Upholding Equality and Non-Discrimination by Equality Bodies regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Administrations* (Nov. 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/upholding-equality-and-non-discrimination-by-equality-bodies-regarding-the-use-of-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-public-administrations1>

⁸⁴⁶ FPS Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence*, <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/themes/digital-administration/digital-strategy-and-policy/national-convergence-plan-development>

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Law Committee developed the Charter for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Services⁸⁴⁷ in collaboration with experts and government agencies.⁸⁴⁸ Fundamental principles and commitments underlying the charter include: the option to choose Human interaction over AI, Transparency about when AI is used, Human control or supervision for high-risk AI systems, the right to challenge an AI-supported decision, Data quality and governance requirements, Risk assessment and mitigation before deployment, Sustainability and environmental-impact-aware applications, and Continuing education about AI for public officials. Forty public service entities across the Federal Public Services and Programming, Public Interest Organizations, and Public Social Security Institutes have agreed to adhere to the Charter.

Facial Recognition

According to AlgorithmWatch, facial recognition has been used at the Brussels Airport, football matches, for school registration and for healthcare. A “smart” video surveillance system is also in use to locate criminals, solve theft cases and collect statistical information.⁸⁴⁹ AlgorithmWatch stressed that there is no legal framework governing this activity by the police.

Additionally, Belgium’s involvement in the Prüm Convention facilitates the sharing of biometric data, including facial recognition images, across European borders. In March 2024, Belgium signed the Prüm II expansion, which includes provisions for cross-border facial recognition technology. This expansion underscores the need for Belgium to implement robust data protection measures and clear guidelines to ensure that cross-border use of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) aligns with privacy standards.⁸⁵⁰

The COC has criticized the use of facial recognition at the Brussels airport, stating that there is “too little information about the implementation and risks of the technology as there was no clear policy or data protection impact assessment

⁸⁴⁷ AI4Belgium Ethics and Law Committee, *Charter for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Services [Charte pour l'utilisation responsable de l'intelligence artificielle dans les services publics]* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://bosa.belgium.be/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Charte%20pour%20l%27utilisation%20responsable%20de%20l%27IA%20dans%20les%20services%20publics.pdf>

⁸⁴⁸ FPS BOSA, *Artificial Intelligence in Public Services: A Charter for Responsible Use [L'intelligence artificielle dans les services publics: Une charte pour l'utilisation responsable]*, <https://bosa.belgium.be/fr/themes/administration-numerique/intelligence-artificielle-et-nouvelles-technologies/lintelligence>

⁸⁴⁹ AlgorithmWatch, *Automating Society 2020* (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/belgium/>

⁸⁵⁰ EUCRIM, *Prüm II Regulation Enters into Force* (2024), <https://eucrim.eu/news/prum-ii-regulation-enters-into-force/>

conducted to come to a conclusion or offer advice.” In a 2022 report, the COC reiterated “the lack of legal basis for the use of facial recognition technology by the Brussels airport police” and noted that it took “corrective action” in order to halt the pilot project.⁸⁵¹ The COC also reported that Belgian police had used the controversial facial recognition system Clearview AI without a legal basis and advised Belgian police to cease this activity.”⁸⁵²

Belgium’s 2025–2029 federal coalition agreement commits to deploying AI tools in law enforcement, including facial recognition “for the detection of convicts and suspects.”⁸⁵³ The coalition agreement text says that the government will work on “a concrete policy” regarding the use of these technologies “within a strict and precisely defined legal framework.” The text also mentions an expansion of the camera legislation to allow broader (smart) surveillance.

Regulatory Sandboxes

In Belgium, the Flemish and Walloon regions have both developed regulatory sandboxes aimed at creating self-contained, low-regulation environments where software developers can experiment with innovative solutions without taking on significant risks. In Flanders, the Sandbox Flanders project is coordinated through the Flemish government agency for digitalization, Digital Flanders. Sandbox Flanders is designed to develop innovative solutions for the public sector by “matching” start-ups with government agencies and departments. The project also aims to be a “permanent marketplace” for ideas without a profit motive.⁸⁵⁴ Many of the projects in question use AI systems to solve practical issues in particular “challenges,” such as predicting exam enrollments and automated policy impact

⁸⁵¹ Controleorgaan.be, *Advies betreffende een voorstel van resolutie over een driejarig moratorium op het gebruik van gezichtsherkenningsoftware en – algoritmen in vaste of mobiele beveiligingscamera’s in openbare en privéplaatsen* (Jan. 2022), https://www.controleorgaan.be/files/DA210029_Advies_N.pdf

⁸⁵² Controleorgaan.be, *toezichtrapport van het controleorgaan op de politionele informatie met betrekking tot het gebruik van clearview ai door de geïntegreerde politie* (Feb. 2022), https://www.controleorgaan.be/files/DIO21006_Toezichtrapport_Clearview_N_00050443.pdf

⁸⁵³ Gouvernement Fédéral Belge, *Federal Coalition Agreement [Accord de coalition fédérale 2025-2029]* (Jan. 31, 2025), https://www.belgium.be/sites/default/files/resources/publication/files/Accord_gouvernemental-Bart_De_Wever_fr.pdf; Knowledge Centre Data & Society, *Belgium—Federal Government Agreement 2025–2029* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://data-en-maatschappij.ai/en/publications/belgi%C3%AB-federaal-regeerakkoord-2025-2029>

⁸⁵⁴ Digitaal Vlaanderen, *Sandbox Vlaanderen: Ruimte voor innovatie en experiment*, <https://www.vlaanderen.be/digitaal-vlaanderen/onze-oplossingen/sandbox-vlaanderen-ruimte-voor-innovatie-en-experiment>

assessments.⁸⁵⁵ In the Walloon case, a private entity (LUDEBO) coordinates the sandbox ecosystem together with Digital Wallonia and the blockchain startup-collective Walchain, but the goal of this regulatory sandbox is only to foster blockchain technology development.⁸⁵⁶

Starting in July 2023, regional authorities commenced sectorial AI testing under the Digital Europe Program.⁸⁵⁷ The Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) are poised to aid in the implementation of the EU AI Act, particularly by supporting regulatory sandboxes in collaboration with national authorities. This initiative encompasses a facility spearheaded by Digitaal Vlaanderen, focused on smart cities and communities, with the objective of ensuring AI technologies align with European values prior to market introduction. The Flemish Government published a reflection paper outlining models and implementation pathways for an AI regulatory sandbox targeting SMEs and high-risk AI systems within Belgium's governance structure.⁸⁵⁸ The paper provides a foundational framework and practical options for an AI regulatory sandbox within Belgium, including support for SMEs and high-risk AI innovators, alignment with the strategic objectives set out by the EU AI Act, and specific operational structures and legal considerations for implementation.

In 2024, the Brussels-Capital Region launched a mobility data and AI regulatory sandbox as part of the European AI Testing and Experimentation Facility for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities. Coordinated by Digitaal Vlaanderen, this initiative supports Belgian startups in developing AI solutions by providing access to real data and controlled testing environments. The sandbox specifically focuses on AI applications in the mobility sector, offering a structured environment for experimentation that ensures compliance with European standards. This project underscores Belgium's commitment to fostering AI innovation while aligning with EU regulatory standards for safe and ethical AI development.⁸⁵⁹

⁸⁵⁵ Digitaal Vlaanderen, *Challenges Sandbox Vlaanderen*, <https://www.vlaanderen.be/digitaal-vlaanderen/onze-diensten-en-platformaten/sandbox-vlaanderen-ruimte-voor-innovatie-en-experiment/experimenten-sandbox-vlaanderen>

⁸⁵⁶ Digitalwallonia.be, *Sandbox Wallonia (SBW)*, <https://www.digitalwallonia.be/en/cartography/sandbox-wallonia/>

⁸⁵⁷ Agentschap Digitaal Vlaanderen, *Digitaal Vlaanderen bouwt mee aan Europese testfaciliteiten voor AI-oplossingen* (Jul. 17, 2023), <https://www.vlaanderen.be/digitaal-vlaanderen/nieuwsberichten/digitaal-vlaanderen-bouwt-mee-aan-europese-testfaciliteiten-voor-ai-oplossingen>

⁸⁵⁸ Vlaamse Overheid, Departement Economie, Wetenschap en Innovatie (EWI), *Reflectiepaper AI Regulatory Sandbox in Vlaanderen* (Oct. 11, 2023), <https://publicaties.vlaanderen.be/view-file/60622>

⁸⁵⁹ Gegevensbeschermingsautoriteit, *Presentatie van Karl-Filip Coenegrachts – CITCOM.AI: A Brussels Mobility Data Project* (2024),

AI in Healthcare

The use of AI in healthcare is one of the cornerstones of Belgium's AI strategy. An entire chapter of its national convergence plan is devoted to "AI at the heart of healthcare"⁸⁶⁰ and the plan states that "the creation of a healthcare data agency reflects the importance and the necessity of facilitating the re-use of healthcare for research and innovation." The national strategy also emphasizes the "perspective of the user" in that it aims to stimulate human-centric use of AI in healthcare, while acknowledging the necessity of clear accountability rules, attention to data bias and privacy, and giving patients agency over their own data.⁸⁶¹

In 2024, the Belgian EBCP (Evidence-Based Care Policies) mirror group released a policy brief focused on enhancing AI applications in healthcare, particularly in cancer care. The brief identifies critical areas for improvement, including data access, IT infrastructure, and legal and ethical frameworks, while emphasizing the importance of building public trust in AI applications. The brief also highlights Belgium's active role in EU initiatives, such as the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the EU Cancer Imaging Infrastructure (EUCAIM), advocating for continued investments to align with European data-sharing and healthcare innovation standards.

Belgium's Health Data Agency funds projects "to facilitate the development and management of data in the healthcare sector, improving the quality, affordability, prevention and targeting of healthcare for every citizen and every patient."⁸⁶² Three of the four projects approved for the first round of funding center on AI in the healthcare space. They include a project using LLMs to convert unstructured medical text, like notes, into more structured data and medical letters in Dutch to make the data more useful for analysis, another applying generative AI to match children to clinical trials, and develop an AI tool to determine whether patient data can be truly anonymized for export.

<https://www.gegevensbeschermingsautoriteit.be/publications/presentatie-van-karl-filip-coenegrachts---citcom.ai---a-brussels-mobility-data-project.pdf>

⁸⁶⁰ FPS Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence*, <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/themes/digital-administration/digital-strategy-and-policy/national-convergence-plan-development>

⁸⁶¹ Ibid

⁸⁶² Health Data Agency, *Innovation Project Funding* (2026), https://www.hda.belgium.be/en/services/innovation-project-funding#atab_932_panel_2

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Environmental Impact of AI

Belgium's Convergence Plan for developing AI includes protecting the environment among the main objectives.⁸⁶³ However, there are no specific action steps to ensure that AI development is sustainable. The EU AI Act, for example, has been criticized for emphasizing AI *for* sustainability over AI that *is* sustainable.⁸⁶⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In 2018, the Belgian Parliament passed a Resolution to prohibit use, by the Belgian Defense, of killer robots and armed drones.⁸⁶⁵ In this resolution, the Parliament states that Belgium should:

- Participate in international working groups within the framework of the United Nations and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in particular to work towards an internationally recognized definition of killer robots and to determine which types of weapons will fall into this category in the future
- Advocate in international fora, together with like-minded countries, for a global ban on the use of killer robots and fully automated armed drones
- Ensure that the Belgian Defense never deploys killer robots in military operations
- Support the development and use of robotic technology for civilian purposes.

The culmination of Belgium's efforts, which began in 2018 to ban lethal autonomous weapons, was marked by the Belgian Defense Committee's approval of a bill to this effect.⁸⁶⁶ Consequently, in January 2023, Belgium became one of the first countries in the world to implement an outright ban on lethal autonomous weapons.

Belgium has taken a central role in putting Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) on the international agenda. During its chairmanship of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Belgium aimed to “find consensus in relation to the clarification, consideration, and

⁸⁶³ FPS Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence*, <https://bosa.belgium.be/en/themes/digital-administration/digital-strategy-and-policy/national-convergence-plan-development>

⁸⁶⁴ Zuzanna Warso and Kris Shrishak, *Hope: The AI Act's Approach to Address the Environmental Impact of AI*, Tech Policy Press (May 21, 2024), <https://www.techpolicy.press/hope-the-ai-acts-approach-to-address-the-environmental-impact-of-ai/>

⁸⁶⁵ Chambre des représentants, *Proposal for a Resolution Regarding the Creation of an Inclusive and Sustainable Robo-Digital Agenda [Proposition de résolution relative à la création d'un agenda robonumérique inclusif et durable]* (Jul. 27, 2017), <https://www.lachambre.be/doc/flwb/pdf/54/2643/54k2643001.pdf>

⁸⁶⁶ Nick Amies, *Belgium upholds decision to ban 'killer robots'*, <https://www.brusselstimes.com/350980/belgium-upholds-decision-to-ban-killer-robots>

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development of aspects of the normative and operational framework on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.”⁸⁶⁷

Belgium was one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁸⁶⁸

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Belgium voted in favor⁸⁶⁹ of resolution L.56⁸⁷⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, emphasizing the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems.” Belgium co-sponsored and supported Draft Resolution L.77 in 2024.⁸⁷¹ Belgium stated, “scientific development is outpacing regulations in the field of autonomous weapon systems. Innovative systems and artificial intelligence are being introduced on the battlefield. Now is the time for a normative framework, if we wish to regulate the development and use of these systems before being confronted with a fait accompli.”⁸⁷²

Belgium was also part of a cohort of 42 states that delivered a vital joint statement in the 2025 GGE asserting that the rolling text, which serves as a starting point for the rules of a treaty, “is a sufficient basis to fulfil the mandate of this GGE in

⁸⁶⁷ Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva, *EU lines to take: Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Mar. 2022), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-lines-take-group-governmental-experts-emerging-technologies-area-lethal-autonomous-weapons_en?s=62;

Dig.watch, *GGE on lethal autonomous weapons systems*, <https://dig.watch/processes/gge-laws>

⁸⁶⁸ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – *Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁸⁶⁹ Stop Killer Robots, *164 states vote against the machine at the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁸⁷⁰ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, Resolution L56 (Oct.12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁸⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

⁸⁷² UN General Assembly, *Belgium Statement for the General Debate UN General Assembly 79 First Committee* (Oct. 14, 2024), https://newyorkun.diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/1COMstatementBELGIUM_2024.pdf

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its current form” and a “sufficient basis for negotiations on an instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems.”⁸⁷³

Belgium has also engaged in international discussions on LAWS outside the UN, including the REAIM Summits. Belgium endorsed the joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain during the 2023 REAIM Summit in the Netherlands.⁸⁷⁴ Belgium also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁸⁷⁵ At the second REAIM summit, hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2024,⁸⁷⁶ Belgium endorsed the outcome document, Blueprint for Action, which translated the principles agreed upon at REAIM 2023 into action steps⁸⁷⁷.

Belgium endorsed the Chair’s Summary of the Vienna conference Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation, in April 2024, affirming its commitment to work urgently towards an international legal instrument to regulate autonomous weapons systems.⁸⁷⁸

AI Literacy

Belgium expanded national policy actions for AI literacy in line with the EU AI Act, focusing on both public engagement with digital policymaking and capacity building for AI oversight entities. Through initiatives like the Action plan DigiJump

⁸⁷³ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

⁸⁷⁴ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb.16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁸⁷⁵ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁸⁷⁶ Government of the Netherlands, *Speech by Minister Hanke Bruins Slot at the High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2024/02/27/speech-by-minister-hanke-bruins-slot-at-the-conference-on-disarmament>

⁸⁷⁷ Republic of Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept.12, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

⁸⁷⁸ Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria, *2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems>

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and the Flemish AI Academy, the government invested in curriculum reform, teacher training, and digital skills programs to empower citizens and ensure that oversight professionals receive specialized training for regulatory compliance and responsible AI adoption, and workers to meet AI and STEM workforce demands, with new programs tailored for compliance with the EU AI Act and greater adoption across public and industrial sectors.⁸⁷⁹

Human Rights

Belgium is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions. In 2025, Belgium received a rating of “Free” with a score of 96/100 in the Freedom House Freedom in the World report. Freedom House reported that “Belgium is a stable electoral democracy with a long record of peaceful transfers of power. Political rights and civil liberties are legally guaranteed and largely respected. Major concerns in recent years have included the threat of terrorism, corruption scandals, and rising xenophobia.”⁸⁸⁰

Per the country chapter in the European Commission’s 2025 Rule of Law report,⁸⁸¹ the Belgian government strengthened legal protections for journalists by decriminalizing defamation and introducing tougher penalties for crimes against them, acknowledging their public interest role. Belgium is also advancing the transposition of the EU anti-SLAPP Directive with a draft law offering broad protections and developed in consultation with journalist associations. However, journalist groups report rising legal intimidation, political interference, and harassment, especially online and during protests.

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers clarified that Member States’ commitment to “ensuring the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to everyone within their jurisdiction” required them to “ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-

⁸⁷⁹ OECD, *Progress in Implementing the European Union Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence (Volume 1), Belgium Country Notes* (Nov. 10, 2025), https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/10/progress-in-implementing-the-european-union-coordinated-plan-on-artificial-intelligence-volume-1-country-notes_b0385317/belgium_61b627d9/a82b426c-en.pdf

⁸⁸⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Belgium* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/belgium/freedom-world/2025>

⁸⁸¹ European Commission, *2025 Rule of Law Report: Country Chapter on the Rule of Law Situation in Belgium*, pp. 12–15 (Jul. 8, 2025), https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5fe5bb71-2898-4079-ad5a-19a3ff595a62_en?filename=5_1_63936_coun_chap_belgium_en.pdf

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dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”⁸⁸²

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Belgium has endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles. In its 2021 survey, the OECD noted several examples of implementation of the AI Principles by Belgium, including the establishment of an AI Observatory, providing financial and non-financial support to retrain and attract top AI talent, development of an AI self-assessment tool, and the resolution to prohibit the use of lethal autonomous weapons by local armed forces.⁸⁸³

Belgium is a member of the Global Partnership for AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”⁸⁸⁴

Belgium’s 2022 national AI strategy covers all the OECD AI principles: inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being; human-centered values and fairness, transparency and explainability; robustness, security and safety; and accountability.⁸⁸⁵ However, the strategy does not explicitly mention the OECD as the basis for its common objectives.⁸⁸⁶

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Belgium contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁸⁸⁷ Belgium is party to the Convention through the

⁸⁸² *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁸⁸³ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies*, pp. 10, 14, 29, 30 (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://www.oecd.org/digital/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-1cd40c44-en.htm>

⁸⁸⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁸⁸⁵ OECD, *OECD AI Principles Overview* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁸⁸⁶ FSP Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence: Becoming an AI Smart Nation* (Oct. 2022), https://bosa.belgium.be/sites/default/files/content/images/DigitaleOverheid/AI/Plan_AI_EN.pdf

⁸⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

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European Commission signature on September 5, 2024. However, Belgium has not taken individual action to endorse or ratify the treaty.⁸⁸⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Belgium is a signatory to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. The 2022 National Convergence Plan does not explicitly refer to the UNESCO Recommendation.⁸⁸⁹ Still, actions by the AI4Belgium Ethics and Law Committee reflect alignment with UNESCO Policy Recommendations. However, the Flemish region is collaborating with UNESCO on project to ready the public administration for AI systems.⁸⁹⁰ UNESCO's Ethics of AI Unit, Social and Human Sciences Sector, will leverage the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) underway in Flanders as part of the implementation.

Evaluation

Belgium has a national AI strategy with a strong focus on AI ethics that should ensure coherence among the regional AI strategies and align toward common objectives. Regional AI policy innovation has been strengthened to align with the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics. Belgium also established a Federal Data and AI Ethics Advisory Committee within the Federal Public Service (FPS) to enhance AI oversight and educate civil servants on data ethics, human oversight, and fundamental rights.

However, some crucial points are still awaiting action, such as national action on the Council of Europe treaty and the establishment of an independent national supervisory agency under the EU AI Act.

⁸⁸⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 8, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁸⁸⁹ FSP Policy and Support (BOSA), *National Convergence Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence: Becoming an AI Smart Nation* (Oct. 2022), https://bosa.belgium.be/sites/default/files/content/images/DigitaleOverheid/AI/Plan_AI_EN.pdf

⁸⁹⁰ UNESCO, *AI-Ready Flemish Public Administration* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics/flemish-government>

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In 2025, Benin hosted the Regional Summit on Digital Transformation in Western and Central Africa, where states affirmed a commitment to creating governance structures to foster ethical AI development. The country progressed on implementing the National AI Strategy by partnering with UNESCO to develop national AI competency frameworks for teachers and students.

National AI Strategy

The Ministerial Council of Benin approved and adopted the National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale d'Intelligence Artificielle et des Mégadonnées*, SNIAM 2023–2027)⁸⁹¹ on January 18, 2023. The SNIAM 2023–2027 is deeply rooted in the National Development Plan (PND) 2018–2025⁸⁹² and the Government Action Program (PAG),⁸⁹³ positioning digital technology as a lever for accelerating structural economic transformation.

The SNIAM 2023–2027 identifies six major problems addressed through 4 Strategic Programs “that can be rolled out in three phases spread over five years, with a portfolio containing one hundred and twenty-three (123) actions impacting both the public and the private sectors.”⁸⁹⁴ Program 1 focuses on AI development and use in high priority sectors (agriculture, health, education, and living environment). Programs 2 and 3 aim to strengthen human capacity and skills for working in AI professions and provide support for training, research, and innovation in the private sector while fostering cooperation. Program 4 implements institutional and governance frameworks to regulate the ethical and liability issues related to AI and big data.

⁸⁹¹ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027* (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

⁸⁹² Gouvernement de la République, *Plan National de Développement 2018–2025* (2018), https://www.gouv.bj/download/2/mpd_plan-national-developpement_2018-2025_final_14_janv.pdf

⁸⁹³ Présidence de la République, *Programme d'Actions du Gouvernement 2021–2026* (2021), <https://beninrevele.bj/pag-2021-2026/>

⁸⁹⁴ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027*, p. 2 (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

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A robust legal framework, specifically the Digital Code⁸⁹⁵ and data protection law,⁸⁹⁶ provides a basis for Program 4. Although the SNIAM 2023–2027 does not explicitly align with international governance frameworks, it functionally aligns with the core principles of global standards such as the OECD AI Principles, Universal Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence,⁸⁹⁷ UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, Council of Europe AI Treaty, or African Union Continental AI Strategy. Key areas of alignment include Accountability as guiding principle: “all stakeholders will need to be involved in the design, implementation, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.”⁸⁹⁸ The SNIAM Program 4 on the implementation of a governance framework for AI outlines specific actions to establish monitoring as liability mechanism to ensure that “AI systems are designed with respect for people, the planet, prosperity, peace, transparency, justice and fairness, accountability, non-maleficence, privacy, benevolence, freedom and autonomy, sustainability, dignity, and solidarity.”⁸⁹⁹

Additionally, under Action 3.3: Bolstering institutional cooperation and collaboration, the strategy mandates the strengthening of “win-win” international and regional cooperation to support the national AI ecosystem. The SNIAM explicitly identifies UNESCO and the African Union (AU)—operating through bodies such as Smart Africa and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)—as key institutional partners.⁹⁰⁰

⁸⁹⁵ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]* (Jun. 13, 2017), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

⁸⁹⁶ Présidence de la République, *Law No. 2009-09, Dealing with the Protection of Personally Identifiable Information* (May 22, 2009), <https://cyrilla.org/api/files/1599165019443wr78rbbp9m.pdf>

⁸⁹⁷ CAIDP, *Universal Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.caidp.org/universal-guidelines-for-ai/>

⁸⁹⁸ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027*, p. 12 (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

⁸⁹⁹ *Ibid*, p. 35

⁹⁰⁰ *Ibid*, p. 33

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Regional and AU Collaboration

Benin's SNIAM 2023–2027⁹⁰¹ functionally aligns with the five core focus areas in the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy,⁹⁰² effectively serving as a national-level implementation of the continental vision.

The Cotonou Declaration serves as the explicit bridge, where Benin and regional peers formally committed “to building, by 2030, a Single African Digital Market based on connectivity, trust, innovation, sustainability, and ethical AI, so that no country and no citizen is left behind in the digital economy.”⁹⁰³ To this end, the Cotonou Declaration reiterates commitments to “Ethical artificial intelligence and inclusive innovation” by embedding “transparency, fairness and inclusivity into artificial intelligence governance to ensure that technology benefits all communities while mitigating risks such as bias, misuse and disinformation.”⁹⁰⁴

Benin's SNIAM 2023–2027 aligns with the African Union Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy⁹⁰⁵ on five priority key areas, particularly ensuring ethical and secure AI that minimizes risks, protects data privacy, and implements ethical, human-centric AI aligning with AU principles.

Public Participation

According to the official SNIAM 2023–2027, “The process of developing Benin's National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy (SNIAM) was headed up by the Ministry of Digital Affairs and Digitalization, in an approach involving all the stakeholders.”⁹⁰⁶

SNIAM established Accountability as one of the key principles driving the implementation of the strategy. Accountability, that goes “hand in hand with the principle of the effective participation of the various stakeholders (government, private sector, and the end users) in the design, development, implementation, and

⁹⁰¹ Ibid

⁹⁰² African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)* (2020), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁹⁰³ World Bank, *Regional Summit on Digital Transformation in Western and Central Africa—Cotonou Declaration*, Preamble (Nov. 18, 2025), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2025/11/18/regional-summit-on-digital-transformation-in-western-and-central-africa-cotonou-declaration>

⁹⁰⁴ Ibid, IV, 9(b)

⁹⁰⁵ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

⁹⁰⁶ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027* (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.”⁹⁰⁷ Although the SNIAM 2023–2027 described an approach intended to involve all stakeholders, no open public participation mechanisms were found to have been established during the development phase.

Data Protection

The Digital Code,⁹⁰⁸ as amended by law no. 2020-35 of 06 January 2021,⁹⁰⁹ and the Law dealing with the Protection of Personally Identifiable Information.⁹¹⁰ The Digital Code deals with the collection, treatment, transmission, storage, and use of personal data by a person, the state, local authorities, and legal persons, as well as automated processing and non-automated processing of personal data contained in files, or any processing of data for public security, defense, research, prosecution of criminal offenses, or the security and essential interests of the state.⁹¹¹ The 2020 amendments have been criticized as overly broad, leaving journalists and activists vulnerable to accusations of libel and disinformation.⁹¹²

The Personal Data Protection Authority (*Autorité de Protection des Données à caractère Personnel*, APDP) serves as the independent regulatory body established to ensure protection of personal data and privacy and enforcement of the Digital Code.⁹¹³ The personal data protection law originally named the National Commission of Information (Freedom) and Privacy (*Commission Nationale de*

⁹⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 13

⁹⁰⁸ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]* (Jun. 13, 2017), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

⁹⁰⁹ Assemblée Nationale, *Loi No. 2020-35 du 06 janvier 2021 modifiant la loi no 2017-20 du 20 avril 2018 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin* (Jan. 6, 2021), <https://documentation-anbenin.org/s/textes-de-lois/item/2170>

⁹¹⁰ Présidence de la République, *Law No. 2009-09, Dealing with the Protection of Personally Identifiable Information* (May 22, 2009), <https://cyrilla.org/api/files/1599165019443wr78rbbp9m.pdf>

⁹¹¹ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]* (Jun. 13, 2027), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

⁹¹² Amnesty International, *Benin: New Laws, New Human Rights Restrictions*, pp. 2, 4 (Jan. 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AFR1457362022ENGLISH.pdf>

⁹¹³ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]* (Jun. 13, 2027), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

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l'Informatique et des Libertés) but the body transformed in 2018 under the Digital Code.

The APDP serves a critical function as the government moves to implement the data-intensive initiatives outlined in the SNIAM 2023–2027.⁹¹⁴ The APDP is an active member of the Network of African Data Protection Authorities (RAPDP/NADPA) and the Francophone Association of Personal Data Protection Authorities (AFAPDP).

Benin's approach to data privacy is not isolated; it is deeply entrenched in broader regional goals, established in the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030)—along with the recent commitments acquired in the Cotonou 2025 Declaration.⁹¹⁵ Benin also aligns with the African Union (AU) Continental Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy, which prioritizes creating national and regional data pools, facilitating cross-border data flows, and implementing robust data protection regulations based on the Malabo Convention.⁹¹⁶

To fortify its national data governance, Benin is developing a specific National Data Strategy⁹¹⁷ that explicitly operationalizes the African Union's Continental Data Policy Framework⁹¹⁸ and the binding principles of the Malabo Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection. Backed by the technical and financial support of the Smart Africa Alliance and German Cooperation (GIZ) under the AU-EU Data Governance in Africa project, this initiative prioritizes the creation of a regulated, secure, and rights-based digital environment.

The Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) lists the National Commission for Information (Freedom) and Liberties as an accredited member since 2015 and does not list the APDP. Benin's data protection authority did not endorse the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁹¹⁹ 2020

⁹¹⁴ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027* (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

⁹¹⁵ UN Economic Commission for Africa, *Cotonou Declaration on Accelerating the Digital Transformation of Africa* (May 14–16, 2025), <https://uneca.org/eca-events/sites/default/files/resources/documents/TCND/africa-wsis-annual-review/2025/2500615e.pdf>

⁹¹⁶ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

⁹¹⁷ Smart Africa Secretariat, *Terms of Reference (ToR) Recruitment of a Consultancy Firm or Consortium for the Development of Benin's National Data Strategy* (2025), https://smartafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ToR-Benin-National-Data-Strategy_EN-1.pdf

⁹¹⁸ African Union, *African Union Data Policy Framework* (Jul. 28, 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42078-doc-DATA-POLICY-FRAMEWORKS-2024-ENG-V2.pdf>

⁹¹⁹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018),

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Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁹²⁰ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁹²¹ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.⁹²²

Algorithmic Transparency

Benin's Digital Code provides basic provisions related to algorithmic transparency within Book V on Data Protection.⁹²³ The Code prohibits automated decisions and profiling in judicial cases and requires notice of automated processing as well as access to the logic of decisions. The Code does not mention redress or the right to contest a decision. This Code is enforced by the Personal Data Protection Authority (APDP).

Article 401 prohibits court decisions and decisions producing legal effects that may significantly affect an individual based solely on automated processing of personal data, including profiling intended to evaluate aspects of personality, though exceptions apply when such decisions occur within a contractual framework or legal provision that includes appropriate safeguards, including the data subject's right to express their point of view.⁹²⁴ Article 405 of the Code specifies that "automated or non-automated data processing operations carried out by public or private organizations and involving personal data must, prior to their implementation, be subject to a prior declaration to the Authority or be registered in a register maintained by the person designated for this purpose by the data controller."⁹²⁵

https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁹²⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁹²¹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁹²² Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁹²³ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]*, pp. 339–447 (Jun. 13, 2027), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

⁹²⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 371–372

⁹²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 374–375

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Under Articles 415 and 416, data controllers are obliged to inform subjects of the data about “the existence of automated decision-making, including profiling, as referred to in Article 401 and, at least in such cases, meaningful information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and the envisaged consequences of such processing for the data subject.”⁹²⁶ However, the Code does not define what constitutes “meaningful information about the logic, nor does it establish specific standards for algorithmic explainability, technical documentation requirements, or the level of detail required when explaining automated systems. The Code lacks provisions for algorithmic impact assessments, mandatory auditing of automated decision-making systems, or specific oversight mechanisms beyond general data protection compliance.

Benin has a national Open Data Portal designed, developed, and deployed to increase transparency in government operations.

Environmental Impact of AI

Benin currently does not have national laws or policies that explicitly address the environmental impact of artificial intelligence.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Benin is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁹²⁷ and has supported a ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) since at least 2018 as a member of the African Group⁹²⁸ and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the CCW.⁹²⁹ The NAM advocated for the CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS to implement a treaty.⁹³⁰ The African Group reiterated support for a legally binding instrument within the CCW in 2023,⁹³¹ with

⁹²⁶ Ibid, pp. 389–393

⁹²⁷ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁹²⁸ Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the UN, *African Group* (2022), <https://www.africanunion-un.org/africangroup>

⁹²⁹ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups—CCW* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

⁹³⁰ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Working Paper by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Other Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)* (Mar. 7–11, Jul. 25–29, 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WP-NAM.pdf>

⁹³¹ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Statement by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva on Behalf of the African Group Member States* (Nov. 15–17, 2023), <https://docs->

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the view that “the world no longer needs more weapons, particularly those with unpredictable functionality, which operate on data and algorithm biases that could self-learn and take away meaningful human control to potentially cause unnecessary human suffering and damage to property.” A 2018 African Group statement to the GGE on LAWS rationalized the need for human control: “The African Group finds it inhumane, abhorrent, repugnant, and against public conscience for humans to give up control to machines, allowing machines to decide who lives or dies, how many lives and whose life is acceptable as collateral damage when force is used.”⁹³²

AI Literacy

The National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy (SNIAM 2023–2027) highlights capacity building and stakeholder sensitization as core objectives. The SNAIAM proposes programs to strengthen human capital, deliver training, and raise awareness among public-sector actors and beneficiaries.⁹³³

Benin is partnering with UNESCO and the KIX Africa 21 Hub to develop national AI competency frameworks for teachers and students.⁹³⁴ This collaboration aims to integrate AI and digital skills into education systems, strengthen foundational literacy through local languages, and ensure that AI supports inclusive, equitable learning aligned with national strategies like Benin’s AI and Big Data Strategy.

Human Rights

Benin’s Constitution, ratified in 1991, establishes commitments to the rule of law, fundamental rights, and human dignity. Benin is also a signatory to key international human rights instruments.⁹³⁵ Once considered a stable democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, Benin has seen deterioration in the protection of human rights

[library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons -
Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_\(2023\)/Nigeria - African Group - 2023 MHCP.pdf](https://library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_(2023)/Nigeria_-_African_Group_-_2023_MHCP.pdf)

⁹³² UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Statement by the African Group* (Apr. 9, 2018),

[https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-
fora/ccw/2018/gge/statements/9April_African-Group.pdf](https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2018/gge/statements/9April_African-Group.pdf)

⁹³³ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027* (2023), [https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-
intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf](https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf)

⁹³⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Partners Pioneer National AI Competency Frameworks and Local Language Learning in Africa* (Oct. 17, 2025), [https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-
partners-pioneer-national-ai-competency-frameworks-and-local-language-learning-africa](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-partners-pioneer-national-ai-competency-frameworks-and-local-language-learning-africa)

⁹³⁵ UN Human Rights, *Ratification of 18 International Human Rights Treaties, Benin* (2014), <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>

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since 2016. In the 2025 Freedom House Freedom in the World Report, Benin scores 60/100 and ranks as “Partly Free” for political rights and civil liberties.⁹³⁶

Attacks on independent media outlets and arbitrary arrests of dissidents have led to a shrinkage of civic space. Specifically, the criminalization of “publication of false information” and “electronic harassment” in the Digital Code has led to suspensions of media and self-censorship amongst journalists.⁹³⁷

Benin’s revised Code of Ethics⁹³⁸ in the media sector aims to address digital & AI challenges in journalism and other media. The Code intends to safeguard professional integrity and ethical standards with a strong emphasis on preventing disinformation.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Benin is not a member of the OECD and has not officially endorsed the OECD AI principles.⁹³⁹ The National Development Plan 2018–2025 base for the AI strategy aims for “strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth within the framework of more effective national and local governance, achievable by focusing on the development of human capital and infrastructure.”⁹⁴⁰ These align with the OECD Principles. Benin is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁹⁴¹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Benin has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁹⁴²

⁹³⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Benin* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/benin/freedom-world/2025>

⁹³⁷ Amnesty International, *Benin: Election Candidates Must Commit to Protecting Human Rights amid Shrinking Civic Space* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2026/01/benin-candidates-human-rights/>

⁹³⁸ Media Foundation for West Africa, *Benin Updates Media Ethics Code to Address Digital and AI Challenges* (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://mfwa.org/country-highlights/benin-updates-media-ethics-code-to-address-digital-and-ai-challenges/>

⁹³⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁹⁴⁰ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation, *National Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Strategy 2023–2027*, p. 11 (2023), <https://numerique.gouv.bj/assets/documents/national-artificial-intelligence-and-big-data-strategy-1682673348.pdf>

⁹⁴¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁹⁴² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 16, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Benin adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence together with 192 other countries.⁹⁴³ Benin's partnership with UNESCO to develop national AI literacy competency frameworks for teachers and students aligns with the recommendation on Literacy and Awareness and inclusive AI development.⁹⁴⁴

Benin has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁹⁴⁵ a tool to facilitate implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation.

Evaluation

Benin set out a national strategy for AI that recognizes digital technology as a lever for accelerating structural economic transformation. The country protects personal data and the right to privacy through a comprehensive legal framework. However, it does not explicitly protect a right to algorithmic transparency by law.

Benin's domestic activities and ethical guidelines are functionally aligned with global standards. Significantly, the country aligns with regional initiatives, anchoring its digital agenda in the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)⁹⁴⁶ and the Cotonou 2025 Declaration to foster a sovereign and interconnected African digital market. Benin is also a signatory to key international human rights instruments; however, the criminalization of “publication of false information” and “electronic harassment” in the Digital Code⁹⁴⁷ has led to suspensions of media and self-censorship among journalists, raising concerns over freedom of expression and the press.

⁹⁴³ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380455>

⁹⁴⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Partners Pioneer National AI Competency Frameworks and Local Language Learning in Africa* (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-partners-pioneer-national-ai-competency-frameworks-and-local-language-learning-africa>

⁹⁴⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁹⁴⁶ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)* (2020), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁹⁴⁷ Assemblée Nationale, *Digital Code in the Republic of Benin [Loi n° 2017-20 portant code du numérique en République du Bénin]* (Jun. 13, 2017), https://apiprod.apdp.bj/storage/c46ab3f55e93d40c8545b70add0ea8c7/CODE-DU-NUMERIQUE-DU-BENIN_2018-version-APDP.pdf

Brazil

In 2025, Brazil finalized an updated national AI plan (PBIA) while legislators continued work on a legal framework for AI. The country also saw publication of the UNESCO RAM report.

National AI Strategy

Then-President Jair Bolsonaro declared before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020 that Brazil is “open for the development of state-of-the-art technology and innovation efforts, such as 4.0 Industry, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and 5G technology, with all partners who respect our sovereignty and cherish freedom and data protection.”⁹⁴⁸

The Brazilian government adopted a national AI strategy, *Estratégia Brasileira de Inteligência Artificial* (EBIA) in 2021,⁹⁴⁹ following on the Digital Transformation Strategy (E-Digital) released in 2018.⁹⁵⁰ Release of the EBIA followed restructuring of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Information, and Communications, which was divided into the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Information (*Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação*, MCTI) and the Ministry of Communication (MCom). A broad Directorate on Science and Digital Innovation under the Secretary of Entrepreneurship and Innovation of MCTI oversees AI policy.⁹⁵¹

The EBIA included developing ethical principles to guide responsible use of AI, removing barriers to innovation, and improving collaboration between government, the private sector, and researchers among the key objectives. A governance committee composed of representatives from the public sector, companies, civil society, and academia identified specific actions to reinforce these

⁹⁴⁸ President Jair Bolsonaro, *Remarks at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly* (Sept. 22, 2020), <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/president-of-the-federative-republic-of-brazil/speeches/remarks-by-president-jair-bolsonaro-at-the-general-debate-of-the-75th-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-september-22-2020>

⁹⁴⁹ Government of Brazil, *Brazilian Strategy for Digital Transformation* (Jul. 13, 2021), <https://www.gov.br/governodigital/pt-br/estrategias-e-governanca-digital/estrategias-e-politicas-digitais/estrategia-brasileira-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁹⁵⁰ Brazil Government, *Brazilian Strategy for Digital Transformation* (2018), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/comunicados-mcti/estrategia-digital-brasileira/estrategiadigital.pdf>

⁹⁵¹ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Organization Chart* (2021), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/imagens/organograma/sempi.pdf>

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objectives in a 2022 Working Plan.⁹⁵² Updates to the EBIA website in 2026 emphasized the basis of the EBIA's objective in the OECD AI Principles.⁹⁵³

The federal government finalized the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan 2024–2028 (*Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial*, PBIA) 2025–2028.⁹⁵⁴ The new plan, developed through 2024–2025, reassesses objectives and actions in the country's AI strategy and seeks to better align them with national interests and priorities.⁹⁵⁵ The plan outlines Brazil's vision for a human-centered AI, promoting national autonomy, international cooperation, and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The PBIA emphasizes ethical standards, bias prevention, data sovereignty, and inclusivity in AI applications, aiming to position Brazil as a pioneer in socially responsible AI development. The PBIA includes foundational projects meant to develop the knowledge base and regulatory environment needed for sustainable and trustworthy AI. Pillars include Training and Workforce Development, Improvement of Public Services, and Support for AI Regulation and Governance.

Under the guidance of the earlier PBIA, the country launched the Brazilian AI Observatory (OBIA) in 2024⁹⁵⁶ to monitor AI implementation nationwide and promote transparency and fairness in key sectors like healthcare. The initiative complements Senate guidance on ethical AI policies.

AI Legislation

Both of Brazil's congressional bodies, the Federal Senate and house of representatives (*Câmara dos Deputados*) have approved versions of bills to establish a legal framework for AI in Brazil and to provide ethical frameworks and guidelines

⁹⁵² Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *EBIA—Working Plan 2022* (May 12, 2022), https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/transformacaodigital/arquivosestrategiadigital/copy_of_RelatoriofinalEBIA_Eixo6V2.4.pdf

⁹⁵³ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Estratégia Brasileira de Inteligência Artificial* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/transformacaodigital/estrategia-brasileira-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁹⁵⁴ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial* (Jun. 12, 2025), https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes-mcti/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial/pbia_mcti_2025.pdf

⁹⁵⁵ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial (PBIA)*, 2024–2028 (Jul. 29, 2024), https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2024/07/plano-brasileiro-de-ia-tera-supercomputador-e-investimento-de-r-23-bilhoes-em-quatro-anos/ia_para_o_bem_de_todos.pdf/view

⁹⁵⁶ Network Information Center, *Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Observatory Will Be Launched This Tuesday* (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://www.nic.br/noticia/na-midia/observatorio-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial-sera-lancado-nesta-terca-feira/>

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for the development and use of AI in the country.⁹⁵⁷ After academics and NGOs warned that a draft bill (21/2020) “may help perpetuate recent cases of algorithmic discrimination through provisions that hinder accountability for AI-induced errors and restrict the scope of the rights established in the LGPD and in the Brazilian Constitution,”⁹⁵⁸ the Federal Senate appointed a temporary Commission of Jurists (*Comissão de Juristas*, “CJSUBIA”) to analyze the three draft AI bills and consolidate them into a proposal for a new Brazilian AI Act. The process included public consultations and international seminars.⁹⁵⁹

The Commission of Jurists submitted a draft legal framework to the Federal Senate in 2022.⁹⁶⁰ The explanatory statement of the report stresses “Therefore, this substitute bill is based on the premise that there is no trade-off—a mutually exclusive choice—between protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, appreciation of work and dignity of the human person in the face of the economic order and the creation of new value chains. [...] Its normative objective is to conciliate an approach based on risks with a regulatory model based on rights [...] weight of regulation is dynamically calibrated according to the potential risks of the technology application context.”

The proposed framework is a risk-based approach, imposing different obligations depending on the level of risk of the AI system, while recognizing for all individuals affected by AI systems, regardless of the system risk levels. The rights for all affected individuals include right to prior information before interacting with AI systems, right to explanation, right to challenge decisions or predictions made by AI, right to human participation in decisions in AI systems, right to non-discrimination, and right to privacy and protection of personal data. The draft bill addresses liability, defining that in the case of high risk or excessive risk of the AI systems, the supplier or operator is objectively liable for the damage caused. Otherwise, the liability will be presumed and there will be a reversal of the burden

⁹⁵⁷ Brazilian House of Representatives, *House Approves Project That Regulates the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 29, 2021), <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/811702-camara-aprova-projeto-que-regulamenta-uso-da-inteligencia-artificial/>

⁹⁵⁸ José Renato Laranjeira de Pereira and Thiago Guimarães Moraes, *Promoting Irresponsible AI: Lessons from a Brazilian Bill*, Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://eu.boell.org/en/2022/02/14/promoting-irresponsible-ai-lessons-brazilian-bill>; Change.org, *Open Letter from Jurists to the Federal Senate against Article 6, Item VI of PL 21–A/2020* (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://www.change.org/p/senado-federal-carta-aberta-de-juristas-ao-senado-federal-contr-o-artigo-6o-inciso-vi-do-pl-21-a-2020>

⁹⁵⁹ Federal Senate, *CJSUBIA—Commission of Jurists Responsible for Elaboration of Substitute on Artificial Intelligence in Brazil* (2022), <https://legis.senado.leg.br/comissoes/comissao?codcol=2504>

⁹⁶⁰ Federal Senate, *Jurists Commission Concludes Text of the Legal Framework for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 6, 2022), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2022/12/06/comissao-conclui-texto-sobre-regulacao-da-inteligencia-artificial-no-brasil>

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of proof in favor of the victim. A competent authority to enforce the legislation would be a body or entity of the Federal Government, still to be defined.

After amendments and a supplemental vote document⁹⁶¹ to update a June 2024 report that recommended the approval of Bill 2338/2023,⁹⁶² the Senate approved Bill 2338 in December 2024.⁹⁶³ The bill advanced to the Chamber of Deputies for additional voting.⁹⁶⁴

The State of Ceará adopted a law in 2021 establishing obligations and guidelines for the implementation and use of AI systems within the state.⁹⁶⁵ This law requires AI systems to be designed in a safe way, based on ethics and in accordance with this law and Brazilian laws more generally. The law defines an AI system as computer science technologies that enable computers to interact with humans, through technological mechanisms that enable the simulation of human reasoning. The law also states that companies headquartered in the State of Ceará, or that have their artificial intelligence systems in use and operation in the State of Ceará, must be responsible for how their systems operate, being liable for any damages in accordance with the law.

Public Participation

The (then) Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations, and Communications (MCTIC) organized an online public consultation between December 2019 and February 2020 to gather inputs for “a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy that allows to enhance the benefits of AI for the country, mitigating any negative impacts.”⁹⁶⁶ According to the terms of the public consultation, “the objective of the strategy is to solve concrete problems in the country, identifying priority areas in the development and use of AI-related

⁹⁶¹ Senate Agency, *Rapporteur Presents Updated Report on AI Regulation* (Jul. 4, 2024), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2024/07/04/relator-apresenta-relatorio-atualizado-sobre-regulamentacao-da-ia>

⁹⁶² Senate Agency, *Report on AI Presented this Tuesday Includes Protection of Work and Identity* (Jun. 18, 2024), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2024/06/18/relatorio-sobre-ia-apresentado-nesta-terca-inclui-protecao-ao-trabalho-e-a-identidade>

⁹⁶³ Senate Agency, *Senate Approves Regulation of Artificial Intelligence; Text Goes to the House* (Dec. 10, 2024), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2024/12/10/senado-aprova-regulamentacao-da-inteligencia-artificial-texto-vai-a-camara>

⁹⁶⁴ Federal Senate, *Bill No. 2338, of 2023: Bill Providing for the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/atividade/materias/-/materia/157233>

⁹⁶⁵ Legislative Assembly of the State of Ceará, *Ordinary Law No. 17.611, Establishes Responsibilities and Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence Systems within the State of Ceará* (Aug. 11, 2021), <https://www2.al.ce.gov.br/legislativo/legislacao5/leis2021/17611.htm>

⁹⁶⁶ Participate Brazil, Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovações e Comunicações, *Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Public Consultation Presentation and Instructions* (2020), <http://participa.br/estrategia-brasileira-de-inteligencia-artificial/blog/apresentacao-e-instrucoes>

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technologies in which there is greater potential for obtaining benefits. It is envisaged that AI can bring gains in promoting competitiveness and increasing Brazilian productivity, in providing public services, in improving people's quality of life and in reducing social inequalities, among others.”⁹⁶⁷

The consultation addressed thematic areas related to AI and focused on the government's role regarding the impact of AI technologies on society. Relevant documents to artificial intelligence were made available on the consultation website. The consultation collected about 1,000 contributions in total, which were considered for the development of the strategy proposal.⁹⁶⁸

On the other hand, Academics and NGOs have stated that the debate on Bill No. 21/2020 lacked public participation. According to José Renato Laranjeira de Pereira and Thiago Guimarães Moraes, “The debate on the bill ignored the claims of experts and civil society organisations to address the high risks of the technology regarding fundamental rights. In contrast, Members of Congress delivered favorable speeches on the positive impacts of AI in society, especially as a tool for efficiency and innovation.”⁹⁶⁹

As indicated above, the Federal Senate responded to these criticisms by establishing a Commission of Jurists to prepare a new consolidated proposal for a Brazilian AI Act, the preparation of which involved the establishment of public participation mechanisms. The Commission of Jurists initiated the organization of meetings, seminars, and public hearings divided into thematic axes, with the participation of experts and national and international representatives. 12 thematic panels were created and the Commission of Jurists received 102 statements from civil society entities, consolidated in the report submitted to the Federal Senate.⁹⁷⁰

Between May and September 2025, the Chamber of Deputies' Special Commission on AI held twelve public hearings on the legal framework for Artificial Intelligence bill, inviting academia, civil society, and industry. Separately, the ANPD conducted a nationwide consultation (*Tomada de Subsídios*) on AI and automated decisions. The ANPD published results of the nationwide inquiry in May 2025.⁹⁷¹

⁹⁶⁷ Ibid

⁹⁶⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Policy Initiatives for Brazil, Brazilian AI Strategy* (Jan. 11, 2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/brazilian-ai-strategy-2027>

⁹⁶⁹ José Renato Laranjeira de Pereira and Thiago Guimarães Moraes, *Promoting Irresponsible AI: Lessons from a Brazilian Bill*, Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://eu.boell.org/en/2022/02/14/promoting-irresponsible-ai-lessons-brazilian-bill>

⁹⁷⁰ Federal Senate, *Jurists Commission Concludes Text of the Legal Framework for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 6, 2022), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2022/12/06/comissao-conclui-texto-sobre-regulacao-da-inteligencia-artificial-no-brasil>

⁹⁷¹ Câmara dos Deputados, *Comissão Especial sobre Inteligência Artificial realiza audiências públicas* (2025), <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/1196564-comissao-debate-impacto-da-inteligencia-artificial>

Data Protection

Brazil's President signed the data protection law, *Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados Pessoais* (LGPD), in September 2020.⁹⁷² The LGPD is the first comprehensive data protection law in Brazil and mirrors the European Union's GDPR.⁹⁷³ The LGPD is relevant to the processing of personal data in relation to AI applications.⁹⁷⁴

The LGPD established the National Data Protection Authority (*Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, ANPD) to oversee data protection and privacy in the country. A new law in 2022 modified the LGPD to transform the ANPD into an independent agency, separate from the executive with its own budget.⁹⁷⁵ The ANPD is guaranteed technical and decision-making autonomy⁹⁷⁶ and is given important attributions related to the interpretation, application and enforcement of the LGPD.⁹⁷⁷ Following public consultation on automatic decisions, the ANPD added the issue to the 2025–2026 agenda.⁹⁷⁸

⁹⁷² Presidency of the Republic, Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs, *General Law on Protection of Personal Data (LGPD)* (Aug. 14, 2020), http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2018/Lei/L13709.htm; Katitza Rodriguez, Veridiana Alimonti, *A Look-Back and Ahead on Data Protection in Latin America and Spain* (Sept. 21, 2020), <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2020/09/look-back-and-ahead-data-protection-latin-america-and-spain>

⁹⁷³ Hogan Lovells Engage, *Brazil Creates a Data Protection Authority* (Jan. 11, 2019), <https://www.engage.hoganlovells.com/knowledgeservices/news/brazil-creates-a-data-protection-authority>

⁹⁷⁴ Lexology, *An Interview with Demarest Advogados Discussing Artificial Intelligence in Brazil* (Nov. 27, 2020), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=70705701-b4c6-4aa7-8a8a-344dd757f578>

⁹⁷⁵ Presidency of the Republic, *Law No. 14.460, Transforms the National Data Protection Authority into a Sovereign Entity* (Oct. 25, 2022), https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2022/lei/L14460.htm

⁹⁷⁶ Presidency of the Republic, *General Law on Protection of Personal Data (LGPD)*, Article 55-B (Aug. 14, 2020), http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2018/Lei/L13709.htm

⁹⁷⁷ Ibid, Art. 55-J LGPD; Centre for Information Policy Leadership (CIPL) and Centro de Direito, Internet e Sociedade of Instituto Brasiliense de Direito Público (CEDIS-IDP), *The Role of the Brazilian Data Protection Authority (ANPD) under Brazil's New Data Protection Law (LGPD)* (Apr. 17, 2020), [https://www.informationpolicycentre.com/uploads/5/7/1/0/57104281/\[en\]_cipl-idp_paper_on_the_role_of_the_anpd_under_the_lgpd_04.16.2020_3.pdf](https://www.informationpolicycentre.com/uploads/5/7/1/0/57104281/[en]_cipl-idp_paper_on_the_role_of_the_anpd_under_the_lgpd_04.16.2020_3.pdf)

⁹⁷⁸ Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD), *Nota Técnica 12/2025, Decisões Automatizadas e IA* (May 2025), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/acao-a-informacao/participacao-social/outras-acoas/documentos/ts-06-2024-nt-12-2025-consolidacao-das-contribuicoes.pdf/view>

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The Brazilian Congress enacted Constitutional Amendment (EC) 115, which establishes personal data protection as a fundamental right in February 2022.⁹⁷⁹ EC 115 also gives the Federal Government exclusive jurisdiction to legislate on personal data protection and processing. The amendment establishes the competence of the highest court within Brazil's judiciary, the Federal Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*, STF), to adjudicate legal issues involving personal data. Previously, the STF had examined related cases based on other constitutional guarantees, such as the inviolability of intimacy and individuals' private life.

The ANPD approved regulation on international data transfers and the content of standard contractual clauses in August 2024.⁹⁸⁰ The regulation implements the international data transfer framework under the LGPD.⁹⁸¹ Publication of the regulation came amid discussions of creating a "sovereign cloud" to ensure government data is stored within national borders as part of Brazil's Artificial Intelligence Plan.⁹⁸²

The National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CONANDA) developed a resolution to protect children and adolescents' rights in virtual environments. The resolution establishes specific data protection requirements such as the prohibition of processing minors' personal data for commercial purposes including targeted advertisement and profiling in connection with consumption, behavior, and market segmentation.⁹⁸³

The ANPD became a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) in 2023.⁹⁸⁴ The ANPD has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data

⁹⁷⁹ Federal Senate, *Constitutional Amendment on Protection of Personal Data Adopted* (Feb. 10, 2022), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2022/02/10/promulgada-emenda-constitucional-de-protecao-de-dados>

⁹⁸⁰ Official Journal of the Union, *Resolution CD/ANPD No. 19, of August 23, 2024* (Aug. 23, 2024), <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-cd/anpd-n-19-de-23-de-agosto-de-2024-580095396>

⁹⁸¹ ANPD, *ANPD Approves Regulation on International Data Transfers* (Aug. 23, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/resolucao-normatiza-transferencia-internacional-de-dados>

⁹⁸² Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial (PBIA), 2024–2028* (Jul. 29, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2024/07/plano-brasileiro-de-ia-tera-supercomputador-e-investimento-de-r-23-bilhoes-em-quatro-anos/ia-para-o-bem-de-todos.pdf/view>

⁹⁸³ Official Diary of the Union, *Resolution No. 245 of April 5, 2024, Providing for the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Digital Environment* (Apr. 5, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil/https-wwwgovbr-participamaisbrasil-blob-baixar-7359>

⁹⁸⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

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Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁹⁸⁵ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁹⁸⁶ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁹⁸⁷ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁹⁸⁸

AI Oversight

The ANPD adopted a 2023 resolution emphasizing the need to strengthen data protection and oversight concerning AI applications.⁹⁸⁹

As a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (*Red Ibero-Americano de Protección de Datos*, RIPD), the ANPD endorsed the General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence⁹⁹⁰ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.⁹⁹¹ The RIPD data protection authorities initiated a coordinated action on ChatGPT, investigating risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the processing of their personal data. Concerns centered on the risk of misinformation: “ChatGPT does not have knowledge and/or experience in a specific

⁹⁸⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁹⁸⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁹⁸⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁹⁸⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁹⁸⁹ ANPD, *Resolution CD/ANPD No 10, of December 5, 2023*, <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/documentos-e-publicacoes/documentos-de-publicacoes/nota-tecnica-no-19-2023-fis-cgf-anpd.pdf>

⁹⁹⁰ Red Ibero-Americano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai.pdf>

⁹⁹¹ Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/documents/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai>

domain, so the precision and depth of the response may vary in each case, and/or generate responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones.”⁹⁹²

Algorithmic Transparency

Article 20 of the LGPD establishes the right of any individual “to request the review of decisions taken solely on the basis of automated processing of personal data that affect his interests, including decisions designed to define his personal, professional, consumer and credit profile or aspects of his personality.”⁹⁹³

As a result, “the controller shall provide, whenever requested, clear and adequate information regarding the criteria and procedures used for the automated decision, observing the commercial and industrial secrets.”⁹⁹⁴ Where the information is not provided due to the observance of commercial and industrial secrecy, the national data protection authority “may perform audits to verify discriminatory aspects in automated processing of personal data.”⁹⁹⁵

Some Brazilian researchers and judicial advocates, including Prof. Renato Leite Monteiro and entities such as the Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (IDEC), assert that a comprehensive interpretation of the LGPD, in conjunction with the Constitution, consumer law, and other legal provisions, guarantees the existence of a right to explanation in Brazil. However, this position demands greater judicial consolidation.⁹⁹⁶

The ANPD public consultation on automated decisions and artificial intelligence and related report offer steps toward providing this consolidation.⁹⁹⁷ The

⁹⁹² Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Authorities of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data Initiate a Coordinated Action in Relation to the Service ChatGPT* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

⁹⁹³ Presidency of the Republic, Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs, *General Law on Protection of Personal Data (LGPD)* (Aug. 14, 2020), https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2015-2018/2018/lei/113709.htm; Katitza Rodriguez, Veridiana Alimonti, *A Look-Back and Ahead on Data Protection in Latin America and Spain* (Sept. 21, 2020), <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2020/09/look-back-and-ahead-data-protection-latin-america-and-spain>

⁹⁹⁴ Article 20.1 LGPD

⁹⁹⁵ Article 20.2 LGPD

⁹⁹⁶ Institute for Research on Internet and Society, *Automated Decisions and Algorithmic Transparency* (Nov. 16, 2019), <https://irisbh.com.br/en/automated-decisions-and-algorithmic-transparency/>

⁹⁹⁷ Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD), *ANPD apresenta resultados da Tomada de Subsídios sobre Inteligência Artificial e Revisão de Decisões Automatizadas* (May 20, 2025), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-apresenta-resultados-da-tomada-de-subsidios-sobre-tratamento-automatizado-de-dados-pessoais>

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AI Regulatory Sandbox initiative can provide further clarity with tests of algorithmic transparency and data protection mechanisms in a controlled environment.⁹⁹⁸

The national AI strategy outlined transparency as a critical element of AI governance both regarding explainability of decisions taken by autonomous systems and the transparency of methodologies used in the development of AI systems, including data sources and project procedures.⁹⁹⁹

With regard to the transparency principle, the RIPD Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects provide, “The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience.”¹⁰⁰⁰

The Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan 2024–2028 established and funded the National Center for Algorithmic Transparency and Trustworthy AI, a national center to develop research and studies on AI risks, security, transparency, and reliability.¹⁰⁰¹

Use of AI in Public Administration

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Brazil approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service.¹⁰⁰² The Charter aims to provide a roadmap and common framework for CLAD member states to learn about the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI in public administration and adapt their AI policy strategies

⁹⁹⁸ Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD), *Após recursos, ANPD divulga resultado definitivo do projeto Sandbox Regulatório* (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/apos-recursos-anpd-divulga-resultado-definitivo-do-projeto-sandbox-regulatorio>

⁹⁹⁹ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Estratégia Brasileira de Inteligência Artificial* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/transformacaodigital/estrategia-brasileira-de-inteligencia-artificial>

¹⁰⁰⁰ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects*, p. 17 (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects.pdf>

¹⁰⁰¹ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial (PBIA), 2024–2028* (Jul. 29, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/lnc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias-1/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial-pbia-2024-2028>

¹⁰⁰² Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

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and laws accordingly. The guiding principles are human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection.

The third axis of the proposal for the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan 2024–2028 focuses on the use of AI to improve public services. The plan includes 19 suggested actions to foster the use of AI in the public sector to improve the delivery of public services and enhance impact on development and social inclusion. Some of the areas targeted for proposed AI solutions to improve public services include procurement, management of human resources, management of educational resources, cybersecurity, management of assets, and prevention of extreme climate events.¹⁰⁰³ The updated PBI 2024–2028 introduces “AI for Public Power” actions to deploy AI in health, agriculture, and social protection. Thirty-one Immediate Actions prioritize public sector digitalization and risk assessment frameworks.¹⁰⁰⁴

Algorithm-Based Advertising

The Brazilian Advertising Self-Regulation Council (CONAR), a nongovernmental organization that acts as a tribunal in the advertising industry to ensure advertising practices are lawful and ethical,¹⁰⁰⁵ warned advertisers to be cautious when using algorithm-based advertising after deciding a case involving algorithm-based advertising in December 2021.¹⁰⁰⁶ The ruling responded to a consumer complaint against a streaming platform, alleging that an ad did not reflect the actual content of the platform. Although CONAR found the streaming platform had committed no irregularities, the council cautioned advertisers that algorithmic-based ads designed to increase engagement rather than inform may hinder consumers’ ability to find solutions they seek.

A Brazilian court fined Meta Platforms up to \$3.62 million after finding the company had accepted paid advertisements that fraudulently used a retailer’s name

¹⁰⁰³ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial (PBI)*, 2024–2028 (Jul. 29, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/lnc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias-1/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial-pbia-2024-2028>

¹⁰⁰⁴ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *PBI 2025–2028*, pp. 22–28 (Jun. 12, 2025), www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2025/06/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial-pbia-vf.pdf

¹⁰⁰⁵ CONAR, *About CONAR*, <http://www.conar.org.br/>

¹⁰⁰⁶ CONAR, *Complaint No. 203/21, Ruling Issued on 7 Dec. 2021*, Conar Gazette: Ethics in Practice, Issue 222, pp. 6–7 (Jan. 2022), <http://www.conar.org.br/pdf/conar222.pdf>

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to mislead consumers. Ads revealed that artificial intelligence had been used to mimic a businessman's voice.¹⁰⁰⁷

The Brazilian government sanctioned the Digital Statute for Children and Adolescents in 2025.¹⁰⁰⁸ This law creates a significant new restriction on algorithm-based advertising by explicitly prohibiting profiling to direct commercial advertising to children and adolescents. The law defines profiling in Article 2 (Section V).

EdTech

The EdTech apps Descomplica and Stoodi used in Sao Paulo were part of a 2022 global study conducted by Human Rights Watch on education technology endorsed by 49 governments, including Brazil, during the pandemic.¹⁰⁰⁹ Based on technical and policy analysis of these EdTech products, Human Rights Watch found that Brazil's endorsement of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children's rights. Both Descomplica and Stoodi have "the ability to collect their users' advertising IDs. This allowed these apps to tag children and identify their devices for the sole purpose of advertising to them," in violation of child data protection principles as well as corporations' human rights responsibilities outlined in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In March 2024, Human Rights Watch submitted recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child urging the ANPD to seek actionable steps against the EdTech companies to protect children and adolescents' data privacy. Human Rights Watch also recommended that ANPD build on the current "case law and Supreme court rulings protecting children's right in educational settings" when addressing online education.¹⁰¹⁰ Brazil's legislature took direct action to address these concerns. The government sanctioned Digital Statute for Children and

¹⁰⁰⁷ Reuters, *Meta faces \$3.6 Million Fine in Brazil for Allowing Bogus Havan Ads* (Aug. 28, 2024) <https://www.reuters.com/technology/meta-faces-36-million-fine-brazil-allowing-bogus-havan-ads-2024-08-28/>

¹⁰⁰⁸ Presidência da República, *Lei Nº 15.211, de 17 de Setembro de 2025 (Estatuto Digital da Criança e do Adolescente)* (Sept. 17, 2025), https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2023-2026/2025/lei/L15211.htm

¹⁰⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

¹⁰¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Brazil: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 98th Pre-Sessional Working Group* (Mar. 27, 2024), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/27/brazil-submission-un-committee-rights-child>

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Adolescents in 2025,¹⁰¹¹ establishing new binding rules for all platforms accessed by minors.

A federal law introduced in February 2025 would also limit smartphone use in public and private elementary and high schools across Brazil.¹⁰¹²

Use of AI in Courts

With a current backlog of 78 million lawsuits, the Brazilian judicial system operates with substantial challenges in case flow management. The lack of resources to meet this demand¹⁰¹³ has led to numerous initiatives involving Artificial Intelligence.

In this context, the President of the National Council of Justice (*Conselho Nacional de Justiça*, CNJ), a judicial agency responsible for the administrative and financial control of the judiciary and the supervision of judges,¹⁰¹⁴ published in August 2020 a Resolution on ethics, transparency and governance in the production and use of artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary.¹⁰¹⁵ The NCJ Resolution addresses AI-related requirements such as respect for human rights; preservation of equality, non-discrimination, plurality, and solidarity; transparency (from disclosure to explainability); data security; user control; and accountability.

The NCJ passed a new resolution updating the previous guidelines to create a new norm around AI in the judiciary with guidelines, requirements, and a governance structure for the development, use, and auditability of artificial intelligence tools.¹⁰¹⁶ Another Resolution established guidelines for generative AI in Brazilian courts, mandating human oversight, risk management plans, and auditable records.¹⁰¹⁷

¹⁰¹¹ Presidência da República, *Lei Nº 15.211, de 17 de setembro de 2025 (Estatuto Digital da Criança e do Adolescente)* (Sept. 17, 2025), https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2023-2026/2025/lei/L15211.htm

¹⁰¹² Federal Official Gazette, *Lei Nº 15.100, de 13 de janeiro de 2025* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/lei-n-15.100-de-13-de-janeiro-de-2025-606772935>

¹⁰¹³ SIPA, *The Future of AI in the Brazilian Judicial System: AI Mapping, Integration, and Governance* (Jun. 2020), <https://itsrio.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SIPA-Capstone-The-Future-of-AI-in-the-Brazilian-Judicial-System-1.pdf>

¹⁰¹⁴ US Law Library of Congress, *Brazil, Legal Research Guide: The Judicial Branch* (2011), <https://www.loc.gov/item/2019671039/>

¹⁰¹⁵ Conselho Nacional de Justiça (CNJ), *Resolution No. 332 Provides for Ethics, Transparency and Governance in the Production and Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary and Provides Other Measures* (Aug. 21, 2020), <https://atos.cnj.jus.br/atos/detalhar/3429>

¹⁰¹⁶ Conselho Nacional de Justiça (CNJ), *CNJ Approves Resolution Regulating the Use of AI in the Judiciary* (Feb. 18, 2025) <https://www.cnj.jus.br/cnj-aprova-resolucao-regulamentando-o-uso-da-ia-no-poder-judiciario/>

¹⁰¹⁷ Conselho Nacional de Justiça (CNJ), *Resolução nº 615, de 11 de março de 2025*, <https://atos.cnj.jus.br/atos/detalhar/6001>

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The Attorney General of the Union (AGU) began using artificial intelligence tools in the production of legal documents in 2024. Federal lawyers and prosecutors may use generative AI tools through the institutional document management system known as Super Sapiens to make summaries of extensive texts, classify and sort documents, extract data from a process, or obtain suggestions for petition models.¹⁰¹⁸

The Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro reportedly invested in data science and AI to expedite investigations and prevent crimes.¹⁰¹⁹ The system has allowed information from different sources and bodies to be collected as well as real-time data to be collected from suspected criminals. Likewise, Brazil's federal and state police are using AI applications such as military drones¹⁰²⁰ and crime prediction software.¹⁰²¹

Computational Propaganda

According to Freedom House's Freedom on the Net report, Brazil is only "partly free" because of the prevalence of manipulated content online and the "notable proliferation of disinformation during the 2018 and 2022 election campaigns."¹⁰²² Several studies¹⁰²³ have pointed out the use of bots on online

¹⁰¹⁸ Attorney General of the Union, *AGU Starts Using Artificial Intelligence Tools in the Production of Legal Documents* (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/agu/pt-br/comunicacao/noticias/agu-passa-a-utilizar-ferramentas-de-inteligencia-artificial-na-producao-de-documentos-juridicos>

¹⁰¹⁹ Felipe Grandin and Marco Antônio Martins, *MPRJ Bets on Artificial Intelligence to Speed Up Investigations in Rio*, O Globo, G1 (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://g1.globo.com/rj/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2018/10/01/mp-aposta-em-inteligencia-artificial-para-agilizar-investigacoes-no-rj.ghtml>

¹⁰²⁰ ISTOE, *Against Organized Crime, PF Puts Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in the Amazon* (Aug. 20, 2016), <https://istoe.com.br/contra-o-crime-organizado-pf-poe-veiculo-aereo-nao-tripulado-na-amazonia/>

¹⁰²¹ Sarah Griffiths, *CrimeRadar Is Using Machine Learning to Predict Crime in Rio*, Wired UK (Aug. 18, 2016), <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/crimeradarrio-app-predict-crime>; United for Smart Sustainable Cities, *Crime Prediction for More Agile Policing in Cities, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Case Study of the U4SSC City Science Application Framework* (Oct. 2019), https://igarape.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/460154_Case-study-Crime-prediction-for-more-agile-policing-in-cities.pdf

¹⁰²² Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2022: Brazil* (2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/brazil/freedom-net/2022>

¹⁰²³ Samantha Bradshaw, Hannah Bailey, Philip N. Howard, *Industrialized Disinformation: 2020 Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation*, Oxford Internet Institute (2021), <https://demtech.oi.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2021/02/CyberTroop-Report20-Draft9.pdf>; Joao Guilherme Bastos dos Santos, Arthur Ituassu, Sergio Lifschitz, Thayane Guimaraes, Diego Cerqueira, Debora Albu, Redson Fernando, Julia Hellen Ferreira, Maria Luiza Mondelli, *From Digital Militias to Coordinated Behavior: Interdisciplinary Methods of Analysis and Analysis and Identification of Bots in Brazilian Elections*, Sociedade Brasileira de Computação, Annals of the X

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gatekeepers in the electoral context. Misinformation campaigns in Brazil have consisted in “pro-government and pro-party propaganda”; “attacking the opposition or mounting smear campaigns”; “suppressing participation through trolling and harassment”; and social media campaigns that “drive division and polarize citizens.”¹⁰²⁴ Brazil’s Supreme Court opened a probe into so-called “digital militias” in 2021 and received a report from the Federal Police detailing their structure for coordinating attacks against rival politicians and democratic institutions and the dissemination of “false news.”¹⁰²⁵

The Brazilian Judiciary responded to these challenges—primarily through the Superior Electoral Court and the Federal Supreme Court—by implementing innovative measures to mitigate the harmful effects of disinformation and ensure the integrity of the electoral process.¹⁰²⁶ In February 2024, the Superior Electoral Court approved a resolution¹⁰²⁷ that addressed several threats related to artificial intelligence. The resolution included prohibition of deep fakes; obligation to warning about the use of AI in electoral propaganda; restriction of the use of “robots” to mediate contact with the voter (the campaign cannot simulate dialogue with a candidate or anyone else); and accountability of “big techs” that do not immediately remove content that violates these guidelines from their platforms. The violation of this norm carries strict punishment for candidates. Article 9c highlights that a candidate can have their registration or mandate canceled for infringing on the norm and Article 9-E establishes the joint and severe liability of the providers, in a civil and administrative way, if they do not immediately remove certain content and/or accounts that violate these guidelines during the electoral period.

Brazilian Workshop on Social Network Analysis and Mining, pp. 187–192 (2021),

<https://doi.org/10.5753/brasnam.2021.16138>

¹⁰²⁴ Samantha Bradshaw, Hannah Bailey, and Philip N. Howard, *Industrialized Disinformation: 2020 Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation*, Oxford Internet Institute, p. 13 (2021), <https://demotech.oii.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2021/02/CyberTroop-Report20-Draft9.pdf>

¹⁰²⁵ Lais Martins, *Under Bolsonaro, Political Attacks Gain Institutional Legitimacy in Brazil*, Global Voices (Oct. 2, 2022), <https://advox.globalvoices.org/2022/10/02/under-bolsonaro-political-attacks-gain-institutional-legitimacy-in-brazil/>

¹⁰²⁶ Gustavo Borges, Wilson Center, *Combating Disinformation by the Brazilian Judiciary: Initiatives for the 2024 Municipal Elections*, Brazil Builds blog (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/combating-disinformation-brazilian-judiciary-initiatives-2024-municipal-elections>

¹⁰²⁷ Superior Electoral Court (Tribunal Superior Eleitoral), *TSE Prohibits the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Create and Spread Fake Content in the Elections* (Feb. 28, 2024), <https://www.tse.jus.br/comunicacao/noticias/2024/Fevereiro/tse-proibe-uso-de-inteligencia-artificial-para-criar-e-propagar-conteudos-falsos-nas-eleicoes>

Facial Recognition

Facial recognition is implemented in both the public and private sectors in Brazil. According to Instituto Igarapé, a Brazilian think tank, there were at least 48 facial recognition applications throughout 16 Federal States between 2011 to 2019.¹⁰²⁸ The main use sectors are public security, border control, transportation, and education.¹⁰²⁹

In August 2018, the Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection (IDEC) brought a civil public class action¹⁰³⁰ before the Court of Justice of Sao Paulo for breach of privacy and consumer legislation against the São Paulo Metro operator, regarding an AI crowd analytics system that claimed to predict the emotion, age, and gender of metro passengers without processing personal data.¹⁰³¹ In May 2021, the São Paulo 37th Civil Court ordered the company to pay compensation for passengers' data collection without their consent and prohibited the company from continuing the implementation and use of cameras that recognized human presence or identified emotion, gender, and age groups.¹⁰³²

Another monitoring system with built-in facial recognition installed in the São Paulo subway network was challenged in Court. In early 2020, the operating company was requested to provide clarification on the risks and impact assessment expected from the implementation of the new technology, on how personal data will be processed, on technical databases and security systems issues, and on actions to mitigate the potential risk of a data breach.¹⁰³³ In March 2022, the 6th Public Treasury Court of São Paulo delivered a preliminary injunction ordering the operating company to suspend the deployment and use of the facial recognition system in the

¹⁰²⁸ Instituto Igarapé, *Facial Recognition in Brazil*, <https://igarape.org.br/infografico-reconhecimento-facial-no-brasil/>

¹⁰²⁹ Thiago Moraes, *Facial Recognition in Brazil*, Wired (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://medium.com/@lapinbr/face-recognition-in-brazil-f2a23217f5f7>

¹⁰³⁰ Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor, *ViaQuatro* (Aug. 30, 2018), https://idec.org.br/sites/default/files/acp_viaquatro.pdf

¹⁰³¹ AccessNow, *Facial Recognition on Trial: Emotion and Gender “Detection” under Scrutiny in a Court Case in Brazil* (Jun. 29, 2020), <https://www.accessnow.org/facial-recognition-on-trial-emotion-and-gender-detection-under-scrutiny-in-a-court-case-in-brazil/>

¹⁰³² Tribunal de Justicia do Estado de São Paulo, 37th Civil Court, *IDEC v. ViaQuatro* (May 7, 2021), https://idec.org.br/sites/default/files/75432prot_sentenca-viaquatro.pdf

¹⁰³³ Tribunal de Justicia do Estado de São Paulo, 1st Public Treasury Court of São Paulo, *Public Defenders Office of the State of Sao Paulo and Others v. Company of the Metropolitan of Sao Paulo, METRO* (Feb. 12, 2020), https://idec.org.br/sites/default/files/doc_76725029_1.pdf; Tozzini Freire, *Facial Recognition Is Disputed in Court* (Feb. 14, 2020), <https://tozzinifreire.com.br/en/boletins/facial-recognition-is-disputed-in-court>

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São Paulo metro stations.¹⁰³⁴ In April 2022, the preliminary injunction was confirmed in appeal by the São Paulo 5th Public Law Chamber.¹⁰³⁵ However, in October 2022, the same Chamber ruled that the operating company was entitled to deploy and use facial recognition technology on the grounds that the LGPD allows such use for public security purposes. Governor Rodrigo Garcia officially inaugurated the facial recognition system the following month. The aim is for 5,000 biometric cameras to be deployed in transit stations over the next 30 months.¹⁰³⁶

In July 2023, the government of São Paulo introduced the Muralha Paulista system, a security network that interconnects cameras and radars in different cities to the Metropolitan Region of São José do Rio Preto.¹⁰³⁷ The Muralha Paulista system has since been used by football clubs to identify perpetrators of violence or harassment at large sporting events, specifically to flag people with open warrants or judicial restrictions.¹⁰³⁸

In November 2023, Brazil's ANDP issued a technical note that sheds light on the legality of facial recognition technology in sports stadiums. Amid controversies about striking a balance between enhancing public safety and safeguarding individual privacy, the note lays down concrete suggestions to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Law. Key among these suggestions is the call for comprehensive Data Protection Impact Assessments that specifically address the processing of biometric data. The note outlines critical guidelines for avoiding legal pitfalls and details the consequences of failing to adhere to these standards, marking

¹⁰³⁴ Court of Justice of the State of São Paulo, 6th Public Treasury Court of São Paulo, *Public Defenders Office of the State of Sao Paulo and Others v. Company of the Metropolitan of Sao Paulo, METRO* (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://images.jota.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/liminar-metro-reconhecimento-facial.pdf>

Angelica Mari, *São Paulo Subway Ordered to Suspend Use of Facial Recognition* (Mar. 25, 2022), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/sao-paulo-subway-ordered-to-suspend-use-of-facial-recognition/>

¹⁰³⁵ Court of Justice of the State of São Paulo, 5th Public Law Chamber (Appeal), *Public Defenders Office of the State of Sao Paulo and Others v. Company of the Metropolitan of Sao Paulo, METRO* (Apr. 12, 2022), https://internetlab.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/doc_429164790.pdf

¹⁰³⁶ Biometric Update, *Brazil Deploys ISS Facial Recognition to Secure São Paulo Metro* (Dec. 9, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202212/brazil-deploys-iss-facial-recognition-to-secure-sao-paulo-metro>

¹⁰³⁷ O Globo, g1, *What Is the Electric Wall, a Security System that Will Be Implemented in 17 Cities of the Valley* (Jul. 21, 2023), <https://g1.globo.com/sp/vale-do-paraiba-regiao/noticia/2023/07/21/o-que-e-a-muralha-eletronica-sistema-de-seguranca-que-sera-implantado-em-17-cidades-do-vale-do-paraiba.ghtml>

¹⁰³⁸ Reuters, *Palmeiras' Facial Recognition on Match Tickets Helps Police Arrest Criminals* (Sept. 23, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/palmeiras-facial-recognition-match-tickets-helps-police-arrest-criminals-2023-09-23/>

a step forward in the ongoing discussions around ethical deployment of AI technologies in public spaces.¹⁰³⁹

The ANPD announced its investigation into irregularities in the use of facial recognition systems for the sale of tickets and entry to stadiums by 23 football clubs. The irregularities pertain to the compliance with transparency requirements and the handling of data concerning children and adolescents under the data protection law. The inspector issued a preventive measure requiring football clubs to publish information on the registration and biometric identification procedures for fans on ticket selling platforms within 20 business days as the agency investigates.¹⁰⁴⁰

The Brazilian police have also been using live facial recognition for Carnival and has plans to use the technology in events involving crowds to find wanted criminals. In 2020, police forces rolled out facial recognition in six capitals across the country. When announcing the use of live facial recognition, the São Paulo police said they would create a “situation room,” where they would monitor the images from the cameras, which would then be compared with a database managed by a biometrics lab. According to the police, the aim is to reduce the likelihood of mistakes, such as wrongful arrests.¹⁰⁴¹

In 2021, Brazil rolled out end-to-end biometric identification technologies by IDEMIA, a technology solution provider, for use in passenger identification at several airports, including domestic airports in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.¹⁰⁴² Many have voiced concern at the government’s embrace of facial recognition technology, especially surrounding issues of racial bias, given that the LGPD does not address these technologies.¹⁰⁴³

¹⁰³⁹ Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD) Coordenação-Geral de Fiscalização, *Technical Note No. 175/2023/CGF/ANPD* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/documentos-e-publicacoes/documentos-de-publicacoes/nota-tecnica-no-175-2023-cgf-anpd-acordo-de-cooperacao-mj-sp-e-cbf.pdf>

¹⁰⁴⁰ Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados (ANPD), *ANPD Monitors the Use of Facial Recognition Systems in Ticket Sales and Stadium Entrances by 23 Football Clubs* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-fiscaliza-uso-de-sistema-de-reconhecimento-facial-na-venda-de-ingressos-e-na-entrada-de-estadios-por-23-clubes-de-futebol>

¹⁰⁴¹ Angelica Mari, *Brazilian Police Introduces Live Facial Recognition for Carnival*, Brazil Tech (Feb. 25, 2020), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazilian-police-introduces-live-facial-recognition-for-carnival/>

¹⁰⁴² Angelica Mari, *Brazilian Airports Expand Facial Recognition Trials*, ZDNet (Nov. 22, 2021), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazilian-airports-expand-facial-recognition-trials/>; Chris Burt, *Brazil’s Pilot of IDEMIA Face Biometrics Advances to Simultaneous Operation at Capital Airports*, Biometric Update (Jun. 16, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202106/brazils-pilot-of-idemia-face-biometrics-advances-to-simultaneous-operation-at-capital-airports>

¹⁰⁴³ Charlotte Peet, *Brazil’s Embrace of Facial Recognition Worries Black Communities*, Rest of World (Oct. 22, 2021), <https://restofworld.org/2021/brazil-facial-recognition-surveillance-black-communities/>; Leaders League, *The Controversial Use of Facial Recognition in Brazil and Europe*

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In the first quarter of 2022, several campaigns started in Brazil opposing the widespread use of facial recognition technologies in public spaces.

One of them is called *Sai da minha cara* (Get off my face) and is led by civil society organizations, including the IDEC.¹⁰⁴⁴ A localized campaign with several states and cities, *Sai da minha cara* advocates for laws to ban facial recognition. Including bills to restrict the use of facial recognition by public authorities before the State Legislative Assembly of São Paulo¹⁰⁴⁵ and before the City Council in Porto Alegre, the capital of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.¹⁰⁴⁶ A bill before the City Council in Curitiba, capital city of the state of Paraná, would restrict the use of facial recognition for mass surveillance by public authorities.¹⁰⁴⁷

Another campaign started in May 2022 under the name “Tire o Meu Rosto da Sua Mira” (Get My Face Out of Your Sight).¹⁰⁴⁸ Civil society organizations demand a total ban on the use of facial recognition technologies for public security purposes in Brazil. According to the campaign’s open letter, in Brazil, a country with the third largest incarcerated population in the world, the use of facial recognition technologies for public security purposes would lead to the worsening of racist practices.

A Federal Law proposal seeking to regulate the use of facial recognition technologies in Brazil both for the private and public sectors was submitted to the Brazilian House of Representatives in August 2022.¹⁰⁴⁹ The legislative process began that October and the proposed legislation was forwarded to the responsible commissions.

A new study published by the Center for Security and Citizenship Studies (CESeC) in March 2024 showed that 67.4 million Brazilians, close to a third of the population, are potentially under surveillance by facial recognition cameras. In

(Aug. 12, 2021), <https://www.leadersleague.com/en/news/the-controversial-use-of-facial-recognition-in-brazil-and-europe>

¹⁰⁴⁴ IDEC, *Lawmakers from All Regions of Brazil Present Bills to Ban Facial Recognition in Public Spaces* (Jun. 20, 2022), <https://idec.org.br/release/parlamentares-de-todas-regioes-do-brasil-apresentam-projetos-de-lei-pelo-banimento-do>

¹⁰⁴⁵ São Paulo Legislative Assembly, *State Law Proposal No. 385/2022* (Jun. 23, 2022), <https://www.al.sp.gov.br/propositura/?id=1000448817>

¹⁰⁴⁶ Porto Alegre City Council, *Process No. 00499/22* (Jun. 21, 2022), <https://www.camarapoa.rs.gov.br/processos/137992>

¹⁰⁴⁷ Curitiba City Council, *Law Proposal No. 005.00138.2022* (Jul. 1, 2022), https://www.cmc.pr.gov.br/wspl/sistema/ProposicaoDetalhesForm.do?select_action=&pro_id=459750

¹⁰⁴⁸ Tire Meu Rosto da Sua Mira, *A Call for a General Ban on the Use of Facial Recognition Technologies in Public Security*, <https://tiremeurostodasuamira.org.br>

¹⁰⁴⁹ Brazilian House of Representatives, *Federal Law Proposal No. 2392/2022* (Aug. 31, 2022), <https://www.camara.leg.br/proposicoesWeb/fichadetramitacao?idProposicao=2334803>

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updates in January 2025, the CESeC cited 337 facial recognition projects in the country and more than 81 million people surveilled.¹⁰⁵⁰

The banning of the use of facial recognition systems for public security purposes was one of the key points that emerged during the public hearings promoted by the Commission of Jurists that elaborated the proposal for the regulation of artificial intelligence in Brazil.¹⁰⁵¹ Several Brazilian rights organizations called for a ban on facial recognition by law enforcement during discussions around the proposed AI regulation bill.¹⁰⁵² For example, the Coalition Rights on the Net (*Coalizão Direitos na Rede*) cited several examples of arrests after mistaken identity in their open letter advocating for the Brazilian AI regulation to ban facial recognition technologies.¹⁰⁵³

On November 10th, 2025, Resolution No. 17 was published by Brazil's National Human Rights Council. It establishes guidelines for the use of facial recognition technologies in public spaces.¹⁰⁵⁴

Environmental Impact of AI

Brazil's AI Plan (PBIA) recognized the environmental implications of AI technologies, focusing on integrating sustainability within AI development. The strategy includes the monitoring of AI's carbon footprint, advocating for energy-efficient AI systems, and promoting best practices to reduce environmental damage. The policy also encourages the creation of regulatory sandboxes for AI, which allow for controlled testing of AI technologies with an emphasis on minimizing their environmental impact, particularly in terms of energy consumption and e-waste. Brazil is also aligning its AI policies with global climate goals, supporting AI's potential to address challenges related to climate change and sustainable

¹⁰⁵⁰ Centro de Estudos de Segurança e Cidadania (CESeC), *The Panopticon: Monitor of New Technology in the Public Security of Brazil* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.opanoptico.com.br/>

¹⁰⁵¹ Federal Senate, *Debates Suggest the End of Facial Recognition in Public Security* (May 18, 2022), <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2022/05/18/debates-apontam-para-fim-do-reconhecimento-facial-na-seguranca-publica>

¹⁰⁵² Masha Borak, *As Brazil Debates AI Bill, Calls for Racial Recognition Bans Emerge* (Jul. 8, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202407/as-brazil-debates-ai-bill-calls-for-facial-recognition-bans-emerge>

¹⁰⁵³ Coalizão Direitos Na Rede (Coalition Rights on the Net), *Open Letter: Advocating for Brazilian AI Regulation that Protects Human Rights* (Jul. 8, 2024), <https://direitosnarede.org.br/2024/07/08/open-letter-advocating-for-brazilian-ai-regulation-that-protects-human-rights/>

¹⁰⁵⁴ Presidência da República, *Resolução nº 17, de 10 de novembro de 2025 - Dispõe sobre o uso de tecnologias de reconhecimento facial em espaços públicos dos estados e do Distrito Federal*, <https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil/resolucao-dispoe-sobre-uso-de-tecnologias-de-reconhecimento-facial-em-espacos-publicos-dos-estados-e-df>

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development.¹⁰⁵⁵ In addition, the Brazilian government announced a “new global initiative focused on information integrity, with particular attention to climate change.” This is in line with the G20 and the 30th UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 30).¹⁰⁵⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Brazil has consistently called for the negotiation of a legally binding instrument to ensure meaningful human control over critical functions in lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Brazil issued a joint statement with Austria and Chile at a 2018 meeting of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Government Experts (GGE) on LAWS that proposed to establish an open-ended GGE to negotiate a legally binding instrument to ensure meaningful human control over critical functions in LAWS.¹⁰⁵⁷ Brazil’s representative at the 77th meeting of the UN General Assembly First Committee reiterated the need for a regulation that recognizes the centrality of human control in the development and use of autonomous systems, in line with international humanitarian law;¹⁰⁵⁸ however, Brazil was not among the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the meeting.¹⁰⁵⁹ Brazil voted in favor of the adoption of the 2024 UN General Assembly Resolution on lethal autonomous weapons.¹⁰⁶⁰ Brazil delivered a statement on behalf of 39 High Contracting Parties to the CCW at the

¹⁰⁵⁵ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial (PBIa)*, 2024–2028 (Jul. 29, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2024/07/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial-ia-para-o-bem-de-todos.pdf/view>

¹⁰⁵⁶ G20 Brasil, *UNESCO Offers Recommendations for Regulation and National Policies on AI* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.gov.br/g20/en/news/unesco-offers-recommendations-for-regulation-and-national-policies-on-ai>

¹⁰⁵⁷ GGE LAWS, *Proposal for a Mandate to Negotiate a Legally-Binding Instrument that Addresses the Legal, Humanitarian and Ethical Concerns Posed by Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, U.N. Doc. CCW/ GGE.2/2018/WP.7 (Aug. 30, 2018), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/264/05/PDF/G1826405.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁰⁵⁸ UN press release, *Enough Bullets Made Each Year to Kill ‘Twice the Number of Planet’s Inhabitants,’ First Committee Hears during Debate on Conventional Weapons*, 77th Session (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://press.un.org/en/2022/gadis3695.doc.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹⁰⁶⁰ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Resolution/adopted by the General Assembly*, A/RES/79/62 (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4068497?ln=en>

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2025 GGE meeting¹⁰⁶¹ stressing the “need for urgent action” on negotiating a legal instrument in line with the GGE mandate.

Brazil joined more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states to endorse the Belén Communiqué in 2023.¹⁰⁶² The Communiqué calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

AI Literacy

The PBI 2025–2028 lists Dissemination, Training, and Capacity-Building as a strategic axis, promoting digital skills training and AI literacy for citizens and civil servants.¹⁰⁶³ The axis aims to reach 30% of the adult population with the national awareness campaign within 3 years. Within 5 years, the plan intends for 85% of adults “have a basic understanding of AI, its benefits and risks.”¹⁰⁶⁴ The Plan proposes a program for AI learning, including about the impacts of AI targeting students and teachers in basic education, though details are few. Implementation is shared by MCTI and the Ministry of Education.

Human Rights

Brazil is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties and conventions.¹⁰⁶⁵ Freedom House rated Brazil as “Free” in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report with a score of 72/100 for political rights and civil liberties. According to Freedom House, Brazil is “a democracy that holds competitive elections. Its political arena, though polarized, is characterized by vibrant public debate. However, independent journalists and civil society activists risk harassment and violent attack and political violence is high. Minority groups suffer from crime, disproportionate violence, and economic

¹⁰⁶¹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

¹⁰⁶² Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

¹⁰⁶³ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI), *Plano Brasileiro de Inteligência Artificial*, p. 33 (Jun. 12, 2025), https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes-mcti/plano-brasileiro-de-inteligencia-artificial/pbia_mcti_2025.pdf

¹⁰⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 36–37

¹⁰⁶⁵ UN Treaty Body Database, *Ratification Status by Country of by Treaty: Brazil*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/treaty.aspx

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exclusion, issues the government struggles to address. Corruption is endemic at top levels, contributing to widespread disillusionment among the public. Societal discrimination and violence against LGBT+ people remain serious problems.”

Freedom House rated Brazil as “Partly Free” with a score of 65/100 in the Freedom on the Net report.¹⁰⁶⁶ The report cited obstacles to internet access, limits on digital content, and violation of user rights as concerns.

AI Safety Summit

Brazil participated in the first AI Safety Summit in 2023 and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.¹⁰⁶⁷ Brazil thus committed to participate in international cooperation on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Brazilian representatives did not attend the 2024 Summit in Seoul, in part because of the country’s schedule conflict with a G20 event hosted at the same time.¹⁰⁶⁸

At the AI Action Summit in Paris, Brazil signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet, affirming priorities that include AI access, sustainability, safety, and transparency.¹⁰⁶⁹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Brazil has endorsed the OECD AI Principles and the G20 AI Guidelines.¹⁰⁷⁰ Brazil’s most recent AI strategy explicitly integrates the OECD AI Principles as the its base.¹⁰⁷¹ Brazil is also a member of the Global Partnership on AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and

¹⁰⁶⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net: Brazil* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/brazil>

¹⁰⁶⁷ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

¹⁰⁶⁸ Martin Coulter, *Second Global AI Safety Summit Faces Tough Questions, Lower Turnout*, Reuters (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/second-global-ai-safety-summit-faces-tough-questions-lower-turnout-2024-04-29/>

¹⁰⁶⁹ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

¹⁰⁷⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles*, <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

¹⁰⁷¹ Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação, *Estratégia Brasileira de Inteligência Artificial* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/transformacaodigital/estrategia-brasileira-de-inteligencia-artificial>

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applied activities.¹⁰⁷² The GPAI is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”¹⁰⁷³

With the G20 Presidency in 2024, Brazil led progress on the realization of the G20 AI Guidelines. The G20 Digital Economy ministers, led by Brazil, endorsed principles for digital inclusion and AI for inclusive sustainable development, inequality reduction, and combating disinformation.¹⁰⁷⁴

Brazil and the European Union convened for the 13th Edition of the bilateral Digital Dialogue¹⁰⁷⁵ in Brussels in 2025 and published a Joint Communiqué on their commitment to digital development and global technology governance. Both parties evaluated their advancements in key areas of cooperation from the 2024 Dialogue,¹⁰⁷⁶ including AI regulation, and reaffirmed their commitment to foster digital development, facilitate digital innovation and inclusion, and preserve democratic principles. Importantly, while approving a joint work plan to guide the collaboration over the next two years, the parties agreed to continue cooperating in multilateral fora as decided in the G20 Maceió Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Brazil did not participate in the negotiations for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law and has not signed the treaty.¹⁰⁷⁷

¹⁰⁷² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁰⁷³ Government of Canada, *Canada Concludes Inaugural Plenary of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence with International Counterparts in Montreal* (Dec. 4, 2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/12/canada-concludes-inaugural-plenary-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-with-international-counterparts-in-montreal.html>

¹⁰⁷⁴ G20 Digital Economy Ministers, *G20 DEWG Maceio Ministerial Declaration* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-digital-economy-ministers-ministers-language-g20-dewg-maceio-ministerial-declaration>

¹⁰⁷⁵ European Union, *13th EU-Brazil Digital Dialogue Reinforces Digital Cooperation* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/13th-eu-brazil-digital-dialogue-reinforces-digital-cooperation>

¹⁰⁷⁶ European Union, *The EU and Brazil Strengthen their Digital Cooperation*, (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-and-brazil-strengthen-their-digital-cooperation>

¹⁰⁷⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Brazil has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and recognizes the obligation to implement the framework. UNESCO partnered with the Regional Centre for Information Society Development Studies (CETIC.br) to host a launch event for the Portuguese version of the UNESCO AI Recommendation, which aimed to “discuss and promote this subject in Brazilian society.”¹⁰⁷⁸ At the launch, Director and UNESCO representative in Brazil Marlova Noleto reiterated Brazil’s active engagement in preparing the document and the country’s preemptive alignment with the recommendations. Brazilian Ambassador to UNESCO and president of UNESCO’s 41st General Conference, Santiago Mourão, emphasized that the Recommendations fully align with the Brazilian government’s guidelines and actions on AI themes.¹⁰⁷⁹

CAF, the development bank of Latin America, and UNESCO signed a letter of intent to collaborate on the implementation of the Recommendation on AI Ethics in Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁰⁸⁰ They established a Regional Council comprising national and local governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Brazil, and convened for the inaugural meeting in October 2023.¹⁰⁸¹

Brazil also signed the resulting 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence.¹⁰⁸² The Santiago Declaration reflects UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.

Brazil was one of the first countries to complete the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to support the effective implementation of

¹⁰⁷⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO Launches Portuguese Version of Publication of Artificial Intelligence*, launch video (May 11, 2022), <https://brasil.un.org/pt-br/181308-unesco-lanca-versao-em-portugues-de-publicacao-sobre-inteligencia-artificial>

¹⁰⁷⁹ Ibid

¹⁰⁸⁰ Ángel Melguizo and Gabriela Ramos, *Ethical and Responsible Artificial Intelligence: From Words to Actions and Rights*, Somos Ibero-America (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://www.somosiberoamerica.org/pt-br/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-e-responsavel-das-palavras-aos-fatos-e-direitos/>

¹⁰⁸¹ UNESCO, *Chile Will Host the First Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial and High Level Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 25, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/chile-will-host-first-latin-american-and-caribbean-ministerial-and-high-level-summit-ethics>

¹⁰⁸² Ministerial and High Level Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Santiago Declaration “To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

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the Recommendation.¹⁰⁸³ The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.¹⁰⁸⁴ The process of implementing the RAM “highlighted progress, but also that significant challenges still need to be addressed.”¹⁰⁸⁵ Issues such as the significant inclusion of marginalized groups and transparency in the processes of development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) demand constant attention and improvement. On the other hand, important advances were noted, demonstrating a maturation in the country’s regulatory, policy and infrastructure approaches. UNESCO published the Brazil RAM Report in 2025.¹⁰⁸⁶

In 2024, initiatives in Brazil sought to highlight how marginalized groups such as the indigenous community are excluded from AI debates under UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.¹⁰⁸⁷

Evaluation

Brazil has developed a robust national strategy for AI and has established a comprehensive law for data protection that includes algorithmic transparency. The federal government’s Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan 2024–2028 (PBIA), now updated for 2025 to better align objectives with national interests and priorities, marks significant progress. ANPD has also progressed on data protection in the context of the proposed AI plan. While AI legislation is still under review, the introduction of a new bill in the Chamber of Deputies, while the Senate bill is under committee review, demonstrates a commitment to establishing principles, guidelines and standards for the development, implementation and responsible use of AI systems in Brazil.¹⁰⁸⁸ Initiatives to tackle disinformation and abuses from facial recognition have been inadequately addressed, however, leaving human rights groups continuing to call for bans.

¹⁰⁸³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Brazil* (Nov. 2025),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/brazil>

¹⁰⁸⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

¹⁰⁸⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Brazil* (Nov. 2025),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/brazil>

¹⁰⁸⁶ UNESCO, *Brazil: Readiness Assessment Report on Artificial Intelligence* (2025),

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393091>

¹⁰⁸⁷ Edson Prestes, Lutiana Valadares Fernandes Barbosa, Viviane Ceolin Dallasta Del Grossi, Cynthia Picolo Gonzaga de Azevedo, Gustavo Macedo, Renan Maffei, *AI and Brazil’s Indigenous Populations: A Call for Participation* (Jul. 31, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-and-brazils-indigenous-populations-call-participation>

¹⁰⁸⁸ Câmara dos Deputados, *PL 526/2025 – provides for the regulation of use of AI in Brazil and provides for other measures* (Feb. 18, 2025),

<https://www.camara.leg.br/proposicoesWeb/fichadetramitacao?idProposicao=2484379>

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Brazil has emerged as an international leader in championing inclusive and more ethical AI. Brazil led on implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation through completion of the RAM and participation in regional discussions of best practices. Brazil's leadership in furthering digital inclusion in AI and beyond in the G20 is also noteworthy. Addressing national concerns in areas such as facial recognition could make Brazil a model for implementing international frameworks.

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Canada

In 2025, Canada launched the AI Strategy for the Federal Service and continued to work on responsible AI in government. The country also endorsed the Council of Europe AI Treaty.

National AI Strategy

Canada's national AI Strategy has focused on the use of AI in government and public services. The Canadian government stated "Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies offer promise for improving how the Government of Canada serves Canadians. As we explore the use of AI in government programs and services, we are ensuring it is governed by clear values, ethics, and laws."¹⁰⁸⁹ Canada has set out Guiding Principles¹⁰⁹⁰ to ensure the "effective and ethical use of AI" in government. The government has committed to "understand and measure" impacts, be transparent about use, "provide meaningful explanations" for AI decision-making, "be as open as we can be," and provide sufficient training."

The AI Strategy for Federal Public Service 2025–2027 prioritizes responsible use of AI, expertise, security, and public trust by providing training and talent development, and building public trust through transparency.¹⁰⁹¹ The strategy aims to accelerate responsible AI adoption throughout the federal public service, leveraging AI within the Government of Canada to enhance productivity, enhance capacity in science and research, and deliver improved digital services. The Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence¹⁰⁹² formed in 2019 and expanded in 2025 advises the Government on opportunities for AI applications to ensure economic growth benefits all Canadians and reflections national values. The expansion of the mandate in 2025 includes advice on budget initiatives and the development of the Safe and Secure Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group to guide the government on emerging

¹⁰⁸⁹ Government of Canada, *Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai.html>

¹⁰⁹⁰ Government of Canada, *Guiding Principles for the Use of AI in Government* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/principles.html>

¹⁰⁹¹ Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, *Canada Launches First-Ever Artificial Intelligence Strategy for the Federal Public Service* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/news/2025/03/canada-launches-first-ever-artificial-intelligence-strategy-for-the-federal-public-service.html>

¹⁰⁹² Government of Canada, *Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/advisory-council-artificial-intelligence/en>

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risks from AI systems across the economy. An AI Strategy Taskforce¹⁰⁹³ charged with providing recommendations for a new national AI Strategy also falls under the Advisory Council.

The federal strategy builds on collaborations with provinces, such as the collaboration with the government of Quebec to establish the Centre of Expertise in Montréal for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (CEIMIA).¹⁰⁹⁴ The CEIMIA, formerly known as ICEMAI, continues to facilitate international collaboration on responsible AI as an International Centre of Expertise under the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). As a meeting place for academia, civil society, and government, CEIMIA “enables Quebec to highlight the important role of its AI ecosystem, specifically in the area of responsible development of AI, and to take its place internationally as an essential partner and subject-matter expert.”

Directive on Automated Decision-Making

The Government of Canada’s Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) established a Directive on Automated Decision-Making to ensure that administrative decisions are “compatible with core principles of administrative law such as transparency, accountability, legality, and procedural fairness.”¹⁰⁹⁵ Canada has developed a questionnaire for an Algorithmic Impact Assessment to “assess and mitigate the risks associated with deploying an automated decision system” and to comply with the Directive.¹⁰⁹⁶ The Directive took effect on April 1, 2019, with compliance required by no later than April 1, 2020. The Directive is reviewed and updated every two years with feedback from the public. Existing systems have one year to comply with updated requirements.

The TBS issued the Guide on the Scope of the Directive on Automated Decision-Making in 2024 to clarify the conditions for exception and applicability of the Directive.¹⁰⁹⁷ The guide itemized five key elements for applicability: used by a

¹⁰⁹³ Government of Canada, *AI Strategy Taskforce* (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/advisory-council-artificial-intelligence/en/ai-strategy-taskforce>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Government of Canada, *The Governments of Canada and Quebec and the International Community Join Forces to Advance the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

¹⁰⁹⁵ Government of Canada, *Directive on Automated Decision-Making* (Jun. 24, 2025), <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=32592>

¹⁰⁹⁶ Government of Canada, *Algorithmic Impact Assessment Tool* (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/algorithmic-impact-assessment.html>

¹⁰⁹⁷ Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, *Guide on the Scope of the Directive on Automated Decision-Making* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital->

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department; developed after April 1, 2020; used in an administrative decision-making process; replaces or assists judgment; and used in a production environment. The Guide recommends compliance with the Directive in National Security Systems (NSSs) while nothing that NSSs are out of scope.

In a parallel effort to support the Directive, the TBS worked with Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) to establish a pre-qualified AI Vendor procurement program to streamline the procurement of AI solutions and services in the government.¹⁰⁹⁸ This new public AI procurement program was used to help government departments and agencies build awareness of the solutions offered by AI. It also provided small and medium AI companies with an opportunity to provide their services to the government. The Government of Canada posted a tender for companies to qualify for the AI source list in October 2024. The procurement aims to “establish a pre-qualified list of suppliers [...] who meet all the mandatory criteria to provide Canada with responsible and effective AI services, solutions and products.”¹⁰⁹⁹

Digital Charter Implementation Act

Bill C-27, the Digital Charter Implementation Act (DCIA), represented Canada’s first comprehensive AI legislation, introduced in June 2022.¹¹⁰⁰ The Bill, which comprised three separate pieces of legislation: the Consumer Privacy Protection Act (CPPA), Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act (PIDPTA), and the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA),¹¹⁰¹ faced public criticism because of what was perceived as insufficient protections and inadequate public consultation. Amendments incorporating some of the public feedback in November 2023 failed to earn public trust in AIDA as an effective, adaptable regulatory framework for AI. Civil society organizations¹¹⁰² called for the withdrawal of AIDA, noting “consultation with Indigenous rights-holders, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders that should have taken place prior to AIDA’s introduction” before reintroducing it in revised form.

[government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/guide-scope-directive-automated-decision-making.html#toc2](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/digital-government/innovations/responsible-use-ai/guide-scope-directive-automated-decision-making.html#toc2)

¹⁰⁹⁸ Government of Canada, *List of Interested Artificial Intelligence (AI) Suppliers* (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/list-interested-artificial-intelligence-ai-suppliers.html>

¹⁰⁹⁹ Government of Canada, *Invitation to Qualify to Artificial Intelligence Source List* (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities/tender-notice/ws4286933967-doc4822970058>

¹¹⁰⁰ Parliament of Canada, 44th Parliament, 1st Session, *Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2022* (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-27>

¹¹⁰¹ Ibid

¹¹⁰² Canadian Civil Liberties Association, *CCLA Joins Call from Civil Society to Withdraw AIDA from Bill C-27* (Apr. 25, 2024), https://openmedia.org/assets/AIDA_joint_letter.pdf

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AIDA expired in a parliamentary committee, leaving the future of AI legislation in Canada uncertain.¹¹⁰³ The Digital Charter Implementation Act also expired in Committee.¹¹⁰⁴ The government has since initiated renewed public consultations to inform future legislation on AI regulation and data governance.

Public Participation

In 2019, Canada established an Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence to “inform the long-term vision for Canada on AI both domestically and internationally.”¹¹⁰⁵ Composed of researchers, academics, and business leaders, the Council advises the Government of Canada on how to build on Canada’s AI strengths to support entrepreneurship, drive economic growth and job creation and build public trust in AI. The Council created two working groups to date, one on Commercialization and another one on Public Awareness. Public awareness is a key area for the Council that emphasized that policy design, including sectoral priorities, require the trust and support of the public to succeed.¹¹⁰⁶

Canada’s AI Advisory Council created its public engagement and consultation processes using both consultation and deliberation. The national survey elicited an array of citizens’ input on AI use in different sectors. Online workshops aimed to find ways to address ethical concerns raised by citizens via the survey. Among the goals of the deliberative process is to shape a new set of guidelines and recommendations for the development of AI.¹¹⁰⁷

The government of Canada published a public consultation in 2023 to gather insights on the negotiations on the Council of Europe Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Officially, the role of Canada in the negotiations is to help shape “the treaty to reflect Canadian values and interests,

¹¹⁰³ Blair Attard-Frost, *The Death of Canada’s Artificial Intelligence and Data Act: What Happened, and What’s Next for AI Regulation in Canada*, Op-Ed, Montreal AI Ethics Institute (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://montrealaiethics.ai/the-death-of-canadas-artificial-intelligence-and-data-act-what-happened-and-whats-next-for-ai-regulation-in-canada/>

¹¹⁰⁴ Parliament of Canada, 44th Parliament, 1st Session, *C-27 An Act to Enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act, the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act and to Make Consequential and Related Amendments to Other Acts [Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2022]* (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-27>

¹¹⁰⁵ Government of Canada, *Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/advisory-council-artificial-intelligence/en>

¹¹⁰⁶ Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada, *Public Awareness Working Group*, <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/advisory-council-artificial-intelligence/en/public-awareness-working-group>

¹¹⁰⁷ OECD (2021), *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from national AI policies* (Jun 18, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1cd40c44-en>; OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Canada* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/canada>

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while promoting Canadian objectives on AI in the context of potential risks to human rights, democracy and the rule of law.”¹¹⁰⁸

The Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry launched a public consultation to help inform the design and implementation of a new AI Compute Access Fund and a Canadian AI Sovereign Compute Strategy proposed in Budget 2024. The consultation was aimed at researchers, innovators, civil societies, Indigenous groups, and businesses through various means including online.¹¹⁰⁹

The Government of Canada established an AI Strategy Task Force and launched a public consultation to gather stakeholder input on the next national AI strategy and AI computing infrastructure.¹¹¹⁰ This engagement targeted researchers, civil society groups, industry representatives, and Indigenous communities, marking a renewed federal effort to ensure meaningful participation in shaping Canada’s future AI policy.¹¹¹¹

Data Protection

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) of Canada provides advice and information for individuals about protecting personal information.¹¹¹² The agency also enforces two federal privacy laws that set out the rules for how federal government institutions and certain businesses must handle personal information. The Privacy Act regulates the collection and use of personal data by the federal

¹¹⁰⁸ Global Affairs Canada, *Share Your Thoughts: Canada’s Participation in Treaty Negotiations on Artificial Intelligence at the Council of Europe*, (Nov. 27 2023), <https://international.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/consultations/foreign-affairs/2023-11-27-artificial-intelligence>

¹¹⁰⁹ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, *Government of Canada Launches Public Consultation on Artificial Intelligence Computing Infrastructure* (Jun. 26, 2024), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2024/06/government-of-canada-launches-public-consultation-on-artificial-intelligence-computing-infrastructure.html>

¹¹¹⁰ Government of Canada, *AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2025–2027: Engagement and Consultation* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/gc-ai-strategy-engagement-consultation.html>

¹¹¹¹ Government of Canada, *Canada Launches AI Strategy Task Force and Public Consultation* (Sept, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2025/09/government-of-canada-launches-ai-strategy-task-force-and-public-engagement-on-the-development-of-the-next-ai-strategy.html>

¹¹¹² Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *The Privacy Act in Brief* (Aug. 2019), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/privacy-laws-in-canada/the-privacy-act/pa_brief/

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government.¹¹¹³ The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) applies to personal data collected by private companies.¹¹¹⁴

First in November 2020, and then in November 2022, after an extensive period of consultation, the Privacy Commissioner issued proposals on regulating artificial intelligence.¹¹¹⁵ The recommendations “aim to allow for responsible AI innovation and socially beneficial uses while protecting human rights.” The Commissioner recommended amending PIPEDA to:

- allow personal information to be used for new purposes towards responsible AI innovation and for societal benefits
- authorize these uses within a rights-based framework that would entrench privacy as a human right and a necessary element for the exercise of other fundamental rights
- create a right to meaningful explanation for automated decisions and a right to contest those decisions to ensure they are made fairly and accurately
- strengthen accountability by requiring a demonstration of privacy compliance upon request by the regulator
- empower the OPC to issue binding orders and proportional financial penalties to incentivize compliance with the law
- require organizations to design AI systems from their conception in a way that protects privacy and human rights.

The Commissioner also highlighted a public consultation initiated by the OPC that received 86 comments from industry, academia, civil society, and the legal community, among others. Those inputs were incorporated in a separate report, which informs the recommendations for law reform.¹¹¹⁶

Federal, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners published the principles for responsible, trustworthy and privacy-protective generative AI technologies in December 2023. The objective is to help organizations that are

¹¹¹³ Ibid

¹¹¹⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *PIPEDA in Brief* (May 2019), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/privacy-laws-in-canada/the-personal-information-protection-and-electronic-documents-act-pipeda/pipeda_brief/

¹¹¹⁵ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Commissioner Issues Proposals on Regulating Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2020), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/news-and-announcements/2020/nr-c_201112/

¹¹¹⁶ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Policy Proposals for PIPEDA Reform to Address Artificial Intelligence Report* (Nov. 2020), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/what-we-do/consultations/completed-consultations/consultation-ai/pol-ai_202011/.

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developing, providing or using generative AI to be compliant with fundamental rights and privacy legislation.¹¹¹⁷

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada published the Strategic Plan considering its role in the development of AI in Canada. The OPC considered governing and developing AI among its three priorities for 2024–2027. The plan outlines how the OPC will maximize its impact in fully and effectively promoting and protecting the fundamental right to privacy, addressing and advocating for privacy in this time of technological change, and championing children’s privacy rights.¹¹¹⁸

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada is an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002.¹¹¹⁹ The Privacy Commissioner has endorsed the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics,¹¹²⁰ the 2020 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition,¹¹²¹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,¹¹²² and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.¹¹²³

¹¹¹⁷ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Principles for Responsible, Trustworthy and Privacy-Protective Generative AI Technologies* (Dec. 7, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/technology/artificial-intelligence/gd_principles_ai/

¹¹¹⁸ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada Strategic Plan 2024-27: A Roadmap for Trust, Innovation and Protecting the Fundamental Right to Privacy in the Digital Age* (Jan. 22, 2024), <https://www.priv.gc.ca/media/6112/strategic-plan-2024-27.pdf>

¹¹¹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2024),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹¹²⁰ International Conference on Data, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹¹²¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

¹¹²² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹¹²³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

The PIPEDA includes strong rights for individual access concerning automated decisions.¹¹²⁴ The PIPEDA Reform Report for AI builds on public consultations and proposes to “Provide individuals with a right to explanation and increased transparency when they interact with, or are subject to, automated processing.”¹¹²⁵ The Cofone Report on the reform also explains that “the right to explanation is connected to the principles of privacy, accountability, fairness, non-discrimination, safety, security, and transparency. The effort to guarantee these rights supports the need for a right to explanation.” The amended Directive on Automated Decision-Making strengthens transparency, accountability, and testing/monitoring, with updates reflected in the Algorithmic Impact Assessment tool.¹¹²⁶

In the last Open Algorithms Network meeting that was co-chaired by the Government of Canada, with participation from the Governments of Estonia, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Scotland as well as civil society respondents, the participants started considering issues of “equality, bias, and discrimination in their algorithmic commitments in Open Government Partnership (OGP) action plans and across government AI strategies.”¹¹²⁷ “Many of these commitments are grounded in the idea that opening data and design of algorithms is an avenue to reduce bias and discrimination, and that the process of collecting data or design is as important as the outcome.”¹¹²⁸ Algorithmic transparency¹¹²⁹ is an emerging commitment¹¹³⁰ area for OGP.

Canada’s Federal AI Registry is a public database documenting all AI systems used by government agencies. The Registry includes information about systems’ purpose, data sources, performance metrics, and human oversight mechanisms. This registry fulfills commitments made in Canada’s 2024–2026 Open Government

¹¹²⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner, *PIPEDA Fair Information Principle 9 – Individual Access* (Aug. 2020), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/privacy-laws-in-canada/the-personal-information-protection-and-electronic-documents-act-pipeda/p_principle/principles/p_access/

¹¹²⁵ Professor Ignacio Cofone, *Policy Proposals for PIPEDA Reform to Address Artificial Intelligence Report* (Nov. 2020), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/what-we-do/consultations/completed-consultations/consultation-ai/pol-ai_202011/

¹¹²⁶ Government of Canada, *Progress on AI in Government* (Nov. 28, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/progress.html>

¹¹²⁷ Open Government Partnership, *Three Recommendations for More Inclusive and Equitable AI in the Public Sector* (Jan. 24, 2023), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/three-recommendations-for-more-inclusive-and-equitable-ai-in-the-public-sector/>

¹¹²⁸ *Ibid*

¹¹²⁹ Open Government Partnership, *Glossary: Transparency* (2026), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/glossary/transparency/>

¹¹³⁰ Open Government Partnership, *Glossary: Commitment* (2026), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/glossary/commitment/>

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Partnership National Action Plan and establishes new standards for public sector algorithmic transparency.¹¹³¹

Data Scraping

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner alongside the data protection authorities of 16 countries issued a statement in October 2024 calling for more protection of fundamental rights in mass data scraping and for AI model training.¹¹³² The 2024 statement followed up on a joint statement issued in August 2023, based on engagement with social media companies (SMCs) and other industry stakeholders. The statement provided additional guidance, emphasizing that contractual terms cannot render scraping lawful, and that SMCs and other organizations must ensure there is a legal basis, maintain transparency, and obtain consent when required by law. The statement also encouraged stakeholders to leverage AI to protect personal data from unlawful scraping.¹¹³³

Canada's Privacy Commissioner opened an investigation into social media platform X to ensure compliance for AI data use in accordance with the PIPEDA.¹¹³⁴ The investigation will focus on the platform's compliance with federal privacy law with respect to data scraping of Canadians' personal information to train artificial intelligence models.

Facial Recognition

Canada continues to ensure that facial recognition technologies do not threaten the rights of its citizens. Canada took decisive action against Clearview AI in 2021, after discovering the organization had scraped billions of images of people from across the Internet, in clear violation of Canadians' privacy rights.¹¹³⁵ The Supreme Court of British Columbia upheld a ban on Clearview AI's collection of

¹¹³¹ Open Government Partnership, *Open Algorithms Network* (2026),

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/partnerships-and-coalitions/open-algorithms-network/>

¹¹³² Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 28, 2024), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2024/js-dc_20241028/

¹¹³³ Global Privacy Assembly, *GPA's Working Group Published Its Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and Privacy Protection* (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://ai-regulation.com/gpa-statement-data-scraping-and-privacy-protection/>

¹¹³⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Privacy Commissioner Investigation into Complaint about Social Media Platform X* (Feb. 27, 2025), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/news-and-announcements/2025/nr-c_250227/

¹¹³⁵ Government of Canada, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, *Clearview AI's Unlawful Practices Represented Mass Surveillance of Canadians, Commissioners Say* (Feb. 3, 2021), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/news-and-announcements/2021/nr-c_210203/?=february-2-2021

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biometric data without consent in 2025.¹¹³⁶ The court dismissed a Clearview petition to overturn an order prohibiting the company from offering its facial recognition services using images and biometric facial arrays collected from individuals in British Columbia.

Following the Clearview action, the privacy commissioners of Canada, Ontario, and Québec issued a joint statement recommending the creation of a legal regulatory framework for the use of facial recognition technology by police. The recommendation identifies four requirements:¹¹³⁷

- Clear and explicit definitions for the appropriate and prohibited use of facial recognition technologies by law enforcement. This should include ‘no-go’ zones and the prohibition of mass surveillance.
- Restricting the use of such technologies based on strict necessity and proportionality,
- The use of strong independent oversight that are based on proactive engagement including program pre-authorization and advanced notice before initiating initiatives based on facial recognition technology
- Privacy rights protection that limits the risk to individuals including limitations on the duration of information retention and measures to ensure that data is accurate.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) secured Treasury Board approval for the Traveler Modernization initiative,¹¹³⁸ which includes integrating facial recognition verification into the Advance Declaration system. The project emphasizes privacy, transparency, accessibility, and human oversight, and is being co-developed with Transport Canada and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

AI in Defense and Nuclear Policies

The Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) released their first-ever Artificial Intelligence Strategy in March 2024. The strategy focuses on five key areas: 1) Identifying and fielding capabilities

¹¹³⁶ Biometric Update, *Canadian Court Upholds Clearview Biometric Data Ban: Supreme Court of British Columbia Nixes Petition* (Jan.10, 2025),

<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202501/canadian-court-upholds-clearview-biometric-data-ban>

¹¹³⁷ Office of Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Recommended Legal Framework for Police Agencies' Use of Facial Recognition, Joint Statement by Federal, Provincial and Territorial Privacy Commissioners* (May 2, 2022), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-actions-and-decisions/advice-to-parliament/2022/s-d_prov_20220502/

¹¹³⁸ Canada Border Services Agency, *Traveller Modernization: New Tools and Technologies for a Faster, Better and Safe Experience at the Border* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/border-tech-frontiere/modern-eng.html>

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required the institutions; 2) Creating a culture supportive of AI innovation; 3) Establishing principles, processes and practices to ensure that the use of AI is ethical, legal, inclusive, safe and trusted; 4) Managing talent and training to meet workforce needs; 5) Deepening strategic partnerships internally and externally with allies, industries and academia. The strategy “commits the Defence Team to becoming AI enabled by 2030.”¹¹³⁹

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission joined the United Kingdom’s Office for Nuclear Regulation and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish high-level principles for the safe and effective integration of AI technologies in nuclear operations. The group jointly published the Trilateral Principles Paper on the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence in Nuclear Activities on September 5, 2024.¹¹⁴⁰ Developed through a collaborative trilateral relationship formed in 2022, the paper addresses critical aspects such as safety and security engineering, human and organizational factors, AI system architecture, lifecycle management, and the documentation of safety measures. Highlighting the importance of data quality, the paper emphasizes that the performance of AI systems hinges on the quality of the data they process. The paper also identifies security challenges unique to AI, noting their potentially greater significance compared to conventional software issues. By providing this framework, the paper seeks to advance the responsible and secure use of AI within regulated nuclear activities.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Canadian academics urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to oppose Autonomous Weapon Systems in 2017 as part of the #BanKillerAI campaign.¹¹⁴¹ Trudeau included “Advance international efforts to ban the development and use of fully autonomous weapons systems,” in the mandate he charged to Foreign Affairs Minister François Philippe Champagne in December 2019.¹¹⁴² However, this mandate has not been fulfilled. Canada CCW members delivered a 2022 proposal on Principles and Good Practices on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal

¹¹³⁹ Department of National Defence, *DM/CDS Message: Launch of the DND/CAF Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Mar. 7, 2024), <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2024/03/dm-cds-message-launch-dnd-caf-artificia-intelligence-strategy.html>

¹¹⁴⁰ Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, *Trilateral Principles Paper on the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence in Nuclear Activities* (Sept. 27, 2024), <https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/eng/resources/research/technical-papers-and-articles/2024/canukus-ai-principles-paper/>

¹¹⁴¹ Ian Kerr, *Weaponized AI Would Have Deadly, Catastrophic Consequences. Where Will Canada Side?* The Globe and Mail (Nov. 6, 2017), <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/weaponized-ai-would-have-deadly-catastrophic-consequences-where-will-canada-side/article36841036/>

¹¹⁴² Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Mandate Letter* (Dec. 13, 2019), <https://walterdorn.net/home/281-mfa-mandate-letter-2019>

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Autonomous Weapons Systems.¹¹⁴³ At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Canada voted in favor¹¹⁴⁴ of resolution L56¹¹⁴⁵ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. In the report to the UN Secretary-General,¹¹⁴⁶ Canada advocated for a ban on LAWS that cannot be used in compliance with IHL, requirements that LAWS maintain “appropriate levels of human involvement,” updating national policies to ensure technologies are used in compliance with international law, and open exchanges of information about emerging technologies.

Canada agreed to the joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain as part of the REAIM Summit in 2023 in the Netherlands.¹¹⁴⁷ Canada also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.¹¹⁴⁸ The second REAIM summit was held in South Korea. At the summit, 61 countries, including Canada,¹¹⁴⁹ signed a Blueprint for Action for

¹¹⁴³ Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, CCW, *Principles and Good Practices on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Mar. 7, 2022), [https://www.disarm.emb-japan.go.jp/Final proposal - laws principles and good practices - March 7 2022.pdf](https://www.disarm.emb-japan.go.jp/Final%20proposal%20-%20laws%20principles%20and%20good%20practices%20-%20March%207%202022.pdf)

¹¹⁴⁴ Stop Killer Robots, *164 states vote against the machine at the UN General Assembly* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹¹⁴⁵ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹¹⁴⁶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Canada's Views on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems as it Relates to the UN Resolution 78/241 "Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems"* (2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session \(2024\)/78-241-Canada-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General%20Assembly%20First%20Committee%20-%20Seventy-Ninth%20session%20(2024)/78-241-Canada-EN.pdf)

¹¹⁴⁷ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

¹¹⁴⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Nov. 9, 2023), Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

¹¹⁴⁹ Woojoo Hong, *U.S.-China Competition Looms Large at Seoul Summit on Use of AI in Military*, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.asiapacific.ca/publication/us-china-competition-looms-large-seoul-summit-use-ai>

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the ethical and human-centric use of AI in the military.¹¹⁵⁰ The blueprint identifies the standards for AI in the military domain including the principles and framework for future governance, compliance with international law, holding humans responsible, ensuring reliability and trustworthiness of AI, maintaining an appropriate human involvement and improving the ability to explain AI.

EdTech

In May 2022, Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Canada, for children’s education during the pandemic. One of the case studies concerned “CBC Kids,” offered by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and recommended by Canada’s Quebec Education Ministry for pre-primary and primary school-aged children’s learning. Based on technical and policy analysis of this EdTech product, Human Rights Watch found that the endorsement of this online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children’s rights, due to its tracking and profiling practices for advertising purposes. The report called on governments to develop, refine, and enforce modern child data protection laws and standards and ensure that children who want to learn are not compelled to give up their other rights to do so.¹¹⁵¹

The Canadian Teachers Federation released a policy brief in September 2024, calling for urgent action to regulate the use of AI in Canadian K–12 public education.¹¹⁵² The Teachers’ Federation requested that the Federal Government and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) develop and implement policies that safeguard the rights of educators and students as AI systems proliferate in public education across the country.

AI Literacy

A recent global study by KPMG and the University of Melbourne reported that “Canada ranks among the least AI literate nations globally, holding the fourth-

¹¹⁵⁰ REAIM 2024, *REAIM Blueprint for Action*, DigWatch (Sept. 11, 2024), https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-reaim-blueprint-for-action#REAIM_Blueprint_for_Action

¹¹⁵¹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-government>

¹¹⁵² Canadian Teachers Federation, *Towards a Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Canadian Public Education* (Sept. 30, 2024), <https://www.ctf-fce.ca/blog-perspectives/towards-a-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-canadian-public-education/>

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lowest position in AI training and literacy in a ranking of 47 countries.”¹¹⁵³ The Canadian Government has acknowledged the importance of a well-trained workforce to ensure AI is adopted responsibly. The government made “talent and training” a priority area in the 2025–2027 AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service.¹¹⁵⁴ Key actions in the strategy include developing a training plan, benchmarking talent needs, and developing a talent plan.

Human Rights

Canada consistently ranks “Free” and among the top ten nations in the world for the protection of human rights and transparency on the Freedom House Freedom in the World Report. Canada’s score dropped one point to 97 in 2025.¹¹⁵⁵ Freedom House reported that, “Canada has a strong history of respect for political rights and civil liberties, though in recent years citizens have been concerned about laws related to the administration of elections, government transparency, the treatment of inmates in prisons, and restrictions on public sector employees wearing religious symbols. While members of minority groups, including Black and Indigenous Canadians, still face discrimination and economic, social, and political challenges, the federal government has acknowledged these problems and made some moves to address them.”¹¹⁵⁶

The Law Commission of Ontario and Ontario Human Rights Commission, representing Canada’s most populous province, jointly created an AI impact assessment tool in November 2024 to provide organizations a method to assess AI systems for compliance with human rights obligations.¹¹⁵⁷ The human rights AI impact assessment (HRIA) assists developers and administrators of AI systems to identify, assess, minimize, or avoid discrimination and uphold human rights obligations throughout the lifecycle of an AI system by providing guidelines for when and how to conduct impact assessments. The HRIA is intended to: “Strengthen knowledge and understanding of human rights impacts; Provide practical guidance on specific human rights impacts, particularly in relation to non-discrimination and

¹¹⁵³ University of Melbourne and KPMG, *Trust, Attitudes, and Use of Artificial Intelligence: A Global Study 2025—Canadian Insights* (2025)

<https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/ca/pdf/2025/07/trust-in-ai-en-report.pdf>

¹¹⁵⁴ Government of Canada, *AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2025-2027: Priority Areas* (Jun. 24, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/gc-ai-strategy-priority-areas.html#sec2-toc-3>

¹¹⁵⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Canada* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/canada/freedom-world/2025>

¹¹⁵⁶ Ibid

¹¹⁵⁷ Law Commission of Ontario, Ontario Human Rights Commission, *Human Rights AI Impact Assessment* (Nov. 2024), <https://www.lco-cdo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/LCO-Human-Rights-AI-Impact-Assessment-EN.pdf>

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equality of treatment; and Identify practical mitigation strategies and remedies to address bias and discrimination from AI systems.”¹¹⁵⁸

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta issued Comments Regarding Responsible AI Governance in Alberta, calling for provincial legislation to prohibit or restrict high-risk AI uses, such as training on sensitive data, and to embed human oversight, transparency, and fairness into AI decision-making.¹¹⁵⁹ The report reflects emergent sub-national policy leadership on human rights-based AI governance in Canada, particularly focused on privacy, accountability, and proportionality in automated decision systems.

AI Safety Summit

Canada participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in 2023.¹¹⁶⁰ Canada thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The formation of the International Network of AI Safety Institutes was announced at the AI Seoul Summit in May 2024. As a founding member of the Network, Canada will seek to actively coordinate efforts with international partners and collaborate on joint projects, including the development of guidance on AI safety.¹¹⁶¹ Canada launched the Canadian AI Safety Institute (CAISI) in November 2024. CAISI “is part of the Government of Canada’s plan to support the safe and responsible development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI). CAISI aims

¹¹⁵⁸ Ibid, p. 3

¹¹⁵⁹ Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, *Comments Regarding Responsible AI Governance in Alberta* (Jul 15, 2025), <https://oipc.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AI-Comments-from-the-OIPC-Regarding-Responsible-AI-Governance-in-Alberta-July-15-2025.pdf>

¹¹⁶⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

¹¹⁶¹ Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *Policy Paper: Seoul Statement of Intent toward International Cooperation on AI Safety Science, AI Seoul Summit 2024 (Annex)* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-statement-of-intent-toward-international-cooperation-on-ai-safety-science-ai-seoul-summit-2024-annex>

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“to advance the science of AI safety, in collaboration with international partners, in order to ensure that governments are well-positioned to understand and act on the risks of advanced AI systems. These include risks posed by synthetic content, including impersonation and fraud, as well as risks posed by the development or deployment of systems that may be dangerous or hinder human oversight.”¹¹⁶²

Canada participated in the 2025 AI Action Summit in Paris. The country signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.¹¹⁶³

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Canada endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles, including the principles updated in May 2024.¹¹⁶⁴

In 2020, Canada and France, and a dozen other countries announced the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) to “support the responsible and human-centric development and use of AI in a manner consistent with human rights, fundamental freedoms, and our shared democratic values.”¹¹⁶⁵

Canada and the European Union announced in 2020 that they were collaborating to leverage AI to help the international community respond to COVID-19. The initiative included the GPAI’s group on AI and Pandemic Response and the annual EU-Canada Digital Dialogue.¹¹⁶⁶

The Safe and Secure AI Advisory Group initiated in 2025 incorporates the OECD AI Principles in the national strategy to promote AI while respecting human rights and democratic values.¹¹⁶⁷

¹¹⁶² Government of Canada, *Canadian Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute* (Nov. 2024), <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/canadian-artificial-intelligence-safety-institute>

¹¹⁶³ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*, AI Action Summit (Feb 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

¹¹⁶⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

¹¹⁶⁵ Government of Canada, *Joint Statement from Founding Members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/joint-statement-from-founding-members-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence.html>

¹¹⁶⁶ European Union, *Joint Press Release Following the European Union-Canada Ministerial Meeting* (Sept. 9, 2020), https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/84921/joint-press-release-following-european-union-canada-ministerial-meeting_en

¹¹⁶⁷ Government of Canada, *Canada Moves toward Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2025/03/canada-moves-toward-safe-and-responsible-artificial-intelligence.html>

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Canada committed to a joint research partnership with the UK to “support pioneering work to keep advanced systems safe by maintaining transparency, predictability and responsiveness to human oversight” in line with OECD goals of accountability and explainability.¹¹⁶⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Canada contributed as an Observer State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. The Committee of Ministers adopted the Framework during the 2024 ministerial meeting¹¹⁶⁹ and it opened for signature in September 2024. Canada signed this first international AI Treaty on February 11, 2025.¹¹⁷⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Canada is a signatory of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.¹¹⁷¹ Canada’s principles for AI, directive on automated decision-making, and support of Impact Assessment tools reflect a commitment to the Recommendations in public deployment while guidelines for public procurement offer a means to extend those guidelines to the private sector.¹¹⁷² Canada’s National AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2025–2027 based on international best practices represents further alignment with UNESCO ethical guidelines.¹¹⁷³ Canada has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to help countries ensure alignment with the Recommendation.

¹¹⁶⁸ Government of Canada, *Government of Canada Partners with United Kingdom to Invest in Groundbreaking AI Alignment Research* (Jul. 30, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2025/07/government-of-canada-partners-with-united-kingdom-to-invest-in-groundbreaking-ai-alignment-research.html>

¹¹⁶⁹ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

¹¹⁷⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 14, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹¹⁷¹ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

¹¹⁷² Government of Canada, *Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai.html#toc1>

¹¹⁷³ Government of Canada, *Canada launches New AI Strategy for AI in Public Service* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/gc-ai-strategy-priority-areas.html>

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Evaluation

Canada is among the leaders in creating policies and guidelines for AI. In addition to endorsing the OECD/G20 AI Principles and establishing the GPAI with France, Canada has taken steps to establish model practices for the use of AI across government agencies. Canada has a solid record on human rights and is now working to update national privacy law to address the challenges of AI. The failure of the Digital Charter Implementation Act including the AIDA and data protection updates raises the possibility that Canada will remain without a comprehensive AI policy. However, the government is applying the lesson about the importance of public consultation in the formation of the next round of policies.

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Chile

In 2025, Chile published the official update of the National AI Policy. The Ministerial Advisory Council offered recommendations to implement the new data protection law, which enters into force in December 2026.

National AI Strategy

Chile's Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation (*Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología, Conocimiento e Innovación*, MinCiencia) approved an updated National AI Policy focused on ethical considerations, responsible development, and the potential of AI to drive social and economic progress.¹¹⁷⁴ The report followed Chile's milestone as the first country globally to apply and complete UNESCO's AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and robust public consultations.¹¹⁷⁵ The updated policy builds on the initial National AI Policy published in October 2021¹¹⁷⁶ and aims to bring the Governance and Ethics axis in alignment with recent governance developments rather than formulating a new policy.¹¹⁷⁷ The 3 policy axes on "enabling factors," "development and adoption," and "governance and ethics" address a broad range of AI-related issues from developing AI-ready talent at the school level to promoting investment in AI R&D, and adopting international standards for regulations. Strengthening international cooperation in the AI domain is a key focus.

¹¹⁷⁴ Diario Oficial, Updates to the "National Artificial Intelligence Policy" Approved [Aprueba Actualización de la "Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial"] (Jan 28, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/01/28/44060/01/2600578.pdf>

¹¹⁷⁵ MinCiencia, *With More than 100 Actions Committed for 2026, Minister of Science Presents New Artificial Intelligence Policy* (May 2, 2024), <https://minciencia.gob.cl/noticias/con-mas-de-100-acciones-comprometidas-para-2026-ministra-de-ciencia-presenta-nueva-politica-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹¹⁷⁶ Government of Chile, *Chile Presents the First National Policy on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 28, 2021), <https://www.gob.cl/en/news/chile-presents-first-national-policy-artificial-intelligence/>

¹¹⁷⁷ MinCiencia, *Ministry of Science Opens Citizen Consultation to Update the National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://www.minciencia.gob.cl/noticias/ministerio-de-ciencia-abre-consulta-ciudadana-para-actualizar-politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

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The AI Action Plan¹¹⁷⁸ complementing the original AI policy¹¹⁷⁹ sets out 177 actions, aiming to complete 100 by the end of 2026. Priority tasks are in education, product development, talent management, and other areas. The AI Action Plan also deals with accountability and establishes timelines for priority tasks implementation.

The main AI Policy objective for Chile is “to place the country at the forefront of AI research, development, and innovation, with an ecosystem that creates new capacities in various sectors.”¹¹⁸⁰ Such an ecosystem should be designed according to transversal concepts of opportunity and responsibility, contribute to sustainable development, and improve the quality of life.¹¹⁸¹

After discussing a draft Bill modeled on EU AI Act in 2023,¹¹⁸² the Chilean Parliament officially introduced a bill to promote the ethical development of AI, safeguard fundamental rights, and ensure consumer protection in the Chamber of Deputies (*Cámara de Diputadas y Diputados*).¹¹⁸³ The Chamber of Deputies approved the draft Bill in 2025 and sent the bill back to the Commission on Future, Science, Technology Knowledge and Innovation for detailed amendments and revision. The draft Bill was sent to the Senate in October 2025, beginning the second constitutional stage.¹¹⁸⁴

¹¹⁷⁸ OECD Public Governance Reviews, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, Chapter 2, LAC Artificial Intelligence Strategies (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

¹¹⁷⁹ MinCienia, *National AI Policy [Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, p. 16 (Oct. 2021), https://www.mincienia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/bc/38/bc389daf-4514-4306-867c-760ae7686e2c/documento_politica_ia_digital.pdf

¹¹⁸⁰ Ibid, p. 18

¹¹⁸¹ Ibid

¹¹⁸² DigWatch, *Chile Takes the First Steps toward AI Legislation* (Jun. 20, 2023), <https://dig.watch/updates/chile-takes-the-first-steps-toward-ai-legislation>; Cámara de Diputadas y Diputados, *Regulating AI Systems, Robotics, and Technological Connections in their Distinctive Application Environments [Regula los sistemas de inteligencia artificial, la robotica y las tecnologias conexas, en sus distintos ambitos de aplicacion]* (Apr. 26, 2023), <https://www.camara.cl/verDOC.aspx?prmID=72777&prmTipo=FICHAPARLAMENTARIA&prmFICHATIPO=DIP&prmLOCAL=0>

¹¹⁸³ Cámara de Diputadas y Diputados, *Legislature 372: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Systems [Regula los sistemas de inteligencia artificial]*, Proyectos de Ley (May 7, 2024), <https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=17429&prmBOLETIN=16821-19>; for an overview in English, see Guillermo Carey, José Ignacio Mercado, and Ricardo Alonso, *Bill to Regulate Artificial Intelligence Systems Is Introduced to the Chilean Chamber of Deputies*, Carey (May 13, 2024), <https://www.carey.cl/en/bill-to-regulate-artificial-intelligence-systems-is-introduced-to-the-chilean-chamber-of-deputies/>

¹¹⁸⁴ Ibid

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Public Participation

MinCiencia opened a public consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2024 in January,¹¹⁸⁵ which remained accessible for three months. The consultation seeks to gather citizen feedback on proposed revisions to the 2021 National Artificial Intelligence Policy with a focus on ensuring ethical AI usage in the public sector and fostering international collaboration, particularly within Latin America. This consultation formed part of the ongoing update of the Ethics and Governance axis of the policy.

The drafting of the initial National AI Policy was marked by an effort to ensure wide and inclusive participation across the industry, academia, civil society and the public at large. The core team was composed of 12 experts in the field.¹¹⁸⁶ Virtual and in-person AI seminars, discussion groups and workshops were held across the country, including the regions, where inputs for the AI Policy were collected.¹¹⁸⁷ After the first draft of the AI Policy was produced, a citizens' consultation was held to collect their views. More than 9,000 people participated in the process.¹¹⁸⁸ Civil society expressed criticism regarding the lack of transparency regarding the output of regional and online workshops and difficulties accessing meeting minutes.¹¹⁸⁹ The inclusivity of the process was also called into question as only 21% of respondents to the second stage consultation were female and a consultation questionnaire was available only in Spanish.¹¹⁹⁰

The updated policies were also informed by a series of roundtables. A report published by the Library of the National Congress on one such roundtable on Public Policies on Artificial Intelligence in 2023 noted that the discussions allowed “the exchange of information and opinions from [participants] with diverse professional

¹¹⁸⁵ MinCiencia, *National Policy on Artificial Intelligence* (2024),

<https://minciencia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹¹⁸⁶ MinCiencia, *Public Consultation on Artificial Intelligence: Report of Results* (Oct. 2021),

https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/6c/c1/6cc17cd7-ae58-48f0-ada1-d33a3e6e8958/informe_consulta_publica_ia_1.pdf

¹¹⁸⁷ Government of Chile, *Ministry of Science Opens Participatory Process for the National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Feb. 3, 2020), <https://www.gob.cl/noticias/ministerio-de-ciencia-abre-proceso-participativo-para-la-politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹¹⁸⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Chile: Chilean Participation Process on AI* (2020), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/Chile>

¹¹⁸⁹ Velasco (Derechos Digitales), *The National Artificial Intelligence Policy of Chile and a Process for Citizen Participation* (Nov. 5, 2021), <https://www.derechosdigitales.org/17010/la-politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial-chilena-y-su-proceso-de-participacion-ciudadana/>

¹¹⁹⁰ Ibid

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experiences and areas of focus” to inform the design of public policies in the country.¹¹⁹¹

Chile’s Digital Government requested public consultation on the 2030 Digital Government Strategy. This strategy outlines objectives for Chile to be above the OECD average in the Digital Transformation of the State and strengthen public trust.¹¹⁹² The strategy will evaluate emerging technologies such as AI and apply regulations within the public sector. A commission in charge of recommending how to implement the new data protection law also collected public comments over more than 1 month ahead of their final report in 2025.¹¹⁹³

Data Protection

Article 19 of Chile's Constitution of 1980 protects the right to private life.¹¹⁹⁴ In 2018, the constitutional guarantee was extended to explicitly protect personal data.¹¹⁹⁵ The Law on Protection of Private Life (LPPL) of 1999 regulates the processing of personal data in public and private databases.¹¹⁹⁶ A new Personal Data Protection and Processing Law¹¹⁹⁷ replacing and modernizing the LPPL will enter into force in December 2026. The new law establishes the Personal Data Protection Agency (*Agencia de Protección de Datos Personales*) as an autonomous public-rights corporation to “ensure the effective protection of the rights that guarantee the

¹¹⁹¹ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Public Policies and Artificial Intelligence Roundtable Report* (Dec. 11, 2023),

https://obtienearchivo.bcn.cl/obtienearchivo?id=repositorio/10221/35618/1/Informe_27_23_Informe_Submesa_Politicas_Publicas_e_Inteligencia_Artificial.pdf

¹¹⁹² Secretaría de Gobierno Digital, *Second Public Consultation: Digital Government Strategy 2030* [Segunda consulta pública: Estrategia de Gobierno

Digital 2030] (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://participacion.digital.gob.cl/es-CL/projects/segunda-consulta-estrategia-de-gobierno-digital-2030>

¹¹⁹³ Secretaría de Gobierno Digital, Public Consultation: Convocation to Present Proposals to the Ministerial Advisory Commission for the Implementation of the Data Protection Law [Consulta Pública: Convocatoria a presentar propuestas a la Comisión Asesora Ministerial para la Implementación de la Ley de Protección de Datos] (Nov. 30, 2025), <https://participacion.digital.gob.cl/es-CL/projects/leyprotecciondedatospersonales>

¹¹⁹⁴ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Constitution of the Republic of Chile, 24 October 1980*, Article 19 para 4 (Mar. 11, 2022), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=242302>.

¹¹⁹⁵ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Law No 21096 Concerning the Right to Protection of Personal Data* (Jun. 16, 2018), <https://www.leychile.cl/Navegar?idLey=21096&tipoVersion=0>.

¹¹⁹⁶ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Law No 19628 on Protection of Private Life* (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=141599>

¹¹⁹⁷ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Ley 21719 Regulating the Protection and Treatment of Personal Data and Creating the Personal Data Protection Agency* [Regula la protección y el tratamiento de los datos personales y crea la Agencia de Protección de Datos Personales] (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1209272>

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private life of individuals and their personal data.”¹¹⁹⁸ The Agency will be technical and decentralized. The Agency will oversee impact assessments and determine requirements (art. 15) in addition to overseeing compliance with the law. In contrast to the Transparency Council (*Consejo para la Transparencia*) and consumer protection agency SERNAC (*Servicio Nacional del Consumidor*), which monitor data protection under the LPPL,¹¹⁹⁹ the Agency will have the authority to sanction those who violate the law.¹²⁰⁰

The processing of personal data in the financial and healthcare sectors is regulated by relevant sectoral laws.¹²⁰¹ Legal actions regarding the violations of the constitutionally protected right to personal data can be brought before courts by the Transparency Council or SERNAC.¹²⁰² A Ministerial Advisory Committee¹²⁰³ tasked with advising the Executive on the regulatory and administrative measures necessary for implementing the new data protection framework urged the government to establish and fund the new Agency as soon as possible.¹²⁰⁴

Chile’s Transparency Council endorsed the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (*Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos*, RIPD) standards and guidelines and committed to integrated the principles of legitimation, lawfulness, loyalty, transparency, purpose, proportionality, quality, responsibility, safety and confidentiality in national policies.¹²⁰⁵ The 16 data protection authorities representing 12 countries initiated a coordinated action on ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, in May 2023 on the basis that ChatGPT may entail risks for the rights and

¹¹⁹⁸ Ibid, Art. 30

¹¹⁹⁹ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World : Chile* (Jan. 24, 2022),

<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=CL>

¹²⁰⁰ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, Ley 21719 Regulating the Protection and Treatment of Personal Data and Creating the Personal Data Protection Agency [Regula la protección y el tratamiento de los datos personales y crea la Agencia de Protección de Datos Personales], Art. 30 bis., c. (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1209272>

¹²⁰¹ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Law No 19628 on Protection of Private Life* (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=141599>

¹²⁰² Ibid

¹²⁰³ Diario Oficial, *Ministerio Secretaría General De La Presidencia Crea Comisión Asesora Ministerial para la Implementación de la Ley N° 21.719*, Art 1 (Jun. 17, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/06/17/44176/01/2660255.pdf>

¹²⁰⁴ Comisión Asesora Ministerial para la Implementación de la Ley No. 21.719, *Recomendaciones para la implementación de la nueva Ley de Protección de Datos Personales* (2025–2026), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rosarioletelierv_informe-comisi%C3%B3n-activity-7429540556025966593-r3Hu; from the Ministerio Secretaría General de la Presidencia, <https://www.minsegpres.gob.cl/comision-asesora-ministerial>

¹²⁰⁵ Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (2017), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/standars-for-personal-data.pdf>

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freedoms of users in the processing of their personal data because of the potential for “responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones.”¹²⁰⁶

The Transparency Council has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2019.¹²⁰⁷ The Transparency Council has not endorsed any AI-related GPA Resolutions¹²⁰⁸ or the related ICDPPC Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence (2018).¹²⁰⁹

Algorithmic Transparency

Article 8 of the new data protection law that enters into force in December 2026 introduces a “right to object and not be subject to decisions based on the automated processing of their personal data, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning them or significantly affects them” unless the decision is necessary for the conclusion or execution of a contract, based on data subject’s consent, or provided for by law.¹²¹⁰ In all decisions made based on automated processing, the data controller must take necessary measures to ensure the rights and freedoms of data subjects, including their right to information and transparency, to obtain explanation and human intervention, to express their point of view, and to request a review of the decision.

¹²⁰⁶ Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), Authorities from the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Initiate a Coordinated Action against the ChatGPT Service (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

¹²⁰⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹²⁰⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹²⁰⁹ 40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹²¹⁰ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, Ley 21719 Regulating the Protection and Treatment of Personal Data and Creating the Personal Data Protection Agency [Regula la protección y el tratamiento de los datos personales y crea la Agencia de Protección de Datos Personales], Art. 8 bis. (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1209272>

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The new law aligns with the RIPD Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects, endorsed by the Transparency Council. The guidelines specify that “The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience.”¹²¹¹

In October 2022, the Transparency Council initiated efforts to draft a General Instruction on Algorithmic Transparency.¹²¹² The analysis of algorithmic transparency in the public sector carried out by the public innovation lab GobLab UAI and the Transparency Council shows that although information about processing activities and algorithmic logic is sometimes available, it is frequently fragmented and dispersed across different sources.¹²¹³ The researchers pointed to the considerable effort required to collect, systematize and present the information in a manner understandable to the recipient.¹²¹⁴

The survey of 74 companies selling IoT devices carried out by SERNAC in February 2022 showed a widespread lack of knowledge regarding the use of AI and algorithmic technologies within the private sector. Many companies were not aware if manufacturers had employed such technologies in the products they were selling or distributing.¹²¹⁵ This is aggravated by the lack of understanding about what data categories are collected by the IoT devices and the absence of privacy policies explaining processing to the consumers.

Use of AI in Public Administration

Chile’s government published a circular entitled Guidelines for the use of AI tools in the public sector in December 2023. The circular addresses key themes such as human-centric AI, transparency and explainability, privacy, and data use. The

¹²¹¹ Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos (RIPD), Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects, p. 17 (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

¹²¹² María Paz Hermosilla and Ana María Muñoz, *Chile’s Road to Algorithmic Transparency: Setting New Standards in Latin America*, Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (May 30, 2023), <https://oecd-opsi.org/blog/chile-algorithmic-transparency/>

¹²¹³ GobLab UAI and Transparency Council, *Algorithmic Transparency in the Public Sector* (Oct. 2021), p. 19, <https://directus.thegovlab.com/uploads/ai-ethics/originals/2e9f6394-7a3a-4034-a7cb-071923a32ae0.pdf>

¹²¹⁴ Ibid

¹²¹⁵ SERNAC, *Exploratory Study on the Risks of Use of IoT devices in Chile* (Feb. 25, 2022), <https://www.sernac.cl/portal/619/w3-article-64912.html>.

guidelines came into effect on January 1, 2024, and the circular was distributed to all public services.¹²¹⁶ The Guide to Ethical Formulation of Data Science Projects, a collaboration between the Digital government Secretariat and UAI and BID Lab,¹²¹⁷ provides guidance to the public sector on ethical and legal risks associated with projects using personal data. The nation's public procurement body ChileCompra collaborated on recommendations for ethical and responsible data management as part of GobLab's Ethical Algorithms Project.¹²¹⁸ This guide incorporated requirements related to transparency, privacy, non-discrimination, and explainability and helped Chile become amongst the first Latin American countries to establish data ethics requirements for AI procurement systems.

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Chile approved the principles in the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in late 2023.¹²¹⁹ The guiding principles include: human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection. The Charter also proposes prohibited uses, including facial recognition systems; systems aimed at behavior and cognitive manipulation of specific individuals or vulnerable groups (children or the elderly); and social ranking systems based on certain personality traits, individual behaviors, socio-demographic features or economic status.¹²²⁰

Chile's AI Bill introduced in May 2024 aligns with the Charter's principles and outlines a comprehensive risk classification system for AI applications in public

¹²¹⁶ MinCienia, *Government Publishes Circular for the Responsible Use of AI in Public Services* (Dec. 14, 2023), <https://www.mincienia.gob.cl/noticias/gobierno-publica-circular-para-un-uso-responsable-de-la-ia-en-los-servicios-publicos/>

¹²¹⁷ Secretaría de Gobierno Digital, *Guide to Ethical Formulation of Data Science Projects [Guía Formulación Ética de Proyectos de Ciencia de Datos]* (Aug. 24, 2022), <https://digital.gob.cl/biblioteca/estandares-y-guias/guia-formulacion-etica-de-proyectos-de-ciencia-de-datos/>

¹²¹⁸ ChileCompra, *ChileCompra's New Directive Provides Recommendations for Managing Artificial Intelligence or Data Science Projects [Nueva Directiva de ChileCompra entrega recomendaciones para la gestión de proyectos de Inteligencia Artificial o Ciencia de Datos]* (Dec 14, 2023), <https://www.chilecompra.cl/2023/12/nueva-directiva-de-chilecompra-entrega-recomendaciones-para-la-gestion-de-proyectos-de-inteligencia-artificial-o-ciencia-de-datos/>

¹²¹⁹ Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

¹²²⁰ Ibid, p. 21

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administration.¹²²¹ This system mandates public agencies to conduct thorough assessments of the potential risks associated with the AI technologies they develop or procure.

The country introduced a public registry for AI systems,¹²²² including high-risk AI applications, and implemented a mandatory algorithmic audit process.¹²²³ These updates are enforced by the newly created Data and AI Center,¹²²⁴ which will oversee the implementation and accountability of AI systems in public administration. These institutions implement specific provisions in the updated National AI Policy to mitigate algorithmic biases, with an emphasis on eliminating discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status in public sector applications.¹²²⁵ The policy also includes requirements for continuous auditing of AI models to ensure transparency and the avoidance of “black box” effects.

Facial Recognition

In 2019, a group of 28 civil society organizations and nearly 70 experts issued a public statement rejecting President Piñera's Mobile Surveillance System deployed the same year.¹²²⁶ The system was created under Chile's Safe Street (*Calle Segura*) plan and used drones equipped with high-definition cameras and facial recognition technology to monitor public areas to fight crime and improve coordination of

¹²²¹ Chamber of Deputies, *Legislature 372: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Systems [Regula los Sistemas de Inteligencia Artificial]* (May 7, 2024),

<https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=17429&prmBOLETI N=16821-19>; for an overview in English, see Guillermo Carey, José Ignacio Mercado, and Ricardo Alonso, *Bill to Regulate Artificial Intelligence Systems Is Introduced to the Chilean Chamber of Deputies*, Carey (Accessed Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.carey.cl/en/bill-to-regulate-artificial-intelligence-systems-is-introduced-to-the-chilean-chamber-of-deputies/>

¹²²² Algoritmos Públicos, *Repositorio* (2026), <https://algoritmospublicos.cl/repositorio>

¹²²³ Diario Oficial, Updates to the “National Artificial Intelligence Policy” Approved [Aprueba Actualización de la “Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial”] (Jan 28, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/01/28/44060/01/2600578.pdf>

¹²²⁴ Contraloría General De La República, Resolution 2492 Approving the Organic Structure of the Data and AI Center and Defining the Scope of Its Functions [Resolución 2492 exenta Aprueba estructura orgánica del Centro de Datos e Inteligencia Artificial y Define Alcance de sus Funciones] (Jan. 18, 2025), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1210446>

¹²²⁵ Diario Oficial, Updates to the “National Artificial Intelligence Policy” Approved [Aprueba Actualización de la “Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial”] (Jan 28, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/01/28/44060/01/2600578.pdf>

¹²²⁶ Civicus Monitor, *New Mass Surveillance System Concerns Chilean Civil Society* (Jul. 22, 2019), <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/new-mass-surveillance-system-chile/>; Derechos Digitales, *Against Mass Surveillance in Public Spaces of the “Mobile Tele-Surveillance System”* (Apr. 2, 2019), <https://www.derechosdigitales.org/12919/contra-la-vigilancia-masiva-en-los-espacios-publicos-del-sistema-de-televigilancia-movil/>

security agencies. Despite the criticism, the surveillance system, which started with a fleet of 8 drones, was expanded and new public procurements were ongoing.¹²²⁷ Regulation DAN-151 issued by the General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC) in 2024 defined appropriate conditions for drone use with an explicit reference to the requirement of respect to people's rights to privacy and intimacy in the operation of drones.¹²²⁸

A number of cases recorded in Chile demonstrated errors, false positives, and a general lack of effectiveness in publicly funded and invasive facial recognition systems. The facial recognition system deployed in one of Santiago's shopping malls and used to cross-reference images with the Investigative Police database of wanted suspects, for example, was reported to result in a 90% rate of false positives.¹²²⁹ The Transparency Council criticized the system for being disproportionate and intrusive from a privacy perspective.¹²³⁰

Inadequate results and widespread errors were also reported when using IDEMIA's real-time image analysis and facial recognition software in the municipality of Las Condes¹²³¹ and the facial recognition system implemented by the Civil Registry.¹²³² Likewise, a Ministry of Transport pilot payment system on buses in Santiago that used facial recognition attracted considerable controversy due to concerns over data use, rights to privacy, and surveillance.¹²³³

The data protection law due to come into force in December 2026 includes provisions strengthening the protection of biometric data, including facial

¹²²⁷ Garcia, N., *Chile Will Lease Drone Flight Hours for the Surveillance of the Metropolitan Region* (Mar. 9, 2022), <https://www.infodefensa.com/texto-diario/mostrar/3483902/chile-arrendara-horas-vuelo-drones-vigilancia-region-metropolitana>.

¹²²⁸ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGAC), *DAN 151* (May 27, 2024), <https://www.dgac.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/DAN-151-ED3-27MAY2024.pdf>

¹²²⁹ Transparency Council, *CPLT Insists That Facial Recognition in the Capital's Mall Is "Disproportionate to the Purpose It Pursues"* (Mar. 14, 2019),

<https://www.consejotransparencia.cl/cplt-insiste-en-que-reconocimiento-facial-en-mall-capitalino-es-desproporcionado-para-el-fin-que-persigue/>

¹²³⁰ Ibid

¹²³¹ Derechos Digitales, *Which is Worse: A Facial Recognition System That Doesn't Work or One That Does?* (Sept. 10, 2021), <https://www.derechosdigitales.org/16728/que-es-peor-un-sistema-de-reconocimiento-facial-que-no-funciona-o-uno-que-si-lo-hace/>

¹²³² University of Chile, *Pandemic and Technology: The Risks of Facial Recognition and Data Management* (Mar. 31, 2020), <https://www.uchile.cl/noticias/162239/pandemia-y-tecnologia-los-riesgos-del-reconocimiento-facial>

¹²³³ Fernanda Castillo, *Passage with Facial Recognition in RED: Experts War of Risks to User Privacy [Pasaje con reconocimiento facial en RED: Expertos advierten riesgos en la privacidad de los usuarios]*, BioBioChile (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://www.biobiochile.cl/noticias/nacional/region-metropolitana/2025/07/11/pasaje-con-reconocimiento-facial-en-red-expertos-advierten-riesgos-en-la-privacidad-de-los-usuarios.shtml>

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recognition data, which is explicitly classified as sensitive personal data, and therefore subject to stricter safeguards and legal protection.¹²³⁴ The processing of such data requires the data subject's explicit consent, unless a specified exception applies (such as public health, legal obligations, or judicial purposes).¹²³⁵ Article 16(3) requires the data controller to provide the data subject with clear and comprehensive information regarding the purpose of the processing, legal basis, recipients of the data, retention period, and rights available to the data subject prior to processing.¹²³⁶

EdTech

As part of a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Chile, during the pandemic, Human Rights Watch found that Aprendo in Linea in Chile put at risk or directly violated children's rights. The EdTech product sent children's data to AdTech companies.¹²³⁷

Key stakeholders, including policymakers, international organizations, private sector representatives, and academia, participated in discussions on the skills needed to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence in education at a roundtable on Education and Skills in the Age of Artificial Intelligence hosted by the UNESCO Regional Office in Santiago in October 2023.¹²³⁸ Stakeholders highlighted the need for continuous training for teachers and school leaders regarding the ethical use of AI technologies. The discussion also emphasized the collaborative roles of various sectors in adapting education to current technological advancements. Valtencir Mendes, Head of Education at UNESCO Santiago, concluded by stressing the need to protect students' rights while adapting the educational system to technological advancements.

Chile was among the 16 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean that committed to the promotion of ethical AI education as part of their endorsement of

¹²³⁴ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Law 21.719 Regulating the Protection and Treatment of Personal Data and Creating the Personal Data Protection Agency [Regula la protección y el tratamiento de los datos personales y crea la Agencia de Protección de Datos Personales]*, Art. 1-bis (5)(g) (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1209272>.

¹²³⁵ Ibid, Art. 16

¹²³⁶ Ibid, Art. 16-ter

¹²³⁷ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

¹²³⁸ UNESCO, *The Future of Education: UNESCO and Experts Debate the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Chile* (Oct. 11, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/future-education-unesco-and-experts-debate-role-artificial-intelligence-chile>

the Cartagena de Indias Declaration in August 2024.¹²³⁹ The declaration stresses the need for collaboration to foster ethical and inclusive AI development and commits the countries to enhancing digital education and sharing best practices while ensuring AI governance frameworks uphold human rights and promote innovation.

The Chilean Ministry of Education, in collaboration with UNESCO's Regional Office in Santiago, presented the first version of the National Plan for the Digital Transformation of Education in 2025.¹²⁴⁰ This strategic framework serves as a roadmap for the integrated and sustainable adoption of digital technologies across all levels of the Chilean education system, grounded in a participatory, ethically driven approach.

AI and Neurotechnology

Chile became the first country in the world to provide constitutional protection for neuro-rights in 2021. Neuro-rights are recognized as a subset of human rights aimed at balancing the potentially adverse effects of neurotechnology.¹²⁴¹ Article 19 of the Chilean Constitution was amended by introducing the provision that "Scientific and technological development will be at the service of people and will be carried out with respect for life and physical and psychological integrity. The law will regulate the requirements, conditions and restrictions for its use on people, especially safeguarding brain activity, as well as the information derived from it."¹²⁴² This guarantee is especially relevant in light of advances in the area of neuroscience and AI, such as brain-computer interfaces.¹²⁴³

¹²³⁹ MinCienca, *Undersecretary Gainza at AI Summit in Colombia* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://www.minciencia.gob.cl/noticias/subsecretaria-gainza-en-cumbre-de-ia-en-colombia-la-gobernanza-no-es-solo-regulacion-y-marcos-legales-sino-que-principalmente-tiene-que-ver-con-perspectivas-y-principios/>

¹²⁴⁰ Ministerio de Educación, *Ministry of Education and UNESCO Present the First Version of the National Plan for the Digital Transformation of Education in Chile* (Aug. 26, 2025), <https://www.mineduc.cl/mineduc-y-unesco-presentan-primera-version-plan-nacional-transformacion-digital/>

¹²⁴¹ A. McCay, *Neurorights: The Chilean Constitutional Change*, AI & Soc (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-022-01396-0>

¹²⁴² Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, *Law No 21383: Amendments to the Fundamental Rights Charter to Establish Scientific and Technological Development at the Service of People* (Oct. 25, 2021), <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=1166983&idParte=10278855&idVersion=2021-10-25>

¹²⁴³ Rafael Yuste et al., *Four Ethical Priorities for Neurotechnologies and AI*, Nature 551, pp. 159–163 (2017), <https://doi.org/10.1038/551159a>

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Chile introduced a bill on the protection of neuro-rights and mental integrity and the development of research and neurotechnologies in October 2020.¹²⁴⁴ The bill, which was in the second constitutional procedure of the legislative process in 2024,¹²⁴⁵ aims to regulate neurotechnologies while preserving rights and data regarding brain activity and mental integrity.

Environmental Impact of AI

Chile's National AI Policy states that it will establish incentives for developers and deployers of AI systems to focus on energy efficiency and develop guidelines for environmentally responsible use in the public and private sectors.¹²⁴⁶ The updated policy emphasizes sustainable use and development of AI systems for social and environmental wellbeing as part of the human-centric principle and under the sustainable development principle.¹²⁴⁷ The Policy stresses Chile's renewable energy resources and legal norms around environmental impact assessments.¹²⁴⁸ Chile's endorsement of the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet at the AI Action Summit reaffirms this commitment to developing energy-efficient, environmentally responsible, and socially inclusive AI ecosystems.¹²⁴⁹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Chile has consistently advocated for an international treaty regulating and prohibiting the use of lethally autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the United Nations, Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, and other international

¹²⁴⁴ Chamber of Deputies, *No. 13828-19: Bill on the Protection of Neuro-Rights and Mental Integrity, and the Development of Research and Neurotechnologies* (Oct. 7, 2020), <https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=14385&prmBOLETI N=13828-19>

¹²⁴⁵ Chamber of Deputies, *No. 13828-19: Bill on the Protection of Neuro-Rights and Mental Integrity, and the Development of Research and Neurotechnologies*, Processing (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=14385&prmBOLETI N=13828-19>

¹²⁴⁶ MinCienia, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (May 2, 2024), <https://www.mincienia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹²⁴⁷ Diario Oficial, *Updates to the "National Artificial Intelligence Policy" Approved [Aprueba Actualización de la "Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial"]* (Jan 28, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/01/28/44060/01/2600578.pdf>

¹²⁴⁸ *Ibid*, pp. 11–12

¹²⁴⁹ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

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meetings. In 2018, Chile proposed along with Austria and Brazil an open-ended GGE to negotiate a legally binding instrument to ensure meaningful human control over critical functions in LAWS.¹²⁵⁰ In 2020, Chile also joined eight other CCW parties and reiterated the call for the development of a “normative and operational framework” for ensuring human control of LAWS.¹²⁵¹

Chile was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems in October 2022 calling for recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.¹²⁵² At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Chile voted in favor¹²⁵³ of resolution L.56¹²⁵⁴ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states, which mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. Chile reaffirmed its support for a legally binding international treaty prohibiting fully autonomous lethal weapons in 2025.¹²⁵⁵ In a joint statement, the Chilean delegation highlighted the need for meaningful human control over critical functions and reiterated a commitment to international humanitarian law and accountability in the use of AI in warfare.

¹²⁵⁰ Austria, Brazil, and Chile, *Proposal for a Mandate to Negotiate a Legally-Binding Instrument that Addresses the Legal, Humanitarian and Ethical Concerns Posed by Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, U.N. Doc. CCW/ GGE.2/2018/WP.7 (Aug. 30, 2018), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2018/gge/documents/29August_Proposal_Mandate_ABC.pdf

¹²⁵¹ Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, and New Zealand, *Joint Commentary on Guiding Principles A, B, C and D* (Sept. 1, 2020), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GGE20200901-Austria-Belgium-Brazil-Chile-Ireland-Germany-Luxembourg-Mexico-and-New-Zealand.pdf>

¹²⁵² United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹²⁵³ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹²⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹²⁵⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

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Chile endorsed the Belén Communiqué in February 2023,¹²⁵⁶ which calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

Chile also participated in the international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the REAIM 2023, Chile, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.¹²⁵⁷

AI Literacy

Chile’s Digital Citizenship (*Ciudadanía Digital*) initiative launched in 2022 fosters AI and Digital Literacy in support of democracy and human rights.¹²⁵⁸ The initiative supports the “development of fundamental knowledge, skills, and attitudes to allow people to exercise their digital rights and strengthen democratic society through the safe, responsible, participatory, creative, critical, and reflective use of digital technology, understanding the influence of these technologies in their personal and public lives at local and global levels.” Critical and Reflective Digital Literacy is the first of four dimensions of Digital Citizenship, along with Digital Care and Responsibility centering ethical use of technology, Participation in Digital Citizenship promoting caring for democracy through the use of digital technology, and Digital Creativity and Innovation. The Ministry of Education’s Plan for Digital Citizenship and Literacy 2025–2026 incorporates AI content as part of the aim to “Raise awareness in the population of the challenges, opportunities, and risks of acting in digital environments so we can protect democracy and strengthen community life.”¹²⁵⁹

¹²⁵⁶ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Official Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://conferenciaawscostarica2023.com/communiqué/?lang=en>

¹²⁵⁷ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

¹²⁵⁸ Ministerio de Educación, *What Is Digital Citizenship? [¿Qué es la ciudadanía digital?]* (2025), <https://ciudadaniadigital.mineduc.cl/que-es-la-ciudadania-digital/>

¹²⁵⁹ Ministerio Secretaría General de Gobierno y Ministerio de Educación, *Digital Citizenship and Literacy Plan 2025–2026 [Plan de Ciudadanía y Alfabetización Digital 2025–2026]*, p. 6 (May 2025), <https://ciudadaniadigital.mineduc.cl/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Plan-Ciudadania-y-Alfabetizacion-Digital-2025.pdf>

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Human Rights

Chile ranked as “Free” with a score of 95/100 in the Freedom in the World report,¹²⁶⁰ with 38/40 for political rights and 57/60 for civil liberties in 2025.

The government of Chile has continued to demonstrate progress on improving the protection of human rights related to AI by updating the Ethics and Governance axis of the 2021 version of its National AI Policy¹²⁶¹ in line with input from various stakeholder groups gathered during a 2-month public consultation period.¹²⁶² The new AI bill¹²⁶³ aimed at regulating AI development in a way that safeguards and promotes democratic principles, the rule of law, and citizens’ fundamental human rights will also ensure the ethical and responsible implementation of AI. At the Third World Summit of Committees of the Future in Santiago, organized by the Chilean Senate with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),¹²⁶⁴ parliamentary delegations from 17 countries produced an Outcome Document emphasizing that emerging technologies, including AI, must be governed in accordance with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.¹²⁶⁵

Despite Chile's ratification of several human rights instruments,¹²⁶⁶ some lingering issues remain regarding human rights protection. Chile still has problems with incarceration conditions in detention facilities and cases of torture and brutality

¹²⁶⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Chile* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/chile/freedom-world/2025>

¹²⁶¹ MinCienia, *National Policy on Artificial Intelligence* (May 2, 2024),

<https://minciencia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹²⁶² MinCienia, *Public Consultation: National Policy on Artificial Intelligence: Results Report 2024* (2024), <https://www.minciencia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹²⁶³ Chamber of Deputies, *Legislature 372: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Systems* [Spanish only] (May 7, 2024),

<https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=17429&prmBOLETI N=16821-19>; for an overview in English, see Guillermo Carey, José Ignacio Mercado, and Ricardo Alonso, *Bill to Regulate Artificial Intelligence Systems Is Introduced to the Chilean Chamber of Deputies*, Carey (May 13, 2024), <https://www.carey.cl/en/bill-to-regulate-artificial-intelligence-systems-is-introduced-to-the-chilean-chamber-of-deputies/>

¹²⁶⁴ Senado, *Third World Summit of Parliamentary Commissions of the Future: Reaffirm Commitment to Anticipatory Governance [Tercera Cumbre Mundial de Comisiones Parlamentarias del Futuro: Reafirman el Compromiso con la Gobernanza Anticipatoria]* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.senado.cl/comunicaciones/noticias/tercera-cumbre-mundial-de-comisiones-parlamentarias-del-futuro-reafirman-el>

¹²⁶⁵ Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), *For Innovative Anticipatory Governance that Incorporates the Future in Parliamentary Work—Outcome Document* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.ipu.org/file/20887/download>

¹²⁶⁶ UN Treaty Body Database, *Ratification Status for Chile*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=35&Lang=EN

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by law enforcement.¹²⁶⁷ There are also reported cases of arbitrary or unlawful murders, as well as issues with the protection of the rights of women, indigenous populations, LGBTQI+, migrants, and refugees.¹²⁶⁸ In October 2020, following a series of protests and clashes with law enforcement authorities, more than 70% of citizens voted in favor of forming a constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution, which has remained unchanged since the dictatorship that officially ended in 1990.

AI Safety Summit

Chile participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023.¹²⁶⁹ Chile thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

Chile did not participate in the AI Seoul Summit in May 2024.¹²⁷⁰

Chile participated in the AI Action Summit 2025 in Paris and signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.¹²⁷¹ Through this commitment, Chile pledged to promote transparent, ethical, and sustainable AI aligned with public-interest values and global democratic norms. At the Summit, Chile and Inria France jointly launched the Franco-Chilean Binational Center on AI, a strategic 2025–2026 initiative focused on AI safety evaluation, trustworthy generative AI, energy-efficient computing, open-source AI

¹²⁶⁷ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2022*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/chile>

¹²⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Chile* (Mar. 20, 2021), <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/chile/>

¹²⁶⁹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit*, (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

¹²⁷⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *AI Seoul Summit: Participants List (Governments and Organizations)* (Jun. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-seoul-summit-programme/ai-seoul-summit-participants-list-governments-and-organisations>

¹²⁷¹ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

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tools, and talent development.¹²⁷² This Center strengthens Chile's institutional capacity for safe AI research and reinforces alignment with the OECD and UNESCO frameworks.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As an OECD member, Chile endorsed the OECD AI Principles.¹²⁷³ Chile's AI-related documents, including in its National AI Policy,¹²⁷⁴ directly reference the OECD Principles. The May 2024 update to the National AI Policy strongly emphasizes responsible AI development, ethical AI deployment, and the importance of international collaboration on AI governance.

The OECD has noted Chile's AI policy efforts across various dimensions,¹²⁷⁵ including its promotion of societal dialogues on AI, its creation of partnerships with the private sector for human capacity development, its willingness for international cooperation on AI governance.

Chile's AI policy vision also echoes several OECD principles, including the transparency and explainability, human-centered AI, and building human capacity for AI.¹²⁷⁶ The Chilean Transparency Council's recommendations on algorithmic transparency¹²⁷⁷ published in August 2024 align with OECD guidelines to promote accountability and the ethical use of algorithms in public services by introducing guidelines for proactive transparency, effective monitoring, and use of clear language

¹²⁷² Inria Chile & MinCiencia, *Launch of the Franco-Chilean Binational Center on AI at the AI Action Summit* (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://inria.cl/en/paris-ai-action-summit-inria-and-ministry-science-chile-launch-binational-center-ai-and-announce-5>

¹²⁷³ OECD Legal Instruments, *OECD/LEGAL/0449: Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449>

¹²⁷⁴ MinCiencia, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (May 2, 2024), <https://www.minciencia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹²⁷⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Policies in Chile* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/chile>

¹²⁷⁶ Chamber of Deputies, *Legislature 372: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Systems* [Spanish only] (May 7, 2024), <https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=17429&prmBOLETIN=16821-19>; for an overview in English, see Guillermo Carey, José Ignacio Mercado, and Ricardo Alonso, *Bill to Regulate Artificial Intelligence Systems Is Introduced to the Chilean Chamber of Deputies*, Carey (May 13, 2024), <https://www.carey.cl/en/bill-to-regulate-artificial-intelligence-systems-is-introduced-to-the-chilean-chamber-of-deputies/>

¹²⁷⁷ Council for Transparency (CPLT), *Resolution No. 372: Approval Text of the Council for Transparency's Recommendations on Algorithmic Transparency*, Official Journal of the Republic of Chile, Ministry of the Interior and Public Safety (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.consejotransparencia.cl/wp-content/uploads/instruccion/2024/09/Informe-recomendaciones-congreso-CPLT.pdf>

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in the delivery of information about automated and semi-automated decision-making systems. MinCiencia's AI system public registry implements these principles.¹²⁷⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Chile has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, the first legally binding international AI treaty.¹²⁷⁹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Chile is a UNESCO member and adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021.¹²⁸⁰

Chile's Ministry of Science, in partnership with UNESCO and CAF,¹²⁸¹ the Latin American development bank, convened the first Regional Forum on AI Ethics in November 2023. The aim of the event was to shape a collective strategy among Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation. Chile signed the resulting Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence.¹²⁸² The Declaration establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI, including proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection. The Declaration also constitutes a milestone toward establishing a Regional Council on AI for the LAC region. Chile will preside over the working group created to this end.¹²⁸³

¹²⁷⁸ Diario Oficial, *Updates to the "National Artificial Intelligence Policy" Approved [Aprueba Actualización de la "Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial"]* (Jan 28, 2025), <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2025/01/28/44060/01/2600578.pdf>

¹²⁷⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 5, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹²⁸⁰ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

¹²⁸¹ Ángel Melguizo and Gabriela Ramos, *Ethical and Responsible Artificial Intelligence: From Words to Actions and Rights*, Somos Iberoamérica (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://www.somosiberoamerica.org/pt-br/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-e-responsavel-das-palavras-aos-fatos-e-direitos/>

¹²⁸² Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaración de Santiago "Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe"* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

¹²⁸³ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>

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Chile among the first countries to complete the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),¹²⁸⁴ a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation. The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.¹²⁸⁵ Chile implemented the RAM with the launch of an updated National AI Policy and action plan in May 2024.¹²⁸⁶ Chile also proposed a new bill aimed at regulating the ethical and responsible development of AI based on the recommendations from the RAM.¹²⁸⁷ Chile has also updated the privacy law, as recommended on the RAM report.

Evaluation

Chile has made considerable progress toward developing legislative and policy frameworks in data protection and AI and aligning them with international standards, including the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and OECD AI Principles. Chile's efforts refining its National AI Policy in accordance with international AI governance standards and best practices reflects the country's recognition of the need for global cooperation to govern AI for the benefit of humanity. Joining the Cuncil of Europe AI group as an observer and endorsing the AI treaty would further demonstrate Chile's commitment to international cooperation.

Updates to the data protection law establish a regulatory oversight agency with adequate enforcement powers and create enforceable standards in algorithmic transparency.¹²⁸⁸ The AI Bill under deliberation addresses the issue of regulatory oversight and includes provisions for the establishment of a National Commission on Artificial Intelligence,¹²⁸⁹ which will enforce and monitor compliance with the

¹²⁸⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Chile* (Oct. 2024),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/chile>

¹²⁸⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

¹²⁸⁶ UNESCO, *Chile Launches National AI Policy and Introduces AI Bill Following UNESCO's Recommendations* (May 4, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/chile-launches-national-ai-policy-and-introduces-ai-bill-following-unescos-recommendations>

¹²⁸⁷ Chamber of Deputies, *Legislature 372: Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Systems [Regula Sistemas de Inteligencia Artificial]* (May 7, 2024),

<https://www.camara.cl/legislacion/ProyectosDeLey/tramitacion.aspx?prmID=17429&prmBOLETIN=16821-19>

¹²⁸⁸ Chamber of Deputies, *Law 19.628 on Personal Data Protection* (Aug. 29, 2024),

<https://www.carey.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Consolidado-PDL-datos-personales-aprobado-29.Aug..2024.pdf>; unofficial English translation, <https://www.carey.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Texto-ley-ingles-clean.pdf>

¹²⁸⁹ Digital Policy Alert, *Chile: Establishment of National Commission on Artificial Intelligence in Bill to Regulate AI systems, Robotics, and Related Technologies (Bill 15869-19)* (Apr. 26, 2023),

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legislation. Chile is employing public consultations to gather public input on AI Policy updates through the Digital Government Secretariat.¹²⁹⁰

The data protection law entering into force in December 2026 addresses some concerns over the proliferation of intrusive facial recognition technologies in public spaces with protections for biometric data, though the government has continued to implement pilot projects.

<https://digitalpolicyalert.org/change/8827-establishment-of-national-commission-on-artificial-intelligence-in-chile-nr-15869-19>

¹²⁹⁰ MinCiencia, *Public Consultation: National Policy on Artificial Intelligence: Results Report 2024* (2024), <https://www.minciencia.gob.cl/areas/inteligencia-artificial/politica-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

China

In 2025, China progressed on national AI governance by releasing guidance and standards on data and the AI industry and amendments to strengthen AI ethics in the Cybersecurity Law. China also launched a Global AI Governance Action Plan aligned with the UN Global Digital Compact.

National AI Strategy

Since 2013, the Chinese government has published several national-level policies, guidelines, and action plans, which reflect the intention to develop, deploy, and integrate AI in various sectors. In 2015, Prime Minister Li Keqiang launched the “Made in China” (MIC 2025) initiative aimed at turning the country into a production hub for high-tech products within the next few decades.¹²⁹¹ In the same year, the State Council released guidelines on China’s Internet + Action Plan.¹²⁹² The Action Plan sought to integrate the internet into all elements of the economy and society. The document emphasized the importance of cultivating emerging AI industries and investing in research and development.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China’s 13th 5-year plan is another notable example. The document mentioned AI as one of six critical areas for developing the country’s emerging industries and as an essential factor in stimulating economic growth.¹²⁹³ The Robot Industry Development Plan¹²⁹⁴ and Artificial Intelligence Innovation Action Plan for Higher Education Institutions¹²⁹⁵ illustrate detailed action plans and guidelines concerning specific sectors.

¹²⁹¹ State Council [国务院], *Circular of the State Council on the Issuance of Made in China 2025* [国务院关于印发《中国制造2025》的通知] (May 8, 2015), https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2015-05/19/content_9784.htm

¹²⁹² State Council, *China Unveils “Internet Plus Action Plan” to Fuel Growth* [国务院关于积极推进“互联网+”行动的指导意见] (Jul. 4, 2015), https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2015-07/04/content_10002.htm

¹²⁹³ Central Committee of the CPC, *The 13th Five Year Plan for Economic and Social Development 2016–2020* (2016), <https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policies/202105/P020210527785800103339.pdf>

¹²⁹⁴ National Development and Reform Commission, *Robot Industry Development Plan (2016–2020) Released* [机器人产业发展规划（2016–2020年）发布] (2016), https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/ghwb/201604/t20160427_962181.html

¹²⁹⁵ Ministry of Education, Interpret the “Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence Innovation in Higher Education Institutions” and Introduce the Relevant Work [高等学校人工智能创新行动计划] http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/xw_fbh/moe_2069/xwfbh_2018n/xwfb_20180608/201806/t20180608_338911.html

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Most notable of all is the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan (AIDP)—an ambitious strategy to make China the world leader in AI by 2030 and the most transparent and influential indication of China's AI strategy's driving forces. China's State Council issued the AIDP in 2017. According to the Plan, AI should be used in a broad range of sectors, including defense and social welfare. The AIDP also indicates the need to develop standards and ethical norms for the use of AI. The actual innovation and transformation are expected to be driven by the private sector and local governments. The Chinese government has handpicked three major tech giants to focus on developing specific sectors of AI: Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent.¹²⁹⁶ These companies receive preferential contract bidding, more convenient access to finance, and sometimes market share protection.

Following the AIDP, the Ministry of Science and Technology published the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Code of Ethics (Code of Ethics).¹²⁹⁷ The New Generation AI Governance Professional Committee, consisting of experts from academics and the industry,¹²⁹⁸ created the Code of Ethics and is responsible for its implementation. The Code of Ethics aims to “thoroughly implement the AIDP, refine the principles of AIDP, enhance society's awareness and behavioural consciousness of AI ethics, actively guide responsible AI research, development, and application activities, as well as promote the healthy development of AI.” The Code of Ethics highlights six fundamental ethical requirements: (1) “improving human well-being”; (2) “promoting fairness and justice”; (3) “protecting privacy and security”; (4) “ensuring controllability, and trustworthiness”; (5) “strengthening responsibility”; and (6) “improving ethical literacy,” taking issues like privacy, biases, discrimination, and fairness into consideration.¹²⁹⁹

¹²⁹⁶ Meng Jing and Sarah Dai, *China Recruits Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent to AI 'national team,'* South China Morning Post (Nov. 21, 2017), <https://www.scmp.com/tech/china-tech/article/2120913/china-recruits-baidu-alibaba-and-tencent-ai-national-team>

¹²⁹⁷ Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, *New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Code of Ethics* [“新一代人工智能伦理规范”发布] (Sept. 26, 2021), <https://perma.cc/RC4V-Q2FX>; Center for Security and Emerging Technology, *Ethical Norms for New Generation Artificial Intelligence Released* [English translation] (Oct. 12, 2021), https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0400_AI_ethical_norms_EN.pdf

¹²⁹⁸ Intelligent Hardware, *The National Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional Committee Was Established, Composed of Academic and Business Personnel* [国家人工智能治理专业委员会成立 其中有学界与企业界人员组成] (Jun. 9, 2020), <https://www.21ic.com/article/775428.html>

¹²⁹⁹ Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, *New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Code of Ethics* [“新一代人工智能伦理规范”发布] (Sept. 26, 2021), <https://perma.cc/RC4V-Q2FX>; Center for Security and Emerging Technology, *Ethical Norms for New Generation Artificial Intelligence Released* [English translation] (Oct. 12, 2021), https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0400_AI_ethical_norms_EN.pdf

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Regarding local governments, there is a system of incentives for fulfilling national government policy aims. For this reason, local governments often become a testing ground for the central government's policies. Chinese cities and provinces, as well as regional administrations, compete for new AI incentives. Large metropolises, such as Tianjin and Shanghai, have already launched multi-billion-dollar AI city Venture Capital funds and converted entire districts and islands for new AI companies. Shenzhen and Shanghai have taken the lead to create policies and standards for the Artificial Intelligence industry in China at the provincial level. The Regulations on the Promotion of Artificial Intelligence Industry in Shenzhen from 2022,¹³⁰⁰ marked the birth of the country's first regulation on the AI industry. Shanghai, in the meantime, published Regulations of Shanghai on Promoting the Development of Artificial Intelligence Industry, coming into effect on October 1, 2022.¹³⁰¹ The two Regulations aim to promote the innovation and development of the AI industry in their provinces for the benefit of citizens, society, and the economy. Both Regulations establish mechanisms and Committees of AI Ethics to develop AI ethics policy and standards as well as provide guidance on AI ethics.

The establishment of the New Generation AI Governance Professional Committee at the national level and Committees of AI Ethics at the provincial level embodies the creation of a monitoring regime for the guidance and supervision of AI and AI ethics. The impact of the oversight of AI in policy implementation processes as well as the level of independence of these mechanisms remains unclear.

Cybersecurity Law

China's Cybersecurity Law of 2017 has broad provisions to "ensure cybersecurity; safeguard cyberspace sovereignty and national security, and social and public interests; protect the lawful rights and interests of citizens, legal persons, and other organizations; and promote the healthy development of informatization of the

¹³⁰⁰ Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, *Regulations on the Promotion of Artificial Intelligence Industry in Shenzhen* [深圳经济特区人工智能产业促进条例] (Sept. 5, 2022), [archived] <https://perma.cc/6VKQ-NJZF>; Center for Security and Emerging Technology, *Translation: Regulations for the Promotion of the Artificial Intelligence Industry in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone* (Dec. 7, 2022), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0480-Shenzhen-AI-regs-EN.pdf>; see also, Justice Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, *527 Regulations of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone on Promoting the Artificial Intelligence Industry* (Mar. 28, 2024), https://sf.sz.gov.cn/fggzywyb/content/post_11216296.html

¹³⁰¹ Shanghai Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, *Regulations of Shanghai on Promoting the Development of Artificial Intelligence*, International Services Shanghai (Sept. 22, 2022), <https://english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-LocalRules/20240913/4395d1563dd548b39406cbe8833c9ef6.html>; [Chinese] <https://perma.cc/PQ8J-ARCA>

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economy and society.” The law applies to those constructing, operating, maintaining, and using networks on the mainland and aims to support research and development in artificial intelligence without sacrificing security.¹³⁰²

Revisions in 2025 aim to strengthen the regulatory regime, including risk monitoring, assessment, and safety oversight as well as improving AI ethics rules.¹³⁰³ The amendments define liability and specify penalties for individuals as well network operators responsible for “serious” failures such as data breaches or infrastructure failure. Individuals and operators responsible for disseminating or failing to stop the spread of prohibited information can also be found liable and face penalties, including fines.

National AI Standards

China’s Cyberspace Administration in partnership with several other technology-focused government offices, including the National Development & Reform Commission and the National Standardization Administration, released official guidelines for a National Comprehensive Standardization System for the AI industry in 2024.¹³⁰⁴ Primary standards cover security and governance as well as concerns related to products, services, industrialization, and technical matters. None of the Standards are substantive, providing a roadmap more than a strict framework.

The National Development and Reform Commission issued guidelines for a National Data Standards System in 2024 to activate data’s potential, an adjacent but important area for AI strategy. These guidelines build on the National Artificial Intelligence Industry Comprehensive Standardization System and target areas such as Data aggregation technical standards and 5G data transmission network standards.¹³⁰⁵ The Artificial Intelligence Standardization Technical Committee

¹³⁰² DIGICHINA, *Translation: Cybersecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China (Effective June 1, 2017)* (Jun. 29, 2018), <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/translation-cybersecurity-law-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china-effective-june-1-2017/>; Cyberspace Administration of China, 中华人民共和国网络安全法 (Nov. 7, 2016), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2016-11/07/c_1119867116.htm

¹³⁰³ National People’s Congress China Daily, *AI Support at Heart of Cybersecurity Revision* (Oct. 30, 2025), http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2025-10/30/c_1136472.htm

¹³⁰⁴ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Notice of four departments on issuing the Guidelines for the Construction of the National Artificial Intelligence Industry Comprehensive Standardization System (2024 Edition)* [四部门关于印发国家人工智能产业综合标准化体系建设指南（2024版）的通知] (Jul. 3, 2024), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2024-07/03/c_1721686809220407.htm

¹³⁰⁵ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Notice of the National Development and Reform Commission and Other Departments on Issuing the “Guidelines for the Construction of the National Data Standards System* [国家发展改革委等部门关于印发《国家数据标准体系建设指南》的通知] (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2024-10/11/c_1730337907916423.htm

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established under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) in December 2024 furthers China’s strategy to strengthen regulatory oversight as a means to support industrial growth and global AI norms and standards.¹³⁰⁶

The National Cybersecurity Standardization Technical Committee 260 (TC260) adopted the AI Safety Governance Framework, a voluntary AI risk management framework that “outlines control measures to address different types of AI safety risks through technological and managerial strategies.” The document stresses that “comprehensive AI safety and security risk governance mechanisms and regulations” should “engage multi-stakeholder participation, including technology R&D institutions, service providers, users, government authorities, industry associations, and social organizations.”¹³⁰⁷

Management of Algorithmic Recommendations

China has started to adopt a comprehensive set of regulations on AI. The Provisions on the Management of Algorithmic Recommendations in Internet Information Services came into force in March 2022.¹³⁰⁸ The Provisions apply to any entity that uses algorithm recommendation technologies to provide Internet information services within Mainland China. The Provisions require companies to register algorithms to an online database to the extent that the algorithm has public opinion properties or social mobilization capabilities. Companies shall also complete an algorithm security self-assessment report. Users shall have the right to opt out of recommendation algorithms. The use of recommendation algorithms for illegal or harmful purposes is prohibited.

Deep Synthesis Regulations

In January 2023, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) introduced regulations prohibiting the production of deepfakes without user consent and requires specific identification that the content had been generated using AI. The regulations were formulated to “carry forward the core Socialist value vision, to safeguard

¹³⁰⁶ State Council, *China Establishes Technical Committee to Further AI Standardization* (Dec. 31, 2024), https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202412/31/content_WS67736228c6d0868f4e8ee657.html

¹³⁰⁷ National Cybersecurity Standardization Technical Committee 260, *AI Safety Governance Framework* (Sept. 6, 2024), <https://www.tc260.org.cn/upload/2024-09-09/1725849192841090989.pdf>; archived at <https://perma.cc/JNQ9-AG59>

¹³⁰⁸ Cyber Administration of China, the Ministry of Information and Industry Technology, the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, and State Administration for Market Regulation, *Provisions on the Management of Algorithmic Recommendations in Internet Information Services* (Dec. 31, 2021), http://www.cac.gov.cn/2022-01/04/c_1642894606364259.htm

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national security and the societal public interest.”¹³⁰⁹ Any content that was created using an AI system must be clearly labeled with a watermark, i.e., text or image visually superimposed on the video indicating that the content had been edited. Deep synthesis services cannot use the technology to disseminate fake news. Content that goes against existing laws is prohibited, as is content that endangers national security and interests, damages the national image or disrupts the economy.

The Cyberspace Administration of China published Measures for the Identification of Synthetic Content Generated by AI in March 2025.¹³¹⁰ The instrument aims to standardize the labeling of AI-generated content by internet information service providers with requirements for production, display, and distribution. Service providers must embed explicit labels in files containing AI-generated content and include implicit labels with production details as per regulatory standards. If services include downloading, reproducing, or exporting generated synthetic content, service providers “shall ensure that the files contain explicit labels that satisfy these requirements.” Additionally, service providers are required to inform users of labeling specifications in service agreements.

Generative AI Measures

The Provisional Administrative Measures of Generative Artificial Intelligence Services (Generative AI Measures) were published by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), together with six other authorities, in July 2023 and took effect that August. The Generative AI Measures apply to “the use of generative AI technology to provide services for generating text, pictures, sounds, videos and other content within the territory of China.” The Measures will apply to domestic companies and to overseas generative AI service providers offering AI services in China to the public.¹³¹¹

¹³⁰⁹ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Regulations on the In-depth Synthesis Management of Internet Information Services* [国家互联网信息办公室等三部门发布“互联网信息服务深度合成管理规定”] (Dec. 22, 2022), http://www.cac.gov.cn/2022-12/11/c_1672221949318230.htm; Stanford University DigiChina, *Translation: Internet Information Service Deep Synthesis Management Provisions (Draft for Comment, Jan. 2022)*, (Feb. 4, 2022), <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/translation-internet-information-service-deep-synthesis-management-provisions-draft-for-comment-jan-2022/>

¹³¹⁰ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Notice on Issuing the “Measures for Identifying Artificial Intelligence-Generated and Synthetic Content”* [关于印发“人工智能生成合成内容标识办法”的通知] (Mar. 14, 2025), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2025-03/14/c_1743654684782215.htm

¹³¹¹ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Interim Measures for Generative Artificial Intelligence Service Management* (Jul. 13, 2023), http://www.cac.gov.cn/2023-07/13/c_1690898327029107.htm

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AI Ethics

The AIDP outlines China's desire to become a world leader in defining ethical norms and standards for AI.¹³¹² Government bodies and private companies have attempted to define ethical standards. For example, China's Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance (AIIA) released a draft joint pledge on self-discipline in the AI industry emphasizing AI ethics, safety, standardization, and international engagement.¹³¹³

The National New Generation Artificial Intelligence Governance Expert Committee established by China's Ministry of Science and Technology prepared the Governance Principles for Developing Responsible Artificial Intelligence in 2019.¹³¹⁴ The document outlines eight principles for the governance of AI: harmony and friendliness; fairness and justice; inclusivity and sharing; respect for human rights and privacy; security; shared responsibility; open collaboration; and agility to deal with new and emerging risks. The document emphasizes that AI development should begin by enhancing the common well-being of humanity.

Another important document is a white paper on AI standards¹³¹⁵ released in 2018 by the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China, the national-level body responsible for developing technical standards. Three key principles for setting the ethical requirements of AI technologies are (1) the ultimate goal of AI is to benefit human welfare; (2) transparency and the need to establish accountability as a requirement for both the development and the deployment of AI systems and solutions; (3) protection of intellectual property.

¹³¹² *China's New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan* [English translation] (Jul. 20, 2017), <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/full-translation-chinas-new-generation-artificial-intelligence-development-plan-2017/>; [original Chinese], https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-07/20/content_5211996.htm

¹³¹³ *Chinese AI Alliance Drafts Self-Discipline "Joint Pledge"* [English translation] (Jun. 17, 2019), <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/translation-chinese-ai-alliance-drafts-self-discipline-joint-pledge/>; [original Chinese], <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/x7HTx4AR6oNBWwWxUpnSuQ>

¹³¹⁴ *Chinese Expert Group Offers 'Governance Principles' for 'Responsible AI'* [English translation] (Jun. 17, 2019), <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/translation-chinese-expert-group-offers-governance-principles-responsible-ai/>; [original Chinese], https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/JWRhPFXJZ_mu80hlO2kQ

¹³¹⁵ Jeffrey Ding and Paul Triolo, *Translation: Excerpts from China's White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Standardization*, New America (Jun. 20, 2018), <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/translation-excerpts-chinas-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-standardization/>

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In April 2022, China published “Opinions on Strengthening the Management of Science and Technology Ethics,”¹³¹⁶ which is the first national policy on tech ethics. The document proposes five principles to supervise and review technology ethics and calls for the establishment of the China Science and Technology Ethics Society and ethical supervision in AI research.

China issued the Global AI Governance Action Plan in 2025, calling on all parties to take concrete and effective actions in advancing global AI development and governance based on the objectives and principles of promoting AI for good and in service of humanity, respecting national sovereignty, aligning with development goals, ensuring safety and controllability, upholding fairness and inclusiveness, and fostering open cooperation. The plan contains 13 points, including: Creating a diverse, open, and innovative ecosystem; Addressing energy and environmental issues; Advancing the governance of AI safety; and Jointly implementing the Global Digital Compact, taking the United Nations as the main channel.¹³¹⁷

Public Participation

The National People's Congress of China operates a permanent online public-comment system through which it regularly publishes draft laws and regulations for feedback.¹³¹⁸

Between 2021 and 2025, several AI-related public consultations were conducted by China's main regulatory authorities. These include the CAC's draft Regulations on the Management of Internet Information Service Algorithm Recommendations,¹³¹⁹ the draft Regulations on the Management of Deep Synthesis of Internet Information Services,¹³²⁰ and the draft Measures for the Management of

¹³¹⁶ General Office of the CPC Central Committee General Office of the State Council, *Opinions on Strengthening the Management of Science and Technology Ethics* [中共中央办公厅 国务院办公厅印发“关于加强科技伦理治理的意见”] (Mar. 20, 2022),

http://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2022/content_5683838.htm

¹³¹⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Global AI Governance Action Plan* (Jul. 26, 2025),

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zyxw/202507/t20250729_11679232.html

¹³¹⁸ National People's Congress (NPC) Observer, *China NPC Drafts for Public Comment – Searchable List* (Oct. 2025), <https://npcobserver.com/china-npc-draft-law/>

¹³¹⁹ Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), *Notice on Public Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Regulations on the Management of Internet Information Service Algorithm Recommendation Activities* [互联网信息服务算法推荐管理规定（征求意见稿）公开征求意见的通知] (Aug. 27, 2021), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2021-08/27/c_1631652502874117.htm

¹³²⁰ Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), *Notice on Public Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Regulations on the Management of Internet Information Service Deep Synthesis* [互联网信息

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Generative AI Services.¹³²¹ In addition, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) sought comments on the draft Guidelines for the Construction of a Comprehensive AI Industry Standard System.¹³²² Most recently, the MIIT consulted the public on the draft Measures for the Management of Artificial Intelligence Science & Technology Ethics Services (Trial).¹³²³

Scholarly research and findings from international organizations suggest that while China provides structured avenues for public input, these mechanisms function more as formal consultations than as effective tools for meaningful participation in national AI governance.¹³²⁴

At the 2022 World Artificial Intelligence Conference, the Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Governance Research Center, Tsinghua University, and Fudan University jointly launched an open platform for artificial intelligence ethics: OpenEGLab.¹³²⁵ There are five major sections in the platform including rule sets,

服务深度合成管理规定（征求意见稿）公开征求意见的通知] (Jan. 28, 2022),

https://www.cac.gov.cn/2022-01/28/c_1644970458520968.htm

¹³²¹ Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), *Notice on Public Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Measures for the Management of Generative Artificial Intelligence Services* [生成式人工智能服务管理办法（征求意见稿）公开征求意见的通知] (Apr. 11, 2023),

https://www.cac.gov.cn/2023-04/11/c_1682854275475410.htm?trk=public_post_comment-text

¹³²² Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), *Notice on Public Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Guidelines for the Construction of a Comprehensive Standardization System for the National Artificial Intelligence Industry* [公开征求对国家人工智能产业综合标准化体系建设指南（征求意见稿）的意见] (Jan. 17, 2024),

https://wap.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/gzdt/art/2024/art_956f95c93db8432e824b5e68dcc7d2fc.html

¹³²³ Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), *Notice on Public Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Measures for the Management of Artificial Intelligence Science & Technology Ethics Services (Trial)* [人工智能科技伦理管理服务办法（试行）（公开征求意见稿）] (Aug. 7, 2025),

https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/jscx/gjsfz/art/2025/art_092a447008f340d3abd55819b8c8e5cf.html

¹³²⁴ Steven J. Balla et al., *Notice the Comment?: Chinese Government Responsiveness to Public Participation in the Policymaking Process*, GW Regulatory Studies Center, George Washington University (Nov. 2022),

https://regulatorystudies.columbian.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs4751/files/2022-11/chinese_government_responsiveness_rsc_working_paper_zxie_11-30-2022.pdf; International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), *China: Constraints on Civil Society Participation and Access to the United Nations – 2025 Report* (Apr. 2025), https://ishr.ch/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ISHR-2025-Report_China-UN-Access-2.pdf

¹³²⁵ Fudan University, *Respond to the Challenges of Global AI Governance and Systematically Promote the Implementation of Governance Principles: "Dandelion" Artificial Intelligence Governance Open Platform Debuted at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference* [应对全球AI治

governance maps, risk displays, evaluation frameworks, and industry solutions. The rule set is dedicated to building a global governance knowledge base. Currently, about 1,500 marked rule documents have been included, including ethical principles, policy strategies, laws, regulations, and standards.

Data Protection

In recent years, China has introduced major data protection laws, including the Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) (effective from November 1, 2021) and the Data Security Law (DSL) (effective from September 1, 2021), together with a series of implementation regulations and administrative rules. The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) enforces data protection on a national level, though the CAC shares this responsibility with various local-level offices and the public security authority. China is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).¹³²⁶

The PIPL¹³²⁷ establishes a new comprehensive regulatory framework for personal information protection in China, requiring consent as the principal basis for data collection and handling, introducing provisions with extraterritorial effect, restricting cross border data transfers, and imposing significant revenue-based fines for non-compliant conduct. The law seeks to regulate how private companies collect and use personal rather than granting data subjects control over their data or providing redress mechanisms than data protection laws such as the EU GDPR.¹³²⁸ For example, the PIPL, allows the collection of unlimited amounts of personal data, including images, so long as it is done “for the purpose of safeguarding public security.”¹³²⁹ That is to say, the law does not limit the government’s ability to collect or store biometric data obtained through facial recognition.

理挑战 系统推进治理原则落地：“蒲公英”人工智能治理开放平台亮相2022世界人工智能大会
J (Sept. 4, 2022), <https://cs.fudan.edu.cn/f9/18/c24280a456984/page.htm>

¹³²⁶ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025),
<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹³²⁷ National People’s Congress (NPC), *Personal Information Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China* (Dec. 29, 2021), http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2021-12/29/c_694559.htm; China Briefing, *The PRC Personal Information Protection Law (Final): A Full Translation* (Aug. 24, 2021), <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/the-prc-personal-information-protection-law-final-a-full-translation/>

¹³²⁸ Gabriela Zanfir-Fortuna, *China’s Draft Personal Information Protection Law in 13 Key Points*, The StartUp (Nov. 3, 2020), <https://medium.com/swlh/chinas-draft-personal-information-protection-law-in-13-key-points-5a9b9cdcf02c>; Gil Zhang and Kate Yin, *A Look at China’s Draft of Personal Data Protection Law*, IAPP (Oct. 26, 2020), <https://iapp.org/news/a/a-look-at-chinas-draft-of-personal-data-protection-law/>

¹³²⁹ National People’s Congress (NPC), *Personal Information Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China* (Dec. 29, 2021), http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2021-12/29/c_694559.htm

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The PIPL does not assign responsibilities to government entities that collect personal data or guidance for who will be held responsible for data leaks. This becomes increasingly important with the rise of recent incidents of government leaks of the personal information of its citizens.¹³³⁰ Nevertheless, as the big data industry has been rapidly growing in China, the law provides more protection to users against unwanted data collection by private companies.

In March 2023, China's Ministry of Science and Technology established the National Data Administration (NDA). The NDA will be "responsible for the coordination and advancement of building the data factor system; for overall planning of the integrated sharing and development and use of data resources; for overall planning and advancement of Digital China, digital economy; and digital society plans and construction."¹³³¹ The new regulator will have responsibilities that were previously performed by the Cyberspace Administration of China and by the National Development and Reform Commission.¹³³²

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and National Data Bureau launched a high-quality data set initiative in 2025 aimed at supporting the AI+ action plan. This initiative focuses on curating structured data to enhance AI applications across public administration, finance, healthcare, and industrial automation. China seeks to establish greater reliability in AI-driven decision-making while reinforcing data sovereignty policies by providing AI models government-approved, high-integrity data for training.¹³³³

¹³³⁰ Financial Times, *China, Coronavirus and Surveillance: The Messy Reality of Personal Data* (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.ft.com/content/760142e6-740e-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca>; Paul Mozur, *China, Desperate to Stop Coronavirus, Turns Neighbor Against Neighbor*, New York Times (Feb. 3, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/business/china-coronavirus-wuhan-surveillance.html>; Chris Udemans, *Personal Data Leaks Spread along with Coronavirus Panic*, TechNode, (Feb. 3, 2020), <https://technode.com/2020/02/03/wuhan-data-leak-coronavirus/>

¹³³¹ State Council & Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, *Party and State Institutions Reform Plan* [党和国家机构改革方案] (Mar. 16, 2023), https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2023-03/16/content_5747072.htm; Graham Webster, *Translation: Establishing the National Data Administration*, DIGICHINA (Mar. 7, 2023), <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/translation-establishing-the-national-data-administration-march-2023/>

¹³³² Matt Sheehan, *China's AI Regulations and How They Get Made*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (July 10, 2023), <https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/07/10/china-s-ai-regulations-and-how-they-get-made-pub-90117>

¹³³³ National Development and Reform Commission, *The Kick-Off Meeting for the Construction of High-Quality Data Sets Was Held in Beijing* [高质量数据集建设工作启动会在京召开] (Feb. 21, 2025), https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/fzggw/wld/llh/zyhd/202502/t20250221_1396252.html

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Algorithmic Transparency

Article 4 of the Interim Measures for Generative Artificial Intelligence Services refers to “effective measures to increase transparency in generative AI services and to increase the accuracy and reliability of generated content” based on the service type. The National Information Security Standardization Technical Committee (T260) then released the Basic Requirements for Security of Generative Artificial Intelligence Service¹³³⁴ with specific requirements for providing users with information about the service and its functioning. Enforcement of those requirements is currently rolled out as an AI-content oversight campaign by Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).¹³³⁵ The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology’s target is that at least 60% of these prospective standards will be implemented in “general key technologies and application development projects,” with over 1,000 Chinese companies championing early adoption.¹³³⁶

Complementing these AI-content oversight efforts, the CAC announced new measures under the Clean Internet Platforms: Governance of Typical Algorithm Issues campaign in May 2025. The measures respond to public concerns over algorithm-driven content risks such as information cocoons and polarization by enhancing transparency and accountability in algorithmic recommendation systems across major platforms such as Douyin, Xiaohongshu, Weibo, Kuaishou, and WeChat Video Channel.¹³³⁷

¹³³⁴ Center for Security and Emerging Technology, *Translation: [...] Basic Safety Requirements for Generative Artificial Intelligence Services* (Apr. 4, 2024), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/china-safety-requirements-for-generative-ai-final/>; TC260, *Basic Security Requirements for Generative Artificial Intelligence Service* [生成式人工智能服务安全基本要求] (Feb 29, 2024), <https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp>; [permalink: <https://perma.cc/GU3Q-GAJ3>]

¹³³⁵ Global Times, *China's Cyberspace Regulator Launches Campaign to Oversee AI-Generated Content* (Mar. 15, 2024), <https://www.ecns.cn/news/sci-tech/2024-03-15/detail-ihcypky0579386.shtml>

¹³³⁶ Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, *Guidelines for the Construction of a National Comprehensive Standardization System for the Artificial Intelligence Industry (Draft Open for Public Comments)* [公开征求对“国家人工智能产业综合标准化体系建设指南”（征求意见稿）的意见] (Jan. 17, 2024),

https://www.miit.gov.cn/jgsj/kjs/gzdt/art/2024/art_956f95c93db8432e824b5e68dcc7d2fc.html; Josh Ye, *China Issues Draft Guidelines for Standardising AI Industry*, Reuters (Jan. 18, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/china-issues-draft-guidelines-standardising-ai-industry-2024-01-17/>

¹³³⁷ Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), *The Cyberspace Administration of China Continues to Strengthen the Governance of Information Recommendation Algorithms* [中央网信办持续加强信息推荐算法治理] (May 22, 2025), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2025-05/22/c_1749536203490537.htm

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The Provisions on the Management of Algorithmic Recommendations in Internet Information Services¹³³⁸ highlight the principles of “openness” and “transparency” while establishing legal liabilities for violations of these principles. Article 4 Chapter I emphasizes that “the provision of algorithm recommendation services shall comply with laws and regulations, respect social morality and ethics, abide by business ethics and professional ethics, and follow the principles of fairness, openness and transparency, scientific reasonableness, and good faith.” Companies shall be transparent regarding how their recommendation algorithms are trained and deployed, including which datasets the algorithm is trained on. Article 12 states, “Algorithmic recommendation service providers are encouraged to [...] optimize the transparency and understandability of search, ranking, selection, push notification, display, and other such norms, to avoid creating harmful influence on users, and prevent or reduce controversies or disputes.” Chapter V establishes clear legal liability for non-compliance to and violation of the Provisions, including “the suspension of information updates and a fine of between 10,000 and 10,000 RMB, administration punishments or sanctions such as ordering the closure of websites, revoking relevant business permits, or revoking business licenses.”

Article 24 Chapter II, Section 1 of the PIPL requires information processors using personal information in automatic decision-making to ensure “the transparency of decision-making and the fairness and justice of the results” and “shall not impose unreasonable differential treatment on individuals in terms of transaction price and other transaction conditions.” Article 24 also requires alternatives to algorithmic business marketing and information push be provided or “a convenient way for individuals to reject.” The article provides individuals adversely affected with the right an explanation and “to reject the decision made by the personal information processor only through automatic decision-making,”¹³³⁹

Social Governance

Social governance is another area in which AI is promoted as a strategic opportunity for China. The Chinese authorities focus on AI as a way of overcoming social problems and improving the welfare of citizens,¹³⁴⁰ specifically on healthcare

¹³³⁸ Cyberspace Administration of China, Ministry of Information and Industry Technology, Ministry of Public Security, and State Administration for Market Regulation, *Provisions on the Management of Algorithmic Recommendations in Internet Information Services* [互联网信息服务算法推荐管理规定] (Dec. 31, 2021), http://www.cac.gov.cn/2022-01/04/c_1642894606364259.htm

¹³³⁹ National People’s Congress (NPC), *Personal Information Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China* (Dec. 29, 2021), http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2021-12/29/c_694559.htm

¹³⁴⁰ Heilmann, *Big Data Reshapes China’s Approach to Governance*, Financial Times (2017), <https://www.ft.com/content/43170fd2-a46d-11e7-b797-b61809486fe2>

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reform,¹³⁴¹ environmental protection¹³⁴², the administration of justice,¹³⁴³ and the implementation of the Social Credit System or Social Score.¹³⁴⁴ Another concrete example of how China is using AI in social governance can be seen in the sphere of internal security and policing.

China has been at the forefront of the development of smart cities equipped with digital infrastructure cloud computing and computer vision. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), together with the National Data Administration (NDA) and other ministries, issued guidance to deepen smart city development and outlining China's plans to accelerate the integration of AI, big data, and cloud computing into urban governance and public services, with the goal of building livable, resilient, and efficiently managed smart cities nationwide by 2027.¹³⁴⁵ While the government emphasizes the convenience of smart cities, they also raise privacy and human rights concerns given their potential use for surveillance.¹³⁴⁶

Facial Recognition

As early as the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China began to deploy new technologies for mass surveillance.¹³⁴⁷ China put in place more than two million

¹³⁴¹ Andy Ho, *AI Can Solve China's Doctor Shortage. Here's how*, World Economic Forum (Sept. 17, 2018), <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/ai-can-solve-china-s-doctor-shortage-here-s-how/>

¹³⁴² Genia Kostka and Chunman Zhang, *Tightening the Grip: Environmental Governance under Xi Jinping*, *Environmental Politics*, 27(5):769–781 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2018.1491116>; People's Daily Online, *AI-Powered Waste Management Underway in China* (Feb. 26, 2019), <http://en.people.cn/n3/2019/0226/c98649-9549956.html>

¹³⁴³ Susan Finder, *China's Master Plan for Remaking Its Courts*, *The Diplomat* (Mar. 26, 2015), <https://thediplomat.com/2015/03/chinas-master-plan-for-remaking-its-courts/>; Anthony H.F. Li, *Centralization of Power in the Pursuit of Law-Based Governance: Legal Reform in China under the Xi Administration*, *China Perspectives* (2016), <https://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/6995>

¹³⁴⁴ Severine Arsene, *China's Social Credit System: A Chimera with Real Claws*, *Asie Visions* (Nov. 2019), https://www.ifri.org/sites/default/files/migrated_files/documents/atoms/files/arsene_china_social_credit_system_2019.pdf

¹³⁴⁵ State Council Information Office, *China Unveils Guideline to Promote Development of Smart Cities* (May 21, 2024), http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2024-05/21/content_117202227.htm

¹³⁴⁶ Umberto Bacchi, *'I know your favorite drink': Chinese Smart City to Put AI in Charge*, *Reuters* (Dec. 5, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/technology/i-know-your-favourite-drink-chinese-smart-city-to-put-ai-in-charge-idUSL8N2IJ24L/>

¹³⁴⁷ EPIC, *Privacy International, Privacy and Human Rights: An International Survey of Privacy Laws and Developments* (Report on People's Republic of China) (2006), http://www.worldlii.org/int/journals/EPICPrivHR/2006/PHR2006-People_s.html

CCTV cameras in Shenzhen, making it the most-watched city in the world.¹³⁴⁸ In recent years, the techniques for mass surveillance have expanded rapidly, most notably in Shenzhen, also to oversee the Muslim minority group the Uyghurs, and in Hong Kong. Modern systems for mass surveillance rely on AI techniques for such activities as facial recognition, communications analysis, and location tracking. As one industry publication has reported, “In the world of surveillance, no country invests more in its AI-fueled startups and growth-stage businesses than China. And no technology epitomizes this investment more than facial recognition—a technology that courts more controversy than almost any other.”¹³⁴⁹ Forbes continues, “But a thriving domestic tech base has done nothing to quell the concerns of citizens. China is held up as a Big Brother example of what should be avoided by campaigners in the West, but that doesn't help people living in China.”

However, the Supreme People's Court adopted and released provisions on civil cases relating to the use of facial recognition technology, which came into effect on August 1, 2021.¹³⁵⁰ The Provisions aim to “hear civil cases relating to the use of facial recognition technology in processing personal information, protect the lawful rights and interests of litigants, and promote the healthy development of the digital economy,” in accordance with related laws and codes.

In particular, the Supreme People's Court highlights that the Provisions apply to civil cases arising from violations of the provisions of laws, administrative regulations, or the agreement of both parties to process facial information, which refers to biometrics information or facial information generated through facial recognition technologies.¹³⁵¹ In this regard, the Provisions establish civil liabilities for the infringement of the rights and interests of natural persons in the process of biometrics data and information in the application of facial recognition technologies, which was republished and redistributed by local People's Courts.¹³⁵² Before the

¹³⁴⁸ Naomi Wolf, *China's All-Seeing Eye*, Rolling Stone (May 15, 2018), <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2008/05/15/chinas-all-seeing-eye>

¹³⁴⁹ Zak Doffman, *Hong Kong Exposes Both Sides of China's Relentless Facial Recognition Machine*, Forbes (Aug. 26, 2019), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2019/08/26/hong-kong-exposes-both-sides-of-chinas-relentless-facial-recognition-machine/>

¹³⁵⁰ Supreme People's Court, *Provisions on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in the Trial of Civil Cases Relating to the Use of Facial Recognition Technology to Process Personal Information* [中华人民共和国最高人民法院] (Jul. 27, 2021), <http://gongbao.court.gov.cn/Details/118ff4e615bc74154664ceaef3bf39.html>

¹³⁵¹ Ibid

¹³⁵² Henan Provincial Higher People's Court, *Provisions of the Supreme People's Court on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in the Trial of Civil Cases Related to the Use of Facial Recognition Technology to Process Personal Information* [最高人民法院关于审理使用人脸识别技术处理个人信息相关民事案件适用法律若干问题的规定] (Jan. 29, 2022), <http://pdszhfy.hncourt.gov.cn/public/detail.php?id=3181>

enforcement of the Provisions regulating facial recognition technology, the China Academy for Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), a national think tank administrated by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, initiated the Trustworthy Facial Recognition Protection Plan in response to issues including “privacy leakage, technology abuse, biases and discrimination” in the development and application of facial recognition technologies while encouraging self-discipline of the industry.¹³⁵³

There are many reports on China’s use of facial recognition technology against ethnic minorities.¹³⁵⁴ The discriminatory ways in which state organs, companies, and academics have researched, developed, and implemented facial recognition in China would seem not to comply with the OECD AI Principles or the Governance Principles for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence. The deployment of facial recognition has also provoked opposition within China.¹³⁵⁵ This gap between stated ethical principles and on-the-ground applications of AI demonstrates the weakness of unenforceable ethics statements.¹³⁵⁶

In September 2019, China’s information-technology ministry announced that telecom carriers must scan the face of anyone applying for mobile and internet service.¹³⁵⁷ There are over 850 million mobile Internet users in China. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong government invoked emergency powers in October 2019 to ban demonstrators from wearing face masks.¹³⁵⁸

Protests in Hong Kong over the use of facial surveillance are widespread. Umbrellas once used to deflect pepper spray, are now deployed to shield protester activities from the digital eyes of cameras.¹³⁵⁹ It is notable that the battle over the use

¹³⁵³ Biometric Update, *Telpo Joins Chinese Facial Recognition Best Practices Group* (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202202/telpo-joins-chinese-facial-recognition-best-practices-group>

¹³⁵⁴ Joi Ito, *My Talk at the MIT-Harvard Conference on the Uyghur Human Rights Crisis* (May 2, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.31859/20190502.0901>

¹³⁵⁵ Seungha Lee, *Coming into Focus: China’s Facial Recognition Regulations*, Center for Strategic and International Studies (May 4, 2020), <https://www.csis.org/blogs/trustee-china-hand/coming-focus-chinas-facial-recognition-regulations>

¹³⁵⁶ See the section of this country report, AI and Surveillance.

¹³⁵⁷ Jane Li, *Getting a New Mobile Number in China Will Involve a Facial Recognition Test*, Quartz (Oct. 3, 2019), <https://qz.com/1720832/china-introduces-facial-recognition-step-to-get-new-mobile-number/>

¹³⁵⁸ Ilara Maria Sala, *Hong Kong Is Turning to a 1922 Law That Was Used to Quell a Seamen’s Strike to Ban Face Masks*, Quartz (Oct. 4, 2019), <https://qz.com/1721951/anti-mask-law-the-1922-origins-of-hong-kongs-emergency-powers/>

¹³⁵⁹ Paul Mozur and Lin Qiqing, *Hong Kong Takes Symbolic Stand Against China’s High-Tech Controls*, New York Times (Oct. 3, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/03/technology/hong-kong-china-tech-surveillance.html>

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of facial surveillance in Hong Kong began with widespread public protests about a national security law that extended police authority over the semi-autonomous region.¹³⁶⁰ According to the AP, “Young Hong Kong residents protesting a proposed extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to China for the trial are seeking to safeguard their identities from potential retaliation by authorities employing mass data collection and sophisticated facial recognition technology.”¹³⁶¹

China is also exporting the model of mass surveillance by facial recognition to other parts of the world. A detailed report, published in *The Atlantic* in September 2020, stated that “Xi Jinping is using artificial intelligence to enhance his government’s totalitarian control—and he’s exporting this technology to regimes around the globe.”¹³⁶² According to *The Atlantic*, “Xi’s pronouncements on AI have a sinister edge. Artificial intelligence has applications in nearly every human domain, from the instant translation of spoken language to early viral outbreak detection. But Xi also wants to use AI’s awesome analytical powers to push China to the cutting edge of surveillance. He wants to build an all-seeing digital system of social control, patrolled by precog algorithms that identify potential dissenters in real-time.”

In September 2020, the United States State Department issued voluntary guidelines for American companies “to prevent their products or services [...] from being misused by government end-users to commit human rights abuses.”¹³⁶³ The report came amid growing concern that China is rapidly exporting its own surveillance capabilities to authoritarian regimes around the world, as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).¹³⁶⁴ But the Washington Post highlighted the ongoing role of US-made technology in the sweeping surveillance of China, and notably the

¹³⁶⁰ BBC, *Hong Kong Security Law: What Is It and Is It Worrying?* (Jun. 30, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-52765838>

¹³⁶¹ Christopher Bodeen, *Hong Kong Protesters Wary of Chinese Surveillance Technology* (Jun. 13, 2019), <https://apnews.com/article/028636932a874675a3a5749b7a533969>

¹³⁶² Ross Anderson, *The Panopticon Is Already Here*, *The Atlantic* (Sept. 2020), <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/09/china-ai-surveillance/614197/>

¹³⁶³ U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, *U.S. Department of State Guidance on Implementing the "UN Guiding Principles" for Transactions Linked to Foreign Government End-Users for Products or Services with Surveillance Capabilities* (Sept. 30, 2020), <https://2017-2021.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/due-diligence-guidance>

¹³⁶⁴ Abhijnan Rej, *US Issues Human Rights Guidelines for Exporters of Surveillance Tech: The Directions to American Businesses Come Amid Growing Concern Around China’s Export of Advanced Mass-Surveillance Capabilities to More Than 60 Countries*, *The Diplomat* (Oct. 2, 2020), <https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/us-issues-human-rights-guidelines-for-exporters-of-surveillance-tech/>

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Uighur Muslim minority.¹³⁶⁵ The Washington Post explained that “the aim is to monitor cars, phones, and faces—putting together patterns of behavior for ‘predictive policing’ that justifies snatching people off the street for imprisonment or so-called reeducation. This complex opened four years ago, and it operates on the power of chips manufactured by U.S. supercomputer companies Intel and Nvidia.” The Post editorial followed a New York Times investigation which found extensive involvement by U.S. firms in the Chinese surveillance industry.¹³⁶⁶

Facial recognition technology will also be pushed forward with the development of humanoid robots to be deployed across all sectors of social life by 2025.¹³⁶⁷ The draft Shenzhen Accelerates High-level Application Action Plan for Promoting the High-quality Development of Artificial Intelligence (2023–2024) released in May 2023 mentions the deployment of “general-purpose embodied intelligent robots” and “large-scale application of humanoid robots”.¹³⁶⁸

The Cyberspace Administration of China and Ministry of Public Security finalized regulations to standardize facial recognition usage and bolster personal data protection in March 2025. The regulations stipulate that the deployment of facial recognition must be lawful and not compromise national security, public welfare, or individual rights. Users must establish the necessity of the technology's use, advocate for minimal intrusion on personal rights, and mandate strict protection of collected data. Prior to collecting facial data, individuals must be clearly informed about the data collector's identity, the purpose of collection, processing methods, and data retention period. The regulations prohibit organizations and individuals from using misleading or coercive tactics to verify identities and from installing facial recognition equipment in private spaces such as hotel rooms, bathrooms, changing

¹³⁶⁵ Washington Post, Editorial, *US-Made Technologies Are Aiding China's Surveillance of Uighurs. How Should Washington Respond?* (Nov. 28, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/us-made-technologies-are-aiding-chinas-surveillance-of-uighurs-how-should-washington-respond/2020/11/26/0218bbb4-2dc9-11eb-bae0-50bb17126614_story.html

¹³⁶⁶ Paul Mazur and Don Clark, *China's Surveillance State Sucks Up Data. US Tech Is Key to Sorting It: Intel and Nvidia Chips Power a Supercomputing Center that Tracks People in a Place where Government Suppresses Minorities, Raising Questions about the Tech Industry's Responsibility* (Nov. 22, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/22/technology/china-intel-nvidia-xinjiang.html>

¹³⁶⁷ Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, *Guiding Opinions on the Innovation and Development of Humanoid Robots* [“人形机器人创新发展指导意见” 解读] (Nov. 2, 2023), https://www.miit.gov.cn/zwgk/zcjd/art/2023/art_e3f5686c2f0d49f9968b7ae011d558e1.html

¹³⁶⁸ General Office of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, *Shenzhen Action Plan to Accelerate the High-Quality Development and High-Level Application of Artificial Intelligence (2023-2024)* [“深圳市加快推动人工智能高质量发展高水平应用行动方案 (2023—2024年)” 发布] (May 31, 2023), <http://sz.people.com.cn/n2/2023/0531/c202846-40438647.html>

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rooms, and restrooms. Additionally, they call for measures like data encryption, security auditing, access control, and intrusion detection to protect collected facial recognition information.¹³⁶⁹

AI and Public Health

In China, the ultimate ambition of AI is to liberate data for public health purposes. The AIDP outlines the ambition to use AI to “strengthen epidemic intelligence monitoring, prevention and control,” and to “achieve breakthroughs in big data analysis, Internet of Things, and other key technologies” for the purpose of strengthening intelligent health management.¹³⁷⁰ The State Council’s 2016 official notice on the development and use of big data in the healthcare sector also explicitly states that health and medical big data sets are a national resource and that their development should be seen as a national priority to improve the nation’s health.¹³⁷¹ However, there is a rising concern that relaxed privacy rules and the transfer of personal data between government bodies will promote the collection and aggregation of health data without the need for individual consent.¹³⁷²

Beijing Municipal Health Commission strictly prohibited the use of AI for automatically generating medical prescriptions and regulated various online healthcare activities with the draft set of 41 rules, with the goal that AI “shall not replace the doctors to provide diagnosis and treatment services.”¹³⁷³

¹³⁶⁹ Ministry of Ecology and Environment Information Center, *Administrative Measures for the Safe Management of Facial Recognition Technology Applications* [人脸识别技术应用安全管理办法] (Mar. 25, 2025), http://www.chinaecic.net/xxgk/zcfg/202503/t20250325_1104616.html; State Council, *Facial Recognition Concerns Addressed*, China Daily (Mar. 22, 2025), https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/22/content_WS67de1eebc6d0868f4e8f10f5.html

¹³⁷⁰ State Council, *China's Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan* [国务院关于印发 新一代人工智能发展规划的通知] (Jul. 8, 2017), https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-07/20/content_5211996.htm; DIGICHINA, *Full Translation: China's "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" (2017)* (Aug. 1, 2017), <https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/full-translation-chinas-new-generation-artificial-intelligence-development-plan-2017/>

¹³⁷¹ Zhang Zhihao, *Scientist: China to Focus on Innovation to Boost Economy, Lives*, China Daily (Sept. 1, 2018), <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201801/09/WS5a543bd5a31008cf16da5fa9.html>

¹³⁷² Huw Roberts et al., *The Chinese Approach to Artificial Intelligence: An Analysis of Policy, Ethics, and Regulation*, AI and Society (Jun. 17, 2020), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-020-00992-2>

¹³⁷³ OECD, *Beijing Drafts Regulations to Limit Use of A.I. in Health Care* (Aug. 25, 2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/incidents/39033>

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Use of AI in COVID-19 Response

In June 2020, the State Council released a White Paper, entitled “Fighting COVID-19: China in Action,” which provides that China has “fully utilized” artificial intelligence to not only research, analyze, and forecast COVID-19 trends and developments, but also to track infected persons, identify risk groups, and facilitate the resumption of normal business operations.”¹³⁷⁴ During the pandemic, China has used AI for surveillance of infected individuals and medical imaging. China also sought to reduce human interaction by using computers and robots for various purposes and has proven to be very effective in reducing exposure, providing necessary services such as assistance for healthcare professionals, improving efficiency in hospitals, and precautionary measures for returning to normal business operations.¹³⁷⁵

Environmental Impact of AI

Policy initiatives in 2025 began to implement standards established in 2024 to steer industrial development toward more sustainable practices.¹³⁷⁶ The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), along with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) 2024 Action Plan aims to reduce the average power usage effectiveness (PUE) of data centers to below 1.5 by 2025. The plan also seeks to increase the utilization rate of renewable energy in data centers by 10 percent annually.¹³⁷⁷ These measures include enhanced fiscal support for green technologies, streamlined foreign investment in strategic sectors, and a focus on digital transformation—all aimed at boosting energy efficiency and accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources in industries such as high-end manufacturing and data centers.¹³⁷⁸

¹³⁷⁴ State Council Information Office, *Full Text: Fighting COVID-19: China in Action*, Xinhua News via the State Council (June 7, 2020), <https://archive.vn/NYJQg>

¹³⁷⁵ Emily Weinstein, *China’s Use of AI in Its COVID-19 Response*, Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Aug. 2020), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/research/chinas-use-of-ai-in-its-covid-19-response/>

¹³⁷⁶ Cyberspace Administration of China, *Notice of Four Departments on Issuing the Guidelines for the Construction of the National Artificial Intelligence Industry Comprehensive Standardization System (2024 Edition)* [四部门关于印发国家人工智能产业综合标准化体系建设指南（2024版）的通知] (Jul. 3, 2024), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2024-07/03/c_1721686809220407.htm

¹³⁷⁷ State Council, *China Sets Green Targets for Data Centers* (Jul. 24, 2025), https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202407/24/content_WS66a0b167c6d0868f4e8e96ba.html

¹³⁷⁸ China Briefing, *The Policies Shaping China’s Industry Landscape in 2025*, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-policy-driven-industrial-initiatives-2025/>; see also, National Development and Reform Commission & National Energy Administration, *China Unveils AI–Energy Integration*

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At the municipal level, the city of Shenzhen, known as the ‘Chinese Silicon Valley’ for its vibrant technology ecosystem, has implemented regulations to promote the development of green AI data centers. The city's government is tasked with improving the evaluation system for AI data centers and setting higher energy efficiency standards to build environmentally friendly facilities that support AI development.¹³⁷⁹

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2024 Shanghai Declaration on Global AI Governance affirmed China’s commitment to protecting the health of the environment while pursuing its National AI Strategy.¹³⁸⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

China has pursued AI development in the military since 2017 while calling on countries to “exercise restraint”¹³⁸¹ in developing AI weapons to ensure they comply with international humanitarian law. The AIDP states that “the development of AI [is] a major strategy to enhance national competitiveness and protect national security” and that China will “promote all kinds of AI technology to become quickly embedded in the field of national defense innovation.”¹³⁸² Military and defense leaders echoed these sentiments that AI in the military was inevitable both on the battlefield and in decision-making,¹³⁸³ and their commitment to ensuring China’s military leads these innovations.¹³⁸⁴ These sentiments are shared by academics from

Plan to Spur Green, Low-Carbon Transition (Sept. 8, 2025),

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202509/08/content_WS68be8c3ec6d0868f4e8f566d.html

¹³⁷⁹ Justice Bureau of Shenzhen, *527 Regulations of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone on Promoting the Artificial Intelligence Industry* (Aug. 30, 2022),

https://sf.sz.gov.cn/fggzywyb/content/post_11216296.html

¹³⁸⁰ Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Full Text: Shanghai Declaration on Global AI Governance* (Jul. 4, 2024), https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202407/t20240704_11448351.html

¹³⁸¹ Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to UN, *Statement by Chinese Delegation at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons at the 80th Session of the UNGA First Committee* (Oct. 23, 2025), https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/chinaandun/disarmament_armscontrol/202510/t20251024_11739691.htm

¹³⁸² State Council, *China’s Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan* [国务院关于印发 新一代人工智能发展规划的通知] (Jul. 8, 2017), https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-07/20/content_5211996.htm

¹³⁸³ Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, *Beijing Xiangshan Forum and the New Global Security Landscape*, East Asia Forum (Dec. 1, 2018), <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/12/01/beijing-xiangshan-forum-and-the-new-global-security-landscape/>

¹³⁸⁴ Elsa Kania, *AlphaGo and Beyond: The Chinese Military Looks to Future ‘Intelligentized’ Warfare*, Lawfare (Jun. 5, 2017), <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/alphago-and-beyond-chinese-military-looks-future-intelligentized-warfare>

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the People's Liberation Army (PLA) who believe that AI will be used to predict battlefield situations and outpace human decision-making.¹³⁸⁵

In 2018, China's Ministry of National Defense established two major research organizations focused on AI and unmanned systems: the Unmanned Systems Research Center (USRC) and the Artificial Intelligence Research Center (AIRC).¹³⁸⁶ According to some experts, China is pursuing the most aggressive strategy for developing AI for military uses among the major military powers.¹³⁸⁷

In the official position on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, China maintains that both the common security and the dignity of mankind should be safeguarded through an international treaty. China's contribution to the UN Secretary General report on LAWS continued this emphasis and called for "an agreed understanding on key elements and technical characteristics" of LAWS to "formulate targeted measures and negotiate a legally binding international instrument" while avoiding "blanket bans or restrictions" that could "undermine States' legitimate defence capabilities" and "their right to the peaceful use of these technologies."¹³⁸⁸

China recently stressed that the CCW is the best place for these discussions.¹³⁸⁹ China has consistently supported agree-upon definitions as the basis for an international treaty and the need to avoid an AI arms race in discussions at the UN,¹³⁹⁰ GGE on LAWS,¹³⁹¹ and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

¹³⁸⁵ Elsa B. Kania, 杀手锏和跨越发展: *Trump Cards and Leapfrogging*, Strategy Bridge (Sept. 6, 2017), <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/9/5/-and-trump-cards-and-leapfrogging>

¹³⁸⁶ Gregory C. Allen, *Understanding China's AI Strategy: Clues to Chinese Strategic Thinking on Artificial Intelligence and National Security*, Center for a New American Security (Feb. 6, 2019), <https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/understanding-chinas-ai-strategy>

¹³⁸⁷ Adrian Pecotic, *Whoever Predicts the Future Will Win the AI Arms Race*, Foreign Policy (Mar. 5, 2019), <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/03/05/whoever-predicts-the-future-correctly-will-win-the-ai-arms-race-russia-china-united-states-artificial-intelligence-defense/>

¹³⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

¹³⁸⁹ Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to UN, *Statement by Chinese Delegation at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons at the 80th Session of the UNGA First Committee* (Oct. 23, 2025), https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/chinaandun/disarmament_armscontrol/202510/t20251024_11739691.htm

¹³⁹⁰ Chinese Ambassador Shen Jian, Statement by H.E. Ambassador Shen Jian at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons of the 78th Session of UNGA First Committee (Oct. 25, 2023), http://geneva.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/dbtxwx/202310/t20231025_11167472.htm; UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>; United Nations, *Fourteen New Drafts, Including on Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Military Domain, Approved in First Committee by 34 Votes* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gadis3757.doc.htm>

¹³⁹¹ China, *Working Paper of the People's Republic of China on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Jul. 1, 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Working-Paper-of->

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(CCW). China’s position that international negotiations for a treaty related to LAWS should happen in the CCW may account for the country’s abstention from the widely accepted Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons (L.56) at the 78th UN General Assembly.¹³⁹²

China attended the first summit on Responsible AI in the Military Domain—REAIM 2023 hosted by the Netherlands. The summit provided a platform for all stakeholders (governments, industry, civil society, academia, and think tanks) to forge a common understanding of the opportunities, dilemmas, and vulnerabilities associated with military AI.¹³⁹³ China is one of the 57 endorsing countries that underlined the need to put the responsible use of AI higher on the political agenda and to further promote initiatives that make a contribution to this respect. However, China did not endorse the “Blueprint for AI Action” to govern responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military that was supported by 61 countries.¹³⁹⁴

AI Literacy

The Beijing Municipal Education Commission announced in March 2025 that AI education will become mandatory across all levels of compulsory schooling, from elementary to high school, beginning Fall 2025. Schools will offer at least 8 hours of AI curriculum per year, with methods adapted for the grade level. Courses may be integrated with others subjects or stand alone. The plan responds to the rapid expansion of the AI industry in China and is an effort “to nurture future-oriented and innovative talent.”¹³⁹⁵

Human Rights

China has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As a party to the UDHR, China shall recognize “the inherent dignity” of all human beings and secure their fundamental rights to privacy. Privacy rights are guaranteed to Chinese

[the-Peoples-Republic-of-China-on-Lethal-Autonomous-Weapons-Systems%E0%BC%88English%E0%BC%89.pdf](#)

¹³⁹² UN General Assembly, *Resolution L.56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, A/C.1/78/L.56 (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹³⁹³ REAIM 2023 *Endorsing Countries* (Feb. 15–16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-endorsing-countries>

¹³⁹⁴ Reuters, *Sixty Countries Endorse 'Blueprint' for AI Use in Military; China Opts Out* (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/south-korea-summit-announces-blueprint-using-ai-military-2024-09-10/>

¹³⁹⁵ State Council, *Beijing to Introduce AI Course across Primary, Secondary Schools*, China Daily (Mar. 12, 2025), https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/12/content_WS67d18e9ec6d0868f4e8f0c40.html

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citizens under the Constitution. However, Article 40 of the constitution justifies the invasion of privacy “to meet the needs of State security.” Furthermore, the provisions of the Constitution are not directly enforceable since there is neither a constitutional court nor any possibility to assert constitutional rights.¹³⁹⁶ Relatedly, problematic exemptions for the collection and use of data, when it is related to security, health, or the flexibly interpretable “significant public interests”¹³⁹⁷ contribute to weak data protection in China.

Freedom House classifies China as Not Free with a total score of 9/100¹³⁹⁸ and a negative score of -2/40 for political rights. Freedom House Report cites increasing repression as the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) tightens control over all aspects of life and governance, including the state bureaucracy, the media, online speech, religious practice, universities, businesses, and civil society associations. Human Rights Watch concurs with the assessment of government repression, citing mass detentions in Xinjiang, suppression of civil society, and the continued dismantling of freedoms in Hong Kong under the 2020 national security legislation.¹³⁹⁹ According to Decoding China, while the United Nations defines human rights as universal and intrinsic to all human beings, China argues that “sovereignty and non-interference trump the notion of universal human rights” and maintains rights are internal affairs rather than a matter of international oversight.¹⁴⁰⁰

Global AI Governance

In October of 2023, China suggested the establishment of a Global AI Governance Initiative.¹⁴⁰¹ In its announcement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on countries to strengthen cooperation on the governance of AI. After stressing the “unpredictable risks and complicated challenges” posed by AI, the Ministry highlighted the need to “uphold a people-centered approach in developing AI,” to “respect other countries’ national sovereignty and strictly abide by their laws when providing them with AI products and services.” The Ministry stated, “We oppose

¹³⁹⁶ Graham Greenleaf, *Data Privacy Laws in Asia: Context and History*, p. 196 (2014); Anja Geller, *How Comprehensive Is Chinese Data Protection Law from a European Perspective?* GRUR International 69, no. 12, pp. 1191–1203 (Dec. 2020), <https://academic.oup.com/grurint/article/69/12/1191/5909207>

¹³⁹⁷ Samm Sacks, *New China Data Privacy Standard Looks More Far-Reaching than GDPR*, Center for Strategic and International Studies (2018), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/new-china-data-privacy-standard-looks-more-far-reaching-gdpr>

¹³⁹⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: China* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/china/freedom-world/2025>

¹³⁹⁹ Human Rights Watch, *China and Tibet* (2025), <https://www.hrw.org/asia/china-and-tibet>

¹⁴⁰⁰ Decoding China, *Human Rights* (2025), <https://decodingchina.eu/key-term/human-rights/>

¹⁴⁰¹ Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Global AI Governance Initiative* (Oct. 20, 2023), https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/zy/gb/202405/t20240531_11367503.html

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using AI technologies for the purposes of manipulating public opinion, spreading disinformation, intervening in other countries' internal affairs, social systems and social order, as well as jeopardizing the sovereignty of other states.” The Ministry indirectly called out US restrictions regarding export controls on AI chips and chipmaking tools, stating: “We oppose drawing ideological lines or forming exclusive groups to obstruct other countries from developing AI. We also oppose creating barriers and disrupting the global AI supply chain through technological monopolies and unilateral coercive measures. [...] We should increase the representation and voice of developing countries in global AI governance, and ensure equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal rules for all countries in AI development and governance.”¹⁴⁰²

China hosted the World Artificial Intelligence Conference and High-Level Meetings on Global AI Governance in July 2025, where it released the Global AI Governance Action Plan (2025).¹⁴⁰³ The plan calls for global cooperation to ensure AI's “safety, reliability, controllability, and fairness,” while aligning with the UN Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact. The plan advances 13 priority actions, including promoting sustainable AI, improving risk assessment and safety governance, strengthening technical standards, empowering the Global South through capacity building, and developing an inclusive multi-stakeholder governance model.

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, China participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.¹⁴⁰⁴ Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

At the 2025 AI Safety Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit, President Xi Jinping's special representative, Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, stated that China is prepared to work with other nations to promote AI development, safeguard

¹⁴⁰² See most recently, Reuters, *US Updates Export Curbs on AI Chips and Tools to China* (Mar. 30, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/us-commerce-updates-export-curbs-ai-chips-china-2024-03-29/>

¹⁴⁰³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, *Global AI Governance Action Plan Released at the 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference* (Jul. 26, 2025), https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zyxw/202507/t20250729_11679232.html

¹⁴⁰⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister's Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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security, and share technological achievements.¹⁴⁰⁵ He noted that AI is driving a new technological revolution and referenced the Global Initiative for AI Governance introduced in October 2023. Zhang called for international collaboration to develop AI for good, enhance innovation, and improve global governance. China was among the China was among the approximately 60 countries and international organizations to sign the outcome document, Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.¹⁴⁰⁶

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As a member of the G20, China is bound by the G20 AI Guidelines, which were drawn from the OECD Principles.¹⁴⁰⁷ China also adopted the G20 Ministerial Declaration in September 2024, reaffirming its commitment to ethical AI for inclusive sustainable development, aiming to drive growth, reduce inequality, and mitigate risks.¹⁴⁰⁸ China's Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative¹⁴⁰⁹ and the Global AI Governance Action Plan¹⁴¹⁰ share several core themes with the OECD AI Principles, including safety, fairness, inclusiveness, and international cooperation.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

China neither signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty nor participated in its elaboration.¹⁴¹¹ China will be eligible to accede to the Framework Convention on

¹⁴⁰⁵ State Council, *China Willing to Promote AI Development with Other Countries: Chinese Vice Premier* (Feb. 12, 2025),

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202502/12/content_WS67abd3cbc6d0868f4e8ef92e.html

¹⁴⁰⁶ Élysée Palace (Government of the French Republic), *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025),

<https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

¹⁴⁰⁷ OECD, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024),

<https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

¹⁴⁰⁸ G7G20 Documents Database, *G20 DEWG Maceio Ministerial Declaration* (Sept. 13, 2024),

<https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-digital-economy-ministers-ministers-language-g20-dewg-maceio-ministerial-declaration>

¹⁴⁰⁹ Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), *Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative* [全球人工智能治理倡议] (Oct. 18, 2023), https://www.cac.gov.cn/2023-10/18/c_1699291032884978.htm

¹⁴¹⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Global AI Governance Action Plan* (Jul. 26, 2025),

https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202507/t20250729_11679232.html

¹⁴¹¹ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Dec. 19, 2025),

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

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Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law only after this first international treaty enters into force.¹⁴¹²

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As Member of the UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group on AI Ethics, Zeng Yi, Director of the Sino-British Research Centre for AI Ethics and Governance, Institute of Automation, at the Chinese Academy of Sciences as well as Member of the National New Generation AI Governance Professional Committee, actively participated in the drafting and formulation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.¹⁴¹³ According to Zeng Yi, “the Recommendation is the most widely reached consensus worldwide at the governmental level, which will become a benchmark for reference to the development of AI ethics related international standards and international law.”

The value of “harmonious coexistence,” as Zeng Yi pointed out in the formulation of the Recommendation, contributes to the harmonious development of human society coexisting with AI technologies as well as the empowerment of human development, society, and ecology by AI.¹⁴¹⁴ “Harmonious coexistence” is reflected in China’s New Generation Artificial Intelligence Governance Principles¹⁴¹⁵ (Governance Principles) and New Generation Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics¹⁴¹⁶ (Code of Ethics) formulated by the National New Generation AI Governance Professional Committee, which shows similar visions with the Recommendation.

Another shared vision concerns sustainable development. Zhang Yi’s proposal for the sustainable development of AI was accepted by the Recommendation in the policy section, which provided suggestions for achieving sustainability through deploying AI in the field of environment. At the national level,

¹⁴¹² Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁴¹³ Chinese Academy of Science, *Artificial Intelligence Ethics Is on a New Journey towards a Global Consensus*, [人工智能伦理迈向全球共识新征程], Chinese Journal of Science and Technology (Dec. 2, 2021), https://www.cas.cn/cm/202112/t20211203_4817066.shtml

¹⁴¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁴¹⁵ Ministry of Science and Technology, *Developing Responsible AI: Next Generation AI Governance Principles Released* (Jun. 17, 2019), https://www.most.gov.cn/kjbgz/201906/t20190617_147107.html

¹⁴¹⁶ Ministry of Science and Technology, *New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Code of Ethics* [“新一代人工智能伦理规范”发布] (Sept. 26, 2021), <https://perma.cc/RC4V-Q2FX>; Center for Security and Emerging Technology, *Ethical Norms for New Generation Artificial Intelligence Released* [English translation] (Oct. 12, 2021), https://csset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/t0400_AI_ethical_norms_EN.pdf

both the Governance Principles and the Code of Ethics issued by China consider sustainable development as the overall vision and objective for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence.¹⁴¹⁷

Since the publication of the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, Chinese mainstream news media, think tanks, research institutions, and organizations actively interpreted, reposted, and communicated the Recommendation to the wider public in China. China has not implemented nor is in the process of implementing the UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).¹⁴¹⁸

Evaluation

China is one of the first AI superpowers implementing the ambitious plan of leading the world in AI by 2030. The country has endorsed principles on AI ethics, enforced a new law on data protection, and adopted a comprehensive set of regulations on AI. However, concerns exist that the main objective of China's legislative frenzy is not to protect human rights but to make sure that the government controls and monitors the digital world as much as it does the physical world. The validation of the use of facial recognition for public security purposes in the data protection law and the enforcement mechanisms and sanction regimes to regulate AI are some cases in point. The use of AI technology and facial recognition against minorities and dissidents is also of concern.

China has participated in international efforts to create an ethical AI framework, including representatives contributing to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and forming the Global AI Governance Initiative. These efforts suggest a willingness to establish some common understandings in international AI governance or, absent meaningful action to implement international frameworks, signal China's international status as an AI superpower.

¹⁴¹⁷ Chinese Academy of Science, *Artificial Intelligence Ethics is on a New Journey towards a Global Consensus*, Chinese Journal of Science and Technology (Dec. 2, 2021), https://www.cas.cn/cm/202112/t20211203_4817066.shtml

¹⁴¹⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

Colombia

In 2025, Colombia approved the National AI Policy to foster ethical and sustainable use and development of AI. The country also became the first country to formally adopt the UNESCO Guidelines for the Use of AI in the Judicial System.

National AI Strategy

“In an increasingly digital world, artificial intelligence is presented as a fundamental tool that can positively shape the future of our nation. However, we recognize that this power must be guided by solid ethical principles and a strategic vision that guarantees the well-being of all Colombians” said the Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation Yesenia Olaya, during the launch of the AI Roadmap to ensure the ethical and sustainable adoption of AI in Colombia in February 2024.¹⁴¹⁹

The Roadmap centers ethical and sustainable adoption and identifies challenges to that objective. Ethics and Governance, including a dedicated section on algorithmic transparency, is one of five key themes.¹⁴²⁰ The goal is to establish and strengthen the legal and regulatory AI framework to tackle ethical challenges posed by AI. The other strategic centers are Education, research, and innovation; Data and Organizations; Innovative and emerging industries; Privacy, cybersecurity, and defense. The AI Roadmap not only promotes scientific integrity in the development of technological solutions but also seeks to establish effective governance structures that ensure its ethical application of artificial intelligence in solving social, economic, and environmental challenges at the national level.

The Roadmap serves as the basis for the National AI Policy by the National Council of Economic and Social Policy (*Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social, CONPES*) approved in 2025.¹⁴²¹ The National AI Policy aims to “foster capacity in research, development, adoption, and the ethical and sustainable use of

¹⁴¹⁹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencia), *Colombia ya cuenta con una Hoja de Ruta en Inteligencia Artificial* (Feb. 12, 2024), https://minciencias.gov.co/sala_de_prensa/colombia-ya-cuenta-con-una-hoja-ruta-en-inteligencia-artificial

¹⁴²⁰ MinCiencia, *Roadmap for the Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Colombia [Hoja de Ruta para el Desarrollo y Aplicación de la Inteligencia Artificial en Colombia]*, p. 16 (Feb. 2024), https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/upload/noticias/hoja_de_ruta_adopcion_etica_y_sostenible_de_inteligencia_artificial_colombia_0.pdf

¹⁴²¹ Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social (CONPES), *Document 4144: National Artificial Intelligence Policy [Documento 4144: Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, approved version (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Economicos/4144.pdf>

AI systems to promote social and economic transformation in Colombia.”¹⁴²² The strategy outlines 106 actionable measures across six specific objectives: 1) Strengthen governance and application of ethical principles; 2) Strengthen ethics and governance, data infrastructure, research and innovation, talent development, risk mitigation, and sectoral AI adoption. The policy proposes regulatory sandboxes and ethical frameworks to safely test AI technologies in real-world contexts and identifies work in progress under the executive branch to develop a legal framework for governing AI.¹⁴²³ Training and mentorship programs aimed at increasing women’s participation in AI policymaking are intended to alleviate the gender gap in technology.

The national policy builds on earlier actions and policies across sectors and strategic work areas to create the conditions to support ethical and sustainable AI.¹⁴²⁴ These initiatives began with the National Policy for Digital Transformation and AI¹⁴²⁵ in 2019, led by the National Planning Department (*Departamento Nacional de Planeación*, DNP), the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (*Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones*, MinTIC), and the Office of the President. The Strategy introduced social and economic conditions that facilitate the development of AI by creating a flexible framework of principles and guidelines rather than a rule-based structure. These consultations helped define goals of the National Development Plan 2022–2026 “Colombia World Power of Life,” adopted in May 2023¹⁴²⁶ and the National Digital Strategy 2023–2026, issued in February 2024.¹⁴²⁷

Colombia’s Ethical Framework for AI,¹⁴²⁸ according to President Iván Duque, provides “tools that strengthen the principle of democracy, free competition

¹⁴²² Ibid, p. 3

¹⁴²³ Ibid, p. 83

¹⁴²⁴ Ibid, pp. 17–34

¹⁴²⁵ Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (MinTIC), Departamento Nacional de Planeación y la Presidencia, *National Policy for Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence* (CONPES No. 3975) (Nov. 8, 2019), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/3975.pdf>

¹⁴²⁶ Luis Eudoro Vammejo Zamudio, *The National Development Plan 2022–2026: Columbia, World Power of Life*, Editorial, Apuntes del Cenes (Nov. 20, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.19053/01203053.v42.n76.2023.16467>

¹⁴²⁷ Departamento Nacional de Planeación, *The Government of Change Presents the National Digital Strategy 2023–2026* [*El Gobierno del Cambio presenta la Estrategia Nacional Digital 2023–2026*] (Feb. 7, 2024), <https://www.dnp.gov.co/Prensa/Noticias/Paginas/gobierno-del-cambio-presenta-estrategia-nacional-digital-2023-2026.aspx>

¹⁴²⁸ Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (MinTIC), *Colombia Early Adopter in the Region of the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* [*Colombia adopta de forma temprana recomendaciones de ética en Inteligencia Artificial de la Unesco para la región*] (Mar. 9, 2022),

and equity.”¹⁴²⁹ The principles in the Framework—transparency, explainability, privacy, human control over decisions, security, responsibility, non-discrimination, and inclusion—also underline the National AI Policy.¹⁴³⁰

The National AI Policy’s first action item details that the MinTIC; Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (*Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación*, MinCiencias); and National Planning Department to coordinate with the Administrative Department of the Presidency (*Departamento Administrativo de la Presidencia de la República*, DAPRE) “will define and implement the governance model for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and then formalize it through a normative instrument.”¹⁴³¹ A bill for governing AI submitted to the Senate¹⁴³² by the MinTIC and MinCiencia in May 2025 names the MinCiencias the National Authority for Artificial Intelligence, charged with implementing the law. MinCiencias would also be in charge of overseeing and enforcing the standards and mechanisms in coordination with MinTIC and other entities. A draft law by representatives in the House (*Cámara de Representantes*) was submitted in July.¹⁴³³

Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence

In Colombia, the aim of the Ethical Framework for AI is to address concerns arising from the implementation of emerging technologies such as AI.¹⁴³⁴ The Ethical

<https://mintic.gov.co/portal/inicio/Sala-de-prensa/Noticias/208109:Colombia-adopta-de-forma-temprana-recomendaciones-de-etica-en-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Unesco-para-la-region>

¹⁴²⁹ Diario La Libertad, *With the Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence, Colombia Is at the Forefront in Latin America*: Duque, Diario la Libertad (Nov. 25, 2020),

<https://diariolalibertad.com/sitio/2020/11/25/con-el-marco-etico-de-inteligencia-artificial-colombia-se-pone-a-la-vanguardia-en-america-latina-duque/>

¹⁴³⁰ Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social, *Document 4144: National Artificial Intelligence Policy [Documento 4144: Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, approved version (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Economicos/4144.pdf>

¹⁴³¹ Ibid, p. 83

¹⁴³² Ministerio de la Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación y Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (MinTIC), *Proyecto de Ley “Por medio del cual se regula la inteligencia artificial en Colombia para garantizar su desarrollo ético y responsable y se dictan otras disposiciones”*, pp. 70–73 (May 7, 2025),

https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/upload/noticias/pl_ia_finalizado.pdf

¹⁴³³ Cámara de Representantes, *Bill for Artificial Intelligence Law for Psychosocial Protection and Digital Equity [Proyecto de Ley: Ley de Inteligencia Artificial para la protección psicosocial y la equidad digital]* (Jul. 20 2025), https://www.camara.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/proyectos-ley/documentos/proyecto-33950/p_1_098_2025sc_marco_regulatorio_de_inteligencia_artificial-f6c87c61.pdf

¹⁴³⁴ The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), *Why Has Colombia Positioned Itself as a Regional Leader on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 14, 2021), <https://www.caf.com/es/conocimiento/visiones/2021/09/por-que-colombia-se-ha-posicionado-como-lider-regional-en-inteligencia-artificial/>

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Framework for AI was developed around ethical principles that can serve as a criterion for evaluating the different uses and challenges that arise in this respect. The Ethical Framework for AI was developed as a tool that can be applied to different sectors taking into consideration the diversity of interests and opinions around the use of AI. The ten principles provided by the framework to guide the design, development, implementation and evaluation of AI systems include transparency, explainability, privacy, human oversight over AI decisions, security, responsibility, non-discrimination, inclusion, prevalence of the rights of children and adolescents, and social benefit.¹⁴³⁵

The framework also proposes an ethical algorithm register in which entities periodically report what their AI project is about, how they are implementing the AI ethics principles, and the ethical risks to the use of AI in their project. The register allows for the monitoring of progress in the implementation of AI principles and reinforces citizen participation by inviting their comments or questions on policies, good practices and projects related to AI.¹⁴³⁶ The DAPRE and the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce (*Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio*, SIC) are responsible for monitoring AI projects. The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce monitors AI projects by carrying out the Data privacy regulatory Sandbox.¹⁴³⁷ The ethical algorithm register of Colombia is based on the models of Amsterdam and Helsinki.¹⁴³⁸

Regulatory Sandboxes and Beaches

Colombia has adopted a smart regulation approach to AI through regulatory sandboxes and beaches. This controlled environment was set up to experiment and test AI systems in the local context, to identify technical and governance flaws while promoting innovation.¹⁴³⁹

¹⁴³⁵ Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, *Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Colombia* [English draft version] (Aug. 2020), https://cyber.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/2020-12/Colombia_AI_Ethical_Framework.pdf

¹⁴³⁶ Presidencia, *Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Colombia* [Marco ético para la Inteligencia Artificial en Colombia] (May 2021), <https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/marco-etico-ia-colombia-2021.pdf>

¹⁴³⁷ Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, *Sandbox on Privacy by Design and Default in Artificial Intelligence Projects* [Sandbox sobre privacidad desde el diseño y por defecto en proyecto de inteligencia artificial], <https://www.sic.gov.co/sandbox-microsite>

¹⁴³⁸ Center for Technology and Society Studies (CETyS) of the University of San Andrés, *The Colombian Case: Adopting collaborative governance as a path for implementing ethical artificial intelligence* (2021), <https://repositorio.udesa.edu.ar/items/c2d4a6b9-0268-4d44-b348-6c84018b8c79>

¹⁴³⁹ Global Policy Journal, *The Colombia Case: A New Path for Developing Countries Addressing the Risks of Artificial Intelligence* (May 2021), <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/sites/default/files/pdf/Mu%C3%B1oz,%20Uribe%20and%20Espa%C3%B1ol%20->

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At first, a Draft Model Concept for the Design of Regulatory Sandboxes and Beaches in AI was published in August 2020 with public comments received from various stakeholders.¹⁴⁴⁰ The purpose of this policy was to understand technology before trying to regulate it, by balancing precaution with experimentation and learning. The document suggests a process of implementation that includes (1) defining a policy leadership to implement public policy; (2) defining emerging technologies and preliminary problems to be addressed; (3) completing a regulatory mapping of the impacted sector; (4) selecting a public entity to perform inspection and surveillance functions; (5) capacity building and training; (6) creating working groups; (7) designing a risk model and defining possible risks; (8) setting out a selection criteria for the risks; (9) designing the sandbox; (10) sharing the project for comment; (11) publishing and implementing; and (12) reporting on the findings and evidence.¹⁴⁴¹

A policy proposing a regulatory sandbox for Privacy and AI was open for public comments by the DAPRE and the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce until November 30 2021 Superintendency. The regulatory sandbox here is meant to be preventive, so AI systems related to e-commerce, advertising and marketing protect personal data from the stage of design to execution, using tools like privacy impact assessments and privacy by design. It proposes (1) criteria to ensure compliance with regulation on data processing in AI; (2) proper processing of personal data in all stages of an AI project; (3) creation of AI products that respects individual rights to personal data; (4) advice to companies on the protection of personal data in AI systems; (5) adoption of a preventive approach to protect human rights in AI projects; (6) suggestion of amendments or modifications to Colombian regulations on technological advances.¹⁴⁴²

The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce released a final document governing privacy by design and by default in AI projects in April 2021 and the government approved the first proposals under the sandbox program in August 2021.¹⁴⁴³ The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce's sandbox for Privacy and AI started operating during 2021, and on January 2022, selected a first project.¹⁴⁴⁴

[%20The%20Colombian%20Case,%20A%20New%20Path%20for%20Developing%20Countries%20Addressing%20the%20Risks%20of%20Artificial%20intelligence_0.pdf](#)

¹⁴⁴⁰ Armando Guío Español, *Model Concept for the Design of Regulatory Sandboxes & Beaches in AI* (Aug. 2020),

<https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/AtencionCiudadana/DocumentosConsulta/consulta-200820-MODELO-CONCEPTUAL-DISENO-REGULATORY-SANDBOXES-BEACHES-IA.pdf>

¹⁴⁴¹ Ibid

¹⁴⁴² Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, *Sandbox on Privacy by Design and by Default in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Apr. 2021), <https://www.sic.gov.co/sandbox-microsite>

¹⁴⁴³ Ibid

¹⁴⁴⁴ Ibid

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Public Participation

The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) with the authorship of international expert, Armando Guío Español, has developed AI policy and implementation documents, including the ethical framework for AI, a model concept for the design of regulatory sandboxes and beaches in AI, a data governance model, a task force on the development and implementation of AI, and the outline of an international council for the implementation of AI policy.¹⁴⁴⁵

Draft AI policies and legislations of Colombia have been opened for public comment from academia, national, regional and international civil society actors, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector. These consultations have taken on various forms.¹⁴⁴⁶ Previously, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MinCiencias) conducted a public consultation on the Roadmap to ensure the ethical and sustainable adoption of AI in Colombia¹⁴⁴⁷ and plans on organizing subsequent consultations to flesh it out further.¹⁴⁴⁸

The MinCiencias expanded the participatory framework through the initiative Artificial Intelligence, Education and Social Sciences: A Strategic Dialogue in CLACSO.¹⁴⁴⁹ The initiative aims to foster Colombia's commitment to inclusive AI governance by integrating social-science perspectives into public policy design and ensuring that marginalized voices are represented in AI-related consultations. The program also encourages collaboration between research institutions and public authorities to enhance digital literacy and critical understanding of algorithmic decision-making. This program brought together representatives from academia,

¹⁴⁴⁵ Development Bank of Latin America, *AI Experience: Data and Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector* (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://www.caf.com/en/currently/events/ai-experience/>

¹⁴⁴⁶ See for example, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, *Summary Report of Expert Roundtable on Colombia's Draft AI Ethical Framework* (Jan. 2021), https://cyber.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/2021-01/Colombia_Roundtable_Report.pdf

¹⁴⁴⁷ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias), *Roadmap for the Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Colombia [Hoja de ruta para el desarrollo y aplicación de la Inteligencia Artificial en Colombia]* (Feb. 2024), <https://inteligenciaartificial.minciencias.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Hoja-de-Ruta-Adopcion-Etica-y-Sostenible-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-Colombia-1.pdf>

¹⁴⁴⁸ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias), *Colombia ya cuenta con una Hoja de Ruta en Inteligencia Artificial* (Feb. 12, 2024), https://minciencias.gov.co/sala_de_prensa/colombia-ya-cuenta-con-una-hoja-ruta-en-inteligencia-artificial.

¹⁴⁴⁹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias), *Artificial Intelligence, Education, and Social Sciences: A Strategic Dialogue in CLACSO [Inteligencia Artificial, Educación y Ciencias Sociales: Un Diálogo Estratégico en CLACSO]* (Jun. 11, 2025), <https://inteligenciaartificial.minciencias.gov.co/inteligencia-artificial-educacion-y-ciencias-sociales-un-dialogo-estrategico-en-clacso/>

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policymakers, and civil society to examine the ethical, social, and cultural implications of AI adoption in Latin America.

Data Protection

Data Protection in Colombia is governed by Article 15 of the Constitution.¹⁴⁵⁰ Colombia also regulates financial credit, commercial and services information,¹⁴⁵¹ and personal data processing and databases.¹⁴⁵²

For the implementation and monitoring of regulations regarding privacy, the Personal Data Authority (DPA) was established under the Division of Data Protection of the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce (SIC), according to Article 19 of Law 1581 of 2012.¹⁴⁵³ This authority functions as an oversight body, providing instructions and setting mandates, along with receiving complaints on the handling of data. The National Government introduced a bill in late 2025 to modernize Colombia's data protection framework.¹⁴⁵⁴ The proposal updates Law 1581 of 2012 to address data governance in artificial intelligence, algorithmic profiling, and cross-border data transfers. The bill expands the powers of the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce to supervise automated decision-making systems and introduces mandatory AI Data Impact Assessments. Law 1581 aligns national law with international standards such as the OECD principles and UNESCO recommendation.

On automated decision-making, Law 1581 establishes that personal data processing must be for a legitimate purpose under the Constitution and other laws, it must be notified to the subject, and the purpose must be specific. As a result, if automated decision-making is the purpose of processing data, then it must be (1)

¹⁴⁵⁰ Congreso de la República, *Colombia's Constitution of 1991 with Amendments through 2015* (subsequently amended),

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Colombia_2015.pdf?lang=en

¹⁴⁵¹ Congreso de la República, *Law 1266 of 2008 on the processing of financial data, credit records, and commercial information collected in Colombia or abroad [Ley Estatutaria 1266 de 2008 por la cual se dictan las disposiciones generales del hábeas data y se regula el manejo de la información contenida en bases de datos personales, en especial la financiera, crediticia, comercial, de servicios y la proveniente de terceros países y se dictan otras disposiciones]* (Dec. 15, 2025),

http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley_1266_2008.html

¹⁴⁵² Congreso de la República, *Law 1581 of 2012 on the Protection of Personal Data* (Oct. 17, 2012), <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=49981>

¹⁴⁵³ Congreso de la República, *Law 1266 of 2008 on the processing of financial data, credit records, and commercial information collected in Colombia or abroad* (Dec. 15, 2025),

http://www.secretariassenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley_1266_2008.html

¹⁴⁵⁴ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias), *National Government Submitted a Bill to Update the Current Regulations on Personal Data Protection in Colombia [Gobierno Nacional radica proyecto de ley para la protección de datos personales en Colombia]* (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://inteligenciaartificial.minciencias.gov.co/gobierno-nacional-radico-proyecto-de-ley-para-actualizar-la-normatividad-vigente-en-la-proteccion-de-datos-personales-en-colombia/>

legitimate as per the Constitution and other laws of Colombia, (2) specific in purpose, and (3) data subject should be informed of it.¹⁴⁵⁵

Secondary decrees, decisions, and regulations provide a better understanding of data protection, particularly regarding the application of automated mechanisms to databases. Databases have been defined under Article 3 of Law 1581 as an organized set of personal data which is treated in the same as personal data. Decree 886 that regulates Article 25 of Law 1581 explains this further by stating that, when automation is applied to databases containing personal data, it should be registered in the public directory of databases called the National Register of Databases.¹⁴⁵⁶ Drawing from the necessity to register information from databases and the protection of the right to habeas data,¹⁴⁵⁷ the Constitutional Court concluded that the administrator of a database has specific obligations regarding the quality of data being transmitted and allows data subjects to authorize how their information in an automated system is handled.¹⁴⁵⁸ Additionally, Article 26 of Decree 1377 establishes the principle of proven liability, according to which those responsible for handling personal data have an obligation to prove that they have taken sufficient and effective measures to abide by regulations, even when the data is processed by an automated method.¹⁴⁵⁹

In July 2020, through Resolution 38281, the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce concluded that Law 1581 is thematically and technologically neutral.¹⁴⁶⁰ Thus, the provisions of Law 1581 apply to the processing of any data regardless of techniques or technologies used. The protection of personal data extends to all techniques and tools, including AI in its use for predictive dialing, robocalls and nuisance calls. Nelson Remolina, the Superintendent for the Protection of Personal

¹⁴⁵⁵ Dejusticia, *Accountability of Google and Other Businesses in Colombia: Personal Data Protection in the Digital Age* (2019), <https://www.dejusticia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Accountability-of-Google-and-other-Businesses-in-Colombia.pdf>

¹⁴⁵⁶ Función Pública, *Decree 886 of 2014 that regulates Article 25 of Law 1581 of 2011, related to the National Register of Databases [Por el cual se reglamenta el artículo 25 de la Ley 1581 de 2011, relativo al Registro Nacional de Bases de Datos]* (May 13, 2014), <https://www.suin-juriscol.gov.co/viewDocument.asp?id=1184150>

¹⁴⁵⁷ *Habeas data* is a fundamental right and tool to provide legal protection to owners of personal data, particularly when faced with undue or illegal processing of their personal data by databases, or public or private registries.

¹⁴⁵⁸ Constitutional Court of Colombia, *Sentence C-1011/08: Habeas Data in Statutory Law and the Handling of Information Contained in Personal Databases* (2008), <https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2008/C-1011-08.htm>

¹⁴⁵⁹ Presidencia, *Decree 1377 of 2013* (2013) <http://www.suin-juriscol.gov.co/viewDocument.asp?ruta=Decretos/1276081>

¹⁴⁶⁰ Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, *Resolution 38281* (Jul. 14, 2020), [https://www.sic.gov.co/sites/default/files/files/Proteccion Datos/Res%2038281%20del%2014VII2020%20Mervicol%20marcadores%20predictivos%20robocalls%20IA.pdf](https://www.sic.gov.co/sites/default/files/files/Proteccion%20Datos/Res%2038281%20del%2014VII2020%20Mervicol%20marcadores%20predictivos%20robocalls%20IA.pdf)

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Data, elaborated on this by stating that, while Colombian law allows for the creation, design, and use of technological innovations to process data, it must be done in a way that respects the legal system by complying with all the rules pertaining to the processing of personal data.¹⁴⁶¹

Colombian data protection law differs in scope from the GDPR, since it only applies to data processing carried out by data processors and data controllers within the country or to those who have a legal obligation under international law and treaties. Unlike the GDPR, the Colombian privacy law does not set out conditions under which data profiling is allowed. However, Colombian privacy law protects individual privacy through habeas data rights, guaranteed by Article 15 of the Colombian Constitution. Article 15 is intended to protect an individual's right to know, update, and rectify information gathered about them in online files or databases.¹⁴⁶²

In January 2022, President Duque issued Decree 092, modifying the structure of the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce. The modifications include the creation of the Habeas Data Department, under the Deputy Superintendency for Personal Data Protection. The Decree tasks the Habeas Data Department with ensuring that all entities covered by the data protection regime comply with data protection law. The Habeas Data Department may also resolve any complaint or claim submitted by data subjects seeking to enforce their data rights. The Department may issue orders to enforce its statutory mandates.¹⁴⁶³

The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce, as a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (*Red Iberoamericano de Protección de Datos*, RIPD), which comprises 16 data protection authorities from 12 countries, also endorsed the General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence¹⁴⁶⁴ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.¹⁴⁶⁵ Both have been framed in accordance with

¹⁴⁶¹ Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD), *Colombian Data Protection Authority Concluded that Predictive Dialing, Robocalls and Artificial Intelligence Must Comply with Regulation Regarding the Processing of Personal Data* (Jul. 20, 2020), <https://www.redipd.org/en/news/colombian-data-protection-authority-concluded-predictive-dialing-robocalls-and-artificial>

¹⁴⁶² Privacy International, *State of Privacy Colombia* (Jan. 2019), <https://privacyinternational.org/state-privacy/58/state-privacy-colombia>

¹⁴⁶³ Government of Colombia, *Decreto 092 de 2022*, <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=176826>

¹⁴⁶⁴ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-recomendaciones-generales-tratamiento-datos-ia>

¹⁴⁶⁵ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence*

the RIPD Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States.¹⁴⁶⁶ The adoption of the Standards signals Colombia's recognition of guiding principles and rights for the protection of personal data that RIPD members can adopt and develop in their national legislation to guarantee a proper treatment of personal data facilitate homogeneous rules in the region. The guiding principles of personal data protection are: legitimation, lawfulness, loyalty, transparency, purpose, proportionality, quality, responsibility, safety and confidentiality. Controllers must also guarantee the exercise of the following rights by data subjects: right of access, right to correction, right to cancellation, right to opposition, right not to be subject to automated individual decisions, right to portability of personal data and right to the limitation of treatment of personal data.

The RIPD data protection authorities initiated a coordinated action regarding ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, in May 2023 over concerns regarding the risk of misinformation and harmful biases in responses.¹⁴⁶⁷ Colombia's Superintendency of Industry and Commerce also launched an independent investigation in May 2023 to assess whether the application ChatGPT complies with Colombian data protection law.¹⁴⁶⁸

The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce sponsored the 2020 GPA Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence¹⁴⁶⁹ and co-sponsored the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology.¹⁴⁷⁰ However, the organization did not co-sponsor the 2020 GPA

Projects (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

¹⁴⁶⁶ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (2017), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/standars-for-personal-data.pdf>

¹⁴⁶⁷ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *RIPD Authorities Initiative a Coordinated Action in Relation to the ChatGPT Service [Las autoridades de la Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos Personales inician una acción coordinada en relación con el servicio ChatGPT]* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

¹⁴⁶⁸ Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, *Sic Puts The Spotlight On The Application "Chat-Gpt" To Determine If It Complies With The Regulation Of Personal Data Protection* (Jun. 9, 2023), <https://www.sic.gov.co/noticias/sic-puts-spotlight-application-chat-gpt-determine-if-it-complies-regulation-personal-data-protection>.

¹⁴⁶⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

¹⁴⁷⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

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Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI¹⁴⁷¹ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.¹⁴⁷²

Algorithmic Transparency

Colombian data protection law for partial algorithmic transparency with the requirement that the data subjects know when their data is processed automatically. The right to habeas data requires the administrator of a database to ensure the quality of data being transmitted and allows data subjects to authorize how their information in an automated system is handled.¹⁴⁷³ The 2022 Ethical Framework for AI¹⁴⁷⁴ provides for both transparency and explainability. The 2024 AI Roadmap also refers to algorithmic transparency.¹⁴⁷⁵

The RIPD Specific Guidelines offers some clarity on the expectations for explainability as related to the transparency principle: “The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience.”¹⁴⁷⁶

The Colombian Constitutional Court made a landmark ruling emphasizing the need for human oversight in AI use within the judiciary. The ruling cited

¹⁴⁷¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 20), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹⁴⁷² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹⁴⁷³ Constitutional Court of Colombia, *Sentence C-1011/08: Habeas Data in statutory law and the handling of information contained in personal databases* (2008), <https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2008/C-1011-08.htm>

¹⁴⁷⁴ Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones (MinTIC), *Colombia adopta de forma temprana recomendaciones de ética en Inteligencia Artificial de la UNESCO para la región* (Mar. 9, 2022), <https://mintic.gov.co/portal/inicio/Sala-de-prensa/Noticias/208109:Colombia-adopta-de-forma-temprana-recomendaciones-de-etica-en-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Unesco-para-la-region>

¹⁴⁷⁵ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias) *Roadmap for the Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Colombia [Hoja de Ruta para el Desarrollo y Aplicación de la Inteligencia Artificial en Colombia]*, pp. 33–34, https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/upload/noticias/hoja_de_ruta_adopcion_etica_y_sostenible_de_inteligencia_artificial_colombia_0.pdf

¹⁴⁷⁶ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RED), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), p. 17, <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

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UNESCO's AI tools and guidelines, highlighting the importance of transparency, privacy, and human judgment in judicial processes.¹⁴⁷⁷ The court directed Colombia's Consejo de la Judicatura to develop comprehensive guidelines on AI use, aligning with best practices to ensure ethical application that respects human rights.

Data Infrastructure

Colombia facilitates data access for those designing and developing AI systems, achieved by removing unnecessary and unjustified barriers to access information. To facilitate such data access and to generate social and economic well-being, the Colombian government has developed data infrastructure policies with a shared dynamic and standardized resources across different actors. Thus, data infrastructure is used to strengthen institutional capacity to provide better quality services to citizens, to include citizens and the private sector in data governance, to drive innovation in governance, and to guide decision-making.

The first policy document on data infrastructure is the National Policy on Data Exploitation (CONPES 3920), developed by the National Council on Economic and Social Policy, the National Planning Department, and the Office of the President.¹⁴⁷⁸ This policy uses data within a legal, ethical, and institutional framework to generate social and economic value; to increase the availability and interoperability of government data; to promote data culture in public entities, academia and the private sector; to promote data ethics and AI; and to provide test environments through data sandboxes, sandboxes on privacy and AI, and conceptual models for regulatory sandboxes and beaches in AI. To achieve this target, CONPES 3920 sets out 45 action steps with indicators, responsible parties, budgets and a timeline.

The second policy document is the National Data Infrastructure Plan (PNID) developed by MinTIC, the National Planning Department, and the Office of the President, with the support of the World Economic Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.¹⁴⁷⁹ The draft of the PNID was shared for public comment until 17 September 2021. The PNID presents an approach to data as infrastructure, defines

¹⁴⁷⁷ UNESCO, *AI in the Courtroom: Colombian Constitutional Court's Landmark Ruling Cites UNESCO's AI Tools* (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-courtroom-colombian-constitutional-courts-landmark-ruling-cites-unescos-ai-tools>

¹⁴⁷⁸ National Council on Economic and Social Policy, the National Planning Department, and the Office of the President, *National Policy on Data Exploitation (Big Data)* [*Política Nacional de Explotación de Datos*] (Apr. 17, 2018), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Económicos/3920.pdf>

¹⁴⁷⁹ Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MinTIC), National Planning Department and the Office of the President, *National Data Infrastructure Plan (Plan Nacional de Infraestructura de Datos, PNID)* (Sept. 2021), https://mintic.gov.co/portal/715/articles-179710_recurso_2.pdf

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the components of data infrastructure, and provides a roadmap with concrete actions to implement data infrastructure in the country. This roadmap identifies 6 elements including governance, data, data leveraging, infrastructure interoperability, data security and privacy, as well as technical and technological input for data management.

For the successful integration of the PNID into the data regulation ecosystem, the government intends to create between 2022 and 2025 PNID guidelines. The aim is to identify priority data and create guidelines to ensure data quality; to develop a data infrastructure governance model; to identify indicators for monitoring; and to draw up a collaborative participation strategy for different actors in the data ecosystem.

CONPES 3920 and the PNID both emphasized the need to develop an institutional framework to accompany the development of data infrastructure. The governance model responds to this need. The governance model outlines five objectives to guide its design: institutional coordination, private sector participation, confidence building, technical modelling, and international impact. Under each of these objectives, responsible parties or entities and specific tasks have been provided.

The Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies introduced a bill aimed at developing a data infrastructure to enhance data availability, usage, and exchange, improve decision-making, and foster a data-driven culture.¹⁴⁸⁰ The bill applies to public administration entities and individuals performing public functions, including the legislative, judicial, and control bodies. Key provisions include obligating public entities to implement recommendations from the National Data Committee, ensuring compliance with the Digital Government Policy for those using emerging technologies like AI, and guaranteeing interoperability among data infrastructure across public entities.

Data Scraping

Colombia's Superintendency of Industry and Commerce and international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying

¹⁴⁸⁰ El Congreso De Colombia, *Bill through which Dispositions for the Provision, Exchange, and Use of Data Infrastructure in the State of Colombia (IDEC) and the Interoperability of Information Systems for Public Entities, and Others, are Declared [Proyecto Ley por medio de la cual se dictan disposiciones para el suministro, intercambio y aprovechamiento de la infraestructura de datos del Estado colombiano (IDEC) y la interoperabilidad de los sistemas de información de las entidades públicas y se dictan otras disposiciones]* (Oct. 2025), https://www.camara.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/proyectos-ley/documentos/proyecto-33228/pl_447_2024c_infraestructura_de_datos_del_estado_colombiano_0-14f1fca8.pdf

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out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy.¹⁴⁸¹ The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”¹⁴⁸² The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”¹⁴⁸³

Data scraping generally involves the automated extraction of data from the web. Data protection authorities are seeing increasing incidents involving data scraping, particularly from social media companies and the operators of other websites that host publicly accessible data. Scraped personal information can be exploited for targeted cyberattacks, identity fraud, monitoring, profiling and surveillance purposes, unauthorized political or intelligence gathering purposes, unwanted direct marketing or spam.

Use of AI in Public Administration

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD),¹⁴⁸⁴ Colombia approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service. The Charter aims to provide a roadmap and common framework for CLAD member states to adapt their AI policy strategies and laws for the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI in public administration. The guiding principles are human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence,

¹⁴⁸¹ UK Information Commissioner’s Office, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

¹⁴⁸² Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2023/js-dc_20230824/

¹⁴⁸³ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 2024), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2024/js-dc_20241028/

¹⁴⁸⁴ Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

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proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection.

In addition to common principles, the Charter recommends specific tools for monitoring AI impact as well as a risk classification mechanism that guardrails for high-risk use cases and prohibitions against uses that violate human rights. Prohibited uses include facial recognition systems; systems aimed at behavior and cognitive manipulation of specific individuals or vulnerable groups (children or the elderly); and social ranking systems based on certain personality traits, individual behaviors, socio-demographic features, or economic status.¹⁴⁸⁵

Use of AI in Courts

The Colombian government introduced the use of technology in the administration of justice through Article 95 of Law 270 in 1996, while mandating protection of confidentiality, privacy, and security of personal data.¹⁴⁸⁶ As a result, several government entities use AI in judicial aspects of their work. This includes the Constitutional Court (*Corte Constitucional*), the Office of the Attorney General, and the Superintendency of Companies.

Concerning the Constitutional Court of Colombia, where thousands of case documents are received daily, their processing has been expedited using an AI system called Prometea. Applying machine learning abilities, this system investigates, analyses, identifies and suggests priority cases on health-related aspects within a few minutes.¹⁴⁸⁷ Additionally, it produces statistical reports, automates documentation, systematizes and synthesizes case law across the country, and improves security by integrating blockchain technology. This system that includes human oversight, improved the efficiency of case processing by 937%.¹⁴⁸⁸

The Office of the Attorney General makes use of an AI system called Fiscal Watson, which consolidates criminal cases across different databases and regional

¹⁴⁸⁵ Ibid, p. 21

¹⁴⁸⁶ Congress of Colombia, *Law 270 of 1996* (Mar. 7, 1996), <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=6548#:~:text=Expediente%20la%20Ley%20Estatutaria%20de,las%20jurisdicciones%20y%20altas%20Cortes>

¹⁴⁸⁷ Juan Camilo Rivandeniera, *Prometea, inteligencia artificial para la revisión de tutelas en la Corte Constitucional [Artificial Intelligence for the Review of Guardianships in the Constitutional Court]* (Mar. 22, 2019), <https://www.ambitojuridico.com/noticias/informe/constitucional-y-derechos-humanos/prometea-inteligencia-artificial-para-la>

¹⁴⁸⁸ Juan Corvalan, *Prometea: Artificial Intelligence to Transform Justice and Public Organizations* (Apr. 13, 2020), <https://ojs.imodev.org/?journal=RIDDN&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=342&path%5B%5D=523>

offices to analyze similar evidentiary elements such as *modus operandi*, physical attributes, types of weapon and other aspects.¹⁴⁸⁹ By accelerating the processing of case information, Fiscal Watson has helped connect and solve similar cases across the country. The Attorney General has also suggested that Fiscal Watson can be used to identify irregularities in government contracts made during the COVID-19 pandemic, since all data and documentation is available online.¹⁴⁹⁰

The Superintendency of Companies, an administrative body, employs a robot assistant called Siarelis (System based on AI for the Resolution of Company Litigation) to exercise its discretionary judicial powers in corporate cases related for example to the piercing of the corporate veil or insolvency.¹⁴⁹¹ Using Case Based Reasoning (CBR), Siarelis helps officials identify relevant case law for a specific case and also provides users with possible decisions that could be reached in their case. The outcome reached by the system is decided based on the judicial history and precedent relevant to a specific case.

Law 2213 of 2022¹⁴⁹² and the General Procedure Code¹⁴⁹³ allow the use of different technologies in the different stages of Civil, Labor, Family, Administrative, Constitutional, Disciplinary and Criminal procedures in Colombia. The Law specifies that such technologies should only be used when they are suitable for the task. In this regard, Professor Gutierrez noted, “If ChatGPT and other LLMs currently available are evidently unreliable, since their outputs tend to include incorrect and false information, then judges would require significant time to check the validity of the AI-generated content, thereby undoing any significant “time

¹⁴⁸⁹ Pablo Medina Uribe and Luisa Fernanda Gomez, *Watson, the intelligent investigator with which the Prosecutor's Office seeks to block crime* (Jul. 25, 2020),

<https://www.elpais.com.co/judicial/watson-el-investigador-inteligente-con-el-que-la-fiscalia-busca-cerrarle-el-paso-al-crimen.html>

¹⁴⁹⁰ Vanguardia, *Fight against Corruption in Santander Will Be Done with Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 24, 2020), <https://www.vanguardia.com/politica/lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-en-santander-se-hara-con-inteligencia-artificial-XC2532257>

¹⁴⁹¹ Center for Technology and Society Studies (CETyS) of the University of San Andrés, *Readiness of the judicial sector for Artificial Intelligence in Latin America – Analytical and Exploratory Framework, Republic of Colombia* (2021), <https://cetys.lat/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/colombia-ENG.pdf>

¹⁴⁹² Law 2213 of 2022,

<https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=187626>

¹⁴⁹³ Public Function, *Law 1564 of 2012, on Issuance of the General Procedure Code and Other Provisions* (Jul. 12, 2012),

<https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=48425>

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savings”. As it happens with AI in other areas, under the narrative of supposed “efficiencies,” fundamental rights can be put at risk.”¹⁴⁹⁴

In 2023, ChatGPT was used in Colombian Courts in two different cases. The answers provided by ChatGPT were determinant in both cases. In the first case, the judge asked questions with regard to key legal issues, specific to the Colombian legal system. In the second case, the questions touched upon issues of access to justice and due process pertaining to carrying out a hearing in the metaverse. There was no evidence that the answers received by ChatGPT were corroborated by other sources. Professor Florez also raised the risk of over-reliance on “the outputs of automated systems.”¹⁴⁹⁵

These cases led the Constitutional Court of Colombia to issue a “landmark”¹⁴⁹⁶ ruling indicating that AI tools like ChatGPT may be used to assist with judicial tasks but cannot replace human judgment in legal decisions.¹⁴⁹⁷ The Court emphasized that while AI can help manage workload and draft documents, excessive reliance on these systems could threaten due process and judicial independence. The ruling established key principles including transparency, privacy protection, and the requirement for human oversight.

In addition, the Court required the issue of guidelines for the use of AI in courts within four months after the ruling. To this end, the Superior Council of the Judiciary (*Consejo Superior de la Judicatura*) established a partnership with UNESCO to tackle four areas: development of judicial AI guidelines, capacity building, algorithmic impact assessment, and transfer of knowledge.¹⁴⁹⁸ The Superior Council adopted the Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Colombian Judiciary in 2024.¹⁴⁹⁹ Colombia is the first country to adopt these

¹⁴⁹⁴ Juan David Gutierrez, *ChatGPT in Colombian Courts: Why We Need to Have a Conversation about the Digital Literacy of the Judiciary*, Verfassungsblog (Feb. 23, 2023), <https://verfassungsblog.de/colombian-chatgpt/#104>

¹⁴⁹⁵ Maria Lorena Florez Rojas, *A judge in Cartagena (Colombia) claims to have use ChatGPT as a support tool to resolve a guardianship for health care neglect*, Foro Administración, Gestión y Política Pública (Feb. 2, 2023) <https://forogpp.com/2023/02/03/a-judge-in-cartagena-colombia-claims-to-have-use-chatgpt-as-support-tool-to-resolve-a-guardianship-for-health-care-neglect/>.

¹⁴⁹⁶ UNESCO, *AI in the Courtroom: Colombian Constitutional Court's Landmark Ruling Cites UNESCO's AI Tools* (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-courtroom-colombian-constitutional-courts-landmark-ruling-cites-unescos-ai-tools>

¹⁴⁹⁷ Constitutional Court of Colombia, *Ruling T-323 of 2024* (Aug. 2, 2024), https://forogpp.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/t_323_2024_t_9301656-caso-chatgpt-cartagena.pdf

¹⁴⁹⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Colombia: Leaders in the Ethical and Responsible Use of AI in the Judiciary* (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-colombia-leaders-ethical-and-responsible-use-ai-judiciary>

¹⁴⁹⁹ Consejo Superior Judicatura, *Agreement PCSJA24-12243 by which Guidelines Are Adopted for the Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Ethical Use and Exploitation of Artificial Intelligence in the*

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Guidelines, developed with UNESCO.¹⁵⁰⁰ The Guidelines introduce a risk-based classification system for AI tools, requires mandatory human supervision, and sets out obligations of transparency, explainability, and data protection. The Guidelines explicitly state that AI systems may support administrative and analytical tasks but cannot replace human reasoning or decision-making in judicial proceedings. The guidelines also establish procedures for algorithmic audits, staff training, and ethical review before deployment.

Facial Recognition

In Colombia, facial recognition technology is used extensively by the State. The Ministry of Transport is integrating a network of cameras with facial recognition technology throughout Bogota. The system, which is meant to prevent and reduce road accidents, has become operational in December 2021 and provides the location of cameras out of transparency.¹⁵⁰¹ A facial recognition system to improve surveillance was also introduced by local authorities in September 2021 at a stadium in Barranquilla. This system combines cameras with access to unlimited databases to record and track individuals.¹⁵⁰² The system will be used to identify and detain anyone with cases pending before the judicial system or any other relevant authority. The Atanasio Girardot stadium in Medellín also has 170 smart cameras installed for surveillance, since 2016.¹⁵⁰³ Expanding the reach of surveillance in the city, Medellín introduced 40 security robots with facial recognition capability and an integrated AI security system to patrol the city.¹⁵⁰⁴ The Border Control Agency located at El Dorado International Airport in Bogota uses the Iris recognition system, with the system expected to reach other airports in the country within the next few years.

Judicial Branch (Dec. 16, 2024), <https://rm.coe.int/colombia-guidelines-for-the-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-judi/1680b53484>

¹⁵⁰⁰ UNESCO *Justice Meets Innovation: Colombia's Groundbreaking AI Guidelines for Courts* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/justice-meets-innovation-colombias-groundbreaking-ai-guidelines-courts>

¹⁵⁰¹ El Tiempo, *Do you agree with life-saving cameras recognizing your face?* (Aug. 2, 2021), <https://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/camaras-salvavidas-tendrian-reconocimiento-facial-en-bogota-movilidad-607508>

¹⁵⁰² El Tiempo, *Colombia vs Chile match will have facial recognition system* (Sept. 9, 2021), <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/barranquilla/el-metropolitano-cuenta-con-sistema-de-reconocimiento-facial-616845>

¹⁵⁰³ NEC Corporation, *Integrated Surveillance and Security System for Atanasio Girardot Stadium - Medellín* (2017), <https://www.nec.com/en/case/medellin/es/pdf/brochure.pdf>

¹⁵⁰⁴ El Tiempo, *Mayor Daniel Quintero revealed robots to track crime in Medellín* (Aug. 11, 2021), <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/daniel-quintero-presento-robot-para-predecir-delitos-en-medellin-609912>; El Tiempo, *How is facial recognition done in Colombia?* (May 17, 2019), <https://www.eltiempo.com/tecnosfera/dispositivos/colombia-que-usos-de-reconocimiento-facial-hay-en-el-pais-362220>

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Fundación Karisma, a civil society organization dedicated to supporting the responsible use of tech, highlights the pitfalls of these systems. In a report titled “Discreet Cameras,” Fundación Karisma points out that surveillance technology and biometric identification systems in Colombia only take into consideration technical and impact considerations while assessing systems. There is no analysis using necessity, proportionality or the possible effect of the technology on human rights.¹⁵⁰⁵ However, Colombia’s co-sponsorship of the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology indicates a move towards official recognition of the importance of parameters such as reasonableness, necessity, proportionality, and the effect of the technology on human rights.¹⁵⁰⁶ Although the government tries to ensure transparency by sharing the location of video surveillance systems that use facial recognition technology, the right to privacy and other fundamental rights of individuals are still ignored.¹⁵⁰⁷

Use of AI during COVID-19 Pandemic

Despite this situation during the emergency of the COVID-19 the government released a mobile app named CoronApp.¹⁵⁰⁸ At first, CoronApp’s main objective was to allow people to stay updated on the progression of the pandemic in Colombia. In the days that followed, however, the narrative around the app changed. Its purpose became more ambitious. It soon became a digital tool to keep the population informed and “save as many lives as possible.”

Concerns were raised about the app's data privacy implications, as it collected personal information such as location data and potentially exposes users to security risks. The Colombian government stated that the app is voluntary, and that users' data will be kept confidential, but it is important for individuals to carefully review the app's privacy policy and consider the potential risks before downloading and using it. In response to these concerns, the Colombian human rights organization Dejusticia called for greater transparency and accountability in the use of personal data

¹⁵⁰⁵ Fundación Karisma, *Discreet Cameras Report* (Feb. 2, 2018), <https://web.karisma.org.co/camaras-indiscretas/>

¹⁵⁰⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹⁵⁰⁷ Fundación Karisma, *Discreet Cameras Report* (Feb. 2, 2018), <https://web.karisma.org.co/camaras-indiscretas/>

¹⁵⁰⁸ Government of Colombia, *CoronApp—Colombia, the Application to Follow the Evolution of the Coronavirus in the Country*, Press Release No. 051 (Mar. 7. 2020), <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/English/paginas/coronapp---colombia,-the-application-to-follow-the-evolution-of-the-coronavirus-in-the-country.aspx>

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collected through this app and another implemented in the future.¹⁵⁰⁹ Dejusticia had also called for the government to implement strict measures to protect the privacy of individuals and ensure that their data is only used for the purposes that the app was created.

Dejusticia has also urged the government to establish clear guidelines for the collection, use, and storage of personal data, and to provide users with the ability to opt out of the app(s) at any time. Additionally, they have called for the government to establish a system of oversight and accountability to ensure that data collected through the app(s) is not misused or mishandled.

CoronApp had the potential to be a useful tool in guaranteeing the health of the population, but it is important that the government takes steps to ensure that the personal data of users is protected and used responsibly. In April 2022, the Constitutional Court reviewed and determined that the plaintiffs' rights to privacy should be respected, even during a national state of emergency. Furthermore, the Court declared that authorities had a duty to "avoid the abusive and arbitrary use of personal data" and the National Data Authority was ordered to erase the plaintiffs' data.¹⁵¹⁰

Environmental Impact of AI

The growing adoption of AI technologies in Colombia has prompted concerns about their environmental impact, leading to the inclusion of sustainability considerations in recent AI policy proposals. Colombia's particular vulnerability to climate phenomena, coupled with its 70% dependence on hydroelectric power, makes environmental sustainability a critical aspect of AI governance.¹⁵¹¹

The national AI policy roadmap centers the ethical and sustainable use of AI and aims to develop AI in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, the specific recommendations related to environmental impact center on using AI tools to monitor water resource usage and quality and air quality and to

¹⁵⁰⁹ Dejusticia, *New Report: Misuse of Technologies in Emergency Responses* (Feb. 8, 2023), <https://www.dejusticia.org/en/new-report-misuse-of-technologies-in-emergency-responses/>

¹⁵¹⁰ European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations, and Privacy International, *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses* (Dec. 2022), <https://ecn1.org/publications/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses>

¹⁵¹¹ Departamento Nacional de Planeación, *Artificial Intelligence as a Catalyst for Social and Economic Development in Colombia [La inteligencia artificial como motor clave para el desarrollo social y económico de Colombia]* (Aug. 2, 2024), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/PublishingImages/Planeacion-y-desarrollo/2024/Septiembre/PDF/inteligencia-artificial.pdf>

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assist with sustainable urban planning.¹⁵¹² The National AI Policy (CONPES 4144) notes that Colombia lacks a way to measure the environmental impact of AI systems.¹⁵¹³ The document charges the MinCiencias with creating hyperscale data centers capable of supporting AI development “fed with renewable energy sources and technologies that optimize water use, minimizing the environmental impact, thereby guaranteeing the competitiveness and sustainability of the country.”¹⁵¹⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

During the 2015 meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS), Colombia issued a statement calling for multilateral regulation to ensure human control over autonomous weapons at all times, so that no machine makes an autonomous decision.¹⁵¹⁵ Colombia has called for a pre-emptive ban on all LAWS¹⁵¹⁶ and for an international treaty that will ensure meaningful human control over any use of force.¹⁵¹⁷

Colombia was among the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 UN General Assembly meeting. In this joint statement, States urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in

¹⁵¹² Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MinCiencias), *Roadmap for the Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence in Colombia [Hoja de Ruta para el Desarrollo y Aplicación de la Inteligencia Artificial en Colombia]*, p. 80 (Feb. 2024), https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/upload/noticias/hoja_de_ruta_adopcion_etica_y_sostenible_de_inteligencia_artificial_colombia_0.pdf

¹⁵¹³ Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social (CONPES), *Document 4144: National Artificial Intelligence Policy [Documento 4144: Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, approved version, p. 72 (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Economicos/4144.pdf>

¹⁵¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 88

¹⁵¹⁵ Government of Colombia, *Statement at the Convention on Certain Convention Weapons – Informal meeting of experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 2015), https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2015/meeting-experts-laws/statements/17April_Colombia.pdf

¹⁵¹⁶ World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, *Final Declaration of the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates* (Feb. 4, 2017), <http://www.nobelpeacesummit.com/final-declaration-of-the-16th-world-summit-of-nobel-peace-laureates/>

¹⁵¹⁷ Government of Colombia, *Statement at the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons – Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 13, 2018), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g18/323/29/pdf/g1832329.pdf>

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particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”¹⁵¹⁸

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Colombia voted in favor¹⁵¹⁹ of resolution L.56¹⁵²⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. The report should analyze ways to address the challenges and concerns autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.

The Secretary-General issued the report in the 79th UN General Assembly and analyzed ways to address the challenges and concerns autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.¹⁵²¹ Colombia contributed to statements from the Ibero-American states¹⁵²² and as part of a group High Contracting Parties to the CCW. Both reports reiterated support for a legally binding instrument to prohibit the use of autonomous weapons outside human control and restrict other uses. The latter statement also proposed a draft protocol VI originally submitted to the GGE in July 2022 as a starting point for a legally binding instrument.¹⁵²³

Colombia also endorsed, along with more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states, the Belén Communiqué of 2023,¹⁵²⁴ which calls for “urgent

¹⁵¹⁸ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹⁵¹⁹ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹⁵²⁰ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁵²¹ UN General Assembly, 79th session, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

¹⁵²² *Ibid.*, pp. 20–21

¹⁵²³ *Ibid.*, pp. 34–36

¹⁵²⁴ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué*, La Ribera, Belén (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

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negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

AI Literacy

The National AI Policy¹⁵²⁵ includes an axis (5.3.4) dedicated to Capacity Development and Digital Talent with action items to develop the capabilities and digital talent necessary for the design, use and adoption of AI, in addition to promoting the social appropriation of knowledge of this technology.¹⁵²⁶ The policy charges the Ministry of National Education (*Ministerio de Educación Nacional*) to add a section on AI to the Safe Use of Information Technology guide through 2026 and, over five years, to implement strategies in the curriculum to strengthen students’ digital competencies, including with AI. The policy also charges the Ministry of Education, with the help of the institute for education evaluation, to recommend a way to evaluate digital competencies through the national standardize tests by the end of 2026. More generally, the MinCiencias, MinTIC, and National Planning Department will increase general levels of social understanding of AI.

Human Rights

Colombia is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions. Colombia has ranked as “free” in the Freedom in the World Report since 2023,¹⁵²⁷ with a score in 2025 of 70/100.¹⁵²⁸ Colombia ranks as “partly free” on Internet Freedom with a score of 64/100, in part because of violence against digital journalists and cyberattacks on media and government entities.¹⁵²⁹

According to Article 93 of Colombia’s Constitution, rights and duties in the national system are interpreted according to international treaties and conventions

¹⁵²⁵ Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social (CONPES), *Document 4144: National Artificial Intelligence Policy [Documento 4144: Política Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, approved version, pp. 93–96 (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Economicos/4144.pdf>

¹⁵²⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *National Policy on Artificial Intelligence (CONPES 4144)* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/national-policy-on-artificial-intelligence-conpes-4144-3012>

¹⁵²⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2023: Colombia* (2023), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/colombia/freedom-world/2023>

¹⁵²⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Colombia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/colombia>

¹⁵²⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2025: Colombia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/colombia/freedom-net/2025>

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that have been ratified by its Congress.¹⁵³⁰ Thus, Colombia has made powerful commitments backed by strong action that encourages legal certainty, with an entire implementation, regulatory and monitoring ecosystem for AI. This is strengthened by expert contributions and public participation at the national, regional and international level.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Colombia has endorsed the OECD AI Principles¹⁵³¹ and is part of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).¹⁵³² Colombia's Ethical Framework for AI introduced as a guideline for trustworthy AI, provides standards for the ethical use and governance of AI and is aligned with the OECD AI principles.¹⁵³³ Additionally, Colombia has developed policy intelligence tools and a follow up plan to monitor the implementation of the OECD AI Principles, while identifying good practices to determine if OECD's recommendations to Colombia have been implemented.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Colombia is not a member of the Council of Europe and has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.¹⁵³⁴

UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics

Colombia endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021. Even before the UNESCO recommendation was completed, the Presidency cited the example of OECD and UNESCO principles to acknowledge "the importance of ethical considerations for the design, development, and implementation of artificial intelligence in Colombia and more precisely the need to

¹⁵³⁰ Congreso de la República, *Colombia's Constitution of 1991 with Amendments through 2015* (subsequent amendments) (1991),

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Colombia_2015.pdf?lang=en

¹⁵³¹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

¹⁵³² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁵³³ Presidential Advisory for Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation (DAPRE), *Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 2020), https://cyber.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/2020-12/Colombia_AI_Ethical_Framework.pdf

¹⁵³⁴ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 14, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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adopt an Ethical Framework as a non-binding guide for the implementation of artificial intelligence in the country.”¹⁵³⁵

Colombia is part of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Council of national and local governments established by CAF, the development bank of Latin America, and UNESCO to implement the UNESCO Recommendation in Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁵³⁶ At the inaugural meeting in 2023, the Council focused on the collaborative exchange and formulation of proposals, encompassing both political and technical perspectives, aimed at guiding the ethical development of Artificial Intelligence in the region.¹⁵³⁷ Colombia signed the resulting 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence.¹⁵³⁸ The Santiago Declaration reflects UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.

UNESCO published the report on Colombia’s Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) exercise in 2025.¹⁵³⁹ The country does not yet have a profile on the UNESCO Global Hub, however.¹⁵⁴⁰

Evaluation

Colombia has anchored the National AI Policy in the Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence and international frameworks and other national models.

¹⁵³⁵ Gobierno de Colombia, *Ethical Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Colombia [Marco ético para la inteligencia artificial en Colombia]*, version 1, p. 9 [Spanish version] (May 2021), <https://minciencias.gov.co/sites/default/files/marco-etico-ia-colombia-2021.pdf>

¹⁵³⁶ Ángel Melguizo and Gabriela Ramos, *Ethical and Responsible Artificial Intelligence: From Words to Actions and Rights*, Somos Iberoamérica (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://www.somosiberoamerica.org/pt-br/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-e-responsavel-das-palavras-aos-fatos-e-direitos/>

¹⁵³⁷ UNESCO, *Chile Will Host the First Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial and High Level Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 25, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/chile-will-host-first-latin-american-and-caribbean-ministerial-and-high-level-summit-ethics>

¹⁵³⁸ Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaración de Santiago “Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf.

¹⁵³⁹ UNESCO, *Colombia: Readiness Assessment Methodology [Colombia: Metodología de evaluación del estadio de preparación]* UNESCO Digital Library (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf00000396015?posInSet=1&queryId=257f4eea-9428-49d3-ac27-0e9499d4228d>

¹⁵⁴⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Colombia is part of the Regional Council for the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics and has endorsed the Ibero-American Charter on AI in Civil Service. Colombia also adopted the UNESCO Guidelines on use of AI in courts, the first country to do so. The Constitution of Colombia established a right to data protection, and the country has a comprehensive data protection law and an active data protection agency. Draft bills for ethical and sustainable development and application of AI are being discussed in Congress. The Colombian data protection authority is the first in the region to have opened an investigation on OpenAI ChatGPT. However, Colombia's laws have not yet codified the right to algorithmic transparency in law. There are also growing concerns regarding the use of facial recognition systems.

Costa Rica

In 2025, Costa Rica released the Action Plan for the National AI Strategy centered on ethical, safe, and responsible AI. The Legislative Assembly furthered discussions on three bills covering responsible AI use, development, and implementation.

National AI Strategy

Costa Rica adopted its National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (*Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial*, ENIA) developed by the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications (*Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones*, MICITT) in October 2024.¹⁵⁴¹ This initiative, drafted with UNESCO's support,¹⁵⁴² aims to align national efforts toward a long-term vision for AI. ENIA's primary goals include fostering the ethical, safe, and responsible use, adoption, and development of AI technologies to maximize benefits for citizens while minimizing potential harm. The strategy outlines specific action areas to harness AI's advantages and to address associated ethical, social, and technical risks and challenges.¹⁵⁴³

The MICITT later adopted an Action Plan to implement ENIA, introducing AI ethical and legal frameworks, guidance on technical norms and good practice on data protection.¹⁵⁴⁴ The Action Plan focuses on seven strategic axes of the ENIA 2024–2027 to ensure the comprehensive development of AI in Costa Rica, including Ethical, Safe, and Responsible AI; Widespread, Responsible Use for Economic Development; Promotion of R&D; Smart Government; Talent Training and

¹⁵⁴¹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024–2027* [Simplified English version] (Feb. 3, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of Costa Rica.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Strategy%20of%20Costa%20Rica.pdf); for the full strategy in Spanish, see [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de Costa Rica ESP.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia%20Nacional%20de%20Inteligencia%20Artificial%20de%20Costa%20Rica%20ESP.pdf)

¹⁵⁴² Mariana Álvarez, *Costa Rica Will Be the First Country in Central America to Have an Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, UNESCO (Feb. 28, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/costa-rica-will-be-first-country-central-america-have-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

¹⁵⁴³ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024–2027* [Simplified, English version] (Feb. 3, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of Costa Rica.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Strategy%20of%20Costa%20Rica.pdf)

¹⁵⁴⁴ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Action Plan, Costa Rica 2024–2027* [*Plan de Acción Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial Costa Rica 2024–2027*] (Aug. 11, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci3n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi3n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Versi3n%20Publicaci3n.pdf)

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Capacity-Building; Digital Infrastructure for Public Services; and International Leadership.

The country has also developed a general human-centered science, technology and innovation plan and a specific digital strategy to address issues related to AI technology. The National Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation 2022–2027 (provides a general overview of the country’s goals regarding the use of information and communication technologies for a sustainable, equitable and creative future. Regarding AI, the plan focuses on pursuing developing technical capabilities and competencies across STEM/STEAM curricula in schools and technical colleges, technical certification in AI, the development of understandable and accessible AI systems for all, and ensuring ethical and responsible AI adoption through the support of the fAIr Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) initiative designed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).¹⁵⁴⁵

Adoption of the AI Strategy in 2024 marked progress on a key action item from the Digital Transformation Strategy 2023–2027.¹⁵⁴⁶ The Digital Transformation Strategy frames AI use as a way to drive the country’s economic competitiveness and productivity through innovation and value creation through digital citizenship and good governance.

AI Legislation

Costa Rica’s legislature is currently working on at least four bills related to artificial intelligence.¹⁵⁴⁷ The Draft Bill for the Responsible Promotion of Artificial Intelligence proposed in September 2023¹⁵⁴⁸ is the furthest along. The National Assembly’s Human Rights Commission approved the bill in early 2025 and sent to

¹⁵⁴⁵ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Plan for Science, Technology, and Innovation 2022–2027 [Plan Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación 2022–2027]*, https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/planes_estrategias/Plan_Nacional_Ciencia_Tecnologia_Innovacion_2022-2027.pdf

¹⁵⁴⁶ Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Digital Transformation Strategy 2023–2027 [Estrategia de Transformación Digital, 2023–2027]* (Aug. 30, 2023), https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/GobernanzaDigital/ETD_2023-2027_V_FINAL_30-08-2023_v2.pdf

¹⁵⁴⁷ Erick Murillo, *Study: Costa Rica Leads Central America in AI Governance and Public Policies [Estudio: Costa Rica lidera gobernanza digital y políticas pública de IA en Centroamérica]*, CR Hoy (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://crhoy.com/tecnologia/estudio-costa-rica-lidera-gobernanza-digital-y-politicas-publicas-de-ia-en-centroamerica/>

¹⁵⁴⁸ Asamblea Legislativa de La Republica de Costa Rica, *Expediente 23919, Law for the Responsible Promotion of Artificial Intelligence in Costa Rica [Ley Para La Promoción Responsable de la Inteligencia Artificial en Costa Rica]* (Apr. 1, 2025), https://www.asamblea.go.cr/Centro_de_informacion/Consultas_SIL/SitePages/ConsultaProyectos.aspx

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plenary. Deputies proposed alternative text for consideration in October 2025.¹⁵⁴⁹ The Bill on Artificial Intelligence Regulation seeks to regulate the development, implementation, and use of AI in Costa Rica.¹⁵⁵⁰ The Technology and Education Committee approved the bill in October 2024 but it has not been considered in the plenary. The subcommittee issued a report¹⁵⁵¹ on and approved a Law for the Implementation of AI Systems, aimed at integrating AI in the public sector with attention to capacity-building. A law to regulate the use of AI in the electoral process has been studied by a special committee on the electoral process and is awaiting hearing in the plenary session.¹⁵⁵²

Public Participation

Citizen participation in Costa Rica has a vast and rich history that has given rise to a significant number of democratic innovations. The Constituent Assembly of 1949 was reintroduced into the constitutional text with instruments for citizen participation. With later reforms to the Constitution in 2002 and 2003, public participation was enhanced through the inclusion of the Referendum and the Popular Initiative. In 2003, Article 9 of the Constitution of Costa Rica was further amended, supplementing the various instruments of citizen participation that had already been incorporated into the Constitution. Costa Rica's democratic institutions provide a robust legal framework to support public participation.

The National Commission for Open Government is using its online platform to enable public consultations on relevant national policies. The MICITT publishes all its public consultation opportunities on its website¹⁵⁵³ as well as on social media

¹⁵⁴⁹ Asamblea Legislativa, *Expediente 23.919, Moción de Texto Sustitutivo vía Artículo 137* (Oct. 1, 2025), https://www.asamblea.go.cr/glcp/Consultas_mociones/MOCIONES_DE_FONDO_VÍA_ARTÍCULO_137/23.919/23.919_Primer_día_12-2-2026.pdf

¹⁵⁵⁰ Asamblea Legislativa, *Ex. 23771, Bill on the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in Costa Rica [Ley de Regulación de la Inteligencia Artificial en Costa Rica]* (Sept. 3, 2024), https://www.asamblea.go.cr/Centro_de_informacion/Consultas_SIL/SitePages/ConsultaProyectos.aspx

¹⁵⁵¹ Asamblea Legislativa, Comisión Permanente Especial de Ciencia, Tecnología y Educación, *Ex. 24484, Law for the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems [Ley para la Implementación de sistemas de Inteligencia Artificial (IA)]* (Oct. 20, 2025), https://www.asamblea.go.cr/glcp/mociones_total/24484_INFORME_DE_SUBCOMISIÓN.pdf

¹⁵⁵² Asamblea Legislativa, *Ex. 24875, Law to Regulate the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Electoral Processes [Ley para regular el uso de Inteligencia Artificial en los procesos electorales]* (Mar. 30, 2025), https://www.asamblea.go.cr/Centro_de_informacion/Consultas_SIL/SitePages/ConsultaProyectos.aspx

¹⁵⁵³ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Consultas Públicas* (Dec. 2025), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/transparencia/consultas-publicas>

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through its Facebook page.¹⁵⁵⁴ However, the MICITT does not include comments from the consultation on the site and the current site lists consultations back to only 2022.¹⁵⁵⁵

Costa Rica has made important progress in aligning its regulations and practices regarding public participation with OECD standards.¹⁵⁵⁶ Costa Rica also takes part in the CoST initiative to implement the Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) for improving transparency and accountability across public infrastructures. These commitments consolidate the transformation of Costa Rica towards an open government.¹⁵⁵⁷

The Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications publishes consultation opportunities on a dedicated website.¹⁵⁵⁸ However, consultations held before 2022 are no longer available. The ministry held consultations on the national Cybersecurity Strategy in 2022.¹⁵⁵⁹

Costa Rica launched a public national consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, inviting citizens to participate in shaping the country's approach to artificial intelligence.¹⁵⁶⁰ The consultation, which was open March to April 11, 2024, sought input to promote the ethical, safe, and responsible adoption and development of AI in the nation. Participants were encouraged to review the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy document and submit feedback using a public consultation form via email.

The Legislative Assembly's Science and Technology Committee and the Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CAMTIC) held a

¹⁵⁵⁴ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones de Costa Rica, *Facebook* <https://www.facebook.com/micitter>

¹⁵⁵⁵ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Consultas Públicas* (Dec. 2025), <https://micitt.go.cr/transparencia/consultas-publicas>

¹⁵⁵⁶ OECD, *Public Governance in Costa Rica* (2021), <https://web.archive.org/pdfViewer?path=/2021-07-29/595534-costa-rica-public-governance-evaluation-accession-review.pdf>; Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, *Costa Rica busca fortalecer la participación ciudadana con políticas de impacto regulatorio*, Comunicados Desarrollo Social Economía (Dec. 8, 2017), <https://www.comex.go.cr/sala-de-prensa/comunicados/2017/diciembre/costa-rica-busca-fortalecer-la-participación-ciudadana-con-políticas-de-impacto-regulatorio/>

¹⁵⁵⁷ CoST Costa Rica, *CoST Infrastructure Transparency Initiative*, <https://infrastructuretransparency.org/where/cost-costa-rica/>

¹⁵⁵⁸ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Consultas Públicas* (Dec. 2025), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/transparencia/consultas-publicas>

¹⁵⁵⁹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Consulta Pública no vinculante Estrategia Nacional de Ciberseguridad—Costa Rica* (2022), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/node/1046>

¹⁵⁶⁰ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial 2024-2027, Consulta Pública No Vinculante* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/node/1574>

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working group on three bills related to AI regulation.¹⁵⁶¹ The session was limited to experts. The Minister of Science and Technology expressed fears that any attempts to regulate artificial intelligence would become obsolete even before publication. A technology attorney called requirements in the laws for prior authorization and registries “an outdated form of regulation” and noted that even the EU AI Act, “which is the most advanced in the world in AI, does not have these controls.”

Data Protection

Costa Rica has two comprehensive laws that protect personal data. Law No. 8968 protects the personal data handling of individuals. Law No. 7975, the Undisclosed Information Law, specifies that the unauthorized disclosure of confidential and/or personal information is a crime.¹⁵⁶² These laws, together with their by-laws, were enacted to regulate activities of companies that administer databases containing personal information.¹⁵⁶³ The laws require data subjects’ consent before the processing or use of their data. Consent must cover in particular the purpose for data collection and how the data will be processed. The identity of all recipients and parties with access to personal data must be disclosed. Transfer of personal data to third countries is also conditional upon data subjects’ consent.

The Agency for the Protection of Inhabitants’ Data (*Agencia de Protección de Datos de los Habitantes*, Prodhav) is a fully independent body¹⁵⁶⁴ to “guarantee to any person, regardless of their nationality, residence, or home, the respect of their right to control information about their private life or activity and other rights of their personhood like the defense of their freedom and equality with respect to automated or manual treatment of the data related to their person or property.”

Additional laws include Costa Rica’s Executive Decree No. 37554-JP for data breach and the General Telecommunications Law No. 8642 (Article 42) that protects the privacy of communications and personal information. The General Telecommunications Law is supplemented by administrative regulation N° 35205-

¹⁵⁶¹ Mario Bermúdez Vives, *MICITT Opposes Projects to Regulate Artificial Intelligence [MICITT se opone a proyectos para legislar sobre Inteligencia Artificial]*, Seminario Universidad (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/micitt-se-opone-a-proyectos-para-legislar-sobre-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹⁵⁶² Asamblea Legislativa, No. 7975, *Law of Undisclosed Information [Ley de Información No Divulgada]*, Gaceta Oficial No. 12 (Jan. 18, 2000), <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/es/text/208114>

¹⁵⁶³ Asamblea Legislativa, No. 8968, *Protección de la Persona frente al tratamiento de sus datos personales* (Jul. 7, 2011), https://micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/marco_juridico_legal/08.Ley_n.º_8968_Ley_de_Protección_de_la_Persona_frente_al_tratamiento_de_sus_datos_personales..pdf; to latest version, <https://micitt.go.cr/node/370>

¹⁵⁶⁴ Agencia de Protección de Datos de los Habitantes, Prodhav, *Acerca de PRODHAB*, <https://prodhav.go.cr/acercade/index.aspx>

MINAET that guarantees the secrecy of communications, the right to privacy, and the protection of personal data of subscribers and users.¹⁵⁶⁵

After proposed amendments to align the data protection law with the GDPR stalled,¹⁵⁶⁶ the legislative assembly is discussing a new proposed law that would repeal Law 8968 and replace it.¹⁵⁶⁷ The proposed new legislation would establish a set of principles and rights for personal data protection to ensure proper handling of residents' personal data and enhance the level of protection for individuals regarding data processing. These revisions would align Costa Rica with international standards on data privacy in a society increasingly shaped by information and communication technologies. The proposed law also aims to promote the development of mechanisms for international cooperation among control authorities in Ibero-American states, non-regional control authorities, and international entities specializing in data protection. The first reading of the law was approved and a letter from the Costa Rica Institute of Technology in June 2025 indicated the law was still under consideration.¹⁵⁶⁸

The Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Communications included data protection as a main objective under the Ethical, Safe, and Responsible AI and Smart Government axes under the AI Action Plan.¹⁵⁶⁹

As a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD) which comprises 16 data protection authorities from 12 countries, the Prodhab endorsed the General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence¹⁵⁷⁰ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for

¹⁵⁶⁵ Sistema Costarricense de Información Jurídica, *Ley General de Telecomunicaciones*, https://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=63431&nValor3=91176&strTipM=TC; <https://micitt.go.cr/node/368>

¹⁵⁶⁶ Giró and Martínez, *Costa Rica: Towards a Comprehensive Reform on Data Privacy* (Feb. 2021), <https://www.giromartinez.com/news/costa-rica-comprehensive-reform-on-data-privacy/>

¹⁵⁶⁷ Asamblea Legislativa, Ex. 23097, *Personal Data Protection Law [Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]* (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://delfino.cr/asamblea/proyecto/23097>

¹⁵⁶⁸ Institutional Council of the Costa Rica Institute of Technology, *Pronouncement on the Draft Law “Ley de Protección de Datos Personales,”* SCI-467-2025, Session No. 3411, Article 10 (Jun. 11, 2025), <https://www.tec.ac.cr/sites/default/files/media/doc/s3411-art-10-pronunciamiento-proyecto-ley-23097-sci-467-2025.pdf>

¹⁵⁶⁹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Action Plan, Costa Rica 2024–2027 [Plan de Acción Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial Costa Rica 2024–2027]* (Aug. 11, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci3n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi3n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Versi3n%20Publicaci3n.pdf)

¹⁵⁷⁰ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai-en.pdf>

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Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.¹⁵⁷¹ The RIPD authorities initiated a coordinated action regarding ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, in May 2023 on the basis that it may entail risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the processing of their personal data and because it may “generate responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones.”¹⁵⁷²

Despite being an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2012,¹⁵⁷³ the Prodhab has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Resolution on Ethics and Data Protection in AI,¹⁵⁷⁴ 2020 GPA Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of AI,¹⁵⁷⁵ 2022 GPA Resolution on the Appropriate use of personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,¹⁵⁷⁶ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.¹⁵⁷⁷

Algorithmic Transparency

The current data protection laws of Costa Rica acknowledge the right to equality and data control whether processing is automatic or manual.¹⁵⁷⁸ Bill 23097

¹⁵⁷¹ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

¹⁵⁷² Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Las autoridades de la Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos Personales inician una acción coordinada en relación con el servicio ChatGPT* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

¹⁵⁷³ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹⁵⁷⁴ International Conference on Data, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹⁵⁷⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

¹⁵⁷⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹⁵⁷⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹⁵⁷⁸ Agencia de Protección de Datos de los Habitantes (PRODHA), *Acerca de PRODHA*, <https://prodhab.go.cr/acercade/index.aspx>

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under consideration by the Legislative Assembly (*Asamblea Legislativa*) does not refer to algorithms or AI but contains a general transparency principle, a right to data access, and the right to not be object to automated decisions with significant impact or without human intervention.¹⁵⁷⁹ Costa Rica's AI strategy emphasizes transparency in AI systems as necessary for building trust. The Strategy would require developers to ensure that AI processes are understandable and that automated decisions are explainable, especially in sensitive sectors like public administration.¹⁵⁸⁰ Regular audits and clear information on how AI algorithms work are recommended to avoid biases and maintain accountability, particularly for AI models impacting the public. Transparency is also one of the key principles of the 2022 National Code of Digital Technologies.¹⁵⁸¹

The RIPD Specific Guidelines provide clarity on the definition and requirements of “transparency,” noting: “The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience.”¹⁵⁸²

Use of AI in Public Administration

The ENIA highlights AI's potential to streamline public administration by automating tasks, improving public service delivery, and enhancing decision-making efficiency.¹⁵⁸³ For instance, AI is used to manage health services, such as the EDUS platform by Costa Rica's Social Security Fund, which leverages AI for chronic

¹⁵⁷⁹ Asamblea Legislativa, *Ex. 23097, Personal Data Protection Law [Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]* (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://delfino.cr/asamblea/proyecto/23097>

¹⁵⁸⁰ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National AI Strategy (ENIA)*, pp. 38–77 (Oct. 27, 2024), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de Costa Rica ESP.pdf>

¹⁵⁸¹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Code of Digital Technologies [Código Nacional de Tecnologías Digitales] (Current Versión)* (2024), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/GobernanzaDigital/CNTD version 2024 15-1-2024 EMA 25-1-2024GRMC-firmado.pdf>

¹⁵⁸² Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects*, p. 17 (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

¹⁵⁸³ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National AI Strategy Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (ENIA)*, p. 39 (Oct. 27, 2024), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de Costa Rica ESP.pdf>

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disease management and prevention. The document underlines the need for ethical standards and effective human oversight in these applications to align with national values and ensure responsible deployment. The Smart Government axis (Axis 4) of the Action Plan for the ENIA¹⁵⁸⁴ establishes specific actions to promote the use of AI in the public sector. Milestones include publishing a digital catalog of AI projects in the public sector, developing the capacity and skills of public officials in the use and management of AI, and implementing systems that utilize AI to enhance the quality of public services and decision-making.

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Costa Rica approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in November 2023.¹⁵⁸⁵ The Charter aims to provide a roadmap and common framework for CLAD member states to learn about the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI and adapt their AI policy strategies and laws accordingly. The guiding principles are human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection. In addition to common principles, the Charter recommends specific tools for monitoring AI impact as well as a risk classification mechanism that guardrails for high-risk use cases and prohibitions against uses that violate human rights.¹⁵⁸⁶

Use of AI in Courts

While Costa Rica's judiciary has not yet fully integrated AI, the ENIA envisions a future where AI could assist with case management, evidence analysis, and even support decision-making. The strategy stresses that any use of AI in the legal system must be transparent, accountable, and subject to human oversight to uphold justice and prevent discrimination or errors in judgment.¹⁵⁸⁷

¹⁵⁸⁴ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Action Plan of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy [Plan de Acción de la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 14, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci3n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi3n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Versi3n%20Publicaci3n.pdf)

¹⁵⁸⁵ Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

¹⁵⁸⁶ Ibid, p. 21

¹⁵⁸⁷ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National AI Strategy [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]* (ENIA), p. 78 (Oct. 27, 2024),

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A new AI system called Prometea developed by the Innovation and AI Laboratory of the School of Law of the University of Buenos Aires and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, has been implemented in the judicial system of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica.¹⁵⁸⁸ Regardless of whether judicial cases are simple (e.g. minor infractions, traffic accidents, and taxi license disputes) or complex (e.g. murder trials), controversy lies in the inevitable biases of the AI-enabled system and the lack of algorithmic transparency behind the decision-making process. Transparency of the AI system's algorithm, therefore, must be assured to protect due process and the rule of law.

AI and Hiring

The use of data analytics and AI techniques for hiring, firing, and promoting employees in Costa Rica has also been very controversial due to AI systems' bias and lack of transparency. Companies recruiting in Costa Rica must adapt their recruiting processes to accommodate Costa Rican law, especially with regard to discrimination. However, controversy persists because Costa Rican law does not directly regulate the impact or effects of AI on recruitment.¹⁵⁸⁹

Costa Rica has piloted a skills and training platform that uses AI to "provide skill development suggestions to participants, based on their abilities, interests and experiences."¹⁵⁹⁰

The ENIA addresses the role of AI in the hiring process, acknowledging its potential to make recruitment more efficient and objective.¹⁵⁹¹ However, it also highlights the importance of preventing algorithmic biases that could affect vulnerable groups. Costa Rica's AI strategy encourages transparency in AI-driven hiring tools so applicants understand how decisions are made. The ENIA also supports providing opt-out capability to ensure ethical AI practices in employment.

<https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de Costa Rica ESP.pdf>

¹⁵⁸⁸ F. Giandana and D. Morar, *Victor Frankenstein's Responsibility? Determining AI Legal Liability in Latin America*, Global Information Society Watch (2019), <https://giswatch.org/ar/node/6178>

¹⁵⁸⁹ Alvaro Aguilar, Aguilar Castillo Love, *Costa Rica - Artificial Intelligence Bias and Data Transparency in the Legal Workforce: The Use of Data Analytics for Hiring, Firing, and Promotion in Costa Rica* (Jun. 3, 2019),

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/labor_law/publications/ilelc_newsletters/issue-june-2019/artificial-intelligence-bias-and-data-transparency/

¹⁵⁹⁰ OECD Public Governance Reviews, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, p. 51 (2022), <https://oecd-opsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/lac-ai.pdf>

¹⁵⁹¹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (ENIA)*, p. 43 (Oct. 27, 2024), <https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2024-10/Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de Costa Rica ESP.pdf>

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According to a September 2024 ManpowerGroup survey, Costa Rica ranks among the top countries with strong hiring intentions, with 36% of employers planning to increase their workforce. This positive outlook is partly driven by advancements in technology and the integration of AI in various sectors.¹⁵⁹²

Environmental Impact of AI

Costa Rica's ENIA centers sustainability and well-being as guiding principles,¹⁵⁹³ stipulating that AI systems must continuously evaluate the impacts of these technologies on society, animal life, and the environment. Given the environmental impact of AI represents one of the key risks associated with AI in Costa Rica, the country highlights the urgency of developing AI sustainably, prioritizing energy efficiency, and adopting renewable energy sources. Axis 1 of the AI Strategy Action Plan calls for technical recommendations to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency criteria into AI development.¹⁵⁹⁴ Axis 4, Smart Government, calls for training, awareness, and resource exchange to promote the “use, development, and sustainable management of AI.”¹⁵⁹⁵

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Costa Rica is one of the 126 member states signatory to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and participated in CCW meetings. During the UN General Assembly in October 2013, Costa Rica proposed that critical functions of weapons systems be subject to meaningful human control highlighting the risks and harms identified with the use of armed drones and robotic weapons. In 2016 Costa Rica called for a preemptive ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems.¹⁵⁹⁶

¹⁵⁹² Reuters, *Global Hiring Intentions Hold Steady in Q4, ManpowerGroup Survey Shows* (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/markets/global-hiring-intentions-hold-steady-q4-manpowergroup-survey-shows-2024-09-10/>

¹⁵⁹³ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (ENIA) of Costa Rica 2024-2027 [Simplified English Version]* (Oct. 24, 2024), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of Costa Rica.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Strategy%20of%20Costa%20Rica.pdf)

¹⁵⁹⁴ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Action Plan, Costa Rica 2024-2027 [Plan de Acción Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial Costa Rica 2024-2027]*, p. 6 (Aug. 11, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci3n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi3n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Publicaci3n.pdf)

¹⁵⁹⁵ Ibid, p. 22

¹⁵⁹⁶ Human Right Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping->

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Costa Rica has continued to advocate for the ban on lethal autonomous weapons. In 2020 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNPADEM), called for the prohibition of the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS).¹⁵⁹⁷ Still in 2020, Costa Rica advocated for the development of international legally binding agreements providing for prohibitions and regulations on autonomous weapons systems at the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.¹⁵⁹⁸

Costa Rica was among the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 UN General Assembly meeting. In this joint statement, States urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”¹⁵⁹⁹

In February 2023, the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Relations, together with the Foundation for Peace and Democracy, organized the Latin American and Caribbean Conference on the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapons. The Conference resulted in the endorsement by Costa Rica and more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states, of the Belén Communiqué.¹⁶⁰⁰ The Belén Communiqué calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and - :~:text=Costa Rica,-At the UN&text=%5B74%5D It called for a,killer robots in 2016-2019

¹⁵⁹⁷ *Fundación Arias y Cancillería de Costa Rica firman Convenio de Cooperación sobre el TCA y POA*, <https://att-assistance.org/es/node/6601>

¹⁵⁹⁸ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Intervention from Costa Rica*, CCW GGE LAWS (Sept. 21, 2020), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Intervention-of-Costa-Rica-GGE-Laws-21.09.2020-ENG-PDF.pdf>

¹⁵⁹⁹ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹⁶⁰⁰ *Communiqué of the Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

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At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Costa Rica co-authored draft resolution L.56¹⁶⁰¹ on autonomous weapons systems. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. Costa Rica’s submission to the report reiterated its support for a legally binding instrument.¹⁶⁰²

Costa Rica voted in favor of Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems at the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2024. The draft drew attention to the “negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability” and marked the urgent necessity of human interventions to ensure accountability, responsibility, and compliance toward international law. L.77 also noted the Secretary-General’s proposal on enforcing legally binding prohibitions and regulations for autonomous weapons systems.¹⁶⁰³ Speaking at the assembly, Costa Rica reiterated the potential harms caused by lethal autonomous weapons and called for legally binding instruments to prevent the deployment of such weapons.¹⁶⁰⁴

AI Literacy

The ENIA¹⁶⁰⁵ identifies AI literacy and training as essential to ensure that all members of society can fully benefit from the technology, and tasks the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications with coordinating public AI literacy efforts and training for public officials. The ENIA identifies improvements to communications infrastructure and adaptation of training to local

¹⁶⁰¹ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, Resolution L56 (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁶⁰² UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Costa Rica: Posición Nacional sobre los sistemas de armas autónomas* (May 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Costa_Rica-SP.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Costa_Rica-SP.pdf)

¹⁶⁰³ United Nations General Assembly First Committee, *General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

¹⁶⁰⁴ Misión Permanente de Costa Rica, *United Nations General Assembly First Committee Conventional Weapons* (Oct 23, 2024), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/statements/23Oct_Costa_Rica.pdf

¹⁶⁰⁵ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (ENIA) of Costa Rica 2024-2027 [Simplified English Version]*, pp. 22–23 (Oct. 24, 2024), https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_of_Costa_Rica.pdf

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and regional languages and dialects as core dependencies of implementing AI training nationwide.

The AI Strategy Action Plan incorporates objectives for training and talent development into Axis 5,¹⁶⁰⁶ with the expected result of formulating and executing an AI literacy strategy through Intelligent Community Centers (*Centro Comunitario Inteligentes, CECI*). This strategy includes awareness campaigns, accessible educational resources, and training activities for the community. This axis also targets the implementation of workforce reskilling and upskilling programs, directed to engineers and personnel from various areas who can benefit from AI technologies in their roles. Other efforts are directed to end-users, through guidance from trained personnel on the application of AI technologies to improve their tasks.

Human Rights

Freedom House ranked Costa Rica “Free” with an overall score of 91/100 in the 2026 Freedom in the World report.¹⁶⁰⁷ Costa Rica also ranked as “Free” with a score of 86/100 for freedom on the internet.¹⁶⁰⁸ However, the report cited “worsening online intimidation,” especially against journalists critical of the president. “Politicalization in the allocation of state advertising” to media outlets also threatens Costa Ricans’ online freedom. Human rights in Costa Rica predominantly stem from the UDHR, the country’s Constitution, and the Inter-American Human Rights System.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Costa Rica endorsed the OECD AI Principles for designing safe, fair, trustworthy and robust AI systems¹⁶⁰⁹ before becoming a member of OECD on May 25, 2021.¹⁶¹⁰

¹⁶⁰⁶ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Action Plan of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy [Plan de Acción de la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 14, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci3n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi3n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Versi3n%20Publicaci3n.pdf)

¹⁶⁰⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Costa Rica* (2026), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/costa-rica/freedom-world/2026>

¹⁶⁰⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Costa Rica* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/costa-rica/freedom-net/2025>

¹⁶⁰⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

¹⁶¹⁰ Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, *La importancia de establecer un marco orientador de política pública para el uso responsable y ético de la inteligencia artificial y su aplicación en Costa Rica* (Nov. 2021), <https://publications.iadb.org/es/la-importancia-de-establecer-un-marco-orientador-de-politica-publica-para-el-uso-responsable-y>

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Several policies proposed in Costa Rica's national digital transformation strategy, in which AI is included, align with the OECD AI principles. These include a focus on inclusive growth; human-centered values and fairness; transparency; robustness, security, and safety; and accountability.¹⁶¹¹ The National AI Strategy¹⁶¹² and related Action Plan¹⁶¹³ further these principles and Costa Rica's commitment to ethical, reliable human-centered AI for sustainable development.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Costa Rica contributed as a non-member¹⁶¹⁴ to the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Despite this participation, Costa Rica has not signed this first legally binding international AI treaty.¹⁶¹⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Costa Rica is one of the 193 countries that adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI during the 41st General Conference in November 2021. The instrument is the first of its kind that considers ethics as a basis for normative evaluation and guidance of AI technologies with reference to human dignity and wellbeing, and the prevention of harm.¹⁶¹⁶

CAF, the development bank of Latin America, and UNESCO pledged to create a Regional Council composed of national and local governments in the region to support implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation. Costa Rica is a

¹⁶¹¹ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Estrategia de Transformación Digital, Costa Rica 2023-2027* (Aug. 2023), https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/GobernanzaDigital/ETD%202023-2027%20V%20FINAL%2030-08-2023_v2.pdf

¹⁶¹² Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (ENIA) of Costa Rica 2024-2027 [Simplified English Version]*, pp. 22–23 (Oct. 24, 2024), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of Costa Rica.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-02/National%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Strategy%20of%20Costa%20Rica.pdf)

¹⁶¹³ Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones, *Action Plan of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy [Plan de Acción de la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 14, 2025), [https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan de Acción ENIA - Versión 11 agosto 2025 Versión Publicación.pdf](https://www.micitt.go.cr/sites/default/files/2025-10/Plan%20de%20Acci%2533n%20ENIA%20-%20Versi%2533n%2011%20agosto%202025%20Versi%2533n%20Publicaci%2533n.pdf)

¹⁶¹⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁶¹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹⁶¹⁶ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

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member of the Regional Council,¹⁶¹⁷ which held the inaugural meeting in October 2023 in Santiago de Chile.¹⁶¹⁸ Costa Rica signed the resulting Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence.¹⁶¹⁹ The Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI: proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.¹⁶²⁰

Costa Rica also participated in the Second Ministerial and High Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2024.¹⁶²¹ The summit consolidated the work proposed in the Ministerial Summit in Santiago, seeking to advance collaborative and sustainable AI-regulations efforts for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Montevideo Declaration.¹⁶²²

The Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications in Costa Rica developed the National AI Strategy released in 2024 through collaboration with UNESCO to align the strategy with the UNESCO Recommendation.¹⁶²³

¹⁶¹⁷ Ángel Melguizo and Gabriela. Ramos, *Inteligência Artificial ética e responsável: das palavras aos fatos e direitos*, Somos Ibero-America (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://www.somosiberoamerica.org/pt-br/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-e-responsavel-das-palavras-aos-fatos-e-direitos/>

¹⁶¹⁸ UNESCO, *Chile will host the First Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial and High Level Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 25, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/chile-will-host-first-latin-american-and-caribbean-ministerial-and-high-level-summit-ethics>

¹⁶¹⁹ Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaracion de Santiago “Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

¹⁶²⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile Host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>.

¹⁶²¹ Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Second Ministerial Summit on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.caf.com/en/currently/events/2024/10/online-second-ministerial-summit-on-the-ethics-of-artificial-intelligence-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>

¹⁶²² Cumbre sobre la Ética de la Inteligencia Artificial de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaration of Montevideo “For the construction of a regional approach on the governance of Artificial Intelligence and its impacts on our society”* (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/EN - Montevideo Declaration approved.pdf>

¹⁶²³ Mariana Alvarez, *Costa Rica Will Be the First Country in Central America to Have an Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Mar. 1, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/costa-rica-will-be-first-country-central-america-have-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

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Costa Rica is currently in process of completing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),¹⁶²⁴ a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation. The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.¹⁶²⁵

Evaluation

Costa Rica adopted a national AI strategy aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation through collaboration with UNESCO and then created an Action Plan for implementation. Costa Rica has specifically endorsed worldwide initiatives focused on the ethical and responsible use of AI, including the OECD AI principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, and has also participated in regional efforts to implement the frameworks. Costa Rica has an independent data protection agency charged with enforcing the comprehensive data protection law regime. The extensive use of AI both in public and private sectors calls, however, for protection of the right to algorithmic transparency.

¹⁶²⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

¹⁶²⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

Czechia

In 2025, Czechia approved a roadmap for the AI Strategy and submitted legislation to implement the EU AI Act. Czechia also launched a national AI skills initiative to build basic AI knowledge and skills in the public administration and across society.

National AI Strategy

The Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) announced¹⁶²⁶ the approval of an updated National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030¹⁶²⁷ (NAIS 2030) by government resolution on July 24, 2024. This updated strategy represents a fundamental shift from Czechia's original 2019 National Artificial Intelligence Strategy's general aspirational guidelines approach to a more structured and accountable framework. The updated NAIS moves from voluntary guidelines to specific requirements with designated oversight and enforcement mechanisms, reflecting Czechia's commitment to following through on EU regulatory standards and to ensuring the cohesive implementation of AI ethics and funding mechanisms for AI in the country. This includes a mandatory implementation framework with regular reporting requirements, specific timelines for implementation, clear accountability measures, and concrete funding commitments.¹⁶²⁸

The NAIS 2030 specifically refers, multiple times, across multiple contexts, to: 1) Fairness (*spravedlnost*); 2) Accountability (*odpovědnost*); 3) Transparency (*transparentnost*); 4) Rule of Law (*právní stát*); 5) Legal Force (*právní síla*); and 6) Enforcement (*vymáhání*).¹⁶²⁹ The 2019 NAIS established a standard of “maintaining a high level of protection of fundamental and other rights, in line with the European approach of human-centric AI.”¹⁶³⁰

¹⁶²⁶ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *Czechia as a Technological Leader: Government Approved the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence of the Czech Republic 2030* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://mpo.gov.cz/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/czechia-as-a-technological-leader--government-approved-the-national-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence-of-the-czech-republic-2030--282278>

¹⁶²⁷ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 [Národní strategii umělé inteligence ČR 2030]* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://mpo.gov.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/digitalni-ekonomika/umela-inteligence/2024/8/Narodni-strategie-umele-inteligence-CR-2030.pdf>

¹⁶²⁸ Ibid, pp. 47–48

¹⁶²⁹ Ibid, pp. 5–61

¹⁶³⁰ Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic*, pp. 3, 36 (2019), https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/2019/5/NAIS_eng_web.pdf

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The updated NAIS 2030 includes a restructuring around seven key areas: 1) AI in Research, Development and Innovation, 2) Education and Expertise in AI, 3) AI Skills and Labor Market Impacts; 4) Ethical and Legal Aspects of AI, 5) Security Aspects of AI, 6) AI in Industry and Business, and 7) AI in Public Administration and Public Services.¹⁶³¹ International Cooperation is integrated across all areas, and Ethics and Legal Aspects of AI is now a standalone area of focus, after previously being combined as two among five topics in the 2019 NAIS.¹⁶³²

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade are directly responsible for the NAIS implementation, coordinating through the newly established AI Committee. The AI committee is a subcommittee of the Digital Czech Republic Steering Committee. The Committee primarily includes responsible ministries who are competent to coordinate each specific key area of the Strategy and will be in charge of the NAIS operational management. Working groups are affected to each of the NAIS seven key objectives. Once a year, the Steering Committee and the Czech Government will receive a progress report on the NAIS implementation. The 2025 Action Plan attached to NAIS 2030 earmarks significant public funding to priority projects across R&D, skills, public administration use, and SME adoption, strengthening the credibility of delivery commitments.¹⁶³³

The 2019 NAIS provided context for the updated version.¹⁶³⁴ The NAIS follows up on the commitment the Czech Republic undertook by signing, together with other EU Member States the 2018 EU Declaration of Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence.¹⁶³⁵ The NAIS is part of the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019–2030¹⁶³⁶ and the Digital Czech Republic strategy.¹⁶³⁷ The 2019 NAIS referenced work by the UN, OECD, and Council of Europe as guides for addressing the legal, societal, and ethical aspects of AI. Introducing the 2019 NAIS, the prime

¹⁶³¹ Ibid, pp. 32–61

¹⁶³² Ibid, p. 5

¹⁶³³ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *The Government of the Czech Republic Approved the 2025 Action Plan of the National AI Strategy 2030 [Vláda ČR schválila Akční plán Národní strategie umělé inteligence ČR 2030 pro rok 2025]* (Apr. 2, 2025), <https://mpo.gov.cz/cz/podnikani/digitalni-ekonomika/vlada-cr-schvalila-akcni-plan-narodni-strategie-umele-inteligence-cr-2030-pro-rok-2025--287000/>

¹⁶³⁴ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic* (2019), https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/2019/5/NAIS_eng_web.pdf

¹⁶³⁵ European Commission, *EU Member States Sign Up to Cooperate on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 10, 2018), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-member-states-sign-cooperate-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁶³⁶ European Commission AI Watch, *Czech Republic AI Strategy Report* (Sept. 1, 2021), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/czech-republic/czech-republic-ai-strategy-report_en

¹⁶³⁷ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *Digital Czech Republic* (Feb. 12, 2019), <https://www.mpo.cz/en/business/digital-society/digital-czech-republic--243601/>

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minister stated, “We are going to focus on protecting every person and consumer, their rights and privacy, especially the weakest ones. We are going to prevent discrimination, manipulation and misuse of AI, we are going to set the rules for decision-making of algorithms about people in everyday life.”¹⁶³⁸

The National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 continues the path first established with the 2019 NAIS to embody, and now put into more specific action, the Government's "commitment to becoming one of Europe's innovative leaders and a country of the technological future within twelve years.”¹⁶³⁹ This translates into a position cautioning the EU against overregulation in view of the adoption of an EU AI Act, following the release of the European Commission’s White Paper on AI.¹⁶⁴⁰ In November 2019, the Czech Republic prepared a position non-paper for the EU on the “Regulatory Framework for AI in the EU.”¹⁶⁴¹ In the non-paper, the Czech Republic recommended to refrain from initial overregulation of AI, to promote self-regulation and soft-law based on best practices, and to define horizontal red lines as a means of ensuring the protection of fundamental rights as well as legal certainty. The Czech Republic also emphasized that “securing the safety of citizens is the very precondition for the true implementation of fundamental human rights and freedoms.”

The Czech Republic is also one of 14 EU Member States that urged the Commission in October 2020 to push for as little regulation as possible in the AI field to find a balance between setting up rules and ensuring fast AI development. In their non-paper, Czechia and other EU Member States set out two visions for the EU’s development of AI: (1) promoting innovation, while managing risks through a clear framework and (2) establishing trustworthy AI as a competitive advantage.¹⁶⁴²

¹⁶³⁸ Ibid, p. 3

¹⁶³⁹ Ibid, p. 3

¹⁶⁴⁰ Union of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic, *Joint Position on AI White Paper* (Jun. 16, 2020), https://www.spcr.cz/images/Joint_Position_on_AI_White_Paper_CEEcountries.pdf

¹⁶⁴¹ AI Observatory and Forum, *Regulatory Framework for Artificial Intelligence in the European Union: Non-paper of the Czech Republic* (Feb. 15, 2020), <http://observatory.ilaw.cas.cz/index.php/2020/02/15/czech-republics-non-paper-on-ai-regulatory-framework-in-the-eu/>

¹⁶⁴² Denmark Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, *Innovative and Trustworthy AI: Two Sides of the Same Coin*, Position Paper on behalf of Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden (Oct. 25, 2023), <https://www.em.dk/media/15214/non-paper-innovative-and-trustworthy-ai-two-side-of-the-same-coin.pdf>

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Czechia shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).¹⁶⁴³ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.

Czechia designated the Czech Telecommunication Office (ČTÚ) as the Digital Services Coordinator (DSC)¹⁶⁴⁴ charged with monitoring platform compliance, transparency, and online content governance. Although trusted-flagger systems and penalty mechanisms are still being finalized, the coordination framework is fully functional and demonstrates growing regulatory maturity. However, in 2025 the European Commission referred Czechia to the Court of Justice of the EU for not equipping the DSC with all required enforcement powers and penalties, indicating institutional capacity gaps to be addressed.¹⁶⁴⁵

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Czechia is bound by the EU AI Act.¹⁶⁴⁶ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation that aims to promote a human-centric approach to AI and make the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy, and ethical AI.

Czechia designated the Personal Data Protection Office (*Úřad pro ochranu osobních údajů*) and Public Defender of Rights (*Veřejný ochránce práv*) as national competent authorities to ensure the protection of fundamental rights.¹⁶⁴⁷ The AI Committee under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, responsible for implementing

¹⁶⁴³ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a single market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (Text with EEA relevance)*, L 277, 1–102 (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

¹⁶⁴⁴ Český Telekomunikační Úřad (ČTÚ), *The Role of the Digital Services Coordinator* (2025), <https://ctu.gov.cz/en/role-digital-services-coordinator>

¹⁶⁴⁵ European Commission, *Commission Decides to Refer Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Poland and Portugal to the Court of Justice of the European Union Due to Lack of Effective Implementation of the Digital Services Act* (May 7, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-decides-refer-czechia-spain-cyprus-poland-and-portugal-court-justice-european-union-due>

¹⁶⁴⁶ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act*, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD)), P9_TA(2024)0138, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

¹⁶⁴⁷ European Commission, *Fundamental Rights Protection Authorities with Special Powers under the AI Act* (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/fundamental-rights-protection-authorities-ai-act>

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the NAIS,¹⁶⁴⁸ is also planning implementation of the AI Act.¹⁶⁴⁹ The Ministry of Industry and Trade submitted a bill to Parliament¹⁶⁵⁰ in September 2025 that designates the Telecommunications Office (ČTÚ) as the single point of contact.¹⁶⁵¹ The National Bank and Office for Personal Data Protection also have oversight duties while the Office for Technical Standardization will be the notifying authority and oversee conformity assessments.

Public Participation

Public participation to formulate the 2024 National AI Strategy was formalized and inclusive. The public participation phase for preparing the update took place from June 28–August 20, 2023, and included 517 respondents from the general public, public administration representatives, private sector stakeholders, academic institutions, research organizations, and non-profit organizations.¹⁶⁵² “To ensure broad-based support and relevance, the MPO consulted with public and private representatives. [...] We were inspired by the approaches of countries like Canada, the USA, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. We organized an online roundtable where experts from these countries presented their approaches to AI. The roundtable served as a platform for exchanging information and best practices,” said Petr Očko, Chief Director for Digitalization and Innovation at the MPO.¹⁶⁵³

¹⁶⁴⁸ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *Czechia as a Technological Leader: Government Approved the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence of the Czech Republic 2030* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://mpo.gov.cz/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/czechia-as-a-technological-leader--government-approved-the-national-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence-of-the-czech-republic-2030--282278>

¹⁶⁴⁹ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *Artificial Intelligence Committee Discussed Further Development of AI in the Czech Republic* (May 14, 2025), <https://mpo.gov.cz/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/artificial-intelligence-committee-discussed-further-development-of-ai-in-the-czech-republic--287662/>

¹⁶⁵⁰ ODok Portal, *Draft Act on Artificial Intelligence and on Amendments to Act No. 87/2023 Coll., on Market Surveillance of Products and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts, as Amended [Návrh zákona o umělé inteligenci a o změně zákona č. 87/2023 Sb., o dozoru nad trhem s výrobky a o změně některých souvisejících zákonů, ve znění pozdějších předpisů]* (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://odok.gov.cz/portal/veklep/material/KORNDLSJSEUC/>

¹⁶⁵¹ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *The Ministry of Industry and Trade Has Prepared a Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://mpo.gov.cz/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/the-ministry-of-industry-and-trade-has-prepared-a-draft-law-on-artificial-intelligence---289865/>

¹⁶⁵² Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030* [Czech only], pp. 11–12 (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://www.mpo.gov.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/digitalni-ekonomika/umela-inteligence/2024/8/Narodni-strategie-umele-intelligence-CR-2030.pdf>

¹⁶⁵³ CZ Daily, *Czech Republic Unveils New AI Strategy for 2030* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://czechdaily.cz/czech-republic-unveils-new-ai-strategy-for-2030>

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This approach demonstrates more active commitment to public participation, including the use of Expert Working Groups, organized by the Aspen Institute in cooperation with prg.ai, under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. However, it is unclear exactly how the public was involved in the consultation, which appears to possibly have focused mostly on experts, industry, and academics with some inclusion of NGOs and social partners. Despite the lack of clear insights into this process, it is notable that there appears to be a dedicated effort by key Czech AI leaders to embrace the need for, and execution of, robust public participation, perhaps in response to the lack of civil-society engagement, such as by human rights organizations, in the 2019 strategy.¹⁶⁵⁴

In February 2020, Czechia launched the AI Observatory and Forum, an expert platform on legal aspects of AI to create a favorable social and legal environment for research, development and use of responsible AI.¹⁶⁵⁵ The platform is tasked with identifying legislative obstacles for research, development and use of AI and offering recommendations on their removal, developing legal and ethical recommendations for practice, providing space for public debate and engaging Czechia in international discussions on AI regulation and data economy. Audits in the public and private sector will also detect the existence of legal barriers. The core of the expert platform and forum consists of a team of independent experts that continuously monitors trends in research and development of AI, its social impact, the development of legal and ethical rules in Czechia, in other countries and at international level. The platform cooperates closely with the AI Committee in charge of coordinating the implementation of the NAIS.

Despite functioning for several years, however, the forum has not published reports of findings in the public domain.¹⁶⁵⁶ The latest news uploaded to the platform website are from 2020. Given the inactivity of the AI Observatory and Forum since 2020, the standing mechanism for sustained public co-governance remains limited; while the 2023 consultation engaged experts and stakeholders, broader citizen participation could be strengthened in the next update cycle.¹⁶⁵⁷

¹⁶⁵⁴ International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, *Being AIware: Incorporating Civil Society into National Strategies on Artificial Intelligence: Czech Republic* (Dec. 2020), https://ecn1.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/ECNL_ICNL_NAIS_Czech_Republic_Dec_2020.pdf

¹⁶⁵⁵ AI Observatory and Forum, *Czech Republic's Expert Platform and Forum for Monitoring Legal and Ethical Rules for Artificial Intelligence*, <http://observatory.ilaw.cas.cz/>

¹⁶⁵⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Strategies and Policies in Czechia* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/CzechRepublic>

¹⁶⁵⁷ Institute of State and Law, Czech Academy of Sciences, *AI Observatory and Forum—Czech Republic's Expert Platform for Monitoring Legal and Ethical Rules for Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 9, 2025), <http://observatory.ilaw.cas.cz/>

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Data Protection

Since the Czech Republic is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)¹⁶⁵⁸ is directly applicable in Czechia and to Czechs. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”¹⁶⁵⁹ The GDPR has been applicable since May 25, 2018. The EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)¹⁶⁶⁰ protects citizens’ fundamental right to data protection in handling by criminal law enforcement authorities.¹⁶⁶¹ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.¹⁶⁶²

The 2019 Personal Data Processing Act (ZZOÚ) supplements the GDPR and implements the LED in Czech law.¹⁶⁶³ The Office of Personal Data Protection (*Úřad pro ochranu osobních údajů*) serves as the Czech Data Protection Authority under the ZZOÚ.¹⁶⁶⁴

¹⁶⁵⁸ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation)*, L 119, 1–88 (2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0679>

¹⁶⁵⁹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

¹⁶⁶⁰ European Parliament and Council of the European Union. *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*. Official Journal of the European Union, L 119, 89–131 (2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/oj/eng>

¹⁶⁶¹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

¹⁶⁶² Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

¹⁶⁶³ *Czech Personal Data Protection Act* (Mar. 12, 2019), <https://uou.gov.cz/media/act-no-110-2019-coll.pdf>

¹⁶⁶⁴ Office for Personal Data Protection, *About the Czech DPA* (2026), <https://uou.gov.cz/en/about-the-czech-dpa>

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The Czech Republic is also a member of the Council of Europe and has signed but has not yet ratified¹⁶⁶⁵ the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.¹⁶⁶⁶

Czechia's Office of Personal Data Protection joined the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) as an accredited member in 2002.¹⁶⁶⁷ The Czech DPA did not endorse or co-sponsor the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,¹⁶⁶⁸ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,¹⁶⁶⁹ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,¹⁶⁷⁰ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.¹⁶⁷¹

Algorithmic Transparency

The Czech Republic has ratified Convention 108, which includes provisions for algorithmic transparency, but has not yet ratified the Protocol that amends it (Convention 108+) and expands algorithmic transparency requirements.¹⁶⁷² However, the Czech Republic is subject to the GDPR as an EU member state. Czechs have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-

¹⁶⁶⁵ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 9, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

¹⁶⁶⁶ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

¹⁶⁶⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹⁶⁶⁸ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹⁶⁶⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

¹⁶⁷⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹⁶⁷¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹⁶⁷² Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 9, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

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making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.¹⁶⁷³ The EU AI Act, effective from August 2, 2024,¹⁶⁷⁴ also introduces transparency obligations for AI systems in the Czech Republic. The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems¹⁶⁷⁵ specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability and effective remedies.

AI Oversight

The Czech DPA has been proactive in the deployment of GDPR protections, having fined companies for data leaks and conducted bilateral meetings with the Austrian oversight body¹⁶⁷⁶ on the risks of AI in social media.¹⁶⁷⁷ Until the oversight authorities for the EU AI Act are designated by law, the DPA remains the primary oversight body for algorithmic-processing.

Environmental Impact of AI

The Czech Republic NAIS does not specifically address policies aimed at mitigating the environmental impact of AI technologies.¹⁶⁷⁸ Still, the Czech Republic complies the EU Net Zero policies and the European Green Deal and has obligations under the ESG “Do no harm” principle, which prescribes an overall careful approach to the environment before the deployment of new technologies. The Digital Czech Republic¹⁶⁷⁹ strategy highlights the importance of a public and political debate to

¹⁶⁷³ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR.

¹⁶⁷⁴ European Commission, *AI Act*, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>; European Commission, *Third Draft General Purpose AI Code of Practice* (Mar. 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/third-draft-general-purpose-ai-code-practice-published-written-independent-experts>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

¹⁶⁷⁶ Office for Personal Data Protection, *Czech DPA Imposed Fine of 351 Million CZK for GDPR Infringement* (2025), <https://uoou.gov.cz/en/news/business-communication/czech-dpa-imposed-fine-of-351-million-czk-for-gdpr-infringement>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Office for Personal Data Protection, *Czech and Austrian Personal Data Protection Face Similar Challenges* (Mar. 2025), <https://uoou.gov.cz/ochrana-osobnich-udaju-v-ceske-republice-a-rakousku-celi-obdobnym-vyzvam-umela-intelligence-a-socialni-site-jsou-spojovany-s-radou-rizik-pro-obcany>

¹⁶⁷⁸ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 [Národní strategii umělé inteligence ČR 2030]* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://www.mpo.gov.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/digitalni-ekonomika/umela-intelligence/2024/8/Narodni-strategie-umele-intelligence-CR-2030.pdf>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, *Digital Czech Republic* (2024), <https://mpo.gov.cz/en/business/digital-society/digital-czech-republic--243601/>

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find new and innovative ways of adapting to the emerging climate change through digital and AI-enhanced technologies and tools.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

According to the Czech Republic, “it is indispensable for the CCW High Contracting Parties to have sufficient guidance on how to ensure that any new weapon, means or methods of warfare are in compliance with the International Humanitarian Law, which is our main objective” and “welcome[s] the work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.”¹⁶⁸⁰

The Czech Republic is one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”¹⁶⁸¹ Czechia voted in favor¹⁶⁸² of resolution L.56¹⁶⁸³ on autonomous weapons systems, emphasizing the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems.” The Czech Republic continued this support for discussions on LAWS in the UN General Assembly with the goal of an international agreement with support for Resolution 79/62¹⁶⁸⁴ on lethal autonomous weapons systems in the 2024 UN General Assembly.

Czechia participated in the REAIM 2023 international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Czechia endorsed a joint call for action

¹⁶⁸⁰ Hani Stolina, *Statement by Mr. Hani Stolina at the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons of the First Committee of the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations* (Oct. 23, 2019), <https://perma.cc/NC9W-YDM2>

¹⁶⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate—Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹⁶⁸² Stop Killer Robots, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹⁶⁸³ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁶⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament, Report of the first committee*, Draft resolution A/C.1/79/L.77, p. 103 (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/408>

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stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”¹⁶⁸⁵

AI Literacy

AI literacy is embedded in NAIS 2030 under Education and Expertise in AI and AI Skills and Labour Market Impacts.¹⁶⁸⁶ The AI National Skilling Plan¹⁶⁸⁷ launched in June 2025 with Microsoft aims to train more than 350,000 people in basic AI skills over the next year. Target groups include public administration, teachers, students, women, job-seekers, and non-profit organizations. Charles University is a partner in the program and participated in an AI Skills for Public Administration. The AI for Kids program is training teachers to support students’ literacy on what AI is, how to use it “meaningfully and sensibly,” and to understand the impact of AI on individuals and society. A brochure on tips for using AI in education and beyond was one of the first program outputs. The initiative explicitly aligns to commitments in the NAIS 2030.

Human Rights

Czechia adopted the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. As a member of the European Union and of the Council of Europe, Czechia is committed to upholding the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Freedom House ranks the Czech Republic “Free” with a score of 95/100, recognizing the country’s positive standing on political and civil rights.¹⁶⁸⁸

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers recalled that their commitment to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms required member state to “ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-

¹⁶⁸⁵ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

¹⁶⁸⁶ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 [Národní strategie umělé inteligence ČR 2030]* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://www.mpo.gov.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/digitalni-ekonomika/umela-intelligence/2024/8/Narodni-strategie-umele-intelligence-CR-2030.pdf>

¹⁶⁸⁷ Microsoft, *Microsoft Launches AI National Skilling Plan in the Czech Republic* (Jun. 27, 2025), <https://news.microsoft.com/cs-cz/2025/06/26/microsoft-spousti-ai-national-skilling-plan-v-ceske-republice-v-prvni-fazi-projektu-investuje-pres-10-milionu-korun-do-vzdelavani-vice-nez-350-000-lidi/>

¹⁶⁸⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Czechia* (2025) <https://freedomhouse.org/country/czechia/freedom-world/2025>

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dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”¹⁶⁸⁹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The Czech Republic has been a member of OECD since 1995 and has endorsed the OECD AI Principles.¹⁶⁹⁰ The original NAIS emphasizes the importance of cooperation with the OECD for the implementation of the Strategy measures. Exchange of information in expert groups on AI at the OECD and coordination of preparations for negotiations within the OECD are amongst those measures.¹⁶⁹¹ The OECD AI Policy Observatory acknowledges that the NAIS addresses “inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being; robustness, security and safety; accountability; fostering a digital ecosystem for AI; providing an enabling policy environment for AI; building human capacity and preparing for labour market transition, international co-operation for trustworthy AI.”¹⁶⁹²

The Czech Republic joined the Global Partnership on AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities, in 2022.¹⁶⁹³ The GPAI is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Czech Republic contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI,

¹⁶⁸⁹ Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

¹⁶⁹⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles*, <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

¹⁶⁹¹ Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic*, pp. 36, 38–39 (2019), https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/2019/5/NAIS_eng_web.pdf

¹⁶⁹² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Policies in Czechia: National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic* (Jul. 10, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/national-ai-strategy-of-the-czech-republic-2030-6563>

¹⁶⁹³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. *Czech Republic Joins Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 20, 2022), [https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/archive/events_and_issues/x2022/czech_republic_joins_global_partnership\\$219729.html](https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/archive/events_and_issues/x2022/czech_republic_joins_global_partnership$219729.html)

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Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.¹⁶⁹⁴ The Czech Republic is party to the Convention as an EU member state but has not signed independently.¹⁶⁹⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

A UNESCO member state since 1993,¹⁶⁹⁶ Czechia is among the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.¹⁶⁹⁷ The Czech Republic supported the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation by hosting the first ever Global Forum on the Ethics of AI under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union and under the patronage of UNESCO in December 2022. The forum placed a spotlight on “ensuring inclusion in the AI world,” and took stock of the implementation of the recommendation.¹⁶⁹⁸

Czechia has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),¹⁶⁹⁹ a tool developed by UNESCO to assist in the implementation of the Recommendation.

Evaluation

The Czech Republic’s ambition to become a European leader in the digital field by 2030¹⁷⁰⁰ has shaped its position on AI policy. The release in 2024 of an updated National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2030 builds on that ambition by shifting to a focus on implementation.¹⁷⁰¹ The updated National AI Strategy of the

¹⁶⁹⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁶⁹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 9, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

¹⁶⁹⁶ UNESCO, *Member States*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries#>

¹⁶⁹⁷ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁶⁹⁸ UNESCO, *First Global Forum on Ethics of AI Held in Prague, One Year after the Adoption of UNESCO’s Recommendation* (2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/first-global-forum-ethics-ai-held-prague-one-year-after-adoption-unescos-recommendation>

¹⁶⁹⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

¹⁷⁰⁰ Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Czech Republic*, p. 3 (2019), https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/guidepost/for-the-media/press-releases/2019/5/NAIS_eng_web.pdf

¹⁷⁰¹ Ministry of Industry and Trade, *National AI Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 [Národní strategii umělé inteligence ČR 2030]* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://www.mpo.gov.cz/assets/cz/podnikani/di-gitalni-ekonomika/umela-inteligence/2024/8/Narodni-strategie-umele-intelligence-CR-2030.pdf>

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Czech Republic 2030, effective as of July 2024, shifted transitioned from the broad aspirational approach in the 2019 NAIS to a structured, more enforceable framework.

Although the country adheres to a human centric approach to AI through its commitment to implementing the OECD AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, Czechia has consistently stood against perceived overregulation, notably through the EU AI Act, and strives with its national AI strategy to remove what it considers as legal impediments to AI development. The Czech Republic has not yet ratified the modernized Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data. Czechia has legislation pending to establish a national supervisory mechanism for AI aligned with the AI Act.

Denmark

In 2025, Denmark passed legislation to implement the EU AI Act by designating national supervisory authorities. The Ministry of Culture proposed the Copyright Act as a means to combat Deepfakes and proposed measures to tighten control over training AI systems on copyrighted material.

National AI Strategy

The Danish government unveiled the national AI strategy in March 2019.¹⁷⁰² The Danish strategy on AI development outlines the issues that must be tackled and defines specific policy efforts and key initiatives. The national AI strategy intends to establish Denmark as a leader in responsible AI development. There are four objectives to accomplish this goal 1) Establish a consistent ethical and human-centered foundation for artificial intelligence; 2) Prioritize and promote research in artificial intelligence; 3) Encourage the growth of Danish firms through the development and use of artificial intelligence; and 4) Ascertain that the public sector utilizes AI to provide world-class services to citizens and society.

The strategy covers both the public and the private sector and aims to create a framework to improve the level of trust in AI. Six principles for AI guide this objective: self-determination, human dignity equality and justice, and addresses also responsibility and explainability.¹⁷⁰³ The national strategy establishes healthcare, energy and utilities, agriculture, and transport as priority areas to lift the work of AI within Denmark.

The Agency for Digital Government (*Digitaliserings-styrelsen*) published three AI Guides in 2024 directed to companies, citizens, and authorities testing and working with Generative AI.¹⁷⁰⁴ The Agency also launched an AI Sandbox in cooperation with the Data Protection Agency to facilitate compliance with GDPR and, over time the EU AI Act.

The 2024 Strategic Approach to Artificial Intelligence¹⁷⁰⁵ by the Ministry of Digital Affairs (*Regeringen*) aims to provide a “more robust framework for the

¹⁷⁰² Danish Government, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (2019), https://en.digst.dk/media/19337/305755_gb_version_final-a.pdf

¹⁷⁰³ Ibid

¹⁷⁰⁴ Agency for Digital Government, *The Agency for Digital Government Publishes AI Guides* (May 3, 2024), <https://en.digst.dk/news/news-archive/2024/maj/the-agency-for-digital-government-publishes-ai-guides/>

¹⁷⁰⁵ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Strategic Approach to Artificial Intelligence: A More Robust Foundation for the Responsible Development and Use of AI in Denmark* (Dec. 2024), <https://www.english.digmin.dk/Media/638719220318136690/Stategic%20Approach%20to%20Artificial%20Intelligence.pdf>

responsible development and use of AI in Denmark.” The new strategy document clarifies the Danish vision for AI, centered on three guiding principles, the first of which is “Developing and using AI must be centred on citizens’ fundamental rights and in accordance with Danish values.” The other principles center on supporting businesses “to develop, apply and sell solutions and business models based on the responsible use of AI” and leading the world in using AI in the public sector to benefit citizens.¹⁷⁰⁶

Led by the Ministry of Culture (*Kulturminister*),¹⁷⁰⁷ political representatives are also working to protect citizens’ rights to their images and bodies with an agreement to create legislation that will make it illegal to share digital imitations of personal characteristics such as deepfakes.¹⁷⁰⁸ The bill will also make it illegal to share imitations of performances, providing protection for performing artists, while leaving room for parodies and satire.

Nordic-Baltic and Nordic Cooperation on AI

As for the regional landscape, the Danish Minister for digitalization signed the declaration on “AI in the Nordic-Baltic region” establishing a collaborative framework on “developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability.”¹⁷⁰⁹

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0¹⁷¹⁰ builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries, and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017-2020. “In order to promote work with digitalisation, co-ordinate efforts, and follow up on the goals of the declaration, a council of ministers for digitalisation (MR-DIGITAL) was established in 2017. The aim is to promote development in three areas: (1) Increase mobility and integration in the Nordic and Baltic region by building a common area for cross-border digital services;

¹⁷⁰⁶ Ibid, p. 9

¹⁷⁰⁷ Kulturministeriet, *Deepfakes, Production Discounts and Less Bureaucracy Are on This Year’s Legislative Agenda* (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://kum.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/deepfakes-produktionsrabat-og-mindre-bureaukrati-er-paa-aarets-lovprogram>

¹⁷⁰⁸ Kulturministeriet, *Broad Agreement on Deepfakes Gives Everyone the Right to Their Own Body and Voice* (Jun. 26, 2025), <https://kum.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/bred-aftale-om-deepfakes-giver-alle-ret-til-egen-krop-og-egen-stemme>; *Værn mod deling af digitale efterligninger af personlige kendetegn* [Danish only], https://kum.dk/fileadmin/kum/1_Nyheder_og_presse/2025/Aftale.pdf

¹⁷⁰⁹ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

¹⁷¹⁰ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Sept. 29, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ministerial-declaration-digital-north-20>

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(2) Promote green economic growth and development in the Nordic-Baltic region through data-driven innovation and a fair data economy for efficient sharing and re-use of data; and (3) Promote Nordic-Baltic leadership in the EU/EEA and globally in a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies.”¹⁷¹¹

The Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization released another joint statement in November 2021, announcing a focus on digital inclusion, striving to implement measures to make digital services more accessible to all Danish inhabitants and ensuring that those who do not possess the necessary level of skills get the opportunity to acquire them.¹⁷¹²

In September 2022, the Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization issued a common statement on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The ministers stressed that this “rapid transformation has challenged everyone to adapt to new, digital ways of doing business, learning and accessing public authorities.” The ministers declared that they “have committed to ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefit from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills. [...] Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services.”¹⁷¹³

As part of its action plan for Vision 2030 (2021–2024), the Nordic Council of Ministers identified innovation, digital integration, the safe use of artificial intelligence, data development and open data, education and digitalization as key objectives.¹⁷¹⁴ The Nordic Council of Ministers also emphasizes the involvement of

¹⁷¹¹ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation*, <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

¹⁷¹² Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common statement on the importance of promoting digital inclusion as a central part of the digital transformation in the Nordic-Baltic region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

¹⁷¹³ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common statement on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

¹⁷¹⁴ Nordic Council of Ministers, *The Nordic Region—Towards Being the Most Sustainable and Integrated Region in the World, Action Plan for 2021–2024* (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-towards-being-most-sustainable-and-integrated-region-world>

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civil society in efforts relating to our vision for 2030 thanks to “a Nordic civil society network and public consultations.”¹⁷¹⁵

Nordic Project 2024 will continue toward this vision to support collaboration among Nordic and Baltic countries in developing and using AI in a responsible way. The project aims to support Nordic businesses’ development and application of responsible and ethical AI to achieve critical mass by pooling and coordinating resources through a collaboration platform, center, or hub.¹⁷¹⁶ The Nordic-Baltic Co-operation Programme for Digitalisation 2025 to 2030 builds on this initiative with a subgoal (3.3) dedicated to “trustworthy, secure, responsible, and sustainable use of technology, including Artificial Intelligence.”¹⁷¹⁷

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Denmark applies the EU Digital Services Act (DSA)¹⁷¹⁸ regulating online intermediaries and platforms. The main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation by requiring online intermediaries and platforms to implement ways to prevent and remove posts containing illegal goods, services, or content while giving users the means to report or flag this type of content.

The Agency for Digital Governance (*Digitaliserings-styrelsen*) serves as Denmark’s Digital Services Coordinator.¹⁷¹⁹

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Denmark is bound by the EU AI Act.¹⁷²⁰ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a

¹⁷¹⁵ Nordic Council of Ministers, *Guidelines for Involving Civil Society in Work Relating to Our Vision 2030* (Feb. 12, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/guidelines-involving-civil-society-work-relating-our-vision-2030>

¹⁷¹⁶ Nordic Innovation, *New Nordic AI-Preparation Project* (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.nordicinnovation.org/programs/new-nordics-ai-preparation-project>

¹⁷¹⁷ Nordic Council, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation Programme for Digitalisation 2025 to 2030* (Oct. 2024), <https://pub.norden.org/politiknord2024-754/>

¹⁷¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

¹⁷¹⁹ Digitaliserings-styrelsen, *Digital Services—DSA [Digitale tjenester—DSA]*, <https://digst.dk/tilsyn/digitale-tjenester-dsa/>

¹⁷²⁰ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138,

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human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

Denmark designated the Agency for Digital Government the national competent authority charged with coordinating with supervisory authorities and the European AI Office.¹⁷²¹ The Agency is part of the Ministry of Digital Affairs and implements digital and AI policies in the public sector for citizens and businesses. For example, the agency implemented the regulatory sandboxes and created AI guides for citizens, businesses, and authorities.¹⁷²²

The Act on Supplementary Provisions to the AI Regulation implements the EU AI Act in Denmark.¹⁷²³ The Act designates the Agency for Digital Government as the central contact point and supervisory authority for most prohibited practices and the Danish Data Protection Agency and the Danish Court Administration as competent authorities for specific areas. In line with this role,¹⁷²⁴ the Agency for Digital Government published a six-part guidance package on prohibited AI uses.¹⁷²⁵

Public Participation

Denmark provides programs that enable non-governmental actors (e.g., the academic community, business, civil society, and regional and local governments) to express their perspectives or provide expert advice that informs policy-making processes. These policy initiatives enable stakeholders or experts to engage in public discussions to share information and foster collaboration. Public awareness campaigns and civic engagement activities include informing and consulting with members of the public. The government also has a consultation portal (*Høring*

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

¹⁷²¹ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *The Agency for Digital Government Is Appointed as the Supervisory Authority for Artificial Intelligence [Digitaliseringsstyrelsen udpeges som tilsynsmyndighed for kunstig intelligens]* (Apr. 10. 2024),

<https://www.digmin.dk/digitalisering/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2024/apr/digitaliseringsstyrelsen-udpeges-som-tilsynsmyndighed-for-kunstig-intelligens>

¹⁷²² Agency for Digital Government, *The Agency for Digital Government Publishes AI Guides* (May 3, 2024), <https://en.digst.dk/news/news-archive/2024/maj/the-agency-for-digital-government-publishes-ai-guides/>

¹⁷²³ Restinformation [Legal Information], *Law no. 467 of 14/05/2025, Act on Supplementary Provisions to the Regulation on Artificial Intelligence [Lov om supplerende bestemmelser til forordningen om kunstig intelligens]* (May 14, 2025),

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lt/a/2025/467>

¹⁷²⁴ Agency for Digital Government, *New Guidance on Prohibited AI Uses* (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://digst.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2025/oktober/vejledning-om-forbudt-ai/>

¹⁷²⁵ Agency for Digital Government, *Prohibited AI Practices [Forbudte former for AI-praksis]*, <https://digst.dk/tilsyn/ai-forordningen/reglerne-i-ai-forordningen/forbudte-former-for-ai-praksis/>

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Portalen) for receiving comments, as in the 2025 consultation on amendments to the copyright law.¹⁷²⁶

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tech for Democracy Initiative launched in 2021 brought together government members, organizations, industries and civil society to ensure that technology works for humans and not the other way round.¹⁷²⁷ At the launch event, the Copenhagen Pledge on Tech for Democracy was signed by over 200 stakeholders.¹⁷²⁸ Throughout the ensuing Year of Action, ten Action Coalitions convened to deliberate on issues such as transparency, content moderation, and online harassment.¹⁷²⁹ In March 2023, Denmark, alongside Norway, supported the EC in launching the Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI) as a Team Europe Initiative, with an implementation period that stretches to 2026.¹⁷³⁰

The Danish AI strategy for its part is based on proposals from a Digital Growth Panel¹⁷³¹ and the Danish Government's Disruption Committee.¹⁷³²

Data Protection

Denmark, like other European countries, has enacted laws to supplement the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).¹⁷³³ In Denmark, the GDPR and its

¹⁷²⁶ Hørling Portalen, *Consultation on the Proposal for Act amending the Copyright Act (Introduction of performance protection and protection against digitally generated imitations, etc.)*[*Forslag til lov om ændring af lov om ophavsret (Indførelse af en præstationsbeskyttelse og beskyttelse mod digitalt genererede efterligninger mv)*] (Jul. 7, 2025), <https://hoeringsportalen.dk/Hearing/Details/70269>

¹⁷²⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *The Tech for Democracy Initiative*, <https://techamb.um.dk/impact/tech-for-democracy>; see also, Tech for Democracy, <https://techfordemocracy.dk/>

¹⁷²⁸ Digital Democracy Initiative, *Tech for Democracy* (2024) <https://digitaldemocracyinitiative.net/underside-tech-for-democracy>

¹⁷²⁹ Danish Institute for International Studies, *Tech for Democracy: Learnings from the Year of Action* (2023), https://pure.diis.dk/ws/portalfiles/portal/20707338/Tech_for_Democracy_2023_Report.pdf

¹⁷³⁰ Digital Democracy Initiative, *About the DDI* (2024), <https://digitaldemocracyinitiative.net/underside-about>

¹⁷³¹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, *Digital Growth Strategy 2025* (2021), <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/denmark-digital-growth-strategy-2025>

¹⁷³² The Danish Government, Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior, *Denmark's National Reform Programme* (2019), https://commission.europa.eu/content/2019-european-semester-national-reform-programmes-and-stabilityconvergence-programmes_en

¹⁷³³ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Apr. 27, 2016), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

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Danish supplementary act, the Data Protection Act (DPA)¹⁷³⁴ are the primary regulations governing the processing of personal data. The DPA provides for certain exceptions to the GDPR, most notably regarding the processing of personal data in the employment sector and the processing of national registration numbers. The independent Danish Data Protection Agency, the Datatilsynet, enforces data protection in Denmark.

In 2002, the Danish Act on Personal Data Processing came into force, implementing Directive 95/46 EC. However, despite the fact that the Danish data protection regulation is more than two decades old, until the GDPR was implemented in 2016, little attention was paid to data protection in Denmark.

The Danish and other European supervisory authorities have released several recommendations and decisions interpreting the GDPR and relevant national legislation, allowing Danish businesses to conduct significantly more targeted and resource-efficient compliance operations. Denmark has lagged behind the majority of other EU Member States when it comes to data protection knowledge and compliance. The levels of fines (100.000 DKK and 50.000 DKK) were very low compared to fines in other countries (with fines up to millions). A case in August 2024 marked a shift.¹⁷³⁵ The Danish Data Protection Authority imposed a DKK 200,000 (\$29,560) fine on a local authority for insufficient security measures. Furthermore, on February 13, 2025, the European Court of Justice ruled that fines for GDPR violations should be calculated based on the worldwide turnover of the entire corporate group, not just the violating entity.¹⁷³⁶ This decision, stemming from a case involving Danish company ILVA, could lead to significantly higher fines in Denmark and across the EU. According to some privacy law professionals, there is a significant risk for Denmark to be considered a “safe haven” in relation to fines, which could cause companies that do not want to comply with the GDPR to locate in Denmark.¹⁷³⁷

¹⁷³⁴ Data Protection Act, *Act No. 502 on supplementary provisions to the regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* (May 23, 2018), <https://www.datatilsynet.dk/media/7753/danish-data-protection-act.pdf>

¹⁷³⁵ Martina Lindberg, *Danish Municipality Vejen Fined for Lack of Data Encryption* (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://www.grip.globalrelay.com/danish-municipality-vejen-fined-for-lack-of-data-encryption/>

¹⁷³⁶ InfoCuria Case-law, *JUDGMENT OF THE COURT (Fifth Chamber)*, (Feb. 14th, 2025), <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=295319&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=21586718>

¹⁷³⁷ Claas Thöle, *Four Years of GDPR: The Danish Approach to Data Protection, or Absence Thereof?* (Sept. 15, 2022), <https://inplp.com/latest-news/article/four-years-of-gdpr-the-danish-approach-to-data-protection-or-absence-thereof/>

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Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Denmark transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)¹⁷³⁸ through the Danish Law Enforcement Act.¹⁷³⁹ The EDPB has produced guidelines on the use of facial recognition technologies in the area of law enforcement, stressing that law enforcement must “satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality.”¹⁷⁴⁰ One of the first publicly known applications of facial recognition technology in Denmark under the framework of the LED and national data protection rules was approved in January 2025. The Danish Data Protection Agency authorized the use of automated facial recognition by Football Club Copenhagen to enhance public safety and prevent entry by banned individuals.¹⁷⁴¹ The system may be deployed at Parken Stadium and during away games at other venues. While the LED sets strict compliance requirements for all uses of facial recognition, this decision is an early example of a high-risk, security-driven deployment deemed to meet the thresholds of necessity and proportionality. It may serve as a precedent for similar applications in other public spaces.

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) launched a Coordinated Enforcement Framework action focusing on the right to erasure under the GDPR in March 2025. The Danish Data Protection Agency is participating in this initiative to evaluate how data controllers manage and respond to erasure requests, ensuring compliance with GDPR standards.¹⁷⁴²

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him

¹⁷³⁸ *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

¹⁷³⁹ *Danish Law Enforcement Act*, <https://www.datatilsynet.dk/Media/637998758521368022/The%20Danish%20Law%20Enforcement%20Act.pdf>

¹⁷⁴⁰ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement*, Final Version (May 17, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/our-work-tools/our-documents/guidelines/guidelines-052022-use-facial-recognition-technology-area_en

¹⁷⁴¹ Masha Burak, *FC Copenhagen Will Use Facial Recognition to Stop Violent Football Fans*, Biometric Update (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202501/fc-copenhagen-will-use-facial-recognition-to-stop-violent-football-fans>

¹⁷⁴² Datatilsynet, *EDPB Launches Coordinated Action on the Right to Erasure* (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://www.datatilsynet.dk/internationalt/internationalt-nyt/2025/mar/edpb-igangsætter-koordineret-indsats-om-retten-til-sletning>

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or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002, the Datatilsynet has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,¹⁷⁴³ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,¹⁷⁴⁴ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,¹⁷⁴⁵ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.¹⁷⁴⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Denmark is party to the Council of Europe Convention 108 on automatic processing information, but has not signed the updated Convention 108+, which explicitly provides for algorithmic transparency.¹⁷⁴⁷ Convention 108+ treaty will enter into force after Denmark and all other parties to the original convention ratify. Denmark is subject to the GDPR, which provides a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.¹⁷⁴⁸

Data Ethics Council

The Danish government established the Data Ethics Council to “support the development in an ethically sound manner that takes into account citizens’ fundamental rights, legal certainty or fundamental societal values.”¹⁷⁴⁹ The Council

¹⁷⁴³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹⁷⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

¹⁷⁴⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹⁷⁴⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹⁷⁴⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

¹⁷⁴⁸ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR

¹⁷⁴⁹ Dataetisk Råd, *About the Danish Data Ethics Council: Background and Purpose [Om Dataetisk Råd: Baggrund og formål]* (2026), <https://www.dataetiskraad.dk/om-dataetisk-raad/baggrund-og-formaal>

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advises the public and private sectors on data-related ethical issues and provide a venue for debate and public awareness. The Council publishes responses to consultations on various data-related issues, such as the Copyright Act,¹⁷⁵⁰ which protects against digitally generated production imitations, and applications of AI such as in health. The Council also issued recommendations on ensuring the responsible use of generative AI in the public sector in 2025.¹⁷⁵¹

Danish Labeling Program for Digital Accountability

Another key initiative is the “D-seal.” The Danish government established an independent labelling scheme in collaboration with a consortium of the Confederation of Danish Industry, the Danish Chamber of Commerce, SME Denmark, and the Danish Consumer Council. It is supported by the Danish Business Authority and financed by the Danish Industry Foundation. “All companies, regardless of their size, must meet the D-seal’s data ethics requirements if they develop software and if they use or develop algorithms and AI.”¹⁷⁵² “The purpose of the D-seal is to promote data security, data protection and data ethics at Danish companies, so that customers and consumers can feel safe when using the companies’ products and services.”¹⁷⁵³ The idea is for the seal to create a market incentive for actors to be more data ethical. The D-seal was launched in September 2021.

The D-seal is based on 8 criteria: A management system for data accountability; Awareness and safe behavior; Technical IT security; Requirements for suppliers’ IT security and digital accountability; Transparency and control of data; Privacy & security by design & default; Reliable algorithms & AI; Data ethics.¹⁷⁵⁴

In 2020, ahead of the negotiations regarding the draft EU AI Act, Denmark, together with 13 other EU Member States, issued a non-paper responding to the European Commission’s White Paper on AI.¹⁷⁵⁵ Through this non paper, Denmark

¹⁷⁵⁰ Dataetisk Råd, *The Danish Data Ethics Council’s Response to the Consultation Regarding the Copyright Act* [Dataetisk Råds høringssvar vedr. ophavsretsloven] (Sept. 12, 2025),

<https://www.dataetiskraad.dk/hoeringssvar/ophavsretsloven>

¹⁷⁵¹ Dataetisk Råd, *The Danish Data Ethics Council focuses on Generative AI in the Public Sector* [Dataetisk Råd sætter fokus på generativ AI i det offentlige] (Feb. 5, 2025),

<https://www.dataetiskraad.dk/nyheder/dataetisk-raad-saetter-fokus-paa-generativ-ai-i-det-offentlige>

¹⁷⁵² Birgitte Kofod Olsen, *Danish Labeling Program for Digital Accountability* (Sept. 28, 2021), <https://dataethics.eu/danish-labeling-program-for-digital-accountability/>; Frederick Weiergang Larsen, *Denmark: An Independent Council and a Labelling Scheme to Promote the Ethical Use of Data*, OECD The AI Wonk (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://oecd.ai/wonk/an-independent-council-and-seal-of-approval-among-denmarks-measures-to-promote-the-ethical-use-of-data>

¹⁷⁵³ Ibid

¹⁷⁵⁴ D-seal, *Criteria* (2024), <https://d-seal.eu/en/get-d-sealed/criteria>

¹⁷⁵⁵ Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, *Non-paper: Innovative and Trustworthy AI:*

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called for a “flexible” framework with voluntary self-labelling schemes. Denmark argued for a risk-based approach towards AI, highlighting that trustworthy and human-centric AI goes hand in hand with innovation, economic growth and competitiveness. The non-paper concludes with a call to the EU for a voluntary European labelling scheme that would make it visible for potential users, for example, citizens, businesses as well as public administrations, which applications are based on secure, responsible and ethical AI and data.¹⁷⁵⁶

AI in Public Administration

In October 2023, the Danish Data Protection Authority (*Datatilsynet*) published guidance on the development and use of AI by public authorities.¹⁷⁵⁷ The report contained the results of the mapping of the use of AI across the public sector longer term. The Danish Data Protection Authority stated that it will look at more guidance on how organizations can handle the risks that may be associated with the use of AI, such as bias and lack of transparency.

Denmark introduced an AI compliance framework on the use of AI Assistants in the private and public sectors in 2024.¹⁷⁵⁸ A consortium that included Netcompany, the Agency for Digital Governance, Danish Business Authority and other entities published the whitepaper with the framework, with support from major financial entities and Microsoft. The framework provides structured methodologies for risk and bias management, secure data handling, and staff training. The guidance is designed to help organizations align with the EU AI Act and GDPR, ensuring transparency and efficiency in AI adoption across sectors.”

Amnesty International’s Algorithmic Accountability Lab (AAL) released an investigative report on Denmark’s welfare agency (*Udbetaling Danmark*, UDK) scrutinizing the use of algorithmic decision-making in welfare distribution.¹⁷⁵⁹ The

Two Sides of the Same Coin, Netherlands and You (Aug. 10, 2020),

<https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/pr-eu-brussels/documents>

¹⁷⁵⁶ Melissa Heikkla, *6 Key Battles ahead for Europe’s AI Law* (Apr. 21, 2021),

<https://www.politico.eu/article/6-key-battles-europes-ai-law-artificial-intelligence-act/>,

¹⁷⁵⁷ Datatilsynet, *New Guidance on Public Authorities’ Use of AI and Mapping of AI across the Public Sector [Ny vejledning om offentlige myndigheders brug af AI og kortlægning af AI på tværs af den offentlige sektor]* (Oct. 5, 2023), <https://www.datatilsynet.dk/presse-og-nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2023/okt/ny-vejledning-om-offentlige-myndigheders-brug-af-ai-og-kortlaegning-af-ai-paa-tvaers-af-den-offentlige-sektor>

¹⁷⁵⁸ Dansk Industri, *Whitepaper: Responsible Use of AI Assistants in the Public and Private Sectors* (2024), https://www.danskindustri.dk/globalassets/brancher/di-digital/2024/dokumenter/di-digitaliseringspolitik-2024-ai-hvidbog-lang-version_uk.pdf?v=251028

¹⁷⁵⁹ Amnesty International, *Coded Injustice* (Nov. 14, 2024),

https://cdn.amnesty.at/media/ceadvmyt/amnesty-report_coded-injustice_surveillance-and-discrimination-in-denmarks-automated-welfare-state_november-2024.pdf

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report highlights concerns over potential discriminatory practices, where automated systems disproportionately target individuals seeking benefits. These findings align with broader European concerns regarding the risks of algorithmic bias in public sector decision-making.

Autonomous Vehicles

Amendments to Denmark's Road Traffic Act in 2017 imposed restrictions on the testing of self-driving motor vehicles.¹⁷⁶⁰ Effective 1 July 2025, Denmark's Executive Order on Trials and Testing of Self-Driving Units issued by the Denmark Road Authority eases many of those restrictions.¹⁷⁶¹ The Order allows municipalities to establish designated test zones, where trials may proceed with a permit from the Danish Road Traffic Authority. The order introduces updated technical requirements, clearer sanction rules, and more flexible conditions for approving tests, addressing earlier concerns that regulations were overly restrictive.

Mass Surveillance

The Danish Data Ethics Council raised concerns regarding the Danish Parliament's draft law on the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET),¹⁷⁶² which was introduced without a data ethics impact assessment. The Council deems the impact assessment essential for legislation involving such extensive intrusions into citizens' privacy. The proposed law seeks to expand PET's surveillance powers by allowing large-scale, automated analyses of all Danish citizens' digital communications and online activity, ostensibly to strengthen national security and counter-terrorism capabilities in response to Denmark's elevated threat level. The Council's assessment uncovered serious concerns. The Council cautioned that the draft law grants PET sweeping access to citizens' digital footprints without sufficient evidence of the measure's effectiveness or adequate safeguards to protect individual rights and freedoms.

¹⁷⁶⁰ Folketinget, *Act Amending the Road Traffic Act [Lov om ændring af færdselsloven]* (May 13, 2017), https://www.ft.dk/ripdf/samling/20161/lovforslag/1120/20161_1120_som_vedtaget.pdf

¹⁷⁶¹ Retsinformation, *Executive Order on Trials and Testing of Self-Propelled Units [Bekendtgørelse om forsøg med og test af selvkørende enheder]* (Jun. 24, 2025), <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2025/925>

¹⁷⁶² Dataetisk Råd, *Data Ethics Impact Assessment of the Bill on the Danish Police Intelligence Service (PET) [Dataetisk konsekvensvurdering af lovforslag om Politiets Efterretningstjeneste (PET)]* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://dataetiskraad.dk/alle-hoeringssvar/dataetisk-konsekvensvurdering-af-lovforslag-om-politiets-efterretningstjeneste-pet>

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Environmental Impact of AI

The Danish National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence emphasizes responsible and ethical AI use across sectors, including the green transition. This strategy is a part of Denmark's broader commitment to sustainability. It includes measures such as promoting the use of renewable energy in AI-related infrastructures and supporting the development of efficient data processing methods to reduce carbon footprints.¹⁷⁶³

This commitment gained urgency as projections indicated that data centers, critical infrastructure for AI development, could account for one-fifth of the total Danish energy budget by 2030. To mitigate this impact and enhance sustainability, the government announced an agreement in 2025 to remove the existing pricing cap on excess heat generated by businesses.¹⁷⁶⁴ Removing the price cap, which requires a legislative amendment, provides an incentive for businesses, particularly data centers, to invest in heat recovery projects that would promote market-driven utilization and integration of waste heat into existing district heating systems.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

At a 2015 informal meeting of the Convention on Certain Convention Weapons (CCW) Group of Global Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Denmark affirmed that weapons must remain under “meaningful human control.”¹⁷⁶⁵ In 2020, during the General Debate of the First Committee of the 75th UN General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Denmark declared, “Denmark supports the work of the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), in particular the 11 guiding principles. In our work on these principles we should in particular aim to develop an understanding of the type and degree of human machine interaction.”¹⁷⁶⁶

¹⁷⁶³ Agency for Digital Government, *The Danish National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 65 (Mar. 2019), <https://en.digst.dk/strategy/the-danish-national-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence/>

¹⁷⁶⁴ Invest in Denmark, *Denmark Removes Price Cap on Surplus Heat, Unlocking Investment and Sustainability Potential* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://investindk.com/insights/denmark-removes-price-cap-on-surplus-heat-unlocking-investment-og-sustainability-potential>

¹⁷⁶⁵ Government of Denmark, *Statement to the Convention on Conventional Weapons Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 13, 2015), http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2015/meeting-experts-laws/statements/13April_Denmark.pdf

¹⁷⁶⁶ Statement by H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, *Permanent Representative of Denmark General Debate First Committee of the 75th UN General Assembly* (Oct. 19, 2020), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com20/statements/19Oct_Denmark.pdf

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Denmark has consistently supported measures to discuss the implications of LAWS in the UN General Assembly,¹⁷⁶⁷ and to collaborate on a framework to protect against a loss of control.¹⁷⁶⁸ Denmark supports a two-tier approach whereby applications of LAWS that cannot comply with international law or international humanitarian law (IHL) would be explicitly prohibited and other uses would be regulated to ensure compliance. The country laid out this position in a working paper submitted with Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and Norway to the GGE on LAWS in 2024.¹⁷⁶⁹ UN Secretary-General cited the working paper multiple times in the Report on LAWS prepared under direction from the General Assembly resolution L.56.¹⁷⁷⁰ During the GGE session in August 2024, the Danish delegation emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of distinction and proportionality under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), reinforcing the need for meaningful human control over autonomous military technologies.¹⁷⁷¹ Denmark was one of 39 High Contracting Parties that supported a joint statement declaring that the GGE's rolling text was a sufficient basis for launching negotiations on a legally binding instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems.¹⁷⁷²

¹⁷⁶⁷ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

¹⁷⁶⁸ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁷⁶⁹ GGE on Emerging Technologies in the Area of LAWS, *Working Paper Submitted by Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and Norway*, CCW/GGE.1/2024/WP.3 (Mar. 4, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2024\)/CCW-GGE.1-2024-WP.3.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2024)/CCW-GGE.1-2024-WP.3.pdf)

¹⁷⁷⁰ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General* (2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059475?v=pdf>

¹⁷⁷¹ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Intervention by Denmark* (Aug. 26, 2024), https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_%282024%29/GGE_LAWS_session_August_2024_Danish_statement_General_Statement.pdf

¹⁷⁷² UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

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In February 2023, Denmark participated in the REAIM international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Denmark endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.¹⁷⁷³ Denmark also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.¹⁷⁷⁴

AI Literacy

Denmark employs a comprehensive, human centered approach to AI literacy, viewing it as crucial for public trust and effective governance. This effort is primarily driven by the AI Competence Pact (*AI Kompetence Pagten*), a major public-private partnership established to upskill one million people in AI to future-proof the public sector workforce.¹⁷⁷⁵ The focus is on providing foundational awareness for citizens and building functional competence within institutions. The Agency for Digital Governance's specialized AI Guides inform citizens on the responsible use of generative AI,¹⁷⁷⁶ marking further progress in this regard. The National Agency for Education and Quality has also published recommendations on the use of generative AI in upper secondary education "to support a practice where generative AI is used in a balanced way to support learning, and where pupils are taught to critically reflect on their use of the technology."¹⁷⁷⁷ These guidelines mirror those published in 2024 for upper secondary education.¹⁷⁷⁸

Human Rights

Denmark receives high scores for Political Rights and Civil Liberties in the Freedom House Freedom in the World 2025 Report, earning a score of 97/100 to rate

¹⁷⁷³ Responsible AI in the Military domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

¹⁷⁷⁴ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

¹⁷⁷⁵ Digital Hub Denmark, *AI Decoding: The AI Competence Pact for a Digitally Proficient Workforce* (2025), <https://www.digitalhubdenmark.dk/post/decoding-1>

¹⁷⁷⁶ Agency for Digital Government, *The Agency for Digital Government Publishes AI Guides* (May 3, 2024), <https://en.digst.dk/news/news-archive/2024/maj/the-agency-for-digital-government-publishes-ai-guides/>

¹⁷⁷⁷ Eurydice, *Recommendations for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Primary and Lower Secondary Schools*, Denmark: National Reforms in General School Education (2025), <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/euryperia/denmark/national-reforms-general-school-education>

¹⁷⁷⁸ Eurydice, *Recommendations for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Upper Secondary Education* (2024), <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/euryperia/denmark/national-reforms-general-school-education>

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as “Free.” The report highlights the Danish government’s protections of free expression and association and the judiciary’s independence but notes a lack of full rights and protections for immigrants and other newcomers. The Danish Parliament established the Danish Centre for Human Rights in 1987, which was renamed the Danish Institute for Human Rights in 2002.¹⁷⁷⁹ Denmark is a signatory to major human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which has also ratified several European human rights instruments, including the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).¹⁷⁸⁰

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers reminded member states that their commitment “to ensuring the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to everyone within their jurisdiction” requires them to “ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”¹⁷⁸¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Denmark is a member of the OECD and has endorsed the OECD AI Principles.¹⁷⁸² A 2021 report on the state of implementation of the OECD AI Principles noted Denmark’s progress toward implementation of the OECD AI principles.¹⁷⁸³ The 2024 Strategic Approach to Artificial Intelligence reinforces Denmark’s commitment to the OECD AI Principles¹⁷⁸⁴ with the guiding principles centered on developing AI to aligned with citizens’ fundamental rights and Danish values, supporting Danish companies to be competitive through responsible AI innovation, and modeling responsible public-sector use of AI.

¹⁷⁷⁹ Danish Institute for Human Rights, *Human Rights in Danish Law*, <https://www.humanrights.dk/>

¹⁷⁸⁰ European Court of Human Rights, *The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)* (2021), https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_ENG

¹⁷⁸¹ Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the *Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

¹⁷⁸² OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

¹⁷⁸³ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies* (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://www.oecd.org/digital/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-1cd40c44-en.htm>

¹⁷⁸⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Overarching National AI Strategy* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/overarching-national-ai-strategy-4375>

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Denmark is also a member of the Global Partnership on AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”¹⁷⁸⁵

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Denmark participated in negotiations for the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law as a Council of Europe member. Denmark became party to this first legally binding international AI treaty with the European Commission signature in September 2024 but has not acted independently on the treaty.¹⁷⁸⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Denmark has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.¹⁷⁸⁷ Denmark’s AI Competence Pact¹⁷⁸⁸ aligns with the Recommendation’s policy action on Education and Research while the Data Ethics Council¹⁷⁸⁹ provides advice and reviews to encourage ethical use of data and the products resulting from this use, as exemplified by the Council’s review of the Danish Parliament’s draft law on the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET).¹⁷⁹⁰ Denmark has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),¹⁷⁹¹ a tool for implementing the Recommendation.

¹⁷⁸⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁷⁸⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹⁷⁸⁷ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>.

¹⁷⁸⁸ Digital Hub Denmark, *AI Decoding: The AI Competence Pact for a Digitally Proficient Workforce* (2025), <https://www.digitalhubdenmark.dk/post/decoding-1>

¹⁷⁸⁹ Dataetisk Råd, *About the Danish Data Ethics Council: Background and Purpose [Om Dataetisk Råd: Baggrund og formål]* (2026), <https://www.dataetiskraad.dk/om-dataetisk-raad/baggrund-og-formaal>

¹⁷⁹⁰ Dataetisk Råd, *Data Ethics Impact Assessment of the Bill on the Danish Police Intelligence Service (PET) [Dataetisk konsekvensvurdering af lovforslag om Politiets Efterretningstjeneste (PET)]* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://dataetiskraad.dk/alle-hoeringssvar/dataetisk-konsekvensvurdering-af-lovforslag-om-politiets-efterretningstjeneste-pet>

¹⁷⁹¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Policy Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Evaluation

Denmark's National AI strategy, released in 2019, sets out an ambitious agenda emphasizing responsible AI development. Denmark has acted on this agenda, establishing an independent Data Ethics Council, endorsing the OECD AI Principles, and promoting opportunities for public participation in the development of AI policy. Denmark has also introduced certification seals to promote trustworthy AI. Denmark has established an independent national competent authority in accordance with the EU AI Act and even offered guides on safe and responsible use of generative AI for citizens, companies, and authorities.

As Denmark has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and the country's action on the EU AI Act, Council of Europe AI Treaty, and Nordic-Baltic collaboration is a step toward implementation. Ratifying the Convention 108+ would be a strong signal that Denmark prioritizes the fundamental rights of its citizens.

Dominican Republic

In 2025, Dominican legislators introduced the first AI-related bills to Congress. National agencies also progressed on implementing the 2024 Open Government Action Plan to promote public participation in policymaking.

National AI Strategy

The president of the Dominican Republic introduced the National AI Strategy¹⁷⁹² with these words in October 2023: “We find ourselves at a transformative moment for the future of our nation. AI stands as the emblematic technology of our century, with an impact that will resonate in all facets of our society. A vast territory of new opportunities is opening before us, a horizon of transformation which calls us to immediate action.”

The Smart Government Program targeting proactive and ethical digital transformation in public administration is one of three key initiatives in the Strategy.¹⁷⁹³ The other pillars are creating a hub to promote human talent and innovation and building infrastructure to make the Dominican Republic a regional hub for the storage and processing of data. The Strategy takes a regional perspective for all three initiatives, promoting regional collaboration on AI to make the country a catalyst in a regional AI ecosystem. These initiatives align with the Strategy’s objectives to insert the country in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, strengthen technological autonomy, and lead the region in AI. “Guaranteeing that the adoption of artificial intelligence in our land is aligned with fundamental ethical principles and reinforces the protection of human rights”¹⁷⁹⁴ is part of the vision underlying the Strategy.

The National AI Strategy aligns with the Digital Agenda 2030¹⁷⁹⁵ developed by the Digital Transformation Cabinet (*Gabinete de Transformación Digital de la República Dominicana*), which sits under the executive.¹⁷⁹⁶ The Digital Agenda 2030 is divided into five main axes: 1) governance and regulatory framework; 2)

¹⁷⁹² Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic* [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana], p. 6 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

¹⁷⁹³ Ibid, p. 14

¹⁷⁹⁴ Ibid, p. 13

¹⁷⁹⁵ Gabinete de Transformación Digital de la República Dominicana, *Agenda Digital 2030, Versión 1* (2021), <https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Agenda-Digital-2030.pdf>

¹⁷⁹⁶ Luis Abinader, *Decree 571-21* (Aug. 26, 2021), <https://presidencia.gob.do/sites/default/files/decreto/2021-08/Decreto%20527-21%20Agenda%20Digital%202030.pdf>

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connectivity and access 3) education and digital skills; 4) digital government; and 5) digital economy. Each of these axes responds to specific objectives through performance measurement indicators. “By 2030, the Dominican Republic expects to have reduced the digital divide and ensured access to, and use of, digital technologies in a secure and sustainable environment.”¹⁷⁹⁷ The Digital Agenda has been developed in line with the broader development strategy, more particularly with regard to addressing the digital divide through education.

The Dominican Republic has also been part of the Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative led by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean and the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ). The Initiative “aims to develop a sub-regional strategy on the ethical, inclusive and humane use of AI in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States.”¹⁷⁹⁸ The Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap was released in June 2021 and updated in 2024.¹⁷⁹⁹

AI Legislation

The Dominican Republic has not yet passed AI-specific legislation, though a number of bills were presented in 2025. One bill to regulate AI systems and applications includes a proposal to establish the National Council for Artificial Intelligence (CONIA) with AI oversight responsibility over the entire AI life cycle.¹⁸⁰⁰ The bill, which was presented in the Chamber of Deputies (*Cámara de Diputados*), prohibits the use of AI systems for military, defense, or national security purposes.¹⁸⁰¹ Other bills propose guidelines for public policies on the development, use, regulation, and implementation of AI in the country¹⁸⁰² and address the use of

¹⁷⁹⁷ OECD, *Multidimensional Review of the Dominican Republic: Towards Greater Well-Being for All* (Dec. 13, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/multi-dimensional-review-of-the-dominican-republic_560c12bf-en

¹⁷⁹⁸ Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Roadmap* (2021), <https://ai4caribbean.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Caribbean-Artificial-Intelligence-Policy-Roadmap.pdf>

¹⁷⁹⁹ UNESCO Office in Kingston, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (2024), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000391996>

¹⁸⁰⁰ Cámara de Diputados Sistema de Información Legislativa, *Bill that Regulates Artificial Intelligence Systems and Their Applications in the Dominican Republic [Proyecto de ley que regula los Sistemas de Inteligencia Artificial y sus aplicaciones en la Republica Dominicana]* (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://s-sil.camaradediputados.gob.do:8095/ReportesGenerales/VerDocumento?documentoId=225083>

¹⁸⁰¹ Dolores Vicioso, *First Artificial Intelligence Bill Presented in Congress*, dr1 (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://dr1.com/news/2025/02/20/first-artificial-intelligence-bill-presented-in-congress/>

¹⁸⁰² Senado, *Proyecto de Ley que Establece los Lineamientos para las Políticas Públicas Orientadas al Desarrollo, Uso, Regulación e Implementación de Inteligencia Artificial en la República Dominicana*, Sistema de Información Legislativa (Jan. 23, 2026), <http://www.senado.gov.do/mlx/DOCS/1C/2/11/66CE/CE65.pdf>

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AI-generated content to commit fraud.¹⁸⁰³ The oversight bill ended the 2025 session in committee and was resubmitted at the start of the 2026 session.¹⁸⁰⁴

Public Participation

To engage with stakeholders in development of digital service and policy design, the Dominican Republic used focus groups, public consultations and social media.¹⁸⁰⁵ The Dominican Republic deepened and systematized the commitment to participatory governance in digital and AI-related policymaking through the Open Government Plan of Action, 2024–2028,¹⁸⁰⁶ and the National Strategy for Civic Space.¹⁸⁰⁷

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) supported the initiatives, which were led by the General Directorate of Ethics and Government Integrity (*Dirección General de Ética e Integridad Gubernamental*, DIGEIG). The Action Plan provides actions steps to be implemented across the government to improve transparency and citizens participation in holding offices accountable.¹⁸⁰⁸ Participants in creating the plan reported “adequate outreach” and feedback on how suggestions were incorporated, or why they were not.¹⁸⁰⁹ The DIGEIG also developed the National

¹⁸⁰³ Cámara de Diputados Sistema de Información Legislativa, *Proyecto de Ley que modifica los artículos 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 y 28 de la Ley 53-07, de Crímenes y Delitos de Alta Tecnología* (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://sil.camaradediputados.gob.do:8095/ReportesGenerales/VerDocumento?documentoId=225128>

¹⁸⁰⁴ Senado Sistem de Información Legislativa, *Iniciativa 01321-2026-PLO-SE, Proyecto de Ley que establece los lineamientos para las política públicas orientadas al desarrollo, uso, regulación e implementación de inteligencia artificial en la República Dominicana* (Jan. 23, 2026), <http://www.senado.gov.do/wfilemaster/Ficha.aspx?IdExpediente=39012&numeropagina=1&ContExpedientes=2213&Coleccion=53>

¹⁸⁰⁵ OECD, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, p. 155 (2022), <https://oecd-opsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/lac-ai.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁶ Open Government Partnership, *VI Action Plan of the Dominican Republic under the Open Government Partnership. 2024–2028 [VI Plan de Acción de la República Dominicana ante la Alianza para el Gobierno Abierto 2024–2028* (Feb. 2026), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Dominican-Republic_Action-Plan_2024-2028_Revision-1-Feb-2026_ES.pdf

¹⁸⁰⁷ Open Government Partnership, *National Strategy for Civic Space* (2025), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/the-open-gov-challenge/dominican-republic-national-strategy-for-civic-space/>

¹⁸⁰⁸ Open Government Partnership, *Dominican Republic: Action Plan Review 2024–2028* (Sept. 30, 2025), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/dominican-republic-action-plan-review-2024-2028/>

¹⁸⁰⁹ Ibid

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Strategy for Civic Space through a cocreation process.¹⁸¹⁰ The Strategy provides 21 reforms intended to “expand the channels of dialog between the State and citizens, protect the rights of expression, association, and participation; and foster sustainable conditions for social collaboration in public governance.”¹⁸¹¹

These initiatives respond to the Agenda Digital 2030 emphasis on public participation as a cross-cutting policy while noting the dearth of digital participation initiatives as an area for improvement.¹⁸¹² More recently, the Government Office of Technology, Information and Communication, built a site on Notion to support public consultations on the AI strategy.¹⁸¹³ The Senate has also hosted meeting with affected private sector representatives.¹⁸¹⁴

The judiciary invited civil society and stakeholders to provide input on how the judicial branch will manage, publish and safeguard data through consultation¹⁸¹⁵ on the draft Open Data Policy of the Judiciary.¹⁸¹⁶

Data Protection

The Dominican Constitution enshrines the right to the protection of personal data in public and private records under Section 44(2) and provides that data controllers and processors are to comply with data security, professional secrecy, data quality and data loyalty.¹⁸¹⁷

¹⁸¹⁰ Ética e Integridad Gubernamental, *DIGEIG y AGA Cocrean Estrategia de Espacio Cívico con la Participación de la Sociedad en el Segundo Foro Multiactor de RD* (2025), <https://digeig.gob.do/noticias/digeig-y-aga-cocrean-estrategia-nacional-de-espacio-civico-con-la-participacion-de-la-sociedad-en-el-segundo-foro-multiactor-de-rd/>

¹⁸¹¹ Ética e Integridad Gubernamental, *RD consolida su liderazgo regional en Gobierno Abierto y Espacio Cívico* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://digeig.gob.do/noticias/rd-consolida-su-liderazgo-regional-en-gobierno-abierto-y-espacio-civico/>

¹⁸¹² Gabinete de Transformación Digital, *Agenda Digital 2030*, pp. 26, 31 (Feb. 2022) <https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Agenda-Digital-2030-v2.pdf>

¹⁸¹³ Gabnete de Innovación, *Consulta Pública para la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana (ENIA) - Foro Comunitario Ciudadano* (Jul. 2023), <https://consultapublica.notion.site/Consulta-P-blica-para-la-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Rep-blica-Dominicana--e58e40a872fc4d79a58766fdcf4d14f3>

¹⁸¹⁴ Senado, *Comisión de senadores escucha opinión de representantes de Microsoft y GBM-IBM sobre proyecto regula Inteligencia Artificial* (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.senadord.gob.do/comision-de-senadores-escucha-opinion-de-representantes-de-microsoft-y-gbm-ibm-sobre-proyecto-regula-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹⁸¹⁵ Poder Judicial, *Consulta Pública: Política de Datos Abiertos del Poder Judicial* (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://poderjudicial.gob.do/consulta-publica-politica-de-datos-abiertos-del-poder-judicial/>

¹⁸¹⁶ Poder Judicial, *Política de Datos Abiertos del Poder Judicial* (Aug. 2025), <https://poderjudicial.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Politica-de-Datos-Abiertos-del-Poder-Judicial.pdf>

¹⁸¹⁷ Constitute, *Dominican Republic's Constitution of 2015* (Apr. 27, 2022), https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Dominican_Republic_2015.pdf

Law No 172-13 on the Comprehensive Protection of Personal Data of consumers or users¹⁸¹⁸ provides the right to access and right to rectification of personal data.¹⁸¹⁹ Various decisions have upheld these rights in digital formats and with automatic processing.¹⁸²⁰ Still, no institution has official oversight to guarantee these protections for citizens' rights, leaving, in the words of one attorney, "the constitutional recognition solid on paper but weak in practice." The General Directorate of Ethics and Government Integrity is an observer in the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection (*Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos*, RIPD).¹⁸²¹

The General Law for the Protection of Consumer or User Rights No. 358-05 declared that the National Institute for the Protection of Consumer Rights, "Pro Consumidor," monitors data protection compliance in relation to consumers. Pro Consumidor does not have enforcement powers. Instead, the institution relies on mediation and conciliation competences.¹⁸²²

The Dominican Republic started to draft a data protection law in line with international standards such as the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ in 2019 and received support from the Council of Europe to this end.¹⁸²³ However, no such law yet exists.

The 2023 AI Strategy sets revision of Law No 172-13 to include safeguards for the protection of personal data and human rights in the implementation of AI

¹⁸¹⁸ Presidencia, *Law No. 172-13 which Aims at the Comprehensive Protection of Personal Data Recorded in Files, Public Records, Data Banks or Other Technical Means of Data Processing for Reporting Purposes, whether Public or Private [que tiene por objeto la protección integral de los datos personales asentados en archivos, registros públicos, bancos de datos u otros medios técnicos de tratamiento de datos destinados a dar informes, sean estos públicos o privados]*, Arts. 10, 14 (Dec. 15, 2013), <https://presidencia.gob.do/sites/default/files/statics/transparencia/marco-legal/leyes/Ley-172-13.pdf>

¹⁸¹⁹ Emely García Aybar, *La legislación dominicana sobre Protección de Datos Personales: Principios, Consentimiento y el proceso de Habeas Data*, Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/la-legislacion-dominicana-sobre-proteccion-de-datos-personales-principios-consentimiento>

¹⁸²⁰ Felicia Santana, *Opinión: República Dominicana y la era digital: ¿Quién protege nuestros datos?* acento (Feb. 21, 2026), <https://acento.com.do/opinion/república-dominicana-y-la-era-digital-quien-protege-nuestros-datos-9626904.html>

¹⁸²¹ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos, *Composición*, <https://www.redipd.org/la-red/composicion>

¹⁸²² WIPO, *The Dominican Republic Issued Law No 358-05 on the Protection of the Rights of the Consumer or User* (2005), <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/11048>

¹⁸²³ Council of Europe, *GLACY+: The Dominican Republic Works on New Data Protection Law* (Dec. 16–18, 2019), https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/glacypusactivities/-/asset_publisher/DD9qKA5QIKhC/content/glacy-the-dominican-republic-works-on-new-data-protection-law

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system by 2025.¹⁸²⁴ However, an amended law has not passed the congress. The country developed a Digital Government guide that includes a provision on the documentation and explainability of digital government initiatives, software, and services.¹⁸²⁵

Algorithmic Transparency

The Dominican Republic's data protection regime indirectly addresses automated processing and the right to correct data may provide some protection in the case of automatic decisions. The National AI Strategy includes transparency in the use of AI as one of the guarantees to be established by a proposed code of ethics.¹⁸²⁶ Both the strategy and Digital Government guide propose requirements for government transparency around data use. However, specific guidelines for algorithmic transparency and explainability are not provided.¹⁸²⁷

Facial Recognition

The Dominican General Director of Immigration, Enrique García, reported in 2021 that facial recognition technology will be used to enforce security in airports and border entry to combat drug trafficking and international crime.¹⁸²⁸ The Dominican Airport Association explained in September 2022 that there are intelligent security cameras in Dominican airports.¹⁸²⁹

¹⁸²⁴ Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana]*, pp. 46–57 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

¹⁸²⁵ OECD, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

¹⁸²⁶ Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana]*, p. 39 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

¹⁸²⁷ OECD, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

¹⁸²⁸ Arecoa, *DR Airports Will Strengthen Security with Facial Recognition Technology* (Apr. 20, 2021), <https://www.arecoa.com/aeropuertos/2021/04/20/aeropuertos-rd-reforzaran-seguridad-tecnologia-reconocimiento-facial/>

¹⁸²⁹ Dominican Republic Today, *Airport Association Assures Security Cameras Make Criminal Actions “Extremely Difficult”* (Sept. 16, 2022),

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The Director of the General Directorate of Passports (DGP) said in March 2022 that the country will transition from using mechanical passports to electronic passports. The electronic passport would integrate a chip containing all the carrier information and designed to facilitate facial recognition.¹⁸³⁰ The passport agency issued a tender for a passport containing a chip that carries biometric data, such as fingerprints and facial recognition, in May 2024.¹⁸³¹

The Director of Migration reported the launch of a pilot plan for biometric facial recognition at formal [land] border crossings in August 2025.¹⁸³² The director is coordinating the installation of technology with the Presidency to test the project ahead of the entry into force of a “resolution that will establish the deadline for mandatory biometric facial recognition registration for foreigners participating in binational markets.”

Beyond migration, the police launched an “automated facial recognition system” in the Scientific Policy area in 2023.¹⁸³³ The system allows users to find matches in a “database of millions of images collected from various social networks and websites” from a photo or video of “unknown people.”

Environmental Impact of AI

The Dominican Republic’s Digital Economy Agenda includes an objective to use technology to promote “economic and social well-being as a way to promote sustainable development.”¹⁸³⁴ The country has also committed to using mitigating the environmental impact of AI by endorsing the Montevideo Declaration, a regional

<https://dominantoday.com/dr/economy/2022/09/16/airport-association-assures-security-cameras-make-criminal-actions-extremely-difficult/>

¹⁸³⁰ Dominican Today, *General Directorate of Passports with a View to Changing to Electronic Passport* (Mar. 10, 2022), <https://dominantoday.com/dr/local/2022/03/10/address-of-passports-with-a-view-to-changing-to-electronic-passport/>

¹⁸³¹ Dirección General de Pasaportes, *Convocatoria para Presentación de Manifestación de Interés* (May 2024), <https://www.pasaportes.gob.do/transparencia/phocadownload/Consultas/2024/MANIFESTACION%20DE%20INTERES%20PASAPORTE-E.pdf>

¹⁸³² Migración, *Biometric Immigration Controls and the DGM Headquarters Are Advancing in Pedernales* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://migracion.gob.do/en/biometric-immigration-controls-and-the-dgm-headquarters-are-advancing-in-pedernales/>

¹⁸³³ Policía Nacional, *Mayor General Alberto Then inaugura laboratorio automatizado de reconocimiento facial en la Policía Científica y entrega tres nuevas unidades tipo camioneta* (Nov. 4, 2023), <https://www.policianacional.gob.do/mayor-general-alberto-then-inaugura-laboratorio-automatizado-de-reconocimiento-facial-en-la-policia-cientifica-y-entrega-tres-nuevas-unidades-tipo-camioneta/>

¹⁸³⁴ Luis Abinader, *Decree 571-21* (Aug. 26, 2021), <https://presidencia.gob.do/sites/default/files/decreto/2021-08/Decreto%20527-21%20Agenda%20Digital%202030.pdf>

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document centered on implementing the UNESCO Recommendation, that includes Environment and Sustainability as areas of focus for 2024–2025.¹⁸³⁵

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The National AI Strategy makes clear that the goal of the Dominican Republic is to pursue the prohibition of the use of AI as a weapon of war.¹⁸³⁶

The Dominican Republic endorsed 2019 Declaration on Lethal Autonomous Weapons¹⁸³⁷ prepared by France and Germany and opened for endorsement during the Alliance for Multilateralism event in 2019. The 11 principles in the declaration respond to challenges cited by the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) relating to the development of LAWS. The principles affirm that “international humanitarian law applies to these systems; a human must always be responsible for the decision to use these systems; [and] States must examine the legality of these new weapons that they are developing or requiring at the design stage.”

The Dominican Republic is one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly urging “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”¹⁸³⁸ The country reiterated this stance with support by co-sponsoring resolution L.56 on autonomous weapons

¹⁸³⁵ Second Ministerial and High Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Declaration of Montevideo* (Oct. 4, 2024), https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/ENG_Montevideo%20Declaration%20approved.pdf

¹⁸³⁶ Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana]*, p. 40 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

¹⁸³⁷ France Diplomacy, *11 Principles on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/article/11-principles-on-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-laws#sommaire_2

¹⁸³⁸ UN General Assembly, *First Committee, Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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systems¹⁸³⁹ in the First Committee in 2023 and voting in favor of the UN General Assembly Draft Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in 2024.¹⁸⁴⁰ In 2025, Dominican Vice Minister Armando Manzueta warned of AI-related threats to peace and security. He cited lethal autonomous weapons without human oversight, disinformation, and technological asymmetry while reaffirming the call for banning autonomous weapons.¹⁸⁴¹

The Dominican Republic endorsed the Belén Communiqué,¹⁸⁴² which calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force in February 2023.

At the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023) in the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic joined nearly sixty states in calling for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain.¹⁸⁴³ The Dominican Republic also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.¹⁸⁴⁴

¹⁸³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁸⁴⁰ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *In Nearly 50 Separate Recorded Votes, First Committee Approves 15 Drafts on Conventional Weapons, Divergent Approaches to Outer Space Security* (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gadis3756.doc.htm>

¹⁸⁴¹ Ministerio de Administración Pública, *Minister Armando Manzueta Highlights at the UN the Country’s Progress in Digital Infrastructure [Viceministro Armando Manzueta destaca en la ONU los avances del país en infraestructuras digitales]* (Oct. 2, 2025), <https://map.gob.do/2025/10/02/viceministro-armando-manzueta-destaca-en-la-onu-los-avances-del-pais-en-infraestructuras-digitales/>

¹⁸⁴² Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

¹⁸⁴³ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

¹⁸⁴⁴ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

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AI Literacy

Education and human talent as core components of both the National AI Strategy¹⁸⁴⁵ and Agenda Digital 2030.¹⁸⁴⁶ Both documents define objectives to build this talent through pre-university education modules and teacher training and development as well as programs directed to labor-force upskilling and training programs. The AI Strategy proposes collaboration among education and tech experts, parents, and teachers in a proposed HUB of human talent and innovation, #YoSoyFuturoRD. The Agenda Digital 2030 aims to ensure access to technological resources. The objective centers on “Developing the necessary competencies in the Dominican population, ensuring an inclusive focus that will permit the efficient use and adoption of digital technologies and forming the human talent required for sustainable economic and social development.”¹⁸⁴⁷ The Minister of Education proposed digital competencies to be included in the 2026–2027 school year but no details have been provided.¹⁸⁴⁸ Other government agencies have implemented programs for digital literacy on an ad hoc basis.¹⁸⁴⁹

Human Rights

In 2025, Freedom House ranked the Dominican Republic as “Partly Free,” with a score of 68/100 for political rights and civil liberties.¹⁸⁵⁰ According to the Freedom House 2024 report, “The Dominican Republic holds regular elections that are relatively free, though recent years have been characterized by controversies around implementing a new electoral framework.” “Pervasive corruption undermines state institutions and the use of excessive force by police is a problem.

¹⁸⁴⁵ Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana]*, pp. 46–57 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

¹⁸⁴⁶ Gabinete de Transformación Digital, *Agenda Digital 2030*, pp. 46–52 (2021), <https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Agenda-Digital-2030.pdf>

¹⁸⁴⁷ Ibid, p. 48

¹⁸⁴⁸ Ministerio de Educación, *Minister Luid Miguel De Camps Presents His Proposal for the Inclusion of Digital Competencies to the CNE [Ministro Luis Miguel De Camps presenta en CNE su apuesta por la inclusión de las competencias digitales]* (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.ministeriodeeducacion.gob.do/comunicaciones/noticias/ministro-luis-miguel-de-camps-presenta-en-cne-su-apuesta-por-la-inclusion-de-las-competencias-digitales>

¹⁸⁴⁹ Presidencia, *Indotel Launches Digital Literacy Program for 100,000 People [Indotel lanza programa de alfabetización digital para 100,00 personas]* (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://presidencia.gob.do/noticias/indotel-lanza-programa-de-alfabetizacion-digital-para-100000-personas>

¹⁸⁵⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Dominican Republic* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/dominican-republic/freedom-world/2025>

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Discrimination against Dominicans of Haitian descent and Haitian migrants, as well as against LGBT+ people, remain serious problems.”

Despite these issues, the Human Rights Council Working Group Universal Periodic Review in June 2024 highlighted the country’s progress in human rights, noting legislative advances in areas such as gender equality, child protection, and anti-discrimination measures. Key achievements include prohibiting child marriage, expanding educational access, and enhancing social protections for vulnerable groups. The report also discusses ongoing reforms to improve public security, reduce poverty, and protect marginalized communities, particularly through addressing the rights of women, children, and the LGBTQ+ community. Recommendations emphasize the need for further action on issues like statelessness, migration, and gender-based violence, urging the Dominican Republic to continue aligning its policies with international human rights standards.¹⁸⁵¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The Dominican Republic has not endorsed the OECD AI principles¹⁸⁵² and is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence,¹⁸⁵³ which requires a commitment to the OECD AI Principles. The Dominican Republic’s participation in international AI governance discussions, especially with peers in Latin America and the Caribbean through institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the fAIr LAC initiative, aligns with OECD AI Principles around international collaboration and sustainable, human-centered AI.¹⁸⁵⁴ The country’s National AI Strategy and Agenda Digital 2030 also implement recommended policy actions including education and workforce training.

¹⁸⁵¹ UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Dominican Republic* (Jun. 25, 2024),

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/090/58/pdf/g2409058.pdf>

¹⁸⁵² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

¹⁸⁵³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁸⁵⁴ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles*, p. 76 (Jun. 2021),

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1cd40c44-en.pdf?expires=1679145707&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=4A7E8011553F4B626AD9EF4C04ACCDE1>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Dominican Republic has not signed the first legally binding global treaty on AI, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.¹⁸⁵⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

The Dominican Republic is a member state of UNESCO¹⁸⁵⁶ and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics.¹⁸⁵⁷

The Dominican Republic participates in the Regional Council incorporating all governments of the region¹⁸⁵⁸ to implement the UNESCO Recommendation. Following the first summit centered on AI ethics, the Dominican Republic signed the 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence.¹⁸⁵⁹ The Declaration establishes fundamental principles to guide public policy on AI, including proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.¹⁸⁶⁰ The National AI Strategy commits the country to drafting a code of AI ethics in line with the UNESCO Recommendation.¹⁸⁶¹

¹⁸⁵⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 10, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹⁸⁵⁶ UNESCO, *List of the Member States and the Associate Members*, <https://pax.unesco.org/countries/ListeMS.html>

¹⁸⁵⁷ United Nations, *193 Countries Adopt First-Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

¹⁸⁵⁸ UNESCO, *CAF and UNESCO Will Create a Council to Review Ethical Criteria for Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and Caribbean* (Jun. 23, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caf-and-unesco-will-create-council-review-ethical-criteria-artificial-intelligence-latin-america-and>.

¹⁸⁵⁹ Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaracion de Santiago “Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

¹⁸⁶⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile Host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>

¹⁸⁶¹ Gobierno de la República Dominicana, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Dominican Republic [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial de la República Dominicana]*, p. 39 (Oct. 2023), https://agendadigital.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Final_ENIA-Estrategia-Nacional-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Dominicana-.pdf

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Following the second meeting of the Regional Council in 2024, the Dominican Republic signed the Montevideo Declaration,¹⁸⁶² which emphasizes a commitment to human rights, freedoms, and democracy and outlines five key priorities for countries to pursue in the coming year: Governance and Regulation, Talent and Future Work, Protection of Vulnerable Groups, Environment, and Sustainability. Regional governments and the AI Working Group, with support from UNESCO and CAF, will lead the implementation, with semi-annual reviews to ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement.

The Dominican Republic completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation in 2024.¹⁸⁶³ Key recommendations focus on advancing the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (ENIA) with strong institutional and public support. Priorities include updating regulatory frameworks for data protection, cybersecurity, and potential AI-specific regulations, along with strengthening public sector capacities, promoting diversity in AI, and reducing urban-rural technology access disparities.¹⁸⁶⁴

Evaluation

The Dominican Republic's endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and related regional frameworks such as the Santiago and Montevideo Declarations reflect the country's commitment to ethical AI. The adoption of the National AI Strategy and completion of the RAM provide a strong foundation for ethical governance. Success will depend on effective implementation, particularly in ensuring algorithmic transparency and revising data protection laws to provide a strong legal framework to protect citizens' rights.

The country's stance on banning autonomous weapons is commendable though concerns about AI surveillance persist, especially for those whose lack of formal documents threatens their legal status. The introduction of TAINA and other programs designed to modernize public services is promising as are the plans and

¹⁸⁶² Second Ministerial and High Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Montevideo Declaration* (Oct. 4, 2024), https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/ENG_Montevideo%20Declaration%20approved.pdf

¹⁸⁶³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

¹⁸⁶⁴ UNESCO, *Dominican Republic: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2024), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000391573?posInSet=1&queryId=N-EXPLORE-87169348-9aac-4bd8-a172-616945b057f1>

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strategies for improving public participation in policymaking and fostering Civic Spaces.

Ecuador

Ecuador progressed on a national strategy to promote the responsible and ethical development and use of AI in Ecuador aligned to the 2025–2030 public policy for digital transformation. The country also deepened international collaboration by joining the Council of Europe Committee on AI (CAI) and gained recognition from UNESCO for being the first in the region to integrate an AI code of ethics in the public sector after the Superintendency of Economic Competition introduced the code and Guide for AI Use.

National AI Strategy

Ecuador’s government institutions and digital innovation agencies initiated AI governance efforts in 2021 with an assessment of the AI landscape.¹⁸⁶⁵ The Digital Transformation Agenda for Ecuador 2022–2025 followed and defined the responsible use of emerging technologies such as AI among national priorities.¹⁸⁶⁶ The Agenda created the Artificial Intelligence Committee to coordinate, promote, and evaluate strategies for the development and ethical adoption of AI in Ecuador.¹⁸⁶⁷ The Committee supports the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and advises on AI initiatives.¹⁸⁶⁸ These efforts culminated in the Public Policy for the Digital Transformation of Ecuador 2025–2030 to strengthen AI strategy development and ethical oversight.¹⁸⁶⁹

The Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society (*Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información*, MINTEL) continued

¹⁸⁶⁵ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Assessment of Artificial Intelligence in Ecuador [Diagnóstico sobre la Inteligencia Artificial en el Ecuador]* (Dec. 2021), <https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Proyecto-diagnostico-inteligencia-artificial-IA-en-Ecuador-Documento-final-JC-JO-MS-002.pdf>

¹⁸⁶⁶ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Digital Transformation Agenda of Ecuador 2022–2025 [Agenda de Transformación Digital del Ecuador]* (Aug. 2022), p. 14, <https://www.arcotel.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Agenda-transformacion-digital-2022-2025.pdf>

¹⁸⁶⁷ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Agreement No. [Acuerdo No.] MINTEL-MINTEL-2023-0019* (Nov. 16, 2023), <https://www.telecomunicaciones.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mintel-mintel-2023-0019-1-1.pdf>

¹⁸⁶⁸ Ecuador Digital Observatory, *Artificial Intelligence Committee (Comité de Inteligencia Artificial)*, <https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/acerca-comite-ia/>

¹⁸⁶⁹ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Public Policy for the Digital Transformation of Ecuador 2025–2030 [Política Pública para la Transformación Digital del Ecuador 2025–2030]* (Mar. 2025), https://www.gobiernoelectronico.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/INSTRUMENTO-Politica-Publica-para-la-Transformacion-Digital-Ecuador-2025-2030-MINTEL-signed_f.pdf

these efforts in August 2025 with the launch of the Proposed Strategy for the Promotion of the Development and Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Ecuador.¹⁸⁷⁰ The Proposed Strategy seeks to “promote the development, adoption, and ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence” that “guarantees the transparent, equitable, and human-centric implementation” through “the strengthening of human and technological capacities; the promotion of research, development, and innovation.” This proposed strategy responds to recommendations in the Artificial Intelligence Landscape Assessment in Ecuador conducted by the MINTEL and the UN Development Programme (UNDP)¹⁸⁷¹ that the country develop a national AI strategy; strengthen digital infrastructure, data governance, and talent; promote public–private collaboration; and establish ethical, transparent, and inclusive oversight mechanisms.¹⁸⁷² The Strategy has not yet been implemented.

Building on these efforts, the Superintendence of Economic Competition of Ecuador (*Superintendencia de Competencia Económica*, SCE) introduced the Code of Ethics for the Use of Artificial Intelligence¹⁸⁷³ and the Guide for the Use of AI Tools in 2025.¹⁸⁷⁴ The Code and the Guide establish a set of core principles fully aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. This initiative marked a significant milestone in the region, as UNESCO commended Ecuador’s government as the first public institution to implement an ethical AI framework.¹⁸⁷⁵

¹⁸⁷⁰ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Proposal for a Strategy for the Promotion of the Development and Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Ecuador* [*Propuesta para una Estrategia para el fomento del desarrollo y uso ético y responsable de la inteligencia artificial en el Ecuador*] (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://aportecivico.gobiernoelectronico.gob.ec/system/documents/attachments/000/000/161/original/4419b3369dba6951694e022997bc4db2272e47a5.pdf>

¹⁸⁷¹ UNDP Ecuador, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Landscape Assessment* [*AILA: Evaluación del Panorama de la Inteligencia Artificial en Ecuador*] (May 2025), <https://www.undp.org/es/ecuador/publicaciones/evaluacion-del-panorama-de-inteligencia-artificial-ia>

¹⁸⁷² Ibid, pp. 10-11

¹⁸⁷³ Superintendencia de Competencia Económica, *Ethical Guide [Code] for the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)* [*Decálogo Ético para el Uso de la Inteligencia Artificial (IA)*] (Jul. 16, 2025), <https://www.sce.gob.ec/sitio/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/DECALOGO-IA-signed.pdf>

¹⁸⁷⁴ Superintendencia de Competencia Económica, *Guide for the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in the Superintendency of Economic Competition (SCE)* [*Guía de uso de herramientas de inteligencia artificial ‘IA’ en la Superintendencia de Competencia Económica—SCE*] (Mar. 2025), <https://www.sce.gob.ec/sitio/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Guía-de-uso-de-herramientas-de-inteligencia-artificial-“IA”.pdf>

¹⁸⁷⁵ UNESCO, *Ecuador Adopts First Artificial Intelligence (AI) Code of Ethics in a Public Institution* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ecuador-adopts-first-artificial-intelligence-ai-code-ethics-public-institution>

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AI Policies

Lawmakers introduced the Organic Law for the Regulation and Promotion of Artificial Intelligence in the National Assembly (*Asamblea Nacional*) in June 2024.¹⁸⁷⁶ The proposed law is the country's first comprehensive framework for AI regulation that aims to uphold fundamental rights alongside responsible innovation. The draft bill adopts a risk-based approach, including explicit prohibitions on AI systems that violate human dignity, fundamental rights, the rule of law, and democratic values.¹⁸⁷⁷ The draft bill proposes creating a National AI Regulatory Authority to enforce its provisions and oversee a National Registry of High-Risk AI Systems.¹⁸⁷⁸ Sixteen guiding principles, including human-centric design, privacy protection, transparency and explainability, and environmental sustainability, shape the bill's overarching policies.

A separate Bill for the Promotion and Development of Artificial Intelligence introduced in July 2024 shared many of the same objectives while placing greater emphasis on AI education, digital literacy in schools, and incentives for AI research and investment.¹⁸⁷⁹ The Legislative Administration Council authorized the Standing Specialized Committee on Education, Culture, Science, Technology, Innovation, and Ancestral Knowledge to merge them into a single Organic Bill on Artificial Intelligence.¹⁸⁸⁰

Additionally, the Organic Bill on Digital Utilization and Artificial Intelligence for Children and Adolescents introduced in September 2024 seeks to

¹⁸⁷⁶ Asamblea Nacional, *Organic Law for the Regulation and Promotion of Artificial Intelligence [Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de Regulación y Promoción de la Inteligencia Artificial en Ecuador]* (Jun. 20, 2024), <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-19130/2192.%20Proyecto%20de%20Ley%20Org%C3%A1nica%20de%20Regulaci%C3%B3n%20y%20Promoci%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20Inteligencia%20Artificial%20en%20Ecuador%20-pnu%C3%B1ez/pp%20-%20proyecto%20de%20ley%20450889-nu%C3%B1ez.pdf>

¹⁸⁷⁷ Ibid, Title II, Chapter I, Article 9

¹⁸⁷⁸ Ibid, Title II, Chapter II–III

¹⁸⁷⁹ Asamblea Nacional, *Bill for the Promotion and Development of Artificial Intelligence [Proyecto de Ley para el Fomento y Desarrollo de la Inteligencia Artificial]* (Jul. 2024), https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PP_-_Proyecto-de-ley-453516-subia_c.pdf; CeCo Ecuador, *Ecuador: Three Different AI Regulation Initiatives [Ecuador: Tres iniciativas diferentes de regulación de la IA]* (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://centrocompetencia.com/ecuador-tres-iniciativas-diferentes-de-regulacion-de-la-ia/>

¹⁸⁸⁰ Asamblea Nacional, *Resolution CAL-RVVR-2023-2025-0216* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/es/system/files/cal-rvvr-2023-2025-0216.pdf>

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safeguard children and adolescents in their interaction with AI.¹⁸⁸¹ Beyond regulating the use of AI by and for minors, the bill aims to protect minors in their use of the internet, social media, and digital platforms. Mirroring the earlier proposals, the draft bill recommends establishing a National Authority for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (*Autoridad Nacional de Supervisión de Inteligencia Artificial*), creating a registry of high-risk AI systems, and banning AI systems that manipulate users, process sensitive data, infer emotions without justification, or perform real-time facial recognition outside of public safety necessity.

Public Participation

Ecuador has facilitated several opportunities for public participation with various stakeholders in the development of its AI governance initiatives.

The Artificial Intelligence Committee, for example, promotes official and meaningful engagement across both the public and private sectors.¹⁸⁸² Committee membership included the Minister of Telecommunications and the Information Society as chair along with representatives from the Telecommunications Regulation and Control Agency, public institutions, private entities, various government levels, and civil society.

In developing the Strategy for the Promotion of the Ethical and Responsible Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society facilitated a workshop with representatives from public institutions, industry, academia, and civil society to discuss key strategic priorities.¹⁸⁸³ The Ministry completed a public consultation for the proposed Strategy, inviting all members of the public to provide comments.¹⁸⁸⁴

¹⁸⁸¹ Asamblea Nacional, *Organic Law on Digital Use and Artificial Intelligence for Children and Adolescents [Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de Aprovechamiento Digital e Inteligencia Artificial para Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes]* (Sept. 2024), https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/PP-PRO_1-aprovechamiento-IA-Pierina_Correa_c.pdf

¹⁸⁸² Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Qualification and Selection of Applicants to Form the Artificial Intelligence Committee [Calificación y Selección de postulantes para conformar el Comité de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Jul. 2024), https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Acta_de_rectificacio%CC%81n-Comite%CC%81-IA-29-julio-2024-S.pdf

¹⁸⁸³ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Ecuador Advances in the Participatory Development of Guidelines for the Ethical and Responsible Use and Development of Artificial Intelligence [Ecuador avanza en la construcción participativa de lineamientos para el uso y desarrollo ético y responsable de la inteligencia artificial]* (Aug. 6, 2025), <https://www.telecomunicaciones.gob.ec/ecuador-avanza-en-la-construccion-participativa-de-lineamientos-para-el-uso-y-desarrollo-etico-y-responsable-de-la-inteligencia-artificial/>

¹⁸⁸⁴ *Diálogo 2.0, Public Consultation on the Proposed Strategy for the Promotion of the Development and Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Ecuador [Consulta pública de la Propuesta de Estrategia para el fomento del desarrollo y uso ético y responsable de la*

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Following the recommendation to consolidate the proposed AI bills into a single legislative proposal, the Permanent Specialized Commission on Education, Culture, Science, Technology, Innovation, and Ancestral Knowledge held a National Assembly meeting to discuss the key ethical and technical principles for regulating AI.¹⁸⁸⁵ Various technical and ethical experts from UNESCO, the European Union Intellectual Property Office, and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences were invited to share their expertise.

Data Protection

The Constitution of Ecuador recognizes the right to personal data protection under Article 66(19), stating that individuals have the right to the protection of personal data and access to information concerning themselves.¹⁸⁸⁶ The protection of personal data and data subject rights was further expanded and institutionalized with the Organic Law on the Protection of Personal Data enacted in 2021.¹⁸⁸⁷ The law sets out data security obligations, introduces data subject rights similar to the EU GDPR, defines lawful processing conditions, and establishes clear rules for obtaining valid consent from data subjects. The personal data protection law also created the Superintendent of Personal Data Protection (*Superintendente de Protección de Datos Personales*, SPDP) as the data protection authority.¹⁸⁸⁸ The Superintendent and the office of the Superintendency have administrative, technical, and financial autonomy and the authority to investigate and sanction data protection violations. The Presidency issued the Regulation to the Personal Data Protection Organic Law in

inteligencia artificial en el Ecuador] (Aug. 2025),

https://aportecivico.gobiernoelectronico.gob.ec/legislation/processes/78/draft_versions/99

¹⁸⁸⁵ Asamblea Nacional, *Resolution CAL-RVVR-2023-2025-0216* (Feb. 13, 2025),

<https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/es/system/files/cal-rvvr-2023-2025-0216.pdf>; Marco Rivera, *Education Committee Debates Artificial Intelligence and Ethics Law in Ecuador* [Comisión de Educación debate la ley de Inteligencia Artificial y ética en Ecuador], *Expreso* (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/comision-de-educacion-debate-la-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial-y-etica-en-ecuador-255858.html>

¹⁸⁸⁶ Lexis, *Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador* [Constitución de la República del Ecuador], Art.66(19) (2008), https://www.oas.org/juridico/pdfs/mesicic4_ecu_const.pdf

¹⁸⁸⁷ Asamblea Nacional, *Organic Law on the Protection of Personal Data* [Ley Orgánica de Protección de Datos Personales] (May 26, 2021),

<https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-29/Leyes%202013-2017/920-Imoreno/ro-459-5to-sup-26-05-2021.pdf>

¹⁸⁸⁸ Asamblea Nacional, *Organic Law on the Protection of Personal Data* [Ley Orgánica de Protección de Datos Personales], Art. 77, pp. 61–62 (May 26, 2021),

<https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-29/Leyes%202013-2017/920-Imoreno/ro-459-5to-sup-26-05-2021.pdf>

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2023 to clarify procedures for exercising data rights, reporting security breaches, designating Data Protection Officers, and regulating cross-border data transfers.¹⁸⁸⁹

The Superintendency of Personal Data Protection is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) and thus ineligible to sponsor GPA resolutions.¹⁸⁹⁰ As a member of the Iberoamerican Network for Data Protection (*Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos*, RedIPD),¹⁸⁹¹ however, Ecuador is party to the Iberoamerican Standards, which call for transparency in the use of personal data, including in decision-making.¹⁸⁹² The Iberoamerican Network also provides guidance for ensuring the responsible use of data in developing and deploying AI systems and protecting rights from the impact of automated decisions.¹⁸⁹³

Algorithmic Transparency

The Artificial Intelligence Landscape Assessment conducted by the Ministry of Telecommunications and UNDP reported that algorithmic transparency is “virtually nonexistent,” as there are no public records of algorithms in use, nor legal support ensuring the right to explanations for automated decisions.¹⁸⁹⁴ The Personal Data Protection Law does not require entities to explain how their algorithms function.¹⁸⁹⁵

¹⁸⁸⁹ Presidencia de Ecuador, *Regulation of the Organic Law on Protection of Personal Data [Reglamento de la Ley Orgánica de Protección de Datos Personales]*, Norma 904, Registro Oficial Suplemento No. 435 (Nov. 13, 2023), https://www.gob.ec/sites/default/files/regulations/2025-01/02%20Reglamento%20General%20a%20la%20Ley%20Orgánica%20de%20Protección%20de%20Datos%20Personales_0.pdf

¹⁸⁹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹⁸⁹¹ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RedIPD), *Composition [Composición]*, <https://www.redipd.org/la-red/composicion>

¹⁸⁹² Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RedIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (Jun. 20, 2017), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/estandares-iberoamericanos-2017>

¹⁸⁹³ For example, see Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RedIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 21, 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

¹⁸⁹⁴ UNDP Ecuador, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Landscape Assessment [AILA: Evaluación del Panorama de la Inteligencia Artificial en Ecuador]*, p. 9 (May 2025), <https://www.undp.org/es/ecuador/publicaciones/evaluacion-del-panorama-de-inteligencia-artificial-ia>

¹⁸⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 58

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AI and Crime Mitigation

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supports governments in Chile, Ecuador, and Peru in deploying advanced AI programs to investigate complex organized-crime networks.¹⁸⁹⁶ The intergovernmental institution, which offers both financial and technical support to address development challenges—cites the cost of crime in the region (3.4 percent of GDP annually) and its impact on public safety as key drivers for adopting AI to address this challenge. Recognizing concerns about privacy and transparency related to the use of AI, IDB leverages its fAIRLAC+ platform—a partnership between the public and private sectors, civil society and academic institutions—to ensure that individual rights are upheld.¹⁸⁹⁷

Additionally, EL PACCTO 2.0 is a cooperation between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries (EU-LAC) promoting the use of AI to fight against transnational organized crime with a focus on crimes involving AI.¹⁸⁹⁸ The joint initiative advances national, regional, and international standards while ensuring coherence with legal frameworks, including the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and the European Union AI Act.¹⁸⁹⁹

Privacy and Surveillance

The National Assembly expanded state surveillance and data interception powers with the approval of the Organic Intelligence Law in 2025.¹⁹⁰⁰ The law raised concerns and criticisms in the National Assembly and by civil society because of the potential impact on fundamental rights. Civil society groups and digital rights advocates warned that the law may undermine privacy guarantees and conflict with existing data protection principles, especially in the context of AI-driven monitoring systems.¹⁹⁰¹

¹⁸⁹⁶ Ilan Goldfajn, *Cracking Crime with AI* (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://www.iadb.org/en/blog/cracking-crime-ai>

¹⁸⁹⁷ Ibid; *fAIR LAC*, <https://fairlac.iadb.org/en>

¹⁸⁹⁸ EU-LAC, *Artificial Intelligence and Organised Crime* (Nov. 2024), <https://www.fiap.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ELPACCTO2-IAyCrimen-EN.pdf>

¹⁸⁹⁹ Fundación para la Internacionalización de las Administraciones Públicas, *EU Promotes Cooperation Model with Latin America and the Caribbean to Combat the Use of AI in Organised Crime* (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.fiap.gob.es/en/noticias/eu-promotes-cooperation-model-with-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-to-combat-the-use-of-ai-in-organised-crime/>

¹⁹⁰⁰ Registro Oficial, *Organic Intelligence Law [Ley Orgánica de Inteligencia]* (Jun. 10, 2025), [https://strapi.lexis.com.ec/uploads/Registro Oficial Ano 1 Cuarto Suplemento No 57 10 de junio de 2025 6565dee8a1.pdf](https://strapi.lexis.com.ec/uploads/Registro%20Oficial%20Ano%201%20Cuarto%20Suplemento%20No%2057%2010%20de%20junio%20de%202025/6565dee8a1.pdf)

¹⁹⁰¹ María Villacreses Herrera, *Debate on the Draft Organic Law on Intelligence [Debate del Proyecto Ley Orgánica de Inteligencia]* (Jun. 10, 2025), <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/es/blogs/maria-villacreses-herrera/107720-sesion-007-asamblea-nacional>; Carolina Mella, *Noboa Opens the Door to Mass Surveillance in Ecuador with a*

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AI in Education

To address learning gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic among Ecuadorian higher education students, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, with support from World Bank, is providing AI-assisted academic support in math.¹⁹⁰² The platform reached over 14,000 learners across 400 course modules and delivered adaptive, personalized instruction at scale. Results were significant: student mastery increased from 25 percent to nearly 69 percent within sixteen weeks, which researchers estimated as equivalent to a full year of schooling. Despite these achievements, limited internet connectivity, unequal access to devices, and resistance from some educators and learners remain key barriers to large-scale adoption.

Environmental Impact of AI

Ecuador is the world's first country to grant constitutional rights to nature.¹⁹⁰³ The Constitution of 2008 states that Nature or *Pachamama* “has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.”¹⁹⁰⁴ Ecuador reinforced these rights in 2017 by enacting the Organic Environmental Code, which established a unified regulatory framework for environmental governance.¹⁹⁰⁵ The Code is based on environmental law principles and establishes rules for impact assessments, permitting, sanctions, and monitoring to safeguard biodiversity as a public interest.

The proposed Organic Law for the Regulation and Promotion of Artificial Intelligence includes provisions for ensuring that AI development upholds environmental sustainability.¹⁹⁰⁶ The proposal calls for clear environmental

New Intelligence Law [Noboa abre la puerta al espionaje masivo en Ecuador con una nueva ley de inteligencia], El País (Oct. 2025), <https://elpais.com/america/2025-06-23/noboa-abre-la-puerta-al-espionaje-masivo-en-ecuador-con-una-nueva-ley-de-inteligencia.html>

¹⁹⁰² World Bank Group, *In Ecuador, Artificial Intelligence Makes Learning Math Easier* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/02/10/en-ecuador-aprender-matematicas-es-mas-facil-con-inteligencia-artificial-nivelacion-remediacion-academica>

¹⁹⁰³ Karen Charman, *Ecuador First to Grant Nature Constitutional Rights*, *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 19(4), pp. 131–133 (Nov. 2008), <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455750802575828>

¹⁹⁰⁴ Ibid; *Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador* (2008), https://www.oas.org/juridico/pdfs/mesicic4_ecu_const.pdf

¹⁹⁰⁵ Ministro del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica [Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition], *Organic Environmental Code [Código Orgánico del Ambiente]* (Apr. 12, 2017), <https://sustanciasyresiduos.ambiente.gob.ec/producto/codigo-organico-del-ambiente/>; Eco Jurisprudence Monitor, *Ecuador Organic Code of the Environment* (Oct. 2025), <https://ecojurisprudence.org/initiatives/ecuadors-organic-code-of-the-environment/>

¹⁹⁰⁶ Asamblea Nacional, *Organic Law for the Regulation and Promotion of Artificial Intelligence [Proyecto de Ley Orgánica de Regulación y Promoción de la Inteligencia Artificial en Ecuador]*,

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standards to reduce carbon footprints, minimize negative ecological impacts, and promote the development and adoption of clean, sustainable technologies.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Ecuador has consistently positioned itself as a strong advocate for the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), emphasizing the need to maintain human oversight in decisions about the use of force.¹⁹⁰⁷ As a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), Ecuador focuses on humanitarian concerns to prevent misuse and protect human rights.¹⁹⁰⁸ At the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee, Ecuador co-sponsored and voted in favor of Draft Resolution L.77, which underscores the risks autonomous weapons pose to global security and stresses the crucial role of humans in their deployment.¹⁹⁰⁹ The resolution also calls for urgent negotiations toward a legally binding framework and scheduled informal consultations in 2025 to ensure a comprehensive discussion of potential regulatory measures. Ecuador's support for international oversight extends to previous resolutions.¹⁹¹⁰

Ecuador's statements repeatedly emphasize that human responsibility, accountability, and compliance with international law must guide any adoption or deployment of these technologies. At the 2023 CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS, for example, Ecuador clarified that negotiations for a binding international instrument are a top priority.¹⁹¹¹ The country views regulation as essential to mitigate the risks these systems pose under international humanitarian law and human rights law. Earlier, during the Sixth Review Conference of the CCW in 2021, Ecuador highlighted the need to move from debate to concrete rules,

Chapter II, Art. 4(1) (Oct. 2025),

[https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-](https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-19130/2192.%20Proyecto%20de%20Ley%20Org%C3%A1nica%20de%20Regulaci%C3%B3n%20y%20Promoci%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20Inteligencia%20Artificial%20en%20Ecuador%20-pnu%C3%B1ez/pp%20-%20proyecto%20de%20ley%20450889-nu%C3%B1ez.pdf)

[19130/2192.%20Proyecto%20de%20Ley%20Org%C3%A1nica%20de%20Regulaci%C3%B3n%20y%20Promoci%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20Inteligencia%20Artificial%20en%20Ecuador%20-pnu%C3%B1ez/pp%20-%20proyecto%20de%20ley%20450889-nu%C3%B1ez.pdf](https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-19130/2192.%20Proyecto%20de%20Ley%20Org%C3%A1nica%20de%20Regulaci%C3%B3n%20y%20Promoci%C3%B3n%20de%20la%20Inteligencia%20Artificial%20en%20Ecuador%20-pnu%C3%B1ez/pp%20-%20proyecto%20de%20ley%20450889-nu%C3%B1ez.pdf)

¹⁹⁰⁷ United Nations, *Statement by Ecuador, 2023 CCW GGE on LAWS* (May 15, 2023),

[https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/index.html?guid=public/61.0500/093DBBBC-C0F6-4E56-8D11-86ABA380DE10_15h03&position=1585&channel=ENGLISH; Automated Decision](https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/index.html?guid=public/61.0500/093DBBBC-C0F6-4E56-8D11-86ABA380DE10_15h03&position=1585&channel=ENGLISH; Automated Decision Research, Ecuador , https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/ecuador/)

[Research, Ecuador , https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/ecuador/](https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/index.html?guid=public/61.0500/093DBBBC-C0F6-4E56-8D11-86ABA380DE10_15h03&position=1585&channel=ENGLISH; Automated Decision Research, Ecuador , https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/ecuador/)

¹⁹⁰⁸ Ibid

¹⁹⁰⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Draft Resolution A/C.1/79/L.77*, First Committee, 79th Session (Oct. 18, 2024),

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

¹⁹¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (A/RES/78/241) (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/241>

¹⁹¹¹ Ibid

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stressing that binding regulations are necessary to address ethical concerns and the potential dehumanization of warfare.¹⁹¹²

Ecuador has called for robust legal frameworks, reinforced human oversight, and collaborative international action to ensure autonomous weapons are governed responsibly across multiple UN and CCW forums, reflecting the country's commitment to ethical, lawful, and stable security practices.¹⁹¹³

AI Literacy

Ecuador, in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates, launched a program in August 2025 offering scholarships for 10,000 young people aged 18 to 29 to train in AI.¹⁹¹⁴ The fully online training covers AI fundamentals, prompt engineering, chatbots, AI for productivity, and creative applications. This initiative was developed together with the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society; and the Ministry of Education.

Human Rights

Ecuador is classified as Partly Free by Freedom House, with an overall score of 65/100.¹⁹¹⁵ While the country maintains an electoral system with competitive presidential and legislative elections, political violence and corruption are increasingly affecting the functioning of its institutions and the safety of citizens. In 2023–2024, Daniel Noboa won a runoff election amid high levels of political violence, including the assassination of several candidates. Electoral management bodies generally function independently, though accusations of politicization and irregularities persist.

¹⁹¹² United Nations, *Statement by Ecuador, Sixth Review Conference of the CCW* (Dec. 13, 2021), http://149.202.215.129:8080/s2t/UNOG/RCHCP6-13-12-2021-PM_mp3_en.html; link to recording and transcript of the full meeting

¹⁹¹³ UN General Assembly, *Statement by Ecuador, First Committee* (Oct. 12, 2020), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ecuador-es.pdf>

¹⁹¹⁴ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Ecuador Launches 10,000 Artificial Intelligence Scholarships, Thanks to Cooperation with the United Arab Emirates [Ecuador lanza 10 mil becas de Inteligencia Artificial, gracias a la cooperación con Emiratos Árabes Unidos]* (Aug. 2025), <https://www.telecomunicaciones.gob.ec/ecuador-lanza-10-mil-becas-de-inteligencia-artificial-gracias-a-la-cooperacion-con-emiratos-arabes-unidos/>

¹⁹¹⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Ecuador* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ecuador/freedom-world/2025>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Ecuador's efforts in developing AI governance have been broadly consistent with internationally promoted, human-centered AI principles, even though Ecuador is not a member of OECD, the G20, or the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).¹⁹¹⁶ Ecuador has not committed to the OECD AI Principles.¹⁹¹⁷ The government's AI initiatives and the national Digital Observatory (*Observatorio Ecuador Digital*) reference responsible public-sector AI, signaling explicit alignment with trustworthiness, human rights, transparency, and accountability in national guidance and capacity-building efforts.¹⁹¹⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Ecuador is neither a member of the Council of Europe nor a signatory to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence.¹⁹¹⁹ The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers granted Ecuador observer status on the Committee on AI (CAI) in 2025. Although Ecuador will be eligible to assent to the Framework Convention only after ratification, observer status allows the country to participate in relevant CAI discussions.¹⁹²⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

UNESCO has been active in facilitating ethical AI dialogue in Ecuador, with efforts explicitly framed around the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.¹⁹²¹ Experts from UNESCO also contributed to the discussion around the effort to draft a single legislative AI proposal that consolidates AI bills.¹⁹²²

¹⁹¹⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

¹⁹¹⁷ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

¹⁹¹⁸ Ministerio de Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información, *Observatorio Ecuador Digital*, <https://observatorioecuadordigital.mintel.gob.ec/el-observatorio/>

¹⁹¹⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

¹⁹²⁰ Council of Europe Artificial Intelligence, *Ecuador Granted Observer Status in the CAI*, News (Sept. 24, 2025), https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/csARLoSVrbAH/content/ecuador-granted-observer-status-in-the-cai

¹⁹²¹ UNESCO, *Implementation of RAM in Ecuador* (Oct. 9, 2025),

<https://www.unesco.org/es/articles/implementacion-de-la-ram-en-ecuador>

¹⁹²² Asamblea Nacional, *Resolution CAL-RVVR-2023-2025-0216* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/es/system/files/cal-rvvr-2023-2025-0216.pdf>; Marco Rivera, *Education Committee Debates Artificial Intelligence and Ethics Law in Ecuador* (Comisión de

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UNESCO and the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society (MINTEL) held the first Extraordinary Session of MINTEL's AI Committee to advance Ecuador's progress on the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),¹⁹²³ which is still in process.¹⁹²⁴ Experts discussed ethical principles for the responsible and transparent adoption of AI, ensuring alignment with national priorities and human rights.

Evaluation

Ecuador is in the process of drafting a comprehensive national regulatory framework to govern the development and deployment of AI. Early drafts and policy initiatives suggest alignment with the EU AI Act and GDPR and with leading global standards such as the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI. The relevant ministries have taken steps to engage diverse stakeholders in AI policy development, and national AI initiatives are publicly available through the country's online Digital Observatory. However, gaps remain in ensuring algorithmic transparency and contestability of automated decisions.

Organized crime continues to exert a significant impact on Ecuador, prompting its government to explore AI for surveillance and crime prevention. Yet, the documented harms of AI in law enforcement—such as wrongful incarceration and biased policing resulting from discriminatory and spurious outputs—underscores the need for strong safeguards.¹⁹²⁵ These risks are further compounded by Ecuador's increasing political instability and governance challenges. Continuous monitoring is warranted to assess whether adequate safeguard and oversight mechanisms will be implemented to uphold fundamental rights and ethical AI principles.

Educación debate la ley de Inteligencia Artificial y ética en Ecuador), Expreso (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/comision-de-educacion-debate-la-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial-y-etica-en-ecuador-255858.html>

¹⁹²³ UNESCO, *Implementation of RAM in Ecuador* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/es/articles/implementacion-de-la-ram-en-ecuador>

¹⁹²⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

¹⁹²⁵ Merve Hickok and Evanna Hu, *Don't Let Governments Buy AI Systems That Ignore Human Rights*, Issues in Science and Technology (Apr. 11, 2024), <https://issues.org/government-procurement-ai-systems-human-rights-hickok-hu/>

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Egypt

In 2025, Egypt issued Executive Regulations to enact the 2020 Personal Data Protection Law and issued the Second Edition of the National AI Strategy. The country also completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and published the report.

National AI Strategy

The Egyptian Cabinet approved the formation of a National Council for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) tasked with “outlining, implementing and governing the AI strategy in close coordination with the concerned experts and entities”¹⁹²⁶ in November 2019. The Technical Committee of the National Council for Artificial Intelligence composed of representatives from all relevant government entities and independent experts in the field released the first National AI Strategy in 2021.¹⁹²⁷ On this occasion, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, stated, “We strongly believe that as emerging technologies create opportunities, they also pose challenges that we should be prepared for. Thus, we aim, through the National AI Strategy, to open the door to dialogue with stakeholders and promote international cooperation to exchange views on the best practices for developing and using AI to build the common good.”¹⁹²⁸

The Second Edition of the National AI Strategy for 2025–2030¹⁹²⁹ emphasizes that the main objective of the NCAI is to prepare, formalize, approve, and govern the implementation of Egypt’s National AI Strategy. The six strategic objectives are to:

- Ensure ethical and responsible AI use by establishing a comprehensive AI regulatory system, activating the ethical framework, and put a nucleus for a clear regulatory body, actively contributing to global efforts and playing an active role in AI different international fora.
- Enhance quality of life and sectoral efficiency through AI applications.
- Ensure data accessibility and sharing by developing frameworks for national data governance and strengthening life cycle management of domestic data.

¹⁹²⁶ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence, National Council for Artificial Intelligence* (2025), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Artificial_Intelligence

¹⁹²⁷ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, paragraph 2 (Jul. 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Publication/Publication_Summary/9283

¹⁹²⁸ Ibid, paragraph 10

¹⁹²⁹ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Second Edition (2025–2030)* (Jan. 2025), https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy_English_16-1-2025-1.pdf

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- Build a robust scalable AI infrastructure and cloud services, innovate business models, and create a good digital foundation for the development of the AI industry with the support of infrastructure development.
- Create a healthy AI ecosystem by supporting local startups, small and medium enterprises, and innovation efforts, and strengthening the investment of venture capital institutions in Egypt.
- Strengthen the quantity and quality of local AI talents and experts.¹⁹³⁰

Egypt's newly announced AI Strategy encourages the responsible use of AI tools and the protection of data, yet recent events signal risks to enforcement. The Surveillance Law of 2025, which allows AI analysis of personal communications, appears incompatible with the principles of fairness, transparency, and privacy protection outlined in the National AI Strategy. Experts note that the law could undercut Egypt's pledge to the ethical and responsible use of AI.¹⁹³¹

The National Strategy created Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess the status of ethical AI in Egypt. These include establishing a dedicated track within NCAI for AI Ethics, publishing Guidelines for Responsible and Ethical Development of AI, creating a set of rules and regulations for responsible AI use, and developing Ethics in AI/Technology courses as part of university computing degrees.¹⁹³² The adoption of the Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI in February 2023, which offers “actionable insights and policies for decision makers in government, academia, industry, and civil society,”¹⁹³³ marks progress on these KPIs. Egypt's efforts were also witnessed in establishing AI Faculties at Egyptian universities and teaching AI ethics in computer science faculties.¹⁹³⁴

The first National Strategy was implemented in a phased approach. The first phase (2020–2022) focused domestically on responding to market needs with AI talent and proving the value of AI through pilot projects within government. Internationally, the first phase centered active participation in international organizations on topics such as AI Ethics, AI for SDGs, and the impact of AI on labor markets and education.”¹⁹³⁵ In the second phase (2023–2026), the emphasis has been on expanding AI into additional sectors. The government intends to establish a

¹⁹³⁰ Ibid

¹⁹³¹ Egyptian Front for Human Rights, *Privacy Under Attack: Egypt's Expanding AI Surveillance and Data Monitoring Policies* (Feb. 2025), <https://egyptianfront.org/2025/02/privacy-under-attack-egypt-must-reform-its-draft-criminal-procedure-code>

¹⁹³² Ibid

¹⁹³³ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

¹⁹³⁴ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Jul. 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Publication/Publication_Summary/9283

¹⁹³⁵ Ibid, point 2

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“paperless, collaborative, and smart” government.¹⁹³⁶ Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thales, a French technology solutions company to integrate AI solutions to governmental services and to build AI capacity.¹⁹³⁷ Priority initiatives included raising public awareness about AI, supervising the domestic data lifecycle and fostering AI expertise. Egypt’s progress in this phase aligns with the OECD AI Principles.¹⁹³⁸

Egypt is actively working to bring the perspective of developing countries to international discussions, thereby helping to narrow the AI knowledge and development gap between developed and developing countries.¹⁹³⁹ In 2019, Egypt participated in the drafting of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, serving as the Ad Hoc Expert Group’s vice-chair.¹⁹⁴⁰

Regional AI Governance Collaboration

Egypt is also positioning itself as a regional leader in the AI and digital policy world. In 2019, Egypt hosted the third session of the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Technologies. This meeting was crowned by the adoption of the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, which recognized and reaffirmed the necessity for a coherent African Digital Transformation Strategy “to guide a common, coordinated response to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.”¹⁹⁴¹ Egypt hosted the first-ever DSC MENA 24 AI conference. This conference aimed to gain actionable insights into the international AI landscape through in-depth sessions on generative AI, natural language processing, computer vision, data engineering, cloud data, and AI applications in healthcare.¹⁹⁴²

¹⁹³⁶ Ibid

¹⁹³⁷ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *ICT Minister Witnesses Signing MoU between MCIT, Thales to Develop Apps, Build Capacity in AI* (Mar. 16, 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Press_Room/Press_Releases/63234

¹⁹³⁸ OECD Library, *OECD Artificial Intelligence Review of Egypt* (May 14, 2024), <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/2a282726-en.pdf>

¹⁹³⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, point 9 (Jul. 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Publication/Publication_Summary/9283

¹⁹⁴⁰ STIP Compass, *Participation in UNESCO Initiatives for Ethical Standards* (Aug. 11, 2025), https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2025_data_policyInitiatives_26897

¹⁹⁴¹ African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Technologies (STC-CICT), *Sharm el Sheikh Declaration* (Oct. 26, 2019), https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/37590-2019_sharm_el_sheikh_declaration_-_stc-cict-3_oct_2019_ver2410-10pm-1rev-2.pdf

¹⁹⁴² Ahramonline, *Egypt to Host First-Ever DSC MENA 24 AI Conference in April* (Apr. 3, 2024), <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/1239/520431/Business/Tech/Egypt-to-host-first-ever-DSC-MENA--AI-conference-in.aspx>

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Egypt also helped create the AU African Working Group on AI, a group tasked with drafting a continent-wide AI strategy.¹⁹⁴³ This strategy aspires to create a common stance on AI issues, areas of priority, and the role of AI in vital sectors as well as ensure “the governance of AI and the protection and availability of data and developing AI regulations.” The strategy also aims to position the African voice at the center of international fora and to “bridge the digital divide between developed [States] and African countries.”¹⁹⁴⁴ Such active engagement culminated in Egypt being elected Chair of the African AI Working Group.¹⁹⁴⁵ In February 2021, Egypt hosted the first meeting of the African AI Working Group, which led to the issuance of the Common Africa Position Paper on the Priority Areas of Africa towards AI, followed by the second meeting, which was also hosted by Egypt in December 2022.¹⁹⁴⁶ Overall, the meetings of African Working Group on AI aimed to craft an African AI strategy in line with African Agenda 2063.¹⁹⁴⁷

Egypt also chairs the Arab League’s AI Working Group¹⁹⁴⁸ and has remained a regional and global player in AI. In 2025, the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Amr Tallat delivered a keynote address during the opening of the Arab Dialogue Circle on Artificial Intelligence in the Arab World: Innovative Technologies and Ethical Challenges (ADCAI2025).¹⁹⁴⁹ The Minister also participated in the Ministerial Roundtable of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) members and interested countries held at the headquarters of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the AI Action

¹⁹⁴³ François Candelon, Hind El Bedraoui, Hamid Maher, *Developing an Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Africa* (Feb. 9, 2021), <https://oecd-development-matters.org/2021/02/09/developing-an-artificial-intelligence-for-africa-strategy/>

¹⁹⁴⁴ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt Hosts Second Meeting of African AI Working Group* (Dec. 14, 2022), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Latest_News/News/66696

¹⁹⁴⁵ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt Chairs AU Working Group on AI* (Feb. 25, 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Latest_News/News/58203

¹⁹⁴⁶ Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, *Egypt Hosts Second Meeting of African AI Working Group* (Dec. 14, 2022), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Latest_News/News/66696

¹⁹⁴⁷ Ibid

¹⁹⁴⁸ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt Elected Chair of Arab AI Working Group* (Feb. 16, 2021), https://mped.gov.eg/adminpanel/sharedFiles/OECD_Artificial_Intelligence_Review_of_Egypt_c9a.pdf

¹⁹⁴⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *ICT Minister Delivers Keynote Speech at ADCAI2025* (Feb. 2, 2025), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Press_Room/Press_Releases/68202

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Summit in Paris France, where he highlighted Egypt's active engagement in international forums addressing AI-related issues.¹⁹⁵⁰

Public Participation

The Ministry for Communications and Information Technology launched a website under the National Council for Artificial Intelligence¹⁹⁵¹ that allows the public to easily access the National Strategy, I news, details about AI events, projects, and capacity-building programs, and information about AI partnerships with governments, international organizations, private sector companies, and academia. The AI Platform also includes a page where researchers can submit academic articles.

Egypt has promoted several public events to build internal AI capacity, such as training for citizens on how to build AI apps, hackathons and discuss the future of AI in Egypt. However, spaces dedicated to feedback and active contribution are more reserved to strategic partnerships with private companies and experts.

In line with the second National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030), Egypt announced that Cairo will host the AI Everything Middle East & Africa (MEA) 2026 Forum. The event organized by GITEX Global in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), will convene representatives from over 60 countries, including government officials, private-sector leaders, investors, and academic institutions. The theme spans digital governance, financial technology, healthcare innovation, cybersecurity, and sustainable cloud infrastructure, thereby connecting Egypt's domestic development agenda to regional and global AI ecosystems. In addition to a ministerial-level summit, the program includes start-up exhibitions, investor matchmaking sessions, and youth-oriented capacity-building tracks designed to promote skill development and entrepreneurship in the field of artificial intelligence.

Data Protection

The Egyptian Constitution protects citizens' rights to privacy under Article 57.¹⁹⁵² Egypt passed Law No. 151 on the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) in

¹⁹⁵⁰ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *ICT Minister Participates in GPAI Ministerial Roundtable* (Feb. 10, 2025), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Press_Room/Press_Releases/68219

¹⁹⁵¹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt Artificial Intelligence Platform*, <https://ai.gov.eg>

¹⁹⁵² Constitute Project, *The Egyptian Constitution*, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Egypt_2014.pdf

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July 2020.¹⁹⁵³ The Minister of Communications and Information Technology publicized a draft Executive Regulation of the PDPL in June 2022.¹⁹⁵⁴ The Executive Regulation¹⁹⁵⁵ implementing the PDPL and operationalizing the national data protection authority were released in November 2025 and will be implemented through 2026.

The PDPL was drafted following the example of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Article 2 of the PDPL provides for data subject rights such as the right to erasure, the right to be informed, the right to access, and the right to rectification and to object.¹⁹⁵⁶ The PDPL also enshrines principles applicable to the collection, storage and processing of personal data. These principles are (1) Data minimization; (2) Accuracy and security; (3) Lawfulness, and (4) Storage limitation. The PDPL foresees financial sanctions in the event of violations regarding the protection of personal data.

The PDPL created the Personal Data Protection Center (PDPC) as the “competent regulatory authority responsible for overseeing, enforcing, and developing Egypt’s data protection framework.”¹⁹⁵⁷ The PDPC will set and apply decisions, regulations, and measures in relation to data protection and foresee an adequate mechanism for law enforcement. The Center is meant to be an independent authority that operates under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.¹⁹⁵⁸

In January 2025, Egypt amended the Criminal Procedure Code to expand surveillance of personal communications.¹⁹⁵⁹ The law allows monitoring of phone calls, emails, and social media. Civil society groups raised concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability in AI-powered surveillance systems. Experts noted that the law may present conflicts with Egypt’s commitments to ethical AI

¹⁹⁵³ Personal Data Protection Center, *Regulations, PDPL No. 151 of 2020* (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://pdpc.gov.eg/laws>

¹⁹⁵⁴ Ministry of Communications and Innovation Technology, *Personal Data Protection Law Executive Regulations to Be Issued Late 2022: NTRA VP* (Jun. 21, 2022), [https://mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/MediaCenter/MCIT%20in%20Press622202200Personal Data Protection Law Executive Regulations to Be Issued Late 2022 NTRA.pdf](https://mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/MediaCenter/MCIT%20in%20Press622202200Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Law%20Executive%20Regulations%20to%20Be%20Issued%20Late%202022%20NTRA.pdf)

¹⁹⁵⁵ Personal Data Protection Center, *Regulations, Executive Regulations No. 816 of 2025* (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://pdpc.gov.eg/laws>

¹⁹⁵⁶ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World: Collection and Processing in Egypt* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/?t=collection-and-processing&c=EG#insight>

¹⁹⁵⁷ Personal Data Protection Center, *FAQs*, <https://pdpc.gov.eg/faq>

¹⁹⁵⁸ DLA Piper Data Protection, *Data Protection Laws of the World: National Data Protection Authority in Egypt* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=authority&c=EG>

¹⁹⁵⁹ The New Arab, *Egypt Passes Communication Surveillance Law Amid Privacy Concerns* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-passes-communication-surveillance-law-amid-privacy-concern>

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governance, including transparency (Metric Q9) and fairness (Metric Q8). However, Egypt adopted its first National Open Data Policy in June 2025 to drive digital transformation.¹⁹⁶⁰

At a conference on the challenges to the right to privacy given the rapid development of artificial intelligence in July 2022, the Minister of Social Solidarity Nevine El-Qabbaj stated that “artificial intelligence has breached all limits, even our mental privacy.”¹⁹⁶¹

The Personal Data Protection Center is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).¹⁹⁶² Egypt has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,¹⁹⁶³ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,¹⁹⁶⁴ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,¹⁹⁶⁵ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.¹⁹⁶⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

The PDPL does not refer to algorithmic transparency. However, the principles of “transparency and explainability,” including the right of the user to know “when he or she is interacting with an AI system and not a human being” are enshrined in the Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI.¹⁹⁶⁷ The Charter also emphasizes that: “Developers of AI systems should always strive to provide transparent and explainable AI solutions. The degree of explainability required will vary according

¹⁹⁶⁰ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Open Data Policy*, Arab Republic of Egypt (Jun. 2025), [https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/Open Data Policy.pdf](https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/Open%20Data%20Policy.pdf)

¹⁹⁶¹ Nada Nader, *Egypt Kicks Off Int'l Human Rights Conference on Challenges Facing Right to Privacy* (Jul 21, 2022), <https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/471889.aspx>

¹⁹⁶² Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

¹⁹⁶³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

¹⁹⁶⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

¹⁹⁶⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

¹⁹⁶⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

¹⁹⁶⁷ National Council for AI, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

to the application domain and project requirements, but project sponsors must be clear on the potential tradeoff between the accuracy/quality and explainability of any given model. When in doubt, developers should opt for simpler models with higher degrees of explainability, without compromising the minimum desired quality and accuracy.”

Biometric Recognition

Egypt is increasingly adopting biometric technologies for security and surveillance. A deal between the Arab Organization for Industrialization and Idemia, a leading biometric company, hired the latter to produce biometric devices including facial recognition systems in Egypt.¹⁹⁶⁸ The Egyptian government agreed with Idemia in early 2020 to build a digital ID system for Egypt Post “backed by fingerprint biometrics and citizen IDs.”¹⁹⁶⁹ In 2021, Fingo, another organization specializing in biometrics, announced a partnership with Egypt to develop a vein-based recognition system for the country’s national ID program.¹⁹⁷⁰

On the sidelines of the COP27 hosted in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Egyptian government signed an MoU with the US-based company, Honeywell International Inc, to “run a pilot model in Sharm El-Sheikh by transforming the new building of the South Sinai Governorate General Assembly and Sharm El-Shaikh Hospital into sustainable smart buildings relying on modern technologies, especially artificial intelligence and data analytics.”¹⁹⁷¹ This agreement came as the second deal after Egypt contracted Honeywell in 2019 to provide city-wide public safety, security and surveillance system for the new administrative capital, which, according to a press release by the company, will “integrate advanced Internet of Things (IoT) software and [...] also connect video feeds from more than 6,000 IP cameras over a futureproof wireless network, and run sophisticated video analytics to monitor

¹⁹⁶⁸ Ayang MacDonald, *Idemia Renews Mauritania Contract, Signs Deal with AOI for Biometric Device Production in Egypt*, Biometric Update (Nov. 9, 2020), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202011/idemia-renews-mauritania-contract-signs-deal-with-aoi-for-biometric-device-production-in-egypt>

¹⁹⁶⁹ Chris Burt, *Idemia to Build Biometrics-Backed Digital Identity Service in Egypt, Supply TSA Trials, Koins Kantara*, Biometric Update.COM (Mar. 12, 2020), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202003/idemia-to-build-biometrics-backed-digital-identity-service-in-egypt-supply-tsa-trials-joins-kantara>

¹⁹⁷⁰ Fingo, *Egypt to Unlock Futuristic ID Verification with Finger-Vein Recognition Tech* (Feb. 18, 2021), <https://www.fingo.to/media/egypt-to-unlock-futuristic-id-verification-with-finger-vein-recognition-tech/>

¹⁹⁷¹ North Africa Post, *Egypt: US Honeywell Company to Transform Government Institutions into Smart Buildings* (Nov. 12, 2022), <https://northafricapost.com/62581-egypt-us-honeywell-company-to-transform-government-institutions-into-smart-buildings.html>

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crowds and traffic congestion, detect incidents of theft, observe suspicious people or objects, and trigger automated alarms in emergency situations.”¹⁹⁷²

These deals were concluded in a legal vacuum even though biometric systems could adversely impact several human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, the right to assembly, and the right to privacy.¹⁹⁷³

A January 2025 surveillance law allows direct monitoring of an individual citizen’s personal communications via mobile communications, voice, email, and social networking, as well as the use of biometric tracking technologies. The law has been criticized for its limited accountability and transparency, as well as the potential for automated decision-making without citizen oversight. Egypt’s approach to biometric tracking under this law may conflict with its commitment to Algorithmic Transparency (Metric Q9) and Fairness & Accountability (Metric Q8) under the AIDV Index.¹⁹⁷⁴

The law includes provisions that could expand the use of biometric recognition tools in public areas, increasing risks of AI misuse. Experts warn that, if unchecked, such policies could restrict civil rights and reduce transparency, making it harder to manage AI’s ethical implications and posing serious risks to civil liberties if not properly regulated.¹⁹⁷⁵

EdTech

In May 2022, Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Egypt, for children’s education during the pandemic. Based on technical and policy analysis of 163 EdTech products, Human Rights Watch found that governments’ endorsements of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children’s rights.¹⁹⁷⁶

¹⁹⁷² ZAWYA, *Honeywell to Deploy World-Class Public Safety and Security Infrastructure for Egypt’s New Smart City*, <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/honeywell-to-deploy-world-class-public-safety-and-security-infrastructure-for-egypts-new-smart-city-f8th3lvy>

¹⁹⁷³ Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, *Surveillance Law in Africa: A Review of Six Countries, Version 2, Egypt Country Report* (Mar. 24, 2026), https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/articles/report/Surveillance_Law_in_Africa_a_Review_of_Six_Countries/26435920?file=48184978

¹⁹⁷⁴ ARTICLE 19, *Egypt: Stop Attacks on Privacy and Reform Draft Criminal Procedure Code*, (Feb. 2025), <https://www.article19.org/resources/egypt-stop-attacks-on-privacy-and-reform-draft-criminal-procedure-code/>

¹⁹⁷⁵ The New Arab, *Egypt Passes Communication Surveillance Law Amid Privacy Concern* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-passes-communication-surveillance-law-amid-privacy-concern>

¹⁹⁷⁶ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

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This is the case, for example, of the EdTech product “Edmodo” used in Egypt, which, according to Human Rights Watch, can collect Android Advertising IDs that enable advertisers to track children over time and across different apps installed on their devices for advertising purposes. Edmodo also allows shadow profiling by accessing contacts’ details and photos, if saved on the phone. Additionally, an Education and skills push elevated to a national priority under Presidential direction could consider AI use as compulsory in pre-university education.¹⁹⁷⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

Egypt’s 2021 National AI Strategy highlights the use of AI technology to mitigate the environmental cost of agriculture in the AI for Development (AI4D) pillar.¹⁹⁷⁸ However, the strategy does not address the environmental cost or resources required to develop and deploy AI systems. The Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI requires the environmental impact of Government AI projects to be weighed in “a thorough impact assessment to ensure maximum benefit from the technology, while respecting the guidelines of responsible and ethical AI development.”¹⁹⁷⁹

The Second Edition of the National Strategy promotes sustainable AI development by encouraging green computing practices and energy-efficient data centers. Egypt also aims to use AI to support environmental monitoring and conservation in sectors like energy, agriculture, and water management.¹⁹⁸⁰

The African Union Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy to which Egypt contributed identifies emissions and resource demands among the risks of using and developing AI systems.¹⁹⁸¹ The Strategy identifies environmental protection as a priority area to apply AI technology but also calls for countries to center sustainability through innovations such as green data centers in developing technology.¹⁹⁸²

¹⁹⁷⁷ Sahar Albazar, Member of Parliament, *Governing AI with Inclusion: An Egyptian Model for the Global South* (Sept. 1, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/governing-ai-with-inclusion-an-egyptian-model-for-the-global-south>

¹⁹⁷⁸ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, pp. 29–30 (Jul. 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Publication/Publication_Summary/9283

¹⁹⁷⁹ National Council for AI, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0, p. 5 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

¹⁹⁸⁰ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Second Edition (2025–2030)* (Jan. 2025), <https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategyEnglish16-1-2025-1.pdf>

¹⁹⁸¹ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 25 (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

¹⁹⁸² *Ibid*, pp. 37, 45

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

While Egypt has signed the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), it has not yet ratified the Convention.¹⁹⁸³ However, Egypt has been actively participating in CCW meetings on killer robots since 2014.¹⁹⁸⁴ Bassem Yehia Hassan Kassem Hassan, a representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, stated that the presence of weapons of mass destruction and their modernization are a grave threat to international security and development, and that international community must develop norms and rules to encourage responsible behavior and increase cooperation to reach concrete progress in dealing with threats posed by lethal autonomous weapons and the use of artificial intelligence in armaments.¹⁹⁸⁵

On numerous occasions, Egypt has warned that these weapon systems may have “possible ramifications on the value of human lives [and] the calculation of the cost of war,”¹⁹⁸⁶ and thus, there must be “specific prohibitions on acquisition, research and development, testing, deployment, transfer, and use [of these systems].”¹⁹⁸⁷ Egypt has called for a moratorium on lethal autonomous weapons systems until a ban is achieved, supporting “a legally binding instrument against the development and manufacture of such weapon systems [...] as well as the regulation of existing systems that fall within [the CCW] mandate.”¹⁹⁸⁸

¹⁹⁸³ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

¹⁹⁸⁴ Brian Stauffer, Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and#_ftn95

¹⁹⁸⁵ United Nations, *First Committee Weighs Potential Risks of New Technologies as Members Exchange Views on How to Control Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Cyberattacks* (Oct. 26, 2018), <https://press.un.org/en/2018/gadis3611.doc.htm>

¹⁹⁸⁶ Government of Egypt, *Statement to the UN Human Rights Council* (May 30, 2013), http://stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HRC_Egypt_10_30May2013.pdf

¹⁹⁸⁷ Brian Stauffer, Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and#_ftn95

¹⁹⁸⁸ Automated Decision Research, *State Position on Autonomous Weapons Systems: Egypt*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/egypt/

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At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Egypt voted in favor¹⁹⁸⁹ of resolution L.56¹⁹⁹⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. Egypt also voted in favor of Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems in 2024.¹⁹⁹¹ The resolution, supported by 161 states, raises concerns about the “negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability” and stresses the “the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability and for States to comply with international law.”¹⁹⁹²

AI Literacy

Egypt has adopted a structured approach to AI literacy under its broader Digital Egypt agenda and the Second National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030). The strategy identifies “human capital development and AI literacy” as one of six pillars, aiming for an informed, capable, and ethically aware workforce to support national AI deployment.¹⁹⁹³ The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), through its Applied Innovation Centre (AIC) and the Information Technology Institute (ITI), has launched several national programs targeting students, civil servants, and professionals.

To address the growing importance of AI in the public sector, the program trains public officials in understanding algorithmic systems, data governance, and ethical risk assessment. Complementing this initiative, the AI Summer School Initiative provides early-career researchers with exposure to machine learning and

¹⁹⁸⁹ Stop Killer Robots, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

¹⁹⁹⁰ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

¹⁹⁹¹ Automated Decision Research, *Egypt State Positions* (2024), https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/egypt/

¹⁹⁹² Stop Killer Robots, *161 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly* (2024), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/161-states-vote-against-the-machine-at-the-un-general-assembly/>

¹⁹⁹³ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Second Edition (2025–2030)* (Jan. 2025), [https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy English 16-1-2025-1.pdf](https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy%20English%2016-1-2025-1.pdf)

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data analytics.¹⁹⁹⁴ At the institutional level, Egypt’s National Council for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) coordinates AI literacy programs across ministries, ensuring alignment with the Responsible AI Charter (2023) and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021). This coordination ensures that literacy initiatives incorporate awareness of AI’s ethical, societal, and regulatory dimensions.

To expand digital inclusion, the Digital Egypt Cubs Initiative trains students aged 12–17 in foundational AI concepts, programming, and ethics. The Digital Egypt Pioneers Initiative extends this framework by providing professional certification and employment pathways for youth in AI-related fields. Together, these initiatives integrate AI literacy across Egypt’s digital-skills ecosystem.¹⁹⁹⁵

Human Rights

Egypt has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the Freedom in the World report ranks Egypt as “Not Free” with a score of 18/100 for 2025.¹⁹⁹⁶ The report cites the authoritarian rule of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and the lack of meaningful political opposition given the prosecution and imprisonment of dissenters and general restriction of civil liberties such as freedoms of the press, assembly, and expression. Criminalization of dissent, harassment, and surveillance for internet users as well as restrictions to access led to the “Not Free” ranking and 28/100 score on the Freedom on the Net report.¹⁹⁹⁷

In March 2021, 31 UN member states penned a joint declaration, supported by numerous NGOs, strongly condemning human rights abuses in Egypt. The declaration highlighted constraints on citizens’ freedom of expression, as well as their ability to voice political opposition and to peacefully assemble.¹⁹⁹⁸

Egypt is criticized by international human rights organizations and civil society for state surveillance on citizens’ communications and censorship on content online.¹⁹⁹⁹ Enactment of the Anti-Cyber Crime Law aimed to ensure online safety,

¹⁹⁹⁴ GovTech Global Alliance, *Applied Innovation Centre—AI for Government Programme* (2024) <https://govtechglobal.org/appliedinnovationcenter>

¹⁹⁹⁵ MCIT, *Digital Egypt Cubs and Pioneers Initiatives Overview* (2024), <https://deci.mcit.gov.eg>

¹⁹⁹⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Egypt* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/egypt/freedom-world/2025>

¹⁹⁹⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2025: Egypt* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/egypt/freedom-net/2025>

¹⁹⁹⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Condemnation of Egypt’s Abuses at UN Rights Body: Overdue Action Is a Step Forward* (Mar. 12, 2021), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/12/condemnation-egypts-abuses-un-rights-body>

¹⁹⁹⁹ Wafa Ben Hassine, *Egyptian Parliament Approves Cybercrime Law Legalizing Blocking of Websites and Full Surveillance of Egyptians* (Jun. 20, 2018), <https://www.accessnow.org/egyptian->

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security and fraud; however, in practice the regulation can be used for surveillance due to vague definitions and language.²⁰⁰⁰ Moreover, Egypt's collaboration with private software and technology solution companies such as Idemia and Thales has been criticized for the lack of transparency and accountability.²⁰⁰¹

In late 2021, Egypt launched the National Human Rights Strategy.²⁰⁰² On this occasion, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi declared 2022 as the year of civil society.²⁰⁰³ The Human Rights Strategy is based on three axes: a) Constitutional Guarantees for Enhancing Human Rights Respect and Protection, b) Egypt's International and Regional Human Rights Obligations, and 3) Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030. While the Strategy tackled all human rights, particularly political rights, it did not address the positive/adverse impact of technology on these rights or the human rights implications of artificial intelligence. The Strategy referred only to the use of technology to enhance human rights under the "Right to Litigation and Strengthening Guarantees for a Fair Trial."²⁰⁰⁴

In February 2023, Egypt released the Egyptian Charter on Responsible AI. The Charter builds on the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.²⁰⁰⁵ The Charter recognizes the significant risks AI might pose, such as bias, data drift, lack of transparency, lack of legal responsibility, and lack of fairness and equality. Therefore, it introduces guidelines and best practices for assessing AI systems trustworthiness with the aim to protect human rights and ensure the responsible, transparent, and fair use of the technology. For example, on the human-centeredness principle, the Charter stresses that "[t]he primary goal of using

[parliament-approves-cybercrime-law-legalizing-blocking-of-websites-and-full-surveillance-of-egyptians/](#)

²⁰⁰⁰ Killian Balz, Hussam Mujally, *Egypt: The New Egyptian Anti-Cybercrime Law Regulates Legal Responsibility for Web Pages and Their Content* (2018), <https://www.mondaq.com/security/820028/the-new-egyptian-anti-cybercrime-law-regulates-legal-responsibility-for-web-pages-and-their-content>; Jillian C. York, *Egypt's Draconian New Cybercrime Bill Will Only Increase Censorship* (Jul 12, 2018), <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/07/draconian-new-cybercrime-bills-vietnam-and-egypt-will-only-increase-censorship>

²⁰⁰¹ Marceau Sivieude, ed., *Egypt: A Repression Made in France*, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), Human Rights League (LDH), Armaments Observatory (OBSARM) (Jun. 2, 2018), <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/litigation/egypt-a-repression-made-in-france>

²⁰⁰² Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights, *National Human Rights Strategy* (2021–2026), <https://sschr.gov.eg/media/gapb5bq4/national-human-rights-strategy.pdf>

²⁰⁰³ Egypt's State Information Service, *Sisi Declares 2022 as Year of Civil Society* (Jan.18, 2022), <https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/sisi-declares-2022-as-year-of-civil-society/>

²⁰⁰⁴ *National Human Rights Strategy*, p. 25

²⁰⁰⁵ National Council for AI, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

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AI in Government is the well-being of citizens, including combating poverty, hunger, inequality, illiteracy, and corruption; achieving prosperity and inclusion.”²⁰⁰⁶

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Although Egypt is not an OECD member, the country contributed to the drafting of the OECD Recommendations on Responsible Use of AI²⁰⁰⁷ and was the first Arab and African country to endorse and translate the OECD AI Principles into Arabic.²⁰⁰⁸ Egypt also has collaborated with the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) as an observer and took part in the Ministerial Roundtable of the GPAI²⁰⁰⁹ at the AI Action Summit in Paris in 2025, where the ICT Minister presented the main principles of the Second Edition of the National AI Strategy 2025–2030.

As reported by the OECD in the 2021 State of Implementation of the OECD Principles report, Egypt has set up a governing body (the National Council for AI) to oversee the implementation of its AI strategy.²⁰¹⁰ This is a concrete first step toward fulfilling the OECD recommendation of ensuring “a policy environment that will open the way to deployment of trustworthy AI systems.”

Egypt has also taken steps toward fulfilling three of the four other OECD recommendations. The creation of both the AI Platform and the new Egyptian Center of Excellence,²⁰¹¹ a government group that will work with private or academic partners to deliver AI projects on behalf of beneficiaries, help to “foster accessible AI ecosystems with digital infrastructure and technologies and mechanisms to share data and knowledge.” Empowering “people with the skills for AI and support workers for a fair transition” will be accomplished through enrollments in the newly created “Faculties of AI” at eight public and private Egyptian universities.²⁰¹² Egypt’s cooperation “across borders and sectors to progress on responsible stewardship of

²⁰⁰⁶ Ibid

²⁰⁰⁷ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *MCIT Participates Actively in Drafting OECD Recommendations on Responsible Use of AI* (May. 15, 2021), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Latest_News/News/63363

²⁰⁰⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May. 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

²⁰⁰⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *ICT Minister Participates in GPAI Ministerial Roundtable* (Feb. 10, 2025), https://mcit.gov.eg/en/Media_Center/Latest_News/News/68219

²⁰¹⁰ OECD, *State of implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies*, p. 10, OECD Digital Economy Papers, No. 311 (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1cd40c44-en>

²⁰¹¹ National Council for AI, *Egyptian AI Center of Excellence (AIEG)*, <https://ai.gov.eg/strategy/center-of-excellence>

²⁰¹² Sally Radwan and Samar Sobeih, *Egypt’s AI Strategy Is More about Development than AI*, OECD.ai Policy Observatory (May 26, 2021), <https://oecd.ai/en/work/egypt-ai-strategy>

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trustworthy AI” is evidenced by its participation in and leadership of international AI committees.

The Charter on Responsible AI purports to demonstrate how the country will interpret and implement the OECD AI Principles of human-centeredness, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, security and safety.²⁰¹³

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Egypt did not participate in the negotiations for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, which opened for signature by member and non-member countries in September 2024.²⁰¹⁴ Egypt has not signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty.²⁰¹⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Egypt endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics²⁰¹⁶ and took an active part in its drafting.²⁰¹⁷ Egypt embedded most of the principles adopted in the UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics in its Charter for Responsible AI, albeit no concrete implementation has taken place so far. The Charter draws on the guidelines developed by UNESCO and other organizations by translating these recommendations into steps “to help ensure the responsible development, deployment, management, and use of AI systems in the country.”²⁰¹⁸ Although the Charter recognizes the principle of “human-centered AI,” it does not acknowledge that “Respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms” lie at the heart of Ethical AI.

Egypt completed a comprehensive AI Readiness Assessment²⁰¹⁹ in partnership with UNESCO, using UNESCO’s Readiness Assessment Methodology

²⁰¹³ National Council for AI, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

²⁰¹⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁰¹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 29, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

²⁰¹⁶ United Nations, *193 Countries Adopt First-Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, UN News (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

²⁰¹⁷ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Partnerships*, <https://ai.gov.eg/Partnerships>

²⁰¹⁸ National Council for Artificial Intelligence, *Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI*, v. 1.0 (2023), <https://aicm.ai.gov.eg/en/Resources/EgyptianCharterForResponsibleAIEnglish-v1.0.pdf>

²⁰¹⁹ UNESCO, *Egypt Charts Path towards Ethical and Inclusive AI with UNESCO Support* (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/egypt-charts-path-towards-ethical-and-inclusive-ai-unesco-support>

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(RAM).²⁰²⁰ The initiative, jointly conducted by the UNESCO Regional Office for Egypt and Sudan and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), identified priority areas for development, including the need to enhance computing infrastructure, promote ethical innovation, and strengthen regulatory oversight and public accountability mechanisms.²⁰²¹ The report also acknowledges Egypt's leadership in regional AI governance, notably through its chairmanship of both the African Union and Arab League AI working groups. The assessment also emphasized that the transition from assessment to implementation will determine the country's long-term success in ensuring ethical and inclusive AI.

Evaluation

Egypt has been a leading voice in the African and Arab world to foster the regulation of AI. The country chaired African and Arab working groups on the topic and actively participated in the drafting of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Nationally, key milestones include the adoption of the Egyptian Charter on Responsible AI and the launch of the Second Edition of the National AI Strategy for 2025–2030. The second edition of the Strategy reflects Egypt's commitment to developing AI Policy to ensure that Egypt implements responsible, ethical AI in a sustainable manner, in line with international standards, in pursuit of the mission to lead the region in AI for development.

Despite developing AI policies in line with international standards, authoritarian government practices and human rights violations undermine implementation of these principles. Surveillance and a lack of supporting institutions continue to undermine democratic principles and rights around public participation, data protection, and civil liberties.

²⁰²⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Egypt* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/egypt>

²⁰²¹ UNESCO, *Egypt: Artificial Intelligence Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000395173>

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Estonia

In 2025, Estonia designated authorities for the protection of fundamental rights under the EU AI Act and launched the AI Leap Initiative to incorporate AI literacy into secondary- and vocational-school curriculum.

National AI Strategy

The Estonian Cabinet adopted the first National AI Strategy in July 2019.²⁰²² The Government Chief Information Officer Office, based in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, was tasked with steering the AI Strategy. The first National AI Strategy built on a May 2019 report of Estonia's AI Taskforce.²⁰²³ The actions detailed in the first AI Strategy were designed to advance the adoption of AI solutions in both the private and public sectors, to increase AI capacities and research and development, and to develop the legal environment to facilitate AI. The first AI Strategy committed to the establishment of a steering group, comprised of government representatives and other stakeholders, to monitor the implementation of the AI Strategy. In addition, the e-Estonia Council was tasked with considering the strategy's implementation annually. The first AI Strategy was conceived as a short-term strategy, intended to apply up until 2021. By adopting a short-term strategy, Estonia intends to gain insight and develop a long-term strategy in response to the experience gained. Estonia aims to monitor the development of the short-term action plan and keep the European Union informed of developments.

In spite of Estonia's national digital adviser initially proposing the adoption of a law granting legal personality to AI, Estonia's AI Taskforce concluded that no substantial legal changes were currently required to address the issues presented by AI.²⁰²⁴ The Taskforce Report maintained, "Both now and in the foreseeable future, kratts are and will be human tools, meaning that they perform tasks determined by humans and express the intention of humans directly or indirectly." Accordingly, the AI Taskforce Report clarified that the "actions" of AI are attributable to the relevant state body or private party that uses the AI solution.²⁰²⁵ Minor changes recommended

²⁰²² Government, *Estonia's National AI Strategy 2019–2021* (Jul. 2019), https://kratid.ee/en/files/ugd/980182_8d0df96fd41145739dff2595e0ab3e8d.pdf

²⁰²³ Government Office and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce* (May 2019) https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_486454c9f32340b28206e140350159cf.pdf

²⁰²⁴ Ibid; See also, Astghik Grigoryan, *Estonia: Government Issues Artificial Intelligence Report* (Jul. 31, 2019), <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/estonia-government-issues-artificial-intelligence-report/>

²⁰²⁵ Government of the Republic of Estonia, *Estonia's National AI Strategy 2019–2021* (Jul. 2019), https://kratid.ee/en/files/ugd/980182_8d0df96fd41145739dff2595e0ab3e8d.pdf

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include the removal of obsolete laws and providing additional clarity to facilitate the use of AI. Estonia's Chief Information Officer stated that Estonia wants to "build on the EU framework, not to start creating and arguing" for a separate Estonian framework.²⁰²⁶

Neither the first AI Strategy nor the AI Taskforce Report provided significant detail on questions related to the ethics of artificial intelligence. Reference was, however, made to guidance provided by the European Commission for the development and implementation of trustworthy artificial intelligence.²⁰²⁷ The Taskforce Report acknowledged that "trustworthy artificial intelligence must be guided by the principles of human rights, positive rights, and values, thus ensuring the ethics dimension and objective."²⁰²⁸ The Report recognized the relevance of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and referred to the following rights as central according to the Commission guidance on AI: the right to human dignity, the right to freedom, respect of the principles of democracy and the state, based on the rule of law, right to equality, non-discrimination, and acknowledgement of minorities, and civil rights.

To ensure that the development and use of AI is ethical, the Taskforce Report emphasized the importance of ensuring that AI is human-centric; that rights, ethics principles, and values are fundamental; and that AI may bring unintended consequences. The first AI Strategy referenced the EU guidelines that identify the importance of the following values: human agency, technical reliability, privacy and data management, transparency, non-discrimination, social and environmental well-being, and responsibility.

²⁰²⁶ Ronald Liive, *Estonian State IT Manager Siim Sikkut: If There Were 1% in the State Budget for Science, We Could Talk More About Kratind*, DigiGeenius (May 5, 2019), in [US] Library of Congress, *Estonia: Government Issues Artificial Intelligence Report* (Jul. 31, 2019), <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2019-07-31/estonia-government-issues-artificial-intelligence-report/>; in 2018, Estonia signed up to a European Union Declaration of Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-member-states-sign-cooperate-artificial-intelligence>

²⁰²⁷ Government Office and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce* (May 2019), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_486454c9f32340b28206e140350159cf.pdf; European Commission, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI* (Apr. 8, 2019), <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

²⁰²⁸ Government Office and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce* (May 2019), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_486454c9f32340b28206e140350159cf.pdf

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The Estonian Cabinet adopted the Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2022–2023) as a continuation of Estonia’s first national AI strategy (2019–2021).²⁰²⁹ This AI strategy was carried out in line with the objectives laid out by the European Commission in its Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence. Estonia’s AI Task Force is working to update the national AI strategy and explained the 203 edition will continue until completion.²⁰³⁰

Nordic-Baltic Cooperation on AI

As for the international landscape, the Estonian minister responsible for digital development signed the 2018 declaration on “AI in the Nordic-Baltic region” establishing a collaborative framework on “developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability.”²⁰³¹

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0²⁰³² builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries, and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017–2020. The countries created a Council of Ministers for Digitalization (MR-DIGITAL) “to promote work with digitalisation, co-ordinate efforts, and follow up on the goals of the declaration.”²⁰³³

In November 2021, the Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization released another joint statement announcing a focus on digital inclusion, striving to implement measures to make digital services more accessible to all Estonian inhabitants and ensuring that those who do not possess the necessary level of skills get the opportunity to acquire them.²⁰³⁴

²⁰²⁹ Government of the Republic of Estonia, *Estonia’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, 2019–2021* (Jul. 2019), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_27a618cb80a648c38be427194affa2f3.pdf

²⁰³⁰ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *AI, Vision and Strategies* (Oct. 2025), <https://kratid.ee/en/kratt-visioon/>

²⁰³¹ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

²⁰³² Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Sept. 29, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ministerial-declaration-digital-north-20>

²⁰³³ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation*, <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

²⁰³⁴ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Promoting Digital Inclusion as a Central Part of the Digital Transformation in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

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The Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization issued a common statement in 2022 on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In their common statement, the ministers stressed that this “rapid transformation has challenged everyone to adapt to new, digital ways of doing business, learning and accessing public authorities.” The ministers declared that they “have committed to ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefit from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills. One important factor that helps ensure a strong level of digitalisation in the region is the trust citizens put in digital services from the public sector – be it at regional, national or local level. In order to keep up this high level of trust, we need to continue our efforts to make our digital public services human centric and accessible. [...] Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services.”²⁰³⁵

The Secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers published a report in May 2024 presenting the fundamental characteristics of the digitalization of their national public administrations from a legal perspective. The report discusses the impact of proposed EU regulations on AI, such as the AI Act, and their implications for national legislations within the Nordic-Baltic countries. It underscores the need for harmonized legal frameworks that support AI innovation while safeguarding fundamental rights and public trust.²⁰³⁶ The Nordic Ministers of Digitalisation adopted a Declaration to promote participation of persons with disabilities through inclusive, fair and accessible artificial intelligence in 2025.²⁰³⁷

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Estonia shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).²⁰³⁸ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. The main

²⁰³⁵ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Cooperation on Digital Security in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

²⁰³⁶ Nordic Cooperation, *Public Digitalisation in a Legal Perspective* (May 3, 2024) <https://pub.norden.org/temanord2024-503/index.html>

²⁰³⁷ Nordic Cooperation, *Promoting Participation of Persons with Disabilities through Inclusive, Fair and Accessible Artificial Intelligence* (May 28, 2025), <https://norden.org/en/declaration/promoting-participation-persons-disabilities-through-inclusive-fair-and-accessible>

²⁰³⁸ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital*

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objective of the DSA is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The DSA also bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs. The DSA also bans targeted advertising to minors based on profiling.

Signatories to the DSA also commit to take action in several domains, such as demonetizing the dissemination of disinformation; ensuring the transparency of political advertising; empowering users; enhancing the cooperation with fact-checkers; and providing researchers with better access to data, as part of the 2022 DSA mitigation measure Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation.²⁰³⁹

As part of its obligations under the DSA, Estonia was required to designate a Digital Services Coordinator (DSC) by February 17, 2024.²⁰⁴⁰ Although Estonia designated the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (*Tarbijakaitse ja Tehnilise Järelevalve Amet*) as the DSC after the deadline, the country is now in compliance with the act.²⁰⁴¹

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Estonia is bound by the EU AI Act²⁰⁴² and obligated to designate authorities to oversee the implementation and enforcement of the act. The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation that supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

Estonia has designated the Data Protection Inspectorate, the Commission for Gender Equality and Equal Treatment, and the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority to protect and supervise fundamental rights in line with Article

Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

²⁰³⁹ European Commission, *The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation*, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

²⁰⁴⁰ European Commission, *Digital Services Coordinators* (Jan. 26, 2026), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs#1720699867912-1>

²⁰⁴¹ Riigi Teataja, *Act on the Amendments to the Information Society Services Act, the Copyright Act and the Taxation Act [Infoühiskonna teenuse seaduse, autoriõiguse seaduse ja maksukorralduse seaduse muutmise seadus]* (Jun. 4, 2024), <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/121062024001>

²⁰⁴² European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

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77 of the EU AI Act.²⁰⁴³ While the institutions are not surveillance authorities, they have powers to access documents that providers and deployers are obligated to keep and to be informed by the market surveillance authority of serious incidents related to High Risk AI systems.

Public Participation

In 2018, the Estonian government brought together an expert group to participate in a cross-sectional coordination project on AI.²⁰⁴⁴ The three tasks of this expert group were to develop the so-called Estonian artificial intelligence action plan; prepare draft legislation to ensure clarity in the Estonian judicial area and organize the necessary supervision; notify the public about the implementation of kratts and introduce possible options.

Participants in the group included representatives from state authorities, the private sector, universities, and sectoral experts. The report collected data through interviews, including with company representatives involved in the development of AI and ICT representatives from universities. Working groups (in the fields of law, education, and the public sector) were also created.²⁰⁴⁵ The e-estonia website states, “In these debates, technical and legal expertise goes a long way. But the discussion must also involve the public. Honest, meaningful debate requires that dreamy utopias be balanced with open discussions about AI’s controversial attributes and threats. Only this can create user-friendly legislation that’s equipped to reduce legal nightmares in the long-term.”²⁰⁴⁶

Documents relating to the AI Strategy are accessible on the internet. The website Krattid provides links to the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce, the Vision Paper on #KrattAI: The Next Stage of Digital Public Services in #eEstonia, and the #KrattAI Roadmap for 2020.²⁰⁴⁷

The Krattid website was updated with the new AI Strategy (2022–2023) and the new #KrattAI Roadmap for 2021–2022 in 2022. A separate website, the Electronic Information System (EIS),²⁰⁴⁸ enables anyone to follow ongoing

²⁰⁴³ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *Artificial Intelligence Regulation [Tehisintellekti määrus]* (2024), <https://www.kratid.ee/tehisintellektimaarus>

²⁰⁴⁴ Government Office and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce*, p. 42 (May 2019), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_486454c9f32340b28206e140350159cf.pdf

²⁰⁴⁵ Ibid, Annex, p. 42

²⁰⁴⁶ e-estonia, *AI and the Kratt Momentum* (Oct. 2018) <https://e-estonia.com/ai-and-the-kratt-momentum/>

²⁰⁴⁷ Krattid, *Artificial Intelligence, Vision and Plans [Visioon ja kavad]* (2024), <https://www.kratid.ee/kratt-visioon>

²⁰⁴⁸ Government Office, *The Draft Information System (EIS, Electronic Information System) [Eelnõude infosüsteem]* (2026), <https://eelnoud.valitsus.ee/main#Aok2CJTq>

legislative procedures, search for documents in the information system, take part in public consultations and comment on a document under inter-agency coordination. The EIS is a working environment for inter-agency coordination, submission of documents to the government and the parliament, and public consultation. In addition to national documents, draft European Union legislation and other documents related to the European Union decision-making process are available in the EIS.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications published the new national AI strategy (2022–2023) for public consultation for two weeks in 2021. Although the deadline was tight, the public had the opportunity to supplement and comment on the Action Plan.

Bürokratt,²⁰⁴⁹ an AI-powered virtual assistant designed by the Estonian government with civil society consultations, saw a significant expansion of its capabilities in January 2024. The government designed the assistant to simplify interactions with government services and promoted public awareness campaigns to increase its adoption among civil society. The government integrated public information in Bürokratt to allow the system to answer questions and find public information. The State Information Systems Authority (*Riigi Infosüsteemi Amet*) has asked citizens to help test the model by asking questions related to public needs such as social issues, pensions, employment, or citizens and provide feedback on the accuracy of the answers.²⁰⁵⁰

Data Protection

Since Estonia is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)²⁰⁵¹ is directly applicable in Estonia and to Estonians. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.” Estonia’s Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)²⁰⁵² and the Personal Data Protection Implementation Act (Implementation Act) were adopted in December 2018 and February 2019 respectively to align Estonian law with the GDPR. They entered into force in January 2019 and March 2019 respectively.

²⁰⁴⁹ European Commission, *#Bürokratt Programme and National Virtual Assistant Platform and Ecosystem* (2024), https://commission.europa.eu/projects/burokratt-programme-and-national-virtual-assistant-platform-and-ecosystem_en

²⁰⁵⁰ Riigi Infosüsteemi Amet, *Bureaucrat [Bürokratt]* (Oct. 2025), <https://buerokratt.ee/>

²⁰⁵¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

²⁰⁵² Riigi Teatja, *Personal Data Protection Act* (Dec. 12, 2018), <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/523012019001/consolide>

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The PDPA also transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED),²⁰⁵³ which “protects citizens' fundamental right to data protection whenever personal data is used by criminal law enforcement authorities for law enforcement purposes. It will in particular ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”²⁰⁵⁴ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.²⁰⁵⁵ The European Data Protection Board (EDPB), of which Estonia is a member, stresses that facial recognition tools should only be used in strict compliance with the Law Enforcement Directive (LED).²⁰⁵⁶

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Estonia is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.²⁰⁵⁷

The Data Protection Inspectorate²⁰⁵⁸ is the national supervisory authority in Estonia. Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2006, the Inspectorate has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data

²⁰⁵³ Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²⁰⁵⁴ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²⁰⁵⁵ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²⁰⁵⁶ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement*, version 2 (Apr. 26, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/edpb_guidelines_202304_frlawenforcement_v2_en.pdf

²⁰⁵⁷ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (May 18, 2018) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

²⁰⁵⁸ Data Protection Inspectorate, <https://www.aki.ee/en>

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Protection in Artificial Intelligence;²⁰⁵⁹ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability;²⁰⁶⁰ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology²⁰⁶¹ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²⁰⁶²

Algorithmic Transparency

Estonia is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Estonians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.²⁰⁶³ The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers clarifies that the right to algorithmic transparency extends to contestation,²⁰⁶⁴ including “an opportunity to be heard, a thorough review of the decision and the possibility to obtain a non-automated decision. This right may not be waived, and should be affordable and easily enforceable before, during and after deployment, including through the provision of easily accessible contact points and hotlines.”²⁰⁶⁵

Estonia’s Ministry of Justice announced plans in 2020 to draft legislation addressing high-risk algorithmic systems that will require the creators of AI (both public and private) to provide transparency regarding when AI communicates with an individual, processes an individual’s data, or makes a decision on the basis of the individual’s data.²⁰⁶⁶ However, as of 2025, the legislation has not been drafted.

²⁰⁵⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁰⁶⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

²⁰⁶¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁰⁶² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

²⁰⁶³ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

²⁰⁶⁴ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²⁰⁶⁵ *Ibid*

²⁰⁶⁶ Baltic Course, *Estonian Ministry: Use of AI Must Respect Fundamental Rights* (Aug. 19, 2020) www.baltic-course.com/eng/Technology/?doc=158411&output=d

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Estonia's National AI Strategy for 2022–2023, which is currently being updated for the 2024–2026 period, underscores the importance of transparency in AI systems. The strategy outlines measures to ensure that AI applications, including algorithms used in public services, are transparent, accountable, and aligned with ethical standards.²⁰⁶⁷ Estonia demonstrated a commitment to transparency by creating public repositories for open-source AI components. The Kratid repository,²⁰⁶⁸ for example, is open source to provide visibility into the AI components that have been developed or used by the public sector.

Digitization of Public Services

According to Estonia's Digital Decade Country Report of 2025,²⁰⁶⁹ the country is committed to increasing efficiency of public services in line with the Estonian Digital Agenda 2030²⁰⁷⁰ and the National AI strategy. Indeed, 93% of Estonian internet users were reported to use the internet to interact with public services. In light of its commitment to e-government, Estonia emphasizes the use of AI for government services. Indeed, *KrattAI* refers to “the vision of how digital public services should work in the age of artificial intelligence”; or more specifically, *KrattAI* is described as an “interoperable network of AI applications, which enable citizens to use public services with virtual assistants through voice-based interaction.”²⁰⁷¹

The Estonian government makes use of automated decision-making in many different contexts.²⁰⁷² For example, the Tax and Customs Board uses automated decision-making to facilitate tax refunds following the submission of an online

²⁰⁶⁷ Data Guidance, *Estonia: DPI Publishes Data Security Recommendations* (Apr. 8, 2024), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/estonia-dpi-publishes-data-security-recommendations>

²⁰⁶⁸ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *Reusable AI Components* (2024), <https://www.kratid.ee/en/kratijupid>

²⁰⁶⁹ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *Europe's Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap: Estonia* (2025), <https://www.justdigi.ee/sites/default/files/documents/2025-03/Estonian%20National%20Digital%20Decade%20Strategic%20Roadmap%202025.pdf>

²⁰⁷⁰ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Estonia's Digital Agenda 2030* (2021), <https://www.justdigi.ee/en/digital-communications-and-cyber/digital-agenda-2030>

²⁰⁷¹ KRATT Artificial Intelligence Programme of #Estonia, *#KrattAI: Roadmap for 2020* (2020), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_19625e00a7b84900b99e952b1ce7d21a.pdf; Republic of Estonia, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Report of Estonia's AI Taskforce* (May 2019), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_486454c9f32340b28206e140350159cf.pdf. The report of Estonia's AI Taskforce defined 'kratt' as being “a practical application that uses artificial intelligence and that fulfils a specific function.”

²⁰⁷² See also *#KrattAI Roadmap for 2020* (2020), https://f98cc689-5814-47ec-86b3-db505a7c3978.filesusr.com/ugd/7df26f_19625e00a7b84900b99e952b1ce7d21a.pdf

income tax return. Other examples include the use of tachographs on lorries and automated speed checks on motorways to issue cautionary fines and the use of automated decision-making for the determination of a child's school on the basis of their registered residence.²⁰⁷³ There has been international coverage of Estonia's ambitious plans for AI in the public sector – including on the issue of “Robot Judges.”²⁰⁷⁴ The Estonian court system embraces digitalization and started an e-File system in 2005. The use of AI to tackle an immense backlog of cases has been considered, including the adoption of projects that can make “autonomous decisions within more common court procedures/tasks that would otherwise occupy judges and lawyers alike for hours.”²⁰⁷⁵

The government has also launched an AI-based digital assistant (*Bürokratt*) with the aim to efficiently deliver public services and simplify communication with the State.²⁰⁷⁶ Bürokratt is an interoperable network of public and private sector AI solutions, which from the user's point of view, act as a single channel for public services and information.²⁰⁷⁷ According to the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI), operating under UNESCO, “all the aspects regarding KrattAI are fully transparent—starting from business strategy and roadmap to the technology side: architecture, technical solutions—which is Open Source and available to all users.”²⁰⁷⁸ Open source AI components are also used for the Kratid website.²⁰⁷⁹

The Estonian government provides a data tracker tool accessible through the state portal (eesti.ee) that enables anyone with an eID to keep track of which institutions have accessed their data and for what purposes.²⁰⁸⁰ As pointed out on the e-estonia website, transparency is “fundamental to foster trust in the effective functioning of the whole system.” Information is also provided regarding automated processing although Algorithm Watch states that it “is not always clear if data is used

²⁰⁷³ Council of State of the Netherlands and ACA-Europe, *An Exploration of Technology and the Law* (May 14, 2018), <http://www.aca-europe.eu/colloquia/2018/Estonia.pdf>

²⁰⁷⁴ Eric Niller, *Can AI Be a Fair Judge in Court? Estonia Thinks So*, Wired (Mar. 23, 2019) <https://www.wired.com/story/can-ai-be-fair-judge-court-estonia-thinks-so/>

²⁰⁷⁵ Anett Numa, *Artificial Intelligence as the New Reality of E-justice*, e-estonia (Apr. 2020) <https://e-estonia.com/artificial-intelligence-as-the-new-reality-of-e-justice/>

²⁰⁷⁶ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *Virtual Assistant Bürokratt* (2024), <https://www.kratid.ee/en/burokratt>

²⁰⁷⁷ Riigi Infosüsteemi Amet, *Bürokrat* [*Bürokratt*], <https://buerokratt.ee/>

²⁰⁷⁸ International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, *IRCAI Global 2021 Top 100 List* (2021), <https://ircai.org/top100/entry/krattai/>

²⁰⁷⁹ Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, *Kratijupid*, <https://www.kratid.ee/kratijupid>

²⁰⁸⁰ Federico Plantera, *Data Tracker—Tool that Builds Trust in Institutions*, e-estonia (Sept. 2019), <https://e-estonia.com/data-tracker-build-citizen-trust/>

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as a part of an automatic process or viewed by an official.”²⁰⁸¹ In spite of the ambition of this tool, the Estonian Human Rights Center argue that the data provided is variable depending on the service and at times not detailed enough.

To assist transparency and understanding, the Estonian Human Rights Center suggests that visual depictions of data use should be provided.²⁰⁸² Similarly, Algorithm Watch states that the current tool does not provide a “clear understanding of what profiling is done by the state, which data is collected, how it is used, and for what purpose.”²⁰⁸³ “It is a duty of a country based on the rule of law to have foresight and prevent serious interferences with fundamental rights by means of setting out a relevant legislative framework,” said Kai Härmand at the time Deputy Secretary General on Legal Policy at the Ministry of Justice.

Environmental Impact

Estonia, a nation with a highly digitized public sector, recognizes the potential environmental consequences of its digital infrastructure. To address these concerns, the Estonian government adopted the Digital Agenda 2030 in 2021.²⁰⁸⁴ This long-term strategy aims to establish a “green digital government” by prioritizing environmentally responsible solutions and minimizing the ecological impact of digital services. To achieve these objectives, the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications commissioned a report to analyze the environmental footprint of Estonia's digital society comprehensively. The report assessed several variables, including the life cycle of ICT equipment, the energy consumption of ICT equipment, data centres and cloud services, software solutions, and digital trash across 12 public institutions and four local governments. Results demonstrate that ICT-related activities contribute to significant emissions: The total impact of the workstation equipment (laptops, desktop PCs and monitors) life cycle of all Estonian state agencies is 26,000 t CO₂e—roughly the the annual environmental impact of

²⁰⁸¹ Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society Report 2020*, p. 75 (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Automating-Society-Report-2020.pdf>

²⁰⁸² Kari Käsper and Liina Rajavee, *Inimõigused, Infoühiskond Ja Eesti: Esialgne Kaardistus*, Estonian Human Rights Centre (2019), <https://humanrights.ee/app/uploads/2019/12/Inimõigused-infoühiskond-ja-Eesti.-Esialgne-kaardistus.pdf>

²⁰⁸³ Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society Report 2020*, p. 75 (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Automating-Society-Report-2020.pdf>

²⁰⁸⁴ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, *Digital Agenda 2030* (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://mkm.ee/en/e-state-and-connectivity/digital-agenda-2030>

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5,000 households. The report stressed “the need for emerging technologies to be developed with principles of sustainability in mind.”²⁰⁸⁵

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In a 2019 meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Estonia expressed the view that “humans must retain ultimate control and responsibility in relation to the use of force in armed conflict” and “humans must exercise such control over a weapon system as may be necessary to ensure that the weapon system operates consistently with international law.”²⁰⁸⁶

Estonia was one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”²⁰⁸⁷

In February 2023, Estonia participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Estonia endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.²⁰⁸⁸ In this joint call, States “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” Estonia also endorsed the resulting Political

²⁰⁸⁵ Eesti Elu, *Is Estonia's Digital Government Bad for the Environment?* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://eestielu.ca/is-estonias-digital-government-bad-for-the-environment/>

²⁰⁸⁶ Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva, Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems – First meeting, *Statement of Estonia* (March 25-29, 2019), [https://unoda-documents-library.s3.amazonaws.com/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_\(2019\)/LAWS%2BGGE%2B2019%2BI%2B-%2BEstonia%2B-%2BAGenda%2Bitem%2B5%28c%29.pdf](https://unoda-documents-library.s3.amazonaws.com/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_(2019)/LAWS%2BGGE%2B2019%2BI%2B-%2BEstonia%2B-%2BAGenda%2Bitem%2B5%28c%29.pdf)

²⁰⁸⁷ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

²⁰⁸⁸ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

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Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.²⁰⁸⁹

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Estonia voted in favor²⁰⁹⁰ of resolution L.56²⁰⁹¹ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

Estonia’s Ministry of Defence developed its first Defence AI Strategy in 2025 to guide the use of AI in logistics, cybersecurity, and military decision-support to promote responsible, interoperable AI aligned with NATO and EU standards.²⁰⁹²

Human Rights

Estonia is a member of the European Union and the Council of Europe and is, accordingly, committed to the upholding of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Estonia ratified the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and has acceded to international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Estonian Constitution also grants fundamental rights to citizens.

In Freedom House’s 2025 Country Report, Estonia’s ranking rose from 95/100 in 2024 to 96/100.²⁰⁹³ The 2025 report explains that “Estonia’s democratic institutions are generally strong, and both political rights and civil liberties are widely respected. However, more than 5 percent of the population remains stateless and cannot participate in national elections. Corruption is a persistent challenge, as is discrimination against ethnic Russians, Roma, LGBT+ people, and others. Far-right and Euroskeptic forces have become increasingly vocal in Estonian politics in recent years.”

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers reminded

²⁰⁸⁹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

²⁰⁹⁰ Stop Killer Robots, *164 states vote against the machine at the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

²⁰⁹¹ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²⁰⁹² Ministry of Defence, *Defence Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Estonia* (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://kaitseministeerium.ee/en/defence-artificial-intelligence-strategy-estonia>

²⁰⁹³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Estonia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/estonia/freedom-world/2025>

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member states that their obligations to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms “stands throughout the continuous processes of technological advancement and digital transformation that European societies are experiencing,” meaning “member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimizing possible adverse effects.”²⁰⁹⁴

In a 2018 report, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe urged the Estonian authorities to give careful consideration “to the ethical, legal and human rights implications of using robots and artificial intelligence in the care of older persons” given Estonia’s strong focus on digitalization, new technologies, and AI.²⁰⁹⁵

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Estonia endorsed the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence, agreeing to “promote the use of AI that is innovative and trustworthy and that respects human rights and democratic values.”²⁰⁹⁶

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Estonia contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.²⁰⁹⁷ The European Union on behalf of all members on September 5, 2024; however, Estonia has not signed individually.²⁰⁹⁸

²⁰⁹⁴ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²⁰⁹⁵ Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights, *Report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe Dunja Mijatović Following Her Visit to Estonia from 11 to 15 June 2018*, p. 21 (Sept. 28, 2018), <https://rm.coe.int/report-of-the-council-of-europe-commissioner-for-human-rights-dunja-mi/16808d77f4>

²⁰⁹⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

²⁰⁹⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁰⁹⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Estonia has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.²⁰⁹⁹ No available records explicitly address implementation of the recommendation, though Estonia's efforts to align with the EU AI Act and participation in negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI demonstrate the country's attention to the Recommendations. Estonia has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) process, a tool designed to assist countries in implementing the Recommendation.²¹⁰⁰

Evaluation

As a member of the European Union and the Council of Europe, Estonia is committed to the protection of human rights, ethics in AI, and algorithmic transparency. Estonia has also endorsed the OECD AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, and is party to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI through the EU signature. At regional level, Estonia has signed the Declaration of Collaboration on AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region which includes a commitment "to develop ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, norms and principles that can be employed as a steering mechanism to guide AI programmes."²¹⁰¹

By contrast, Estonia's first AI Strategy did not consider the issues of ethics and human rights in significant depth. Nevertheless, Estonia opted for a short-term strategy in order to be able to adapt it to a rapidly evolving AI landscape. Based on Estonia's experience as a leading country in the world regarding the use of data²¹⁰² and e-governance, its second national AI strategy, although still wary of "proactive over-regulation in a rapidly evolving area" and of "creating unnecessary obstacles," includes the bases for an ethical framework and provides for specific actions in this regard.

Reflective of this approach is Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas' statement: "We are already using artificial intelligence in our operations and services, but we see there is a huge potential to make our services more convenient for the people." "But at the same time, we are a rule-of-law country and every individual's

²⁰⁹⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>.

²¹⁰⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

²¹⁰¹ Nordic Co-operation, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic region, Declaration* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

²¹⁰² E-estonia, *Estonia Is Leading the World in the Use of Data* (May 23, 2022), <https://e-estonia.com/estonia-is-leading-the-world-in-the-use-of-data/>

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privacy is a very important matter for us.”²¹⁰³ This is a similar position that Estonia defended with regard to the draft EU AI Act. “We welcome the proposed AI Act because we have long supported the idea that European-wide harmonized regulation ensures a common market, and minimizing risks increases acceptance of AI technologies,” said Mr. Velsberg, the Estonian Government Chief Data Officer. Estonia shall establish a national supervisory mechanism as part of implementation of the AI Act. Thus far, only fundamental rights protection authorities have been officially designated.

²¹⁰³ Invest in Estonia, *Prime Minister Kaja Kallas: Artificial Intelligence Is the Next Big Thing for Estonia* (2022), <https://investinestonia.com/prime-minister-kaja-kallas-artificial-intelligence-is-the-next-big-thing-for-estonia/>

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Ethiopia

In 2025, Ethiopia deepened international cooperation and partnerships for developing and governing artificial intelligence through support for the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence and the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence.

National AI Strategy

Ethiopia's Council of Ministers created the Artificial Intelligence Institute²¹⁰⁴ to develop a National AI Strategy in 2022. After three years of consultations with key stakeholders, the Council approved the National AI Policy in 2024.²¹⁰⁵ The policy creates a framework to leverage AI for economic growth, social development, and national security through data management, human capital development, infrastructure development, and ethical considerations.²¹⁰⁶ Key areas of alignment with international standards include a human-centric approach, transparency and explainability, ethical AI development, inclusivity and non-discrimination, human rights protection, and regulatory frameworks. The AI policy charges the AI Institute with monitoring and implementing the AI Policy.

African Union

As a member of the African Union (AU), Ethiopia is committed to advancing the formulation and implementation of human-centered AI policies, in alignment with the goals of the AU digital transformation strategy²¹⁰⁷ and the Continental Data Policy Framework.²¹⁰⁸

²¹⁰⁴ Ethiopian Ministry of Justice, *Council of Ministers Regulation No. 510/2022 establishing Artificial Intelligence Institute* (2022), <https://justice.gov.et/am/law/artificial-intelligence-institute-establishment-council-of-ministers-regulation-customs-regulation-council-of-ministers-regulation-no-510-2022/>

²¹⁰⁵ Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute, *Ethiopia Has Approved and Operationalized a National AI Policy*, LinkedIn (2025), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/etartificialintelligenceinstitute_fdre-national-artificial-intelligence-policy-activity-7376224568568348673-tsIx

²¹⁰⁶ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jun. 2024), https://www.lawethiopia.com/images/Policy_documents/Ethiopian%20ai%20policy.pdf

²¹⁰⁷ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

²¹⁰⁸ African Union, *40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council* (Feb. 2–3, 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/41584-EX.CL.Dec.1143-1167.XL.E.pdf>

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The Continental AI Strategy was adopted in 2024 during the 45th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council in Accra, Ghana,²¹⁰⁹ following endorsement by African ministers.²¹¹⁰ The Strategy calls for unified national approaches among AU Member States for inclusive and responsible AI development. The AU envisions a prosperous Africa where responsible and African-centric AI is pivotal in the inclusive growth and socio-economic development of Africans, positioning the continent as a key player in the global AI landscape.²¹¹¹ The Union seeks to achieve this by leveraging AI to accelerate socio-economic development and promote African cultural renaissance in line with the AU Agenda 2063²¹¹² and Sustainable Development Goals.²¹¹³ The Strategy was supported both technically and financially by UNESCO, ensuring that the African Union's approach to AI regulation and innovation aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.²¹¹⁴

Along with the development of the Continental AI Strategy, the African Union engaged with other international regulatory frameworks on AI in 2024. In April 2024, African Union senior officials met in Addis Ababa with the G7 Presidency to strengthen collaboration on AI.²¹¹⁵ Among other discussions, the meeting highlighted the plans for the Italian G7 Presidency alongside the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to co-design an AI Hub for Sustainable Development with African leaders in 2024. The Italian delegation explained, "The AI Hub aims to be a catalyzer for systemic change and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The benefits of an AI empowered Africa will have a positive impact not just within the African continent but across the world."²¹¹⁶

Ethiopia further committed to aligning governance frameworks with the African Union Continental AI Strategy by endorsing the Africa Declaration on

²¹⁰⁹ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (2024),

<https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

²¹¹⁰ African Union, *African Ministers Adopt Landmark Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (2024), <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20240617/african-ministers-adopt-landmark-continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

²¹¹¹ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024),

https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf

²¹¹² African Union, *AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* (Jun. 10, 2013),

https://au.int/Agenda2063/popular_version

²¹¹³ United Nations, *The 17 Goals*, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

²¹¹⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO's Support to AU's Continental AI Framework and Strategy* (Aug. 28, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unescos-support-aus-continental-ai-framework-and-strategy>

²¹¹⁵ UN Development Programme (UNDP), *The G7 Presidency Partners with UNDP Africa to Advance AI for Sustainable Development* (Apr. 15, 2024), <https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/g7-presidency-partners-undp-africa-advance-ai-sustainable-development>

²¹¹⁶ Ibid

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Artificial Intelligence.²¹¹⁷ The Declaration centers objectives to leverage AI to advance African economies, industries, and societies “to position Africa as a global leader in ethical, trustworthy, and inclusive AI adoption” through intergovernmental and regional cooperation on AI governance, development, and capacity building.

BRICS

Ethiopia, together with Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, officially joined China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa as a new BRICS member in a 2023 vote. Russian President Putin who took over the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in January 2024 said that the bloc seeks “strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security.”²¹¹⁸ Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE participated in their first BRICS summit in 2024.²¹¹⁹

At the most recent BRICS Summit in 2025, Ethiopia endorsed the Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence.²¹²⁰ The statement emphasized digital and governance sovereignty to protect workers and citizens while emphasizing the leading role for the United Nations in facilitating discussions on how to leverage AI technology for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BRICS also elaborated on the Digital Economy Working Group proposed in a concept note at the 2023 BRICS Summit,²¹²¹ aiming to develop digital education cooperative mechanisms. Deepening technological cooperation through this Working Group may also encourage future BRICS cooperation on AI.

In January 2024, China also called for the development of a BRICS AI Development Cooperation Center to be constructed in China. This announcement was followed by the release in February 2024, of the AI Governance International Evaluation Index, which evaluates BRICS’ AI development in contrast to G7 countries.²¹²²

²¹¹⁷ Global AI Summit on Africa, *The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 4, 2025), <https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa%20Declaration%20on%20Artificial%20Intelligences.pdf>

²¹¹⁸ Taarifa Rwanda, *Ethiopia Officially Confirmed as BRICS Member* (Jan. 8, 2024), <https://furtherafrica.com/2024/01/08/ethiopia-officially-confirmed-as-brics-member/>

²¹¹⁹ BRICS-Russia 2024, *Address by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on the start of Russia’s BRICS Chairmanship*, 2024 https://brics-russia2024.ru/en/index_07.php?sphrase_id=39447

²¹²⁰ BRICS Brasil 2025, *BRICS Leaders’ Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence*, Presidency Documents (2025), <https://brics.br/en/documents/presidency-documents>

²¹²¹ BRICS 2022 China, *Concept Note: BRICS Digital Economy Cooperation* (2022), <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/brics-sme-working-group-1/documents-on-smes/2022-china/concept-note-on-brics-digital-economy-2-china.pdf>

²¹²² Global Times, *China Researchers Release AI Governance Index, with China Ranking in First Echelon*, (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1306760.shtml>

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Data Protection

The 1995 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia establishes a fundamental right to privacy.

Ethiopia made a significant stride in data protection with the enactment of the Personal Data Protection Proclamation in July 2024.²¹²³ This comprehensive law replaces Ethiopia’s fragmented regulatory framework and empowers individuals by granting them rights over their personal data, such as access, rectification, erasure, and objection to processing. The proclamation also imposes stringent obligations on organizations handling personal data, including implementing robust security measures, obtaining informed consent, and ensuring transparency. The Proclamation emphasizes data localization and regulates cross-border data transfers, emphasizing “sovereignty of data” to keep Ethiopian citizen data within national borders.²¹²⁴ Rules allow personal data transfers outside of Ethiopia only to countries with similar data protection standards.

The Proclamation charges the Ministry of Technology and Innovation with formulating policies and strategies on personal data and the Ethiopian Communications Authority with enforcing the Proclamation, including investigating complaints and imposing fines.²¹²⁵ The Communications Authority responsibility builds on the Communication Services Proclamation,²¹²⁶ which establishes the Communication Authority’s responsibility to promote data privacy. The Authority’s Consumers Rights and Protection Directive No. 832/2021 explicitly defines personal data as any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person leading to identify such person, directly or indirectly in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, telephone number, traffic and billing data, and other personal information in the context of

²¹²³ Federal Negarit Gazette, *Personal Data Protection Proclamation No. 1321/2024* (Jul. 24, 2024), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/personal_data_protection_proclamation_1321-2024.pdf; see also <https://justice.gov.et/en/law/personal-data-protection-proclamation/>

²¹²⁴ International Trade Administration, *Ethiopia- Country Commercial Guide* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/ethiopia-digital-economy>

²¹²⁵ Federal Negarit Gazette, *Personal Data Protection Proclamation No. 1321/2024*, pp. 15629–15631 (Jul. 24, 2024), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/personal_data_protection_proclamation_1321-2024.pdf

²¹²⁶ Ministry of Finance of Ethiopia, *Proclamation No. 1148/2019: Proclamation for the Communications Service*, Federal Negarit Gazette (Aug. 12, 2019), https://www.mofed.gov.et/media/filer_public/7c/78/7c781a5b-1c06-4f6d-9128-6fa116cf71e8/communicationsserviceproclamationno1148-2019.pdf

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Telecommunications Services.²¹²⁷ The Ethiopian Communications Authority is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).²¹²⁸

The right to privacy is further reinforced in several legal instruments, including the Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Proclamation No. 414/2004), the Civil Code of the Empire of Ethiopia (Proclamation No. 165/1960), the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation (No. 590/2008), and the recently enacted Media Proclamation No. 1238/2021. The Media Proclamation of 2021 repealed portions of the Mass Media & Access to Information Proclamation specifically related to mass media.²¹²⁹

The Digital ID Proclamation²¹³⁰ was enacted in 2023 with the view to adopt a comprehensive legal framework for the regulation of the national digital identification system. The Proclamation provides the rules for collecting, processing, transferring, disclosing, modifying, and overall management of personal data of registrants. “Personal Data” for the said Proclamation means the biometric and demographic data collected with the 'digital identification system [Article (2)(17)]. Interestingly, according to Article 17(1) of the Proclamation, the owner of the personal data is the registrant, and they shall give their data to the registrar upon their consent for processing, transferring, disclosing, and modifying.

Ethiopia has not signed the African Union’s Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection,²¹³¹ known as the Malabo Convention,²¹³² which entered into force in June 2023.²¹³³

²¹²⁷ Ethiopian Communications Authority, *Telecommunications Consumer Rights and Protection Directive No. 832/2021* (Aug. 2021), <https://cyrilla.org/api/files/1689857290044ckib706mn44.pdf>

²¹²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

²¹²⁹ Bowmans Law, *Africa Guide to Data Protection* (2022), https://bowmanslaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Data-Protection_01.06.2022.pdf

²¹³⁰ Federal Negarit Gazette, *Proclamation No. 1284/2023: Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation*, Citizenship Rights in Africa Initiative (Apr. 18, 2023), <https://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/ethiopian-digital-identity-proclamation-number-1284-2023/>

²¹³¹ African Union, *List of Countries which Have Signed, Ratified/Acceded to the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Jul. 8, 2024),

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN%20UNION%20CONVENTION%20ON%20CYBER%20SECURITY%20AND%20PERSONAL%20DATA%20PROTECTION.pdf)

²¹³² African Union, *Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (2014), [https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-treaty-0048 -](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-treaty-0048_-_african_union_convention_on_cyber_security_and_personal_data_protection_e.pdf)

[african union convention on cyber security and personal data protection e.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-treaty-0048_-_african_union_convention_on_cyber_security_and_personal_data_protection_e.pdf)
²¹³³ Data Protection Africa, *Africa: AU’s Malabo Convention Set to Enter Force after Nine Years* (May 19, 2023), <https://dataprotection.africa/malabo-convention-set-to-enter-force/>

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Algorithmic Transparency

Ethiopia has introduced initial safeguards for automated decision-making through Art. 31 Personal Data Protection Proclamation No. 1321/2024, which recognizes individuals' right to object to decisions made solely by automated means.²¹³⁴ The National AI Policy builds on these rights with ethical principles emphasizing transparency, explainability, and accountability in the use of AI systems.²¹³⁵ However, Ethiopia has yet to adopt comprehensive AI legislation or regulatory guidance on algorithmic accountability that outlines enforcement mechanisms and technical standards.

Biometric Identification

Ethiopia is currently implementing a Digital ID Program,²¹³⁶ Fayda, as part of the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. Given the ongoing civil war, there are fears that the Digital ID Program could reinforce discrimination against ethnic minorities.²¹³⁷ The Digital ID Proclamation 1284/2023²¹³⁸ instigated the Fayda program. Over 200 key stakeholders representing Federal ministries and government agencies, regional governments, civil society organizations, local human rights organizations, and international institutions participated in a 2022 consultation on the National Identity Program (NIP).²¹³⁹

The government has taken several initiatives to promote Fayda. Fayda is the main identification credential for all civil servants²¹⁴⁰ and biometric ID serves as the

²¹³⁴ Ministry of Justice, *Personal Data Protection Proclamation* (2024), <https://justice.gov.et/en/law/personal-data-protection-proclamation/>

²¹³⁵ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jun. 2024), https://www.lawethiopia.com/images/Policy_documents/Ethiopian%20ai%20policy.pdf

²¹³⁶ *National Id Ethiopia* (2026), <https://id.gov.et/>

²¹³⁷ Zecharias Zelalem, *Ethiopia Digital ID Prompts Fears of Ethnic Profiling*, Context (Jan. 31, 2023), <https://www.context.news/surveillance/ethiopia-digital-id-prompts-fears-of-ethnic-profiling>

²¹³⁸ *National Id Ethiopia* (2023), <https://id.gov.et/law>

²¹³⁹ Citizenship Rights in Africa Initiative, *First Ethiopian Digital Identification Draft Proclamation Public Consultation* (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/first-ethiopian-digital-identification-draft-proclamation-public-consultation/>

²¹⁴⁰ Biometric Update, *Ethiopia Makes Fayda the Main Credential for Civil Servants* (Sept. 18, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202309/ethiopia-makes-fayda-the-main-credential-for-civil-servants>

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official student ID across educational institutions,²¹⁴¹ working with UNICEF to support digital ID registration for children.²¹⁴²

Although government officials told parliament in November 2023 that digital ID registration is not mandatory and that people can continue to use their analogue Kebele ID card, the digital ID became mandatory for all transactions with financial institutions²¹⁴³ and access to public services in 2024.²¹⁴⁴

The program is being implemented with \$350 million funding from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), from which \$10 million was disbursed as of August 2024.²¹⁴⁵ The program's goal is for 90 million Ethiopians and legal residents to hold the Fayda digital ID by January 2029.²¹⁴⁶ As of August 2024, Fayda has seen 8.2 million registrations. The Personal Data Protection Proclamation is an important step to safeguard data and digital privacy as this digital ID registration increases.

Ethiopia is also rolling out the Fayda program to the country's refugee population, currently focus on 77,000 refugees living in Addis Ababa.²¹⁴⁷ The program's goal is to extend digital ID access to the over 1 million refugees in Ethiopia, primarily individuals from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. This digital ID expansion is supported in partnership with the National ID Program (NIDP) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Access to this ID card will help refugees engage in financial transactions, enroll in schools, and obtain SIM cards.

²¹⁴¹ Biometric Update, *Ethiopia Rolls Out Student IDs, Integrates Biometric Data to Issue Fayda* (Sept. 14, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202309/ethiopia-rolls-out-student-ids-integrates-biometric-data-to-issue-fayda>

²¹⁴² Biometric Update, *UNICEF Pens Deal to Support Ethiopia's Digital ID Registration for Children* (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202310/unicef-pens-deal-to-support-ethiopias-digital-id-registration-for-children>

²¹⁴³ Biometric Update, *Ethiopia to Make Digital ID Obligatory for Banking Operations* (Jul. 12, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202307/ethiopia-to-make-digital-id-obligatory-for-banking-operations>

²¹⁴⁴ Biometric Update, *Ethiopia to Make Digital ID Compulsory for Access to Government Services* (Jan. 15, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202401/ethiopia-to-make-digital-id-compulsory-for-access-to-government-services>

²¹⁴⁵ World Bank Group, *The Transformative Power of Ethiopia's Digital ID: Unlocking a Better Future for All* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2025/02/27/the-transformative-power-of-ethiopia-afe-digital-id-unlocking-a-better-future-for-all>

²¹⁴⁶ Biometric Update, *Ethiopia Hopes to Take Digital ID Issuance to 63M by Year-End* (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202510/ethiopia-hopes-to-take-digital-id-issuance-to-63m-by-year-end>

²¹⁴⁷ The UN Refugee Agency, *Inclusion in Ethiopia's ID System Opens New Doors for Refugees*, (May 24, 2024), <https://www.unhcr.org/us/news/stories/inclusion-ethiopia-s-id-system-opens-new-doors-refugees>

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Environmental Impact of AI

Ethiopia supports the African Union Continental AI Strategy, which emphasizes sustainable development. However, Ethiopia has not indicated specific policies or projects to curb the emissions and other environmental impacts of AI systems and infrastructure.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Ethiopia has not acceded to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) nor to any of its Protocols.²¹⁴⁸ The country has a mixed voting record in the UN on resolutions related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). However, the country was party to a working paper submitted on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other Parties to the CCW to the GGE on LAWS, which stated that “a strengthened and reinforced multilateral approach, with new legally-binding provisions for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, is vital. There is an urgent need to pursue a legally-binding instrument on LAWS.”²¹⁴⁹

At the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in November 2024, Ethiopia voted in favor of Resolution L.77²¹⁵⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, in coherence with its vote in favor of Resolution L.56²¹⁵¹ in 2023.²¹⁵² Ethiopia did not contribute to the Secretary General report on LAWS²¹⁵³ mandated by Resolution L.56. Resolution L.77 emphasizes the urgency of addressing the challenges and concerns outlined in the report as well as the necessity to make the process as inclusive and participative as possible. Ethiopia was among only 6 member states to

²¹⁴⁸ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (1980), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

²¹⁴⁹ Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter Coordinator of the Group of NAM and other states to the CCW, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (2021), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NAM.pdf>

²¹⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems draft resolution L.77* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/79/L.77>

²¹⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²¹⁵² Automated Decision Research, *State Position – Ethiopia*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/ethiopia/

²¹⁵³ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Report of the Secretary General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/88>

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abstain²¹⁵⁴ from voting Resolution L.43²¹⁵⁵ on Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security in 2025.

AI Literacy

Ethiopia's National AI Policy commits to broad-based AI literacy and to building institutional capacity for oversight. It mandates activities to “increase the AI awareness of the society” and to build citizens' ability to use AI through practice-oriented education, alongside lifelong learning and short-/medium-term training programs to expand a skilled talent pool.²¹⁵⁶

Human Rights

Ethiopia has supported or is party to a number of international and regional human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²¹⁵⁷ the Convention of the Rights of the Child,²¹⁵⁸ and the African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child.²¹⁵⁹ These human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia form an 'integral part' of the laws of the country, according to Article 9 of its Constitution.

The human rights landscape in Ethiopia is marked by significant challenges, as reflected in the Freedom House 2025 Freedom in the World report, which assigns Ethiopia a score of 18/100.²¹⁶⁰ The “Not Free” classification comes from a lack of political rights and civil liberties given ongoing political, social, and ethnic tensions. This score underscores the urgent need for reform and accountability in the country, particularly around political repression, ethnic tensions and violence, media freedom, and restrictions on humanitarian aid. The ongoing conflict in Amhara and Oromia along with the declaration of the state of emergency between august 2023 and June

²¹⁵⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament Report of the First Committee*, pp. 45–54 (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/408>

²¹⁵⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Lethal autonomous Weapons Systems Draft Resolution L.43* (Oct. 16, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/79/L.43>

²¹⁵⁶ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy*, Section 4.1, Human Resource Development, Articles 4.1.1–4.1.3 (2024), https://www.lawethiopia.com/images/Policy_documents/Ethiopian%20ai%20policy.pdf

²¹⁵⁷ United Nations (1966), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

²¹⁵⁸ United Nations (1989) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

²¹⁵⁹ African Union, *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (1990), https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36804-treaty-african_charter_on_rights_welfare_of_the_child.pdf

²¹⁶⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Ethiopia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ethiopia/freedom-world/2025>

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2024 resulted, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in “actions by security forces in violation of Ethiopia’s international human rights obligations.”²¹⁶¹ Human Rights Watch reports²¹⁶² that both parties have committed war crimes and abuses resulting in serious civilian losses as well as destruction of health facilities in Amhara.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Ethiopia is not listed among the countries that have formally endorsed the OECD AI Principles and G20 AI Guidelines.²¹⁶³ However, as a member of the African Union, which became a permanent member of the G20 in 2023,²¹⁶⁴ Ethiopia participates in emerging global dialogues on responsible AI governance.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Ethiopia has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.²¹⁶⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member of UNESCO, Ethiopia along with 192 other member states, adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the first global standard on the ethics of AI.²¹⁶⁶

The Deputy General Director, Research and Development Cluster, from the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute participated in the June 2024 UNESCO-Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (EARFAI). EARFAI focused on the potential for AI to benefit sustainable development and societal change in Eastern Africa, including discussions on the landscape of AI

²¹⁶¹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *UN Human Rights Chief calls for sustained efforts to halt violations and abuses* (Jun. 14, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/ethiopia-un-human-rights-chief-calls-sustained-efforts-halt-violations-and>

²¹⁶² Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025, Ethiopia Events of 2024*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/ethiopia>

²¹⁶³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Principles: Countries adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

²¹⁶⁴ G20, *New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, Welcoming the African Union as a Permanent Member* (Sept. 9–10, 2023), <https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/CPV/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf>

²¹⁶⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

²¹⁶⁶ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

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governance.²¹⁶⁷ A major theme of EARFAI involved discussions of implementation of UNESCO's Recommendation in Eastern African states.

The Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) is a tool to guide Member States in identifying institutional and regulatory gaps that may inhibit development of an AI ecosystem aligned with the Recommendation. The RAM is currently in process in Ethiopia.²¹⁶⁸

Evaluation

Ethiopia has initiated the development of a governance framework for AI, as outlined in its National AI Policy. The strategy aims to establish regulatory measures that align with international standards. However, the framework lacks comprehensive regulations to ensure accountability and transparency in AI applications and an effective organized roadmap for implementation. These gaps present risks related to misuse and ethical concerns. For example, while the National AI Strategy and AU Continental Strategy include commitments to fairness, accountability, and transparency, implementation of these ethical guidelines remains inconsistent, with limited mechanisms to monitor AI systems for bias or discrimination.

Ethiopia is beginning to address issues of privacy, data protection, and individual rights in the digital landscape. For example, the Ethiopian Communications Authority is charged with enforcing the data protection proclamation. However, legal frameworks are still evolving, and there is a pressing need to strengthen laws that safeguard citizens' rights in the face of increasing surveillance and data collection. Fears remain that the Digital ID Program holds the potential to become a tool of mass surveillance in a country with a historically challenging human rights landscape.

Ethiopia's progress in AI is noteworthy. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in governance, ethical implementation, capacity building, public engagement, and the protection of digital rights.

²¹⁶⁷ UNESCO, *Programme: UNESCO-Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (EARFAI)* (Jun. 24–26, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/earfai/programme?hub=149901>

²¹⁶⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Finland

In 2025, Finland passed legislation designating supervisory authorities for implementation of the EU AI Act and released a proposal on regulatory sandboxes and an AI registry aligned to the second phase of AI Act implementation. The ethical recommendations for AI in education released in 2025 align with the UNESCO Recommendation and OECD AI Principles around digital competence.

National AI Strategy

In 2017, Finland was among the first countries to develop a national AI strategy, establishing proposed target dates and allocating public funds in furtherance of the country's AI-related business objectives. The vision put forth by the national strategy is that “In another five years time, artificial intelligence will be an active part of every Finn's daily life. Finland will make use of artificial intelligence boldly in all areas of society—from health care to the manufacturing industry—ethically and openly. Finland will be a safe and democratic society that produces the world's best services in the age of artificial intelligence. Finland will be a good place for citizens to live and a rewarding place for companies to develop and grow. Artificial intelligence will reform work as well as create wellbeing through growth and productivity.”²¹⁶⁹ The AI strategy demonstrated Finland's objectives to: (1) enhance business competitiveness using AI, (2) ensure top-level expertise and attract top experts, (3) provide the world's best public services, and (4) make Finland a front runner in the age of AI.²¹⁷⁰

To that end, in May 2017, Finland's Minister of Economic Affairs launched Finland's AI Programme,²¹⁷¹ an operational program designed for “turning Finland into a leading country in the application of artificial intelligence.” The Programme

²¹⁶⁹ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *Finland's Age of Artificial Intelligence: Turning Finland into a Leading Country in the Application of Artificial Intelligence, Objective and Recommendations for Measures* (2017), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160391/TEMrap_47_2017_verkkojulkaisu.pdf

²¹⁷⁰ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles* (Jun. 18, 2021), https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2021/06/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles_38a4a286/1cd40c44-en.pdf

²¹⁷¹ Finnish Government, *Turning Finland into a Leading Country in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 14, 2018), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410877/raportti-suomi-ponnistaa-tekoalyajan-karkimaaksi>

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focused on three areas: an efficient public sector, a well-functioning society, and a competitive business and industry sector.²¹⁷²

The Minister of Economic Affairs appointed a steering committee, which included representatives from the public, private, and research sectors, and charged the steering committee with publishing a report containing its recommendations regarding the operationalization of Finland's AI Programme. Within the steering committee, the Minister of Economic Affairs established four subgroups focused on four (4) key areas: (1) expertise and innovations; (2) data and platform economy; (3) transformation of work and society; and (4) ethics. The steering committee published three reports. The first, released in 2017, included recommendations to facilitate Finland's objective to adopt and benefit from AI.²¹⁷³ The second report examined (1) the impact of artificial intelligence on growth and employment; (2) labor market dynamics in a technological revolution; (3) learning and skills in a transition; and (4) good application of artificial intelligence technology and ethics.²¹⁷⁴ The subgroup identified three key "values of a good artificial intelligence society"—transparency, responsibility, and extensive societal benefits—and stresses that "humans [must] assume ultimate legal and moral responsibility for the decisions."²¹⁷⁵

The third report detailed the steering committee's policy recommendations for Finland's AI Programme,²¹⁷⁶ setting forth the contours of Finland's vision of a country that, by 2025, "is competitive and able to attract talent and has the most relevantly educated population and where citizens are well-informed and independent."²¹⁷⁷

²¹⁷² Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *Leading the Way into the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Final Report of Finland's Artificial Intelligence Programme* (Jun. 12, 2019), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/161688/41_19_Leading%20the%20way%20into%20the%20age%20of%20artificial%20intelligence.pdf

²¹⁷³ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *Finland's Age of Artificial Intelligence: Turning Finland into a Leading Country in the Application of Artificial Intelligence, Objective and Recommendations for Measures* (2017), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160391/TEMrap_47_2017_verkkojulkaisu.pdf

²¹⁷⁴ The report cautioned that "The conclusions of the report do not necessarily represent the group's joint views," but "do represent a majority opinion."

²¹⁷⁵ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *Work in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Four Perspectives on the Economy, Employment, Skills and Ethics*, p.50 (Sep. 10, 2018), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160980/TEMjul_21_2018_Work_in_the_age.pdf

²¹⁷⁶ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, *Leading the Way into the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Final Report of Finland's Artificial Intelligence Programme* (Jun. 12, 2019), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/161688/41_19_Leading%20the%20way%20into%20the%20age%20of%20artificial%20intelligence.pdf

²¹⁷⁷ *Ibid*, p. 12

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Nordic-Baltic and Nordic Cooperation on AI

As for the regional landscape, the Finnish Minister in charge of digitalization signed the declaration on “AI in the Nordic-Baltic region” in 2018, establishing a collaborative framework on “developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability. In 2024, a proposal for a shared vision for Nordic AI was discussed by high-level decision-makers from the private and public sectors with Nordic and Baltic ministers in Copenhagen, where the vision outlined was for large-scale AI adoption, with tangible benefits for both citizens and businesses.”²¹⁷⁸

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0²¹⁷⁹ builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries, and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017-2020. “In order to promote work with digitalisation, co-ordinate efforts, and follow up on the goals of the declaration, a council of ministers for digitalisation (MR-DIGITAL) was established in 2017. The aim is to promote development in three areas: (1) Increase mobility and integration in the Nordic and Baltic region by building a common area for cross-border digital services; (2) Promote green economic growth and development in the Nordic-Baltic region through data-driven innovation and a fair data economy for efficient sharing and re-use of data; and (3) Promote Nordic-Baltic leadership in the EU/EEA and globally in a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies.”²¹⁸⁰

In November 2021, the Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization released another joint statement announcing a focus on digital inclusion, striving to implement measures to make digital services more accessible to all Finnish inhabitants and ensuring that those who do not possess the necessary level of skills get the opportunity to acquire them.²¹⁸¹

The Nordic and Baltic ministers of digitalization issued a common statement on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region in

²¹⁷⁸ Nordic Cooperation, *A Shared Nordic Future with Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.norden.org/en/news/shared-nordic-future-artificial-intelligence>

²¹⁷⁹ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Jul. 14, 2023), <https://dk.usembassy.gov/u-s-nordic-leaders-summit-in-helsinki/>

²¹⁸⁰ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation*, <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

²¹⁸¹ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Promoting Digital Inclusion as a Central Part of the Digital Transformation in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

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September 2022, following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In their common statement, the ministers stressed that this “rapid transformation has challenged everyone to adapt to new, digital ways of doing business, learning and accessing public authorities.” The ministers declared that they “have committed to ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefit from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills. One important factor that helps ensure a strong level of digitalisation in the region is the trust citizens put in digital services from the public sector—be it at regional, national or local level. In order to keep up this high level of trust, we need to continue our efforts to make our digital public services human centric and accessible. [...] Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services.”²¹⁸²

As part of its action plan for Vision 2030 (2021–2024), the Nordic Council of Ministers also identified innovation, digital integration, the safe use of artificial intelligence, data development and open data, education and digitalization as key objectives.²¹⁸³ A new initiative for research collaboration on ethical and responsible use of AI was documented in March 2024 as a discussion paper.²¹⁸⁴ There are suggestions for a regional funding scheme and to identify instruments and thematic scoping relevant to Nordic research funders. Further, the suggested Nordic initiative not just understands the consequences and potential of AI in Nordic societies (Nordic value added, EU AI Act, data biases, cross-cutting strategic priorities) but uses thematic calls to “identify, amplify and fully capitalize on Nordic strengths and provide grounds for transfer of knowledge and lessons learned between sectors.”

A Finnish-Estonian Declaration introduced in February 2025 emphasized AI, digitalization, and media literacy as essential civic skills.²¹⁸⁵ The declaration aligns

²¹⁸² Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Cooperation on Digital Security in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

²¹⁸³ Nordic Council of Ministers, *The Nordic Region: Toward Being the Most Sustainable and Integrated Region in the World, Action Plan for 2021–2024* (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-towards-being-most-sustainable-and-integrated-region-world>

²¹⁸⁴ NordForsk, *A Nordic Initiative for Research and Innovation on Responsible and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence* (May 8, 2024), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-initiative-research-and-innovation-responsible-and-ethical-use-artificial>

²¹⁸⁵ Republic of Estonia Ministry of Education and Research, *Estonian—Finnish Declaration Embracing AI and Media Literacy in Education to Safeguard Democracy and the Rule of Law* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://hm.ee/sites/default/files/documents/2025-02/EE-FI%20hisavaldus%20final%2018.02.2025.pdf>

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with OECD's digital competence goals, supporting AI-driven education, and upholding the UN's recognition of information access as a fundamental right.

Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Finland shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).²¹⁸⁶ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency, Traficom, is the DSA main supervisor.²¹⁸⁷ The Consumer Ombudsman and the Data Protection Ombudsman supervise specific other obligations. The Finnish authorities received a total of 78 complaints under the DSA in 2024.²¹⁸⁸

Signatories also commit to reducing the risk of online harms under the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation,²¹⁸⁹ which counts as a mitigation measure under the DSA. Actions include demonetizing the dissemination of disinformation, ensuring the transparency of political advertising, empowering users, enhancing the cooperation with fact-checkers, and providing researchers with better access to data.

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Finland is bound by the EU AI Act,²¹⁹⁰ which entered into force on August 1, 2024.²¹⁹¹ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation

²¹⁸⁶ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

²¹⁸⁷ Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom), *Questions and Answers about the Digital Services Act*, <https://www.traficom.fi/en/communications/data-economy-and-digital-services/questions-and-answers-about-digital-services-act>

²¹⁸⁸ Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman, *Digital Services Act in Force for a Year—Nearly 80 Complaints to Authorities in Finland in 2024* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/-/digital-services-act-in-force-for-a-year-nearly-80-complaints-to-authorities-in-finland-in-2024>

²¹⁸⁹ European Commission, *The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation*, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

²¹⁹⁰ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

²¹⁹¹ European Commission, *European Artificial Intelligence Act Comes into Force*, Press Release (Jul. 31, 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4123

that supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy, and ethical AI. Finland has appointed members to the European AI Board and identified 8 authorities protecting fundamental rights under the act.²¹⁹² A Working Group on national implementation with a charge through June 2026 drafted national legislation to implement the act and determine necessary actions.²¹⁹³ A law designating ministries and agencies as supervisory authorities according to applications²¹⁹⁴ entered into force at the start of 2026.²¹⁹⁵ Another proposal sandboxes and a national register underwent public consultation in 2025.²¹⁹⁶

The Finnish Data Protection Authority is one of the market surveillance authorities for high-risk systems, though the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) will act as the single point of contact.²¹⁹⁷

Public Participation

Finland's longstanding and broad commitment to an open democracy has traditionally been given expression by extensive consultation with established groups.²¹⁹⁸ The Finnish Constitution also states that "democracy entails the right of the individual to participate in and influence the development of society and his or her living conditions." Provisions on consultation and participation are given further weight in various laws and guidelines including the Act on the Openness of Government Activities.

²¹⁹² Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, *National Implementation of EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation*, <https://tem.fi/en/ai-regulation>

²¹⁹³ Ministry of Employment and the Economy, *Working Group on the National Implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation [EU:n tekoälyasetuksen kansallisen toimeenpanon työryhmä]* (2024), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/hanke?tunnus=TEM044:00/2024>

²¹⁹⁴ Ministry of Employment and the Economy, *Government Proposal to Parliament for Legislation Supplementing the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation*, HE 46/2025vp (May 8, 2025), <https://tem.fi/en/ai-regulation>

²¹⁹⁵ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *National Supervision of EU Artificial Intelligence Act to Begin—Laws on Powers of Authorities to Take Effect at Start of the Year* (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://tem.fi/en/-/national-supervision-of-eu-artificial-intelligence-act-to-begin-laws-on-powers-of-authorities-to-take-effect-at-start-of-the-year>

²¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Employment and the Economy, *The Second Phase of the Implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation Is Open for Comments* (Apr. 25, 2025), <https://tem.fi/-/eu-n-tekoalyasetuksen-toimeenpanon-toinen-vaihe-lausuntokierrokselle>

²¹⁹⁷ FinLex, *1377/2025 Act on the Supervision of Certain Artificial Intelligence Systems [Laki eräiden tekoälyjärjestelmien valvonnasta]* (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/lainsaadanto/saaduskokoelma/2025/1377>

²¹⁹⁸ OECD, *Better Regulation in Europe: Finland, Transparency through Consultation and Communication*, p. 71 (May 27, 2010), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/better-regulation-in-europe-finland-2010_9789264085626-en

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In 2024, the Finnish government requested an opinion on the draft of the government's proposal for legislation on the implementation of the artificial intelligence regulation.²¹⁹⁹ The draft seeks to advance the implementation of the EU's artificial intelligence regulation, regarding the supervision of certain artificial intelligence systems. The proposed law sets the competent market surveillance authorities and the authorities with the competence to receive and process notifications. The bill also proposed the amendment of the law on the market control of certain products (Law 1137/2016) to include within its scope.

Data Protection

Since Finland is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)²²⁰⁰ is directly applicable in Finland and to Finnish people. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.”²²⁰¹ The Finnish Data Protection Act supplements the GDPR.²²⁰²

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Finland transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)²²⁰³ through the Act on the Processing of Personal Data in Criminal Cases and in connection with Maintaining National Security, which entered into force on January 1, 2019, along with the Data

²¹⁹⁹ Out letande.fi, *Request for Opinion: Draft Government Bill with Proposed Legislation on the Implementation of the Artificial Intelligence Regulation [Begäran om utlåtande: utkast till regeringens proposition med förslag till lagstiftning om genomförande av förordningen om artificiell intelligens]* (Dec. 4, 2024), <https://www.lausuntopalvelu.fi/SV/Proposal/Participation?proposalId=0e252297-c14b-4b6b-a0da-0a35756c9a90>

²²⁰⁰ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679>

²²⁰¹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection* (2025), https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

²²⁰² Ministry of Justice of Finland, *Data Protection Act (1050/2018)*, <https://www.finlex.fi/en/legislation/translations/2018/eng/1050?language=eng>; complete text <https://www.finlex.fi/api/media/statute-foreign-language-translation/687709/mainPdf/main.pdf?timestamp=2018-12-04T22%3A00%3A00.000Z>

²²⁰³ Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

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Protection Act. The LED “will in particular ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”²²⁰⁴ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.²²⁰⁵

Finland is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.²²⁰⁶

The Data Protection Ombudsman is the national supervisory authority charged with overseeing compliance with data protection legislation and safeguards the rights and freedoms of individuals with regard to the processing of their personal data.²²⁰⁷ The Ombudsman has made numerous important decisions,²²⁰⁸ including with administrative fines amounting to several hundred thousand Euros.²²⁰⁹ The institutional mission of the Data Protection Ombudsman is expected to be broadened in alignment with the draft proposal for the Finnish EU AI Act national regulation. The recent attributions encompass supervisory authority over prohibited AI systems, as well as numerous high-risk AI systems, addressing sensitive areas such as biometrics, law enforcement, migration, education, and employment.

Concerning this aspect, the Finnish Data Protection Ombudsman and current EDPB chair, Anu Talus, asserted the importance of the cooperation between authorities for the EU AI Act Enforcement, pointing out that “the debate on artificial intelligence in particular continued to be intense and is being even more so in 2024. It is important to ensure that cooperation between authorities in the enforcement of the EU’s AI Act is smooth at both national and European level.”²²¹⁰

²²⁰⁴ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²²⁰⁵ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²²⁰⁶ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

²²⁰⁷ Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman of Finland, <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/home>

²²⁰⁸ European Data Protection Board, *News on Finland*, https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news_en?news_type=All&field_edpb_member_states_target_id=76

²²⁰⁹ European Data Protection Board, *Administrative Fine Imposed On Psychotherapy Centre Vastaamo For Data Protection Violations* (Dec 7, 2021), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2022/administrative-fine-imposed-psychotherapy-centre-vastaamo-data-protection_en
European Data Protection Board, *Finnish SA: Administrative Fine on Viking Line for Unlawful Processing of Employees’ Health Data* (Dec. 9, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2023/finnish-sa-administrative-fine-viking-line-unlawful-processing-employees_en

²²¹⁰ Data Protection Ombudsman, *Annual Report of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman 2023: Data Protection Work in a Changing Digital World*, Press Release (Apr. 14, 2024),

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Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002, the Data Protection Ombudsman has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,²²¹¹ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,²²¹² 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,²²¹³ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²²¹⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Finland is subject to the GDPR-like Finnish Law and Convention 108+. Finns have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.²²¹⁵ Per a 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems, those rights ought to extend to the ability to contest a decision with adverse effects.²²¹⁶ In 2023, OECD recognized Finland and Helsinki for the Open AI Register of AI Systems use in the public sector as an example of OECD AI Principle 1.3 on transparency and explainability.²²¹⁷

Finland, through the European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency (ECAT),²²¹⁸ has been actively participating in supporting and enforcing these

<https://tietosuoja.fi/en/-/annual-report-of-the-office-of-the-data-protection-ombudsman-2023-data-protection-work-in-a-changing-digital-world>

²²¹¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²²¹² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

²²¹³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²²¹⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>.

²²¹⁵ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

²²¹⁶ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²²¹⁷ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On*, p. 38 (Oct. 2023), <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/835641c9-en.pdf>

²²¹⁸ European Commission, *About: European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency (ECAT)* (2024), https://algorithmic-transparency.ec.europa.eu/about_en

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standards, with particular emphasis on monitoring algorithmic impact across various sectors, from social media to public administration. The EU's DSA Implementing Regulation standardizes the format, content, and reporting periods for transparency reports, and providers will begin to collect data according to the Implementing Regulation as of July 1, 2025, with the first harmonized reports due at the beginning of 2026.²²¹⁹

Digitization of Public Services

In 2020, Finland launched a National Artificial Intelligence Programme—Aurora AI, a decentralized open network and data-based model for smart public services and applications.²²²⁰ However, core components and production of the service ended on December 31, 2023, owing to limited usage.²²²¹

In September 2020, the city of Helsinki launched an AI registry in beta version to detail how city government uses algorithms to deliver services. The registry includes training datasets, “a description of how an algorithm is used, how humans utilize the prediction, and how algorithms were assessed for potential bias or risks” as well as a contact person responsible for deployment so citizens can provide feedback.²²²² The city of Helsinki describes its AI register as “a window into the artificial intelligence systems used by the City of Helsinki. Through the register, you can get acquainted with the quick overviews of the city’s artificial intelligence systems or examine their more detailed information based on your own interests. You can also give feedback and thus participate in building human-centred AI in Helsinki.”²²²³ The city of Helsinki’s public register for algorithmic transparency has eight use cases on the website, a majority of which are chatbots.²²²⁴

In 2022, a new research project, Civic Agency in AI also started with the aim to help the public sector ensure that their AI tools are transparent, accountable, and

²²¹⁹ European Commission, *Implementing Regulation Laying Down Templates Concerning the Transparency Reporting Obligations of Providers of Online Platforms* (Nov. 4, 2024), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/implementing-regulation-laying-down-templates-concerning-transparency-reporting-obligations>

²²²⁰ United Nations, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, *AuroraAI Finland*, <https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/good-practices-for-digital-government/compendium/aurora-ai-finland#>

²²²¹ Finnish Government, *Maintenance of the AuroraAI Network's Core Components Will End on 31 December 2023* (Oct. 5, 2023), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/16079645/maintenance-of-the-auroraai-network-will-end>

²²²² Khari Johnson, *Amsterdam and Helsinki Launch Algorithm Registries to Bring Transparency to Public Deployments of AI* (Sept. 28, 2020), <https://venturebeat.com/2020/09/28/amsterdam-and-helsinki-launch-algorithm-registries-to-bring-transparency-to-public-deployments-of-ai/>

²²²³ *City of Helsinki AI Register*, <https://ai.hel.fi/en/get-to-know-ai-register/>

²²²⁴ *City of Helsinki, AI Register* (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://ai.hel.fi/en/ai-register/>

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equitable. Its purpose is to develop best practices and recommendations regarding AI governance.²²²⁵

In May 2023, general legislation on automatic decision-making in public administration entered into force, with an 18-month transition period.²²²⁶ The legislation requires authorities to provide appropriate information about the use of an automated decision-making procedure. The legislation allows automated decision-making on administrative matters in so far as making a decision on the matter in question does not require individual consideration. Concerns exist with regard to its compatibility with Article 22(1) GDPR which provides for the right of the data subject not to be subject to a decision solely based on automated processing.

On the basis of this law, in October 2023, the Finnish Immigration Service adopted a decision to introduce automated decision making for students' first residence permits. One condition for the use of automated decision is that "the residence permit can be granted according to the application, and the matter does not require more extensive holistic deliberation."²²²⁷

AI and Children

Finland and UNICEF have been collaborating to create internationally applicable policy guidance for the use and development of AI for children. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports the project, where practices are developed for the planning of safe and inclusive AI solutions that take the rights of the child into account.²²²⁸

Facial Recognition

According to news reports, Finland's National Bureau of Investigation has acknowledged using facial recognition technology in connection with certain law

²²²⁵ Finish Center for Artificial Intelligence (FCAI), *Participatory Research To Improve Artificial Intelligence Based Public Sector Services and Empower Citizens* (Feb 8, 2022), <https://fcai.fi/news/2022/2/8/participatory-research-to-improve-artificial-intelligence-based-public-sector-services-and-empower-citizens>

²²²⁶ Ministry of Finance, *Assessment Criteria for Information Security in Public Administration: Recommendation and Criteria* (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/items/4fee11a6-0f1a-45fc-9330-54efa9cc278f>

²²²⁷ Finnish Immigration Service, *Decision to Introduce Automated Decision Making: First Residence Permits of Students* (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/182258005/Decision+to+introduce+automated+decision+makin+g+-+First+residence+permits+of+students.pdf>

²²²⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Policy Guidance on AI for Children Piloted in Different Parts of the World* (Oct. 19, 2021), https://um.fi/current-affairs/-/asset_publisher/gc654PySnjTX/content/lapsiin-liittyvan-tekoalyn-pelisaantoja-pilotoitu-eri-puolilla-maailmaa

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enforcement activities.²²²⁹ After initially denying the use of facial recognition technology in media questioning, officials from the National Bureau of Investigation acknowledged that four members of the Child Exploitation Investigation Unit had conducted 120 searches of the Clearview AI system in 2019–2020.

The Deputy Data Protection Ombudsman issued a note to the National Bureau of Investigation regarding the controversial use of Clearview AI facial recognition technology. In September 2021, the Deputy Data Protection Ombudsman warned the National Bureau of Investigation that police officers had used a facial recognition technology system without first verifying that it complied with data security or data protection laws.²²³⁰

A Digital Travel Credentials biometric pilot funded by the European Union for border checks was launched in August 2023 at the Helsinki-Vantaa airport.²²³¹ Finland also began work on a national digital identity wallet in April 2024, in line with the EU regulation that introduces the European Digital Identity (EUDI) Wallet.²²³² Biometric data via facial recognition technologies are processed under the GDPR and the EU AI Act.²²³³

The Ministry of the Interior proposed amending the regulation on biometric data, including facial images, stored in the registers of the police and the Finnish Immigration Service to aid in crime prevention.²²³⁴ The draft proposes to amend the provisions of the Police Personal Data Act, the Immigration Administration Personal Data Act, and the Aliens Act on the processing of biometric data to allow for the use of personal data beyond their original processing purpose. These amendments extend to biometric data of citizens of foreign nations. Public comments raised concerns over the potential for mass surveillance, especially real-time facial recognition, and

²²²⁹ Finnish Government, *Testing of Facial Recognition Software by NBI Reported to Data Protection Ombudsman* (Apr. 9, 2021), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/25235045/testing-of-facial-recognition-software-by-nbi-reported-to-data-protection-ombudsman>

²²³⁰ European Data Protection Board, *Finnish SA: Police Reprimanded for Illegal Processing of Personal Data with Facial Recognition Software* (Oct. 7, 2021), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2021/finnish-sa-police-reprimanded-illegal-processing-personal-data-facial_en

²²³¹ Biometric Update.com, *Tech5 Face Biometrics Deployed for Digital Travel Credential Pilot in Finland* (Mar. 12, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202403/tech5-face-biometrics-deployed-for-digital-travel-credential-pilot-in-finland>

²²³² Biometric Update.com, *Finland Starts Work on National Digital Identity Wallet* (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202404/finland-starts-work-on-national-digital-identity-wallet>

²²³³ Chambers & Partners, *Artificial Intelligence 2024: Finland* (2024), https://chambers.com/downloads/gpg/996/008_finland.pdf

²²³⁴ Ministry of the Interior, *Proposal to Amend Regulation on Biometric Data in Crime Prevention Circulated for Comments* (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://intermin.fi/en/-/proposal-to-amend-regulation-on-biometric-data-in-crime-prevention-circulated-for-comments>

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the use of personal data beyond the original, consented purpose.²²³⁵ The proposal passed to Parliament in September 2025.²²³⁶

Environmental Impact of AI

In November 2020, Finland launched its Artificial Intelligence 4.0 strategy, where the objective is to be a frontrunner in both green and digital transitions.²²³⁷ According to an interim report²²³⁸ issued in December 2021, Finland plans to be carbon neutral by 2035. Finland also plans to reinforce the EU's Green Deal,²²³⁹ which considers AI data centers significant consumers of energy²²⁴⁰ and the challenge to European energy grids with the war in Ukraine.²²⁴¹ One of the four proposals in the Interim Report of the Artificial Intelligence 4.0 Programme published in December 2021 focuses on "Nature smartness and digital technology" to lead to the "triple victory of sustainable development": economic, ecological and social benefits.²²⁴² In February 2024, the prime minister, Petteri Orpo reiterated that

²²³⁵ lausuntopalvelu.fi [Statement Service], *Request for Opinion on the Proposal to Amend the Regulation on Biometric Data Stored in the Registers of the Police and the Finnish Immigration Service [Lausuntopyyntö ehdotuksesta poliisiin ja Maahanmuuttoviraston rekistereihin tallennettuja biometrisia tietoja koskevan sääntelyn muuttamiseksi]* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.lausuntopalvelu.fi/FI/Proposal/Participation?proposalId=9cefc822-fe12-4b34-ae30-1e6d1a9525b8>

²²³⁶ Ministry of the Interior, *Government Proposal on the Use of Biometric Data Will Enhance Prevention of the Most Serious Crimes* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://intermin.fi/en/-/government-proposal-on-the-use-of-biometric-data-will-enhance-prevention-of-the-most-serious-crimes>

²²³⁷ Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *Artificial Intelligence 4.0 Report: Finland Has the Opportunity to Lead the Way in the Ethical Digital and Green Transitions* (Oct. 24, 2022), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410877/artificial-intelligence-4.0-report-finland-has-the-opportunity-to-lead-the-way-in-the-ethical-digital-and-green-transitions>

²²³⁸ Finnish Government, *Artificial Intelligence 4.0 Programme. First Interim Report: From Launch to Implementation Stage* (Dec. 7, 2021), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163663/TEM_2021_53.pdf

²²³⁹ European Commission, *The European Green Deal* (Sept. 11, 2024), https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

²²⁴⁰ European Commission, *European Green Deal: Energy Efficiency Directive Adopted, Helping Make the EU 'Fit for 55'* (Jul. 25, 2023), https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/european-green-deal-energy-efficiency-directive-adopted-helping-make-eu-fit-55-2023-07-25_en

²²⁴¹ European Commission, *State of the Energy Union Report* (Sept. 11, 2024), https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/bd3e3460-2406-47a1-aa2e-c0a0ba52a75a_en?filename=State%20of%20the%20Energy%20Union%20Report%202024.pdf

²²⁴² Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, *How can Finland achieve the 2030 artificial intelligence vision? – Interim report of the Artificial Intelligence 4.0 programme compiles proposals for concrete aims and measures* (Dec. 12, 2021), <https://tem.fi/en/-/how-can-finland-achieve-the-2030-artificial-intelligence-vision-interim-report-of-the-artificial-intelligence-4.0-programme-compiles-proposals-for-concrete-aims-and-measures>

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“Work, security and skills: these are also at the heart of the Government Programme.”²²⁴³

Along with Austria and Sweden, Finland has been evaluated at the top end, in the EU and globally, regarding overall sustainability (environmental, social and economic) as defined in Agenda 2030 in the Sustainable Development Report, 2022.²²⁴⁴ The Climate Change Act offers Finland’s goal to become carbon neutral.²²⁴⁵ The report on UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states, “The Foreign and Security Policy the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to be achieved by Agenda 2030 have been jeopardised by, among other things, the lack of multilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable development. problems of multilateralism, the repercussions of the war of aggression in Russia, and the interest rate pandemic the consequences of the currency pandemic.”²²⁴⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Finnish officials called lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) “a complex issue.”²²⁴⁷ Finnish officials cautioned that the “development of weapons and means of warfare where humans are completely out of the loop would pose serious risks from the ethical and legal viewpoint,” stressing that “humans should always bear the ultimate responsibility when dealing with questions of life and death.”²²⁴⁸

²²⁴³ Valtioneuvosto Statstradet, *Prime Minister’s Announcement on Government Policy in 2024 and the Most Important Proposals to Be Submitted to Parliament [Pääministerin ilmoitus hallituksen politiikasta vuonna 2024 ja keskeisimmistä eduskunnalle annettavista esityksistä]* (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/-/10616/paaministerin-ilmoitus-hallituksen-politiikasta-vuonna-2024-ja-keskeisimmista-eduskunnalle-annettavista-esityksista>

²²⁴⁴ SDG Transformation Center, *Sustainable Development Report 2022* (Jun. 2022), <https://sdgtransformationcenter.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2022>

²²⁴⁵ Ministry of the Environment, *New Climate Change Act into Force in July* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410903/new-climate-change-act-into-force-in-july>

²²⁴⁶ Valtioneuvosto Statsradet, *Valtioneuvoston selonteko YK:n kestävän kehityksen toimintaohjelma Agenda2030:ntoimeenpanosta*, p. 10 (Nov. 14, 2024), https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/165921/VN_2024_49.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

²²⁴⁷ Government of Finland, *Statement to the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security* (Oct. 22, 2014), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com14/statements/22Oct_Finland.pdf

²²⁴⁸ Human Rights Reports, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Maintaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

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Finland reiterated support for a two-tier approach to an international treaty on LAWS in the submission to the UN General Secretary's report.²²⁴⁹ Like a working paper Finland submitted with others to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS,²²⁵⁰ the proposal suggests prohibitions and regulations to (1) prohibit autonomous weapons systems that operate with no human involvement and outside a human-responsible chain of command and (2) regulate the development and use of all other weapons systems having autonomous features or functions to ensure their compliance with the rules and principles of international law. Finland also supported the 2024 resolution for the high-level agenda on the general and complete disarmament of lethal autonomous weapons systems.²²⁵¹

In February 2023, Finland participated in the 2023 REAIM Summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. Finland endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain²²⁵² and the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.²²⁵³ Finland also endorsed the Paris Declaration at the AI Action Summit, pledging to “not authorise the decision of life and death to be made by an autonomous weapon system” and “not develop, deploy, or use systems incapable of being used in accordance with [International Humanitarian Law].”²²⁵⁴

²²⁴⁹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Submission by Finland concerning United Nations General Assembly resolution 78/241 of 22 December 2023 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems to the United Secretary-General* (May 16, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Finland-EN_0.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Finland-EN_0.pdf)

²²⁵⁰ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Working Paper Submitted by Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, Documents from the 2022 CCW GGE on LAWS (Jul. 13, 2022), https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WP-LAWS_DE-ES-FI-FR-NL-NO-SE.pdf

²²⁵¹ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Resolution / Adopted by the General Assembly*, A/79/62 (draft A/C.1/79/L77) (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4068497?ln=en>

²²⁵² Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

²²⁵³ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Nov. 9, 2023), endorsing States as of Nov. 27, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-arms-control-deterrence-and-stability/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy>

²²⁵⁴ Élysée, *Paris Declaration on Maintain Human Control in AI Enabled Weapon Systems* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/paris-declaration-on-maintaining-human-control-in-ai-enabled-weapon-systems>

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A new act on the export of dual-use items entered into force on September 1, 2024 to harmonize Finnish regulations with the EU Export Control Regulation.²²⁵⁵ The list applies to software and technology.²²⁵⁶ This Act can be extended to AI-based systems as per the EU AI Act, which states (Item 24), “Nonetheless, if an AI system developed, placed on the market, put into service, or used for military, defense, or national security purposes is used outside those temporarily or permanently for other purposes, for example, civilian or humanitarian purposes, law enforcement, or public security purposes, such a system would fall within the scope of this Regulation.”²²⁵⁷ However, the regulation, also mentions (Item 24) “An AI system placed on the market for civilian or law enforcement purposes which is used with or without modification for military, defense or national security purposes should not fall within the scope of this Regulation, regardless of the type of entity carrying out those activities.”

AI Literacy

The Ministry of Education and Culture developed a Recommendation on AI with plans for AI literacy, legal and ethical issues.²²⁵⁸ The Recommendation identifies competencies students can develop through AI literacy education and the safe use of AI tools in learning. The recommendations also aim to encourage equal opportunities for education and training educators. The University of Helsinki’s free Elements of AI course is internationally recognized and has been translated into a number of languages.²²⁵⁹

Human Rights

As one of the signatories to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and several international human rights treaties and conventions,²²⁶⁰ Finland is committed

²²⁵⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Legislation on Export Control of Dual-Use Items to be Reformed* (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/legislation-on-export-control-of-dual-use-items-to-be-reformed>

²²⁵⁶ EU LEX, *Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of The European Parliament and of The Council* (May 20, 2023), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02021R0821-20230526>

²²⁵⁷ EU LEX, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of The European Parliament and of The Council* (Jul. 7, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1689&qid=1730891247545>

²²⁵⁸ Ministry of Education and Culture, *Recommendations for AI* (Sept. 18, 2024), <https://okm.fi/en/project?tunnus=OKM021:00/2024>

²²⁵⁹ Elements of AI, *Welcome to the Elements of AI Free Online Course* (2026), <https://www.elementsofai.com/>

²²⁶⁰ These include the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, European Convention on Human Rights and Protocol

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to protecting human rights, civil liberties, and political rights. Under Finnish law, these rights are guaranteed and subject to the rule of law as interpreted by an independent judiciary.

Freedom House gave Finland a top score (100/100) in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report for political rights and civil liberties, observing that “Finland’s parliamentary system features free and fair elections and robust multiparty competition. Corruption is not a significant problem, and freedoms of speech, religion, and association are respected. The judiciary is independent under the constitution and in practice.”²²⁶¹

Finland’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs’ use of the AI-assisted tool, OpenEval, to share information about evaluations related to development policy reflects the Ministry’s desire to “be a frontrunner in the appropriate use of artificial intelligence.”²²⁶² The application reflects the Council of Europe advice to member states that their human-rights commitments require them to “ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated.”²²⁶³

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Finland is a long-time member of the OECD and has adopted OECD AI Principles,²²⁶⁴ committing “to uphold international standards that aim to ensure AI systems are designed to be robust, safe, fair and trustworthy.”²²⁶⁵

The OECD recognizes Finland’s progress implementing principle 1.3 transparency and explainability (in Helsinki), and for promoting international research collaboration.²²⁶⁶ Finland was also among the first countries to have a National AI Strategy.

amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (108+)

²²⁶¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Finland* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/finland/freedom-world/2025>

²²⁶² Ministry for Foreign Affairs, *Harness AI for Efficient Use of Evaluation Data* (Jun. 18, 2025),

<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/harnessing-ai-for-efficient-use-of-evaluation-evidence>

²²⁶³ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

<https://search.coe.int/cm?i=09000016809e1154>

²²⁶⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Finland*, <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/finland>

²²⁶⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

²²⁶⁶ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* (Oct. 27, 2023), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en.html

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Finland contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.²²⁶⁷ The European Commission signed on behalf of the members of the European Union (including Finland) on September 5, 2024.²²⁶⁸ Finland has not signed independently.²²⁶⁹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Finland has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.²²⁷⁰ Finland has not yet initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

Finland has taken other steps to implement the UNESCO Recommendation. For example, The Finnish National Agency for Education (*Opetushallitus*) ethical principles for AI in education draws from the UNESCO Recommendation and the organization's guidance on AI in education.²²⁷¹

The Finnish National Commission for UNESCO “act[s] as liaison between UNESCO and national authorities,” serving as an advisory body to the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Government.²²⁷² The

Evaluation

Finland remains one of the most digital countries in the EU in 2025. In the national AI strategy, one of the first in the world, Finland adopted an approach based on its vision of “a good artificial intelligence society.” Risks posed by AI do not occupy center stage in the strategy, but Finland has tried to develop best practices

²²⁶⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²²⁶⁸ Europe Union External Action, *The European Commission Signs Historic Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights* (Sept. 10, 2024), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/council-europe/european-commission-signs-historic-council-europe-framework-convention-artificial-intelligence-and_en

²²⁶⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

²²⁷⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

²²⁷¹ Finnish National Agency for Education, *Background Material: AI and Ethics in Education* (2026), <https://www.opi.fi/en/teemat-ja-kehittaminen/background-material-ai-and-ethics-education>

²²⁷² Ministry of Education and Culture, *Finnish National Commission for UNESCO*, <https://okm.fi/en/national-commission-for-unesco>

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and hands-on solutions for ensuring trustworthy AI by design. The capital, Helsinki, is the first city to have developed and adopted an AI register to foster trust in AI and ensure the best service to citizens.

Finland benefits from strong European and national data protection frameworks and the EU AI Act. Finland has identified authorities responsible for enforcing the EU AI Act and legislation to implement the next phase of the Act is pending. The Data Inspectorate's reprimand of police for the use of Clearview technology reflects the authority's independence. However, the introduction of a new law authorizing automated decisions in administration raises questions regarding its compatibility with data subjects' rights not to be subjected to automated decision making enshrined in the GDPR.

Finland has also worked closely with UNICEF to develop internationally applicable policy guidance for the use AI by children and used international models from UNESCO and OECD to develop recommendations for ethical AI use in education, including AI literacy competencies. The country has endorsed both the OECD AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. These international standards align with many of Finland's actions related to AI governance, even when they are not explicitly referenced. Finland has yet to take independent action on the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence.

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France

In 2025, France launched a new phase of the National AI Strategy and facilitated collaboration on AI governance as the host of the AI Action Summit. France also designated a single point of contact and the market surveillance and competent authorities who will implement and enforce the EU AI Act.

National AI Strategy

France's national Strategy on Artificial Intelligence entitled "AI for Humanity" aims to make France a world leader in AI. "AI will raise a lot of issues in ethics, in politics, it will question our democracy and our collective preferences," stated French President Emmanuel Macron in 2018.²²⁷³ He continued: "If you want to manage your own choice of society, your choice of civilization, you have to be able to be an acting part of this AI revolution."²²⁷⁴ The Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy, and Digital Sovereignty (*Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Souveraineté industrielle, énergétique et numérique*) oversees the national AI strategy.

France's AI strategy sets out four objectives: (1) Reinforcing the AI ecosystem to attract the very best talent, (2) Developing an open data policy, especially in sectors where France already has the potential for excellence, such as healthcare, (3) Creating a regulatory and financial framework favoring the emergence of "AI champions," and (4) Promoting AI regulation and ethics to ensure to high standard and acceptability for citizens. This high standard includes supporting human sciences research on the ethics of AI use, making all algorithms used by the State public, including admission to higher education, and encouraging AI's openness to diversity.

The second phase of the national AI strategy launched in 2022 focused on priority areas such as trusted AI and generative AI.²²⁷⁵ The government initiated the third phase dedicated to "Make France an AI Powerhouse" at the AI Action Summit

²²⁷³ Élysée, *France's New National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence—Speech of Emmanuel Macron* (Mar. 29, 2018), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2018/03/29/frances-new-national-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence-speech-of-emmanuel-macron.en>

²²⁷⁴ Nicholas Thompson, *Emmanuel Macron Talks to WIRED about France's AI Strategy* (Mar. 31, 2018), <https://www.wired.com/story/emmanuel-macron-talks-to-wired-about-frances-ai-strategy>

²²⁷⁵ Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances, *The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence [la stratégie nationale pour l'intelligence artificielle]* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/actualites/strategie-nationale-intelligence-artificielle>

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in 2025.²²⁷⁶ This phase emphasizes strategic infrastructure and widespread AI adoption across various sectors while building trust through AI Cafés to encourage democratic discourse about AI and establishment of the National Institute for AI Evaluation and Security (*l'Institut National pour l'Évaluation et la Sécurité de l'Intelligence Artificielle*, INESIA).²²⁷⁷

The national AI strategy built on a report by Cedric Villani, a French mathematician and member of parliament, who dedicated a chapter to ethical considerations and included proposals to open the “black box,” implement ethics by design, and set up an AI Ethics Committee.²²⁷⁸ The strategy also referenced report by the Strategy department under the Prime Minister and national data protection authority (*Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés*, CNIL).²²⁷⁹

The National Coordinator for AI, tasked with the implementation of the national AI strategy, works with all administrations, centers and research laboratories dedicated to AI.²²⁸⁰

National Pilot Committee for Digital Ethics

With regard to AI regulation and ethics (objective 4 of the National AI Strategy), in July 2019, the Prime Minister asked the French National Consultative Committee on Bioethics (CCNE) to launch a pilot initiative dedicated to Digital Ethics. The National Pilot Committee for Digital Ethics (NPCDE), created in December 2019, “shall submit initial contributions on the ethics of digital sciences, technologies, uses and innovations and determine relevant equilibria for the organization of public debate on digital ethics and artificial intelligence.” It is also tasked with maintaining ethical oversight and to raise awareness, inform and assist

²²⁷⁶ Présidence de la République, *Make France an AI Powerhouse* (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/17/d9c1462e7337d353f918aac7d654b896b77c5349.pdf>

²²⁷⁷ Ministère de L'Économie des Finances et de la Souveraineté Industrielle et Numérique, *The Government Announces the Creation of the National Institute for AI Evaluation and Security* [*Le Gouvernement annonce la création de l'Institut national pour l'évaluation et la sécurité de l'intelligence artificielle (INESIA)*] (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://presse.economie.gouv.fr/le-gouvernement-annonce-la-creation-de-linstitut-national-pour-levaluation-et-la-securite-de-lintelligence-artificielle-inesia/>

²²⁷⁸ Cedric Villani, *For a Meaningful Artificial Intelligence: Toward a French and European Strategy* (Mar. 2018), https://www.jaist.ac.jp/~bao/AI/OtherAIstrategies/MissionVillani_Report_ENG-VF.pdf

²²⁷⁹ CNIL, *Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence: CNIL's Report on the Ethical Issues* (May 25, 2018), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/algorithms-and-artificial-intelligence-cnils-report-ethical-issues>

²²⁸⁰ Gouvernement, *Appointment of Mr. Renaud VEDEL as National Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence* [*Nomination de M. Renaud Vedel comme coordinateur national pour l'intelligence artificielle*] (Mar. 9, 2020), <https://www.info.gouv.fr/communiquer/11429-nomination-de-m-renaud-vedel-comme-coordonateur-national-pour-l-intelligence-artificielle>

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individuals, companies, administrations, institutions, etc., in their decision-making process.²²⁸¹ The committee has been seized by the Prime Minister to give opinions on the ethical issues concerning three specific topics of digital applications using in particular machine learning: 1) Conversational agents (chatbots); 2) Autonomous cars; and 3) Medical diagnosis and health AI.

However, civil society groups such as Access Now have objected to government studies that simply propose ethical guidelines rather than hard law. Access Now explains, “[t]here is solid and creative thinking in the advisory paper that informed the strategy around the ethical and regulatory challenges posed by AI, but at the moment the proposed solutions largely involve the creation of groups to study them rather than the proposal of new or modified norms.”²²⁸² “France’s AI strategy generally cleaves to the ‘ethics’ framework and makes scant reference to hard legal constraints on AI development.” AccessNow notes that the “Villani report is considerably more detailed about the ethical and legal challenges posed by AI.” While some civil society organizations oppose the need for the NPCDE, they continue to work towards their objectives and convened a conference with the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) Ethics Working Group to discuss digital technology ethics and connected technologies in October 2022.²²⁸³

In September 2023, the Prime Minister launched a new Committee on generative AI.²²⁸⁴ Its aim is to make concrete recommendations to adapt French AI strategy. Among the members are Joëlle Barral from Google, Yann le Cun from Meta and Arthur Mensch and Cedric O, both involved with Mistral AI. Concerns about a possible conflict of interests and influence on the French position regarding the draft EU AI Act have been raised.²²⁸⁵

²²⁸¹ Claude Kirchner, *The French National Committee for Digital Ethics* (Feb. 24, 2020), <https://ai-regulation.com/the-french-national-committee-for-digital-ethics/>

²²⁸² AccessNow, *Mapping Regulatory Proposals for Artificial Intelligence in Europe* (Nov. 18, 2018), https://www.accessnow.org/cms/assets/uploads/2018/11/mapping_regulatory_proposals_for_AI_in_EU.pdf

²²⁸³ ERCIM, *Forum on Digital Ethics in Research: Beyond Compliance*, ERCIM News (Jan. 11, 2023), <https://ercim-news.ercim.eu/en132/jea/forum-on-digital-ethics-in-research-beyond-compliance>

²²⁸⁴ French Ministry of Economy and Finance, *France Sets Up a Committee for Generative Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 3, 2023), <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/comite-intelligence-artificielle-generative>

²²⁸⁵ Théophane Hartmann, *AI Act: French Government Accused of Being Influenced by Lobbyist with Conflict of Interest* (Dec. 21, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/artificial-intelligence/news/ai-act-french-government-accused-of-being-influenced-by-lobbyist-with-conflict-of-interests/>

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, France shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).²²⁸⁶ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The DSA also bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs and targeted advertising to minors based on profiling. Arcom, France's regulatory authority for audiovisual and digital communication, or *le régulateur de la communication audiovisuelle et numérique*,²²⁸⁷ is the digital services coordinator charged with overseeing the EU Digital Services Act.²²⁸⁸

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, France is bound by the EU AI Act,²²⁸⁹ a risk-based market regulation that supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy, and ethical AI. France designated authorities responsible for enforcing the AI Act in 2025. According to a draft designation, the Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs, and Fraud Control (*Direction Générale de la concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes*, DGCCRF) will coordinate market-surveillance authorities and act as the single point of contact. The Directorate-General for Enterprise (*Direction générale des Entreprises*, DGE) will represent France in the European AI Committee.²²⁹⁰ Existing regulators CNIL (data

²²⁸⁶ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

²²⁸⁷ Arcom, *5 Things to Remember about the Digital Services Act (DSA)* (Feb. 16, 2024), <https://www.arcom.fr/en/news/5-things-remember-about-digital-services-act-dsa>

²²⁸⁸ European Commission, *Digital Services Coordinators* (Mar. 10, 2026), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs#1720699867912-1>

²²⁸⁹ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138 (Mar. 13, 2024), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

²²⁹⁰ Direction générale des Entreprises, DGE and DGCCRF Publish the Draft Designation of National Authorities Responsible for Implementing the European AI Regulation [*La DGE et la DGCCRF publient le projet de désignation des autorités nationales en charge de la mise en œuvre du règlement européen sur l'IA*] (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/espace-presse/la-dge-et-la-dgccrf-publient-le-projet-de-designation-des-autorites-nationales-en>

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protection), Arcom (audiovisual), ANSSI (cybersecurity), and PEReN (digital regulation) will serve as competent authorities in applicable sectors.²²⁹¹

Public Participation

The Villani report, which has been a key source of inspiration for France’s national strategy, relied on the work of multiple stakeholders but not the public at large. The data protection authority (CNIL) relied on extensive public outreach to inform the report on “the ethical matters raised by algorithms and artificial intelligence” that also informed the strategy. More than 3,000 people took part in 45 debates and events, organized by 60 partners, including research centers, public institutions, trade unions, think tanks, and companies.²²⁹²

A 2020 survey by the European consumer organization BEUC found that more than 80% of those polled in France were familiar with Artificial Intelligence. Over 50% of respondents agreed that companies use AI to manipulate consumer decisions.²²⁹³ BEUC also reported that there is little trust over authorities to exert effective control over organizations and companies using AI. More than 60% of respondents in France said users should be able to say “no” to automated decision-making.

Public engagement has increased. Open consultations around AI to Serve the Public Good? ahead of the AI Action Summit engaged over 10,000 citizens and 200 experts who “clearly expressed a strong demand for robust governance of emerging AI technologies at the national and international level.”²²⁹⁴

²²⁹¹ Direction générale des Entreprises, *The Authorities Responsible for Implementing the European Regulation on Artificial intelligence [Les autorités compétentes pour la mise en œuvre du règlement européen sur l’intelligence artificielle]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/priorites-et-actions/transition-numerique/soutenir-le-developpement-de-lia-au-service-de-0>

²²⁹² CNIL, *Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence: CNIL’s Report on the Ethical Issues* (May 25, 2018), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/algorithms-and-artificial-intelligence-cnils-report-ethical-issues>

²²⁹³ BEUC, *Artificial Intelligence, What Consumers Say: Findings and Policy Recommendations of a Multi-Country Survey on AI* (Sept. 7, 2020) <https://www.beuc.eu/publications/beuc-x-2020-078-artificial-intelligence-what-consumers-say-report.pdf>

²²⁹⁴ Make.org, *Consultations ahead of the AI Summit: Citizens, Academics, and Civil Society Agree on Stronger Regulation and Perceive AI as Challenge and Opportunity* (Dec. 10, 2024), <https://about.make.org/articles-en/consultations-ahead-of-the-ai-summit-citizens-academics-civil-society-agree-on-stronger-regulation-and-perceive-ai-as-challenge-and-opportunity>; for results of the consultation, see <https://make.org/FR/consultation/ai-action-summit/results>

Data Protection

The right to the protection of personal data falls within the scope of application of the right to respect for private life,²²⁹⁵ which is constitutionally protected.²²⁹⁶ The 1978 French Data Protection Act, which was amended in 2018 to adapt it to both the GDPR and the LED,²²⁹⁷ further delineates these protections. The National Commission of Data and Rights (*Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés*, CNIL) is the independent administrative authority for data protection with jurisdiction over ministers, public authorities, and private and public company directors.²²⁹⁸

Since France is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)²²⁹⁹ is directly applicable in France and to French people. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals' fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”²³⁰⁰

The EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)²³⁰¹ “will in particular ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”²³⁰² The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.²³⁰³ The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally

²²⁹⁵ See Cassation, Civ. 1, (Nov. 5) 1996.

²²⁹⁶ See Constitutional Council, decision n° 99-416 DC (July 23, 1999)

²²⁹⁷ “Informatique et Libertés” Act, as modified by Bill n° 2018-493 (June 20, 2018), implemented by Decree n° 2018-687 (Aug. 1, 2018), and Order n° 2018-1125 (Dec. 12, 2018)

²²⁹⁸ CNIL, *Status & Composition* (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/cnil/status-composition>

²²⁹⁹ *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

²³⁰⁰ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²³⁰¹ *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²³⁰² European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²³⁰³ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

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provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

France is a member of the Council of Europe and ratified COE Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.²³⁰⁴

The CNIL has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002.²³⁰⁵ The commission’s work contributed to the Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI, which was later adopted by the Global Privacy Assembly with CNIL’s sponsorship.²³⁰⁶ The CNIL did not endorse the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability²³⁰⁷ but co-sponsored the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology²³⁰⁸ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²³⁰⁹

Algorithmic Transparency

Following the assassination in October 2020 of history professor Samuel Paty, the Secretary of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communications, Cédric O, reiterated the importance of algorithmic transparency. He wrote in a blog post “the opacity of the functioning of (social media) algorithms and their moderation is a societal and democratic aberration.” He added “it is also essential that full transparency be observed vis a vis the public authorities as regards

²³⁰⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

²³⁰⁵ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

²³⁰⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI* (Oct. 23, 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²³⁰⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

²³⁰⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²³⁰⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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the principles governing in detail the choices made by their moderation algorithms, whether it is about online hatred or dissemination of false information.”²³¹⁰

France is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+ which both provide for a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.²³¹¹ These rights, including the right and access to contest automated decisions with adverse consequences to fundamental rights, align with the 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems.²³¹²

France has continued to advance concrete measures for algorithmic transparency. The CNIL’s Recommendations on AI and GDPR advised that organizations inform individuals when their personal data may be used to train AI models and ensure rights such as access and erasure remain effective.²³¹³ The data protection agency’s recommendations on the development of AI systems further clarified that models trained on personal data fall under the GDPR and encouraged documentation and governance measures to strengthen transparency.²³¹⁴

AI Oversight

The French data protection authority (CNIL) has published several papers on AI, including a 2018 report on the ethical issues raised by AI.²³¹⁵ This report set out two founding principles—fairness and vigilance—six recommendations, and six concerns. Following this report, a joint 2020 paper by the CNIL and the Defender of Rights detailed concerns around the transparency obligations of those responsible for AI systems.²³¹⁶

²³¹⁰ Cédric O, *Régulations*, Medium (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://medium.com/@cedric.o/r%C3%A9gulations-657189f5d9d2>

²³¹¹ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

²³¹² *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²³¹³ CNIL, *AI and GDPR: The CNIL Publishes New Recommendations to Support Responsible Innovation* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/ai-and-gdpr-cnil-publishes-new-recommendations-support-responsible-innovation>

²³¹⁴ CNIL, *AI: The CNIL Finalises Its Recommendations on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Systems and Announces Its Upcoming Work* (Jul. 22, 2025), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/ai-cnil-finalises-its-recommendations-development-artificial-intelligence-systems>

²³¹⁵ CNIL, *Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence: CNIL’s Report on the Ethical Issues* (May 25, 2018), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/algorithms-and-artificial-intelligence-cnils-report-ethical-issues>

²³¹⁶ CNIL, *Algorithmes et discriminations : le Défenseur des droits, avec la CNIL, appelle à une mobilisation collective* (May 2020), <https://www.cnil.fr/fr/algorithmes-et-discriminations-le-defenseur-des-droits-avec-la-cnil-appelle-une-mobilisation>

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The CNIL imposed a €20 million fine on Clearview AI for unlawful use of facial recognition technology.²³¹⁷ In April 2023, the French DPA considered that the company had not complied with the order and consequently imposed an overdue penalty payment of €5,200,000 on Clearview AI.²³¹⁸

In January 2023, the CNIL created an AI Department (AID) to improve the authority's understanding of the risks posed by AI systems, prepare for EU AI Act enforcement, and develop further relationships within the AI ecosystem.²³¹⁹

Generative AI was one of the key topics in the 2023 action plan. The CNIL's work on Generative AI was supported by the AID²³²⁰ and the Digital Innovation Laboratory (LINC), which released a study to better understand the functioning and risks of generative AI.²³²¹ The CNIL issued initial recommendations on the development of AI systems in April 2024 following a public consultation. The recommendations seek to support AI ecosystem players in complying with the GDPR, focusing on the purpose of data processing, data retention, and data minimization.²³²² A second public consultation focusing on the legal basis of legitimate interest to develop AI systems, data subject rights, and safe development of AI systems closed on October 1, 2024.²³²³ The CNIL's finalized recommendations offer practical guidance to ensure compliance with the GDPR during the development phase of AI systems regarding AI model training, data annotation, and secure system development.²³²⁴

²³¹⁷ Secrétaire générale du Gouvernement, *Deliberation San-2023-005 [Délibération SAN-2023-005]*, LegiFrance (Apr. 2023), <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/cnil/id/CNIL/TEXT000047527412/>

²³¹⁸ EDPB, *Facial Recognition: The French SA Imposes a Penalty Payment on CLEARVIEW AI* (May 11, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2023/facial-recognition-french-sa-imposes-penalty-payment-clearview-ai_en

²³¹⁹ CNIL, *The CNIL Creates an Artificial Intelligence Department and Begins to Work on Learning Databases* (Jan. 26, 2023), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/cnil-creates-artificial-intelligence-department-and-begins-work-learning-databases>; <https://www.freevacy.com/news/cnil/cnil-adds-ai-department-commences-machine-learning-study/3278>

²³²⁰ CNIL, *AI: The Action Plan of the CNIL* (May 2023), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/artificial-intelligence-action-plan-cnil>

²³²¹ LINC, *Dossier IA generative – ChatGPT : un beau parleur bien entraîné* (Apr. 26, 2023), <https://linc.cnil.fr/dossier-ia-generative-chatgpt-un-beau-parleur-bien-entraine>

²³²² CNIL, *AI: CNIL Publishes Its First Recommendations on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Jun. 7, 2024), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/ai-cnil-publishes-its-first-recommendations-development-artificial-intelligence-systems>

²³²³ CNIL, *[Closed] Artificial Intelligence: The CNIL Opens a New Public Consultation on the Development of AI Systems* (Jul. 2, 2024), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/closed-artificial-intelligence-cnil-opens-new-public-consultation-development-ai-systems>

²³²⁴ CNIL, *AI: The CNIL Finalises Its Recommendations on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Systems and Announces Its Upcoming Work* (Jul. 22, 2025), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/ai-cnil-finalises-its-recommendations-development-artificial-intelligence-systems>

Use of AI in Public Administration

The CNIL selected four AI projects aimed at improving public services for incubation in its sandbox in 2023. One project led by the French employment agency (France Travail) is to equip job agents with AI conversational assistants to help them offer a personalized path adapted to the needs of job seekers.²³²⁵ Another project, the “Albert” project of the DINUM (interministerial directorate for digital affairs), is aimed at civil servants. The Albert project would assist civil servants in the search for information and formulating specific responses to users. The project is based on an open language model and considered a potential “lever for the deployment of AI in administrations.”

The CNIL published the results of its AI sandbox for public services in 2025.²³²⁶ The organization recommended, among other measures, the principle of data minimization, meaningful human intervention, transparency of AI systems to users, and the assessment and mitigation of potential bias that could lead to discrimination.

Mass Surveillance

Facial recognition technology (FRT) processes sensitive personal data prohibited, at least in principle, by the GDPR and the French data protection law, subject to exceptions such as individual’s consent or important public interest. In the latter case, FRT can be authorized by a Decree of the Conseil d’État informed by an opinion from the CNIL

FRT has long been used in France on a voluntary basis with regard to passport control in airports, bank security, and has also been tested in several colleges. The deployment of an FRT-based ID program, Alicem,²³²⁷ was scheduled for November 2019, despite a very critical opinion from the CNIL. Deployment was delayed after a group of NGOs appealed to the Conseil d’État requesting the annulment of the decree that authorized Alicem. In early November 2019, the Conseil d’État dismissed the appeal.²³²⁸

²³²⁵ CNIL, *Artificial Intelligence and Public Services “Sandbox”: The CNIL Supports 8 Innovative Projects* (Dec. 4, 2023), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/artificial-intelligence-and-public-services-sandbox-cnil-supports-8-innovative-projects>

²³²⁶ CNIL, *Sandbox “AI and Public Services [Bac à sable «IA et services publics»]* (Mar. 2025), https://www.cnil.fr/sites/cnil/files/2025-04/bac_a_sable_recommandations.pdf

²³²⁷ Charlotte Jee, *France Plans to Use Facial Recognition to Let Citizens Access Government Services*, MIT Technology Review (Oct. 3, 2019), <https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/10/03/132776/france-plans-to-use-facial-recognition-to-let-citizens-access-government-services/>

²³²⁸ Marion Garreau, *Le ministère de l’Intérieur va pouvoir lancer l’application Alicem, basée sur la reconnaissance faciale*, L’Usine Nouvelle (Nov. 5, 2020),

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The CNIL published guidance on the use of facial recognition in 2019.²³²⁹ The document, primarily directed at public authorities in France that want to experiment with facial recognition, presents the technical, legal and ethical elements that need to be considered. After recalling that facial recognition, experimental or not, must comply with the GDPR and the LED, the CNIL sets out three general requirements: (1) facial recognition can only be used if there is an established need to implement an authentication mechanism that ensures a high level of reliability, and there are no other less intrusive means that would be appropriate; (2) the experimental use of facial recognition must respect the rights of individuals (including consent and control, transparency and security); and (3) the use of facial recognition on an experimental basis must have a precise timeline and be based on a rigorous methodology setting out the objectives pursued and the criteria for success.

In December 2019, the Observatoire des Libertés Numériques²³³⁰ and 80 organizations signed an open letter calling on the French Government and Parliament to ban any present and future use of facial recognition for security and surveillance purposes.²³³¹ In 2020, the administrative tribunal of Marseille rendered a decision on facial recognition that ruled illegal a decision by the South-East Region of France (Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur) to test facial recognition at the entrance of two High schools.²³³² Following an analysis from the CNIL,²³³³ the court ruled that there was no opportunity for free and informed consent and also that there were other, less intrusive means to manage entrance to high schools.²³³⁴ This was the first decision

<https://www.usinenouvelle.com/editorial/le-ministere-de-l-interieur-va-pouvoir-lancer-l-application-alicem-basee-sur-la-reconnaissance-faciale.N1024754>

²³²⁹ CNIL, *Reconnaissance faciale: Pour un débat à la hauteur des enjeux* (Nov. 2020),

https://www.cnil.fr/sites/default/files/atoms/files/reconnaissance_faciale.pdf

²³³⁰ The Observatoire des Libertés Numériques federates several French NGOs monitoring legislation impacting digital freedoms: Le CECIL, Creis-Terminal, Globenet, La Ligue des Droits de l’Homme (LDH), La Quadrature du Net (LQDN), Le Syndicat des Avocats de France (SAF), Le Syndicat de la Magistrature (SM)

²³³¹ La Quadrature du Net, *Joint Letter from 80 Organisations: Ban Security and Surveillance Facial Recognition* (Dec. 19, 2019), <https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2019/12/19/joint-letter-from-80-organisations-ban-security-and-surveillance-facial-recognition/>

²³³² Tribunal Administratif de Marseille, *La Quadrature du Net*, No. 1901249 (Nov. 27, 2020), https://forum.technopolice.fr/assets/uploads/files/1582802422930-1090394890_1901249.pdf

²³³³ CNIL, *Expérimentation de la reconnaissance faciale dans deux lycées : La CNIL précise sa position* (Oct. 29, 2019), <https://www.cnil.fr/fr/experimentation-de-la-reconnaissance-faciale-dans-deux-lycees-la-cnil-precise-sa-position>

²³³⁴ La Quadrature du Net, *First Success against Facial Recognition in France* (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2020/02/27/first-success-against-facial-recognition/>

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ever by a court applying the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to Facial Recognition Technologies (FRTs).²³³⁵

In November 2023, investigative media Disclose revealed that in 2015, law enforcement secretly acquired surveillance video image analysis software from the Israeli company Briefcam. For eight years, the Ministry of the Interior concealed the use of this tool, which enables facial recognition. According to Disclose, the algorithmic video-surveillance option was unlawfully used by municipal police forces across the nation.²³³⁶ The Grenoble administrative court ruled in 2025 that the deployment of Briefcam’s algorithmic video surveillance technology in Moirans, Isère is unlawful, following a 3-year legal challenge by civil rights organization La Quadrature du Net.²³³⁷

Despite rulings about facial recognition and GDPR, many experiments took place leading up to the Paris Games in 2024 as companies positioned themselves for a share of seven-billion euro market.²³³⁸ In May 2023, the French Government enacted the Olympic law legitimizing automated algorithmic image processing at the Olympic Games²³³⁹ as an experiment until March 31, 2025.²³⁴⁰ An automated surveillance system was put in place to detect “suspect” behavior or objects. According to Human Rights Watch, “the surveillance provision of the proposed bill would constitute a serious threat to civic freedoms and democratic principles.” Human Rights Watch also cited the European Data Protection Board and European Data Protection Supervisor stance that “biometric surveillance stifles people’s reasonable expectation of anonymity in public spaces and reduces their will and ability to exercise their civic freedoms, for fear of being identified, profiled or even

²³³⁵ AI Regulation, *First Decision of a French Court Applying GDPR to Facial Recognition* (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://ai-regulation.com/first-decision-ever-of-a-french-court-applying-gdpr-to-facial-recognition/>

²³³⁶ Disclose, *The French National Police Is Unlawfully Using an Israeli Facial Recognition Software* (Nov. 14, 2023) <https://disclose.ngo/en/article/the-french-national-police-is-unlawfully-using-an-israeli-facial-recognition-software>

²³³⁷ Tribunal Administratif de Grenoble, *Decision N° 2105328* (Jan. 24, 2025), https://www.laquadrature.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/01/2105328_24012025.pdf

²³³⁸ France Culture, *Quand la reconnaissance faciale en France avance masquée* (Sept. 4, 2020), <https://www.franceculture.fr/societe/quand-la-reconnaissance-faciale-en-france-avance-masquee>

²³³⁹ Jennifer Krueckeberg, *Let the Games Begin: France’s Controversial Olympic Law Legitimizes Automated Surveillance Testing at Sporting Events*, AlgorithmWatch (May 30, 2023), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/let-the-games-begin-frances-controversial-olympic-law-legitimizes-automated-surveillance-testing-at-sporting-events/>

²³⁴⁰ La Galaxie Sénat, *Bill on the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Law No. 2023-380* (May 19, 2023) <https://www.senat.fr/travaux-parlementaires/textes-legislatifs/la-loi-en-clair/projet-de-loi-jeux-olympiques-et-paralympiques-de-2024.html>

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wrongly persecuted.”²³⁴¹ La Quadrature du Net also launched a campaign against biometric surveillance.²³⁴² For its part, the CNIL identified the use of augmented cameras in the framework of the Olympic games as a priority topic for investigation in 2024.²³⁴³

French MPs unsuccessfully challenged the law before the French Constitutional Council. The French Constitutional Council noted that facial recognition will not be used and the AI-camera system was set for a legitimate purpose and only temporarily. As long as the necessary safeguards are put into place, there is no reason to invalidate the law at this stage.²³⁴⁴

Enforcement against facial recognition technology tightened in 2025 with the recognition that untargeted extraction of facial images for recognition databases is prohibited by principle.²³⁴⁵ Real-time biometric identification systems can only be deployed under strict temporal and geographic limits, requiring judicial or administrative authorization, mainly for locating missing persons or counterterrorism purposes. Still, the French government launched a working group in May 2025 to legalize controlled real-time facial recognition use, particularly for criminal investigations, emphasizing high regulatory scrutiny.²³⁴⁶

Environmental Impact of AI

France’s AI Strategy includes raising international awareness about the environmental impact of AI, promoting research to make AI infrastructure “more environmentally friendly,” and making ecological data open to the public among its

²³⁴¹ Human Rights Watch, *France: Reject Surveillance in Olympic Games Law - Algorithm-Driven System Would Violate Rights* (Mar. 7, 2023) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/03/07/france-reject-surveillance-olympic-games-law>

²³⁴² La Quadrature du Net, *France Becomes the First European Country to Legalise Biometric Surveillance* (Mar. 29, 2023), <https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/03/29/france-becomes-the-first-european-country-to-legalize-biometric-surveillance/>

²³⁴³ CNIL, *CNIL Investigations in 2024: Minors Data, Olympic Games, Right of Access and Digital Receipts* (Feb. 8, 2024), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/cnil-investigations-2024-minors-data-olympic-games-right-access-and-digital-receipts>

²³⁴⁴ Conseil Constitutionnel, *Law relating to the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2024 and Various Other Provisions - Decision No. 2023-850 DC* (May 7, 2023) <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2023/2023850DC.htm>

²³⁴⁵ Assemblée Nationale, *Written Parliamentary Question No. 6750: Security, Algorithmic Video Surveillance, and Facial Recognition Software [Question écrite n° 6750: Sécurités Vidéo-surveillance algorithmique et logiciels de reconnaissance faciale]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://questions.assemblee-nationale.fr/q17/17-6750QE.htm>

²³⁴⁶ La Quadrature du Net, *In France, the Eternal Return of Facial Recognition* (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2025/09/04/in-france-the-eternal-return-of-facial-recognition/>

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key objectives.²³⁴⁷ At the AI Action Summit in Paris, France spearheaded the launch of the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable AI, alongside the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) aimed at aligning AI development with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mitigating AI's environmental footprint.²³⁴⁸

The launch of the first global observatory dedicated to AI energy consumption and sustainability marks progress toward implementing France's goals. The observatory emerged from a partnership between International Energy Agency (IEA) and a coalition of 36 experts including scientists, companies, and institutions catalyzed by France's Ministry of Ecological Transition and the National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (INRIA).²³⁴⁹ The observatory aims to optimize data center energy use, better forecast energy needs, and promote innovations for carbon reduction.²³⁵⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

President Macron declared in an interview that he is “dead against” the deployment of lethal autonomous weapons: “You always need responsibility and assertion of responsibility.”²³⁵¹ In the submission to the UN Secretary General 2024 report on member States' views on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), France emphasized support for a two-tier approach to address the challenges of LAWS. France advocates for the prohibition of fully autonomous lethal systems that are inherently indiscriminate and supports regulation of partially autonomous systems to ensure compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) while maintaining human control and accountability.²³⁵² The Paris Declaration on

²³⁴⁷ Digital Trade & Data Governance Hub, *France AI Strategy, Overview of the Strategy* (2018), <https://datagovhub.elliott.gwu.edu/france-ai-strategy/>

²³⁴⁸ SDG Knowledge Hub, *Paris Summit Launches Coalition for Sustainable AI* (Feb. 26, 2025), <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/paris-summit-launches-coalition-for-sustainable-ai/>

²³⁴⁹ Ministère Transition écologique, Aménagement du territoire, Transports, Ville et Logement, *New Coalition Aims to Put Artificial Intelligence on a More Sustainable Path* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/en/press/new-coalition-aims-put-artificial-intelligence-more-sustainable-path>

²³⁵⁰ International Energy Agency (IEA), *Energy and AI Observatory* (Jun. 16, 2025), <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-tools/energy-and-ai-observatory?tab=Energy+for+AI>

²³⁵¹ Nicholas Thompson, *Emmanuel Macron Talks to Wired About France's AI Strategy*, *Wired* (Mar. 31, 2018), <https://www.wired.com/story/emmanuel-macron-talks-to-wired-about-frances-ai-strategy/>

²³⁵² France, *Submission to the United Nations Secretary-General on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Resolution 78/241* (May 2024), https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_%282024%29/78-241-France-EN.pdf

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Maintaining Human Control in AI-Enabled Weapon Systems released during the AI Action Summit in Paris reiterates this position, explicitly stating France’s commitment to retaining meaningful human involvement in decisions where lethal force may be used and calling for international norms upholding this principle.²³⁵³

France has continually advocated for human oversight and the need for an international framework to guide constraints on the use of LAWS in the UN and international summits such as REAIM. For example, France endorsed a joint statement to the UN General Assembly in 2022, committing to “upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”²³⁵⁴ France also voted in favor of resolution L.56²³⁵⁵ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states.

Following the international summit on the Responsible application of Artificial Intelligence in the Military domain hosted by the Netherlands (REAIM 2023), France agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.²³⁵⁶ France also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy.²³⁵⁷ France contributed to the 2024-2025 REAIM Summit outcomes, which reaffirm the imperative to keep humans “in the loop” and prevent proliferation of autonomous weapons contrary to international peace and security.”²³⁵⁸

²³⁵³ Présidence de la République, *Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-enabled Weapon Systems* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/paris-declaration-on-maintaining-human-control-in-ai-enabled-weapon-systems>

²³⁵⁴ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

²³⁵⁵ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²³⁵⁶ Responsible AI in the Military domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

²³⁵⁷ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Nov. 9, 2023), endorsing States as of Nov. 27, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

²³⁵⁸ Global Commission on Responsible AI in the Military Domain, *Responsible by Design Strategic Guidance Report on the Risks, Opportunities, and Governance of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain* (Sept. 2025), <https://hcss.nl/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/GC-REAIM-Strategic-Guidance-Report-Final-WEB.pdf>

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AI Literacy

France's national AI strategy emphasizes human development and digital skills key components across the three phases. However, the strategy emphasizes the development of AI experts and programs rather than inclusion and democratic participation. A report on National Strategy for Digital Inclusion notes plans for a Grand Beginners skills course with a certification platform,²³⁵⁹ aligned with the objectives to develop Digital Skills for Citizens and Digital Skills for the Labor Force.²³⁶⁰

Human Rights

In France, human rights are understood as the fundamental freedoms and protections guaranteed to all individuals based on the principles of "liberty, equality and fraternity" (liberté, égalité, fraternité). These rights are enshrined in key legal documents such as the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen²³⁶¹ and the French Constitution.²³⁶² France is also subject to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union²³⁶³ and the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights (1950).²³⁶⁴ As part of the EU, France upholds human rights standards related to dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, citizenship, and justice.

France is also a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions. France typically ranks among the top nations in the world for the protection of human rights and transparency. Freedom House ranked France "Free" in 2025 with a score of 89/100, given the country's democratic processes and generally strong protections for civil liberties and political rights.²³⁶⁵

²³⁵⁹ République Française, *National Strategy for Digital Inclusion: Key Recommendations* (Sept. 26, 2022), <https://labo.societenumerique.gouv.fr/en/articles/national-strategy-for-an-inclusive-digital-main-recommendations/>

²³⁶⁰ European Union Digital Skills & Jobs Platform, *France—National Plan for Digital Inclusion* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/france-national-plan-digital-inclusion>

²³⁶¹ Élysée, *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen 1789* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/french-presidency/the-declaration-of-the-rights-of-man-and-of-the-citizen>

²³⁶² Conseil Constitutionnel, *Constitution of 4 October 1958*, <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/en/constitution-of-4-october-1958>

²³⁶³ Official Journal of the European Union, *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (2012), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

²³⁶⁴ Council of Europe, *European Convention on Human Rights* (2021), https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_ENG

²³⁶⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: France* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/france/freedom-world/2025>

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The French Ombudsman and the CNIL have “both, in their own area of expertise, voiced their concerns regarding the impact of algorithmic systems on fundamental rights.”²³⁶⁶ Following a joint expert seminar in May 2020, they called for a collective mobilization to prevent and address discriminatory biases of algorithms.²³⁶⁷ The report called on the government and relevant actors to take appropriate measures to avoid algorithms that replicate and amplify discrimination.²³⁶⁸ In particular, the Ombudsman recommended to: i) support research to develop studies to measure, and methods to prevent bias; ii) reinforce information, transparency and explainability requirements with regard to algorithms; and iii) perform impact assessments to anticipate discriminatory effects of algorithms.²³⁶⁹

In April 2022, the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights also adopted an opinion on the impact of artificial intelligence on fundamental rights. The consultative Commission recommends prohibiting certain uses of AI that are considered too prejudicial to fundamental rights, such as social scoring or remote biometric identification of people in public spaces and places accessible to the public.²³⁷⁰

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, France participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.²³⁷¹ France thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth,

²³⁶⁶ Défenseur des droits and CNIL, *Algorithms: Preventing Automated Discrimination* (2020), https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/2023-07/ddd_rapport_algorithmes_2020_EN_20200531.pdf

²³⁶⁷ CNIL, *Algorithms and Discrimination: Defender of Rights, with the CNIL, Calls for Collective Mobilization* (Jun. 2, 2020), <https://www.cnil.fr/fr/algorithmes-et-discriminations-le-defenseur-des-droits-avec-la-cnil-appelle-une-mobilisation>

²³⁶⁸ Defender of Rights, *Algorithms: Preventing Automated Discrimination*, p. 19 (May 2020), https://www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/2023-07/ddd_rapport_algorithmes_2020_EN_20200531.pdf

²³⁶⁹ Inside Tech Media, *French CNIL Publishes Paper on Algorithmic Discrimination* (Jun. 9, 2020), <https://www.insideprivacy.com/artificial-intelligence/french-cnil-publishes-paper-on-algorithmic-discrimination/>

²³⁷⁰ CNCDH, *Avis relatif à l'impact de l'intelligence artificielle sur les droits fondamentaux (A-2022-6)* (May 20, 2022), <https://www.cncdh.fr/publications/avis-relatif-limpact-de-lintelligence-artificielle-sur-les-droits-fondamentaux-2022-6>

²³⁷¹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister's Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.

France hosted the third iteration of the AI Safety Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit.²³⁷² The AI Action Summit emphasized moving from principles to implementation, complementing the EU AI Act rollout with international coordination on AI safety and accountability and a Joint Statement on Data Governance for AI Systems by data protection authorities reaffirming human-rights-based data governance, transparency, and accountability commitments.²³⁷³ More than 60 nations endorsed the resulting Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.²³⁷⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

France endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles.²³⁷⁵

In 2020, France and Canada, and a dozen other countries announced the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) to “support the responsible and human-centric development and use of AI in a manner consistent with human rights, fundamental freedoms, and our shared democratic values.”²³⁷⁶

The OECD praised France for its commitment to following OECD recommendations on public administration by publishing a guide for public administrations on the responsible use of algorithms in the public sector.

During a 2023 interview, President Emmanuel Macron stated, “The G7 and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which

²³⁷² Élysée, *Artificial Intelligence Action Summit*, <https://www.elysee.fr/en/sommet-pour-l-action-sur-l-ia>

²³⁷³ CNIL, *Joint Statement on Building Trustworthy Data Governance Frameworks* (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://www.cnil.fr/en/joint-statement-on-trustworthy-governance-for-ai-signed-by-twenty-dpa>

²³⁷⁴ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

²³⁷⁵ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

²³⁷⁶ Government of Canada, *Joint Statement from Founding Members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/joint-statement-from-founding-members-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence.html>

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includes 38 countries, would be a ‘good platform’ to develop global regulation” on artificial intelligence and other technology.²³⁷⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

France contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.²³⁷⁸ The European Commission signed this first legally binding international AI treaty on behalf of EU Member States.²³⁷⁹ France has not acted independently to sign or ratify the treaty.²³⁸⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

France endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.²³⁸¹ France’s attention to the environmental impact of AI and the need for capacity building in digital and AI literacy for citizens and civil servants mark some progress toward implementing the recommendations, as does the proposed governance plan related to the EU AI Act and the founding of INESIA to monitor AI security. France is not implementing or preparing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to facilitate implementation of the AI ethics recommendations by helping countries identify gaps in their AI governance and infrastructure.²³⁸²

Evaluation

France continues as a leader in national AI policies. France has endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles and contributed to the creation of the Global Partnership on AI. French authorities in charge of human rights, data protection and ethics are

²³⁷⁷ French President Emmanuel Macron, *France Sees Global AI Regulation Ideas by the End of This Year, Wants to Work with US on Tech Laws* - CNBC interview (Jun 15, 2023), <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/15/ai-regulation-france-sees-ideas-on-global-laws-by-end-of-year.html>

²³⁷⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²³⁷⁹ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://rm.coe.int/1680afae3c>

²³⁸⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²³⁸¹ UNESCO, *Member States*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

²³⁸² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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actively involved in AI policy and have published practical guidance regarding facial recognition and algorithmic transparency. France anticipated the entry into force of the EU AI Act by creating a dedicated AI unit with its data protection authority and has since taken steps to clarify reporting and enforcement of the EU AI Act.

However, citizens, civil society, and authorities continue to debate France's approach to the use of AI by law enforcement authorities and for security purposes and the potential negative impact on fundamental rights. France successfully advocated for a national security exemption in both the EU AI Act and the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. France also played a key role in imposing a separate and lighter regime for GPAI models under the EU AI Act.

Germany

In 2025, Germany centralized AI policy under the new Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation. The first Digital Minister framed the Ministry's mission around digital sovereignty, regulatory simplification, and local business competitiveness.

National AI Strategy

The German government published an initial national AI strategy in November 2018.²³⁸³ The three main goals are 1) “to make Germany and Europe a leading centre for AI and thus help safeguard Germany's competitiveness in the future,” 2) to ensure “a responsible development and use of AI which serves the good of society,” and 3) to “integrate AI in society in ethical, legal, cultural and institutional terms in the context of a broad societal dialogue and active political measures.” Germany updated the AI Strategy²³⁸⁴ to respond to a new AI principles and frameworks developed between 2018 and 2020. The updated Strategy also included a discussion on how AI can help with “pandemic control” or environmental and climate protection.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (*Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung*) launched an Action Plan²³⁸⁵ to implement the AI Strategy in 2023. The Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (*Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt*) now oversees the AI Action Plan. The AI Action Plan outlines targeted initiatives to “ensure that Germany remains a leading AI nation” through the Made in Germany motto.²³⁸⁶ The

²³⁸³ Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, *Artificial Intelligence*, https://www.bmfr.bund.de/EN/Research/EmergingTechnologies/ArtificialIntelligence/artificialintelligence_node.html

²³⁸⁴ German Federal Government, *Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Dec. 2020), https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/files/downloads/Fortschreibung_KI-Strategie_engl.pdf

²³⁸⁵ Federal Ministry of Education and Research, *BMBF—Aktionsplan “Künstliche Intelligenz”* (Nov. 2023), https://www.bmfr.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/2023/230823-executive-summary-ki-aktionsplan.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1; to download in English, Federal Government, *Action Plan Artificial Intelligence 2023 (BMBF)(English)*, Downloads (Nov. 2023), <https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/>

²³⁸⁶ Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, *BMFTR—“Artificial Intelligence” Action Plan [BMFTR—Aktionsplan “Künstliche Intelligenz”]*, https://www.bmfr.bund.de/DE/Forschung/Schlueseltechnologien/KuenstlicheIntelligenz/KiAktionplan/kiaktionsplan_node.html

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High-Tech Agenda Germany²³⁸⁷ furthers the Made in Germany motto through the AI initiative, which centers emphasizes AI as one of 5 key technologies that will help Germany “become a leading technology nation again.”²³⁸⁸ The new Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation established in 2025 has extensive power and consolidates responsibilities, including over artificial intelligence, that were formerly divided among six departments.²³⁸⁹ The new Ministry is charged with implementing the binding political agenda of the coalition government agreement, which emphasizes digital sovereignty, GPU infrastructure, and innovation-friendly EU AI Act implementation.²³⁹⁰

Still, AI ethics is a core component of the ongoing AI Strategy.²³⁹¹ The German government further emphasizes transparency for the development of AI to ensure the protection of civil rights and maintain trust in businesses and institutions. The AI Strategy suggests that “government agencies or private-sector auditing institutions” should “verify algorithmic decision-making in order to prevent improper use, discrimination and negative impacts on society.”

Germany launched several projects to implement its National AI Strategy. According to the OECD, there are approximately 29 initiatives on AI across several topics and institutions²³⁹² ranging from the ethical guidelines to initiatives that foster fruitful business environments. Three specifically focus on ethical questions related to AI. First, the Ethical Guidelines for Automated and Connected Driving set out 20 ethical principles for autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles.²³⁹³ This was among the first guidelines worldwide to establish ethical principles for connected vehicular traffic. The Ethical Guidelines led to an action plan and the “creation of

²³⁸⁷ Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, *High-Tech Agenda Germany* (Jul. 2025), https://www.bmfr.bund.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/DE/FS/1118830_Hightech_Agenda_Germany.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5

²³⁸⁸ Ibid, p. 2

²³⁸⁹ EuroNews, *Merz’s Government Decree Gives German Digital Ministry Extensive Powers* (May 7, 2025), <https://www.euronews.com/next/2025/05/07/merz-s-government-decree-gives-german-digital-ministry-extensive-powers>

²³⁹⁰ Christian Democratic Union, Christian Social Union of Bavaria, and Social Democratic Party, *Responsibility for Germany: Coalition Agreement between CDU, CSU, and SPD, 21st Legislative Period of the German Bundestag* (May 5, 2025), https://www.spd.de/fileadmin/Dokumente/Koalitionsvertrag2025_bf.pdf

²³⁹¹ The Federal Government of Germany, *Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Nov. 2018), https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/home.html?file=files/downloads/Nationale_KI-Strategie_engl.pdf

²³⁹² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Germany* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/germany>

²³⁹³ Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, *Ethics Commission: Automated and Connected Driving* (Jun. 2017), https://www.bmv.de/SharedDocs/EN/publications/report-ethics-commission.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

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ethical rules for self-driving cars” that was adopted by the Federal Government.²³⁹⁴ Second, the German AI Observatory forecasts and assesses AI technologies’ impact on society. The AI Observatory also develops regulatory frameworks that help deal with the rapidly changing labor market to ensure that social aspects of these changes are not neglected.²³⁹⁵ Finally, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development’s Development Cooperation initiative FAIR Forward²³⁹⁶ aims to promote a more “open, inclusive and sustainable approach to AI on an international level” by “working together with five partner countries: Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and India.” Several projects underway in partner countries work to Strengthen Technical Know-How on AI, Remove Entry Barriers to AI, and Develop Policy Frameworks ready for AI.

Further, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy launched a Regulatory Sandbox initiative in 2018. This initiative, although not specifically dedicated to AI, focuses on “testing innovation and regulation which enable digital innovations to be tested under real-life conditions and experience to be gathered.”²³⁹⁷

In response to the European Commission’s White Paper on AI,²³⁹⁸ Germany called for tighter regulation of AI on the EU level in 2020. The German government stated it welcomes new regulations but wants more specific definitions and stricter requirements for data storage, more focus on information security and more elaborate definitions of when human supervision is needed.²³⁹⁹

²³⁹⁴ Federal Ministry of Transport, *Automated and Connected Driving* (Jul. 30, 2020), <https://www.bmv.de/SharedDocs/EN/Articles/StV/automated-and-connected-driving.html>

²³⁹⁵ Denkfabrik: Digitale Arbeitsgesellschaft, *About the AI Observatory [Über das KI-Observatorium]* (Accessed Mar. 16, 2025), <https://www.ki-observatorium.de/das-ki-observatorium/ueber-das-ki-observatorium>

²³⁹⁶ Toolkit Digitalisierung, *FAIR Forward – Artificial Intelligence for All*, <https://www.giz.de/expertise/html/61982.html>

²³⁹⁷ Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, *Regulatory Sandboxes—Testing Environments for Innovation and Regulation* (2025), <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Dossier/regulatory-sandboxes.html>

²³⁹⁸ European Commission, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence: a European Approach to Excellence and Trust* (Feb. 19, 2020), https://commission.europa.eu/publications/white-paper-artificial-intelligence-european-approach-excellence-and-trust_en

²³⁹⁹ Federal Government, Statement by the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence – A European Approach to Excellence and Trust [Stellungnahme der Bundesregierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland zum Weißbuch zur Künstlichen Intelligenz—ein europäisches Konzept für Exzellenz und Vertrauen (Jun. 30, 2020), <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/2020/stellungnahme-breg-weissbuch-ki.html>

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Data Ethics Commission

In 2018, the German federal government established a Data Ethics Commission to “build on scientific and technical expertise in developing ethical guidelines for the protection of the individual, the preservation of social cohesion, and the safeguarding and promotion of prosperity in the information age.”²⁴⁰⁰ In 2020, the Commission recommended to the German parliament that sustainability, justice and solidarity, democracy, security, privacy, self-determination and human dignity should be the ethical and legal principles that guide the regulation of AI.²⁴⁰¹ The Data Ethics Commission suggested a risk-based approach to the regulation of AI, which distinguishes five levels of criticality in a “criticality pyramid” and respective measures in its risk-adapted regulatory system for the use of algorithmic systems. The Commission also recommended the establishment of “*ex ante* approval mechanisms and continuous supervision by oversight bodies.”²⁴⁰²

The German consumer organization federation *Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband* (vzbv) favored the creation of the Commission and strongly supported the recommendations, as did the main German industry body *Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie* (BDI).²⁴⁰³ The vzbv further emphasized that the aim of Automated Decision Making (ADM) regulation must be to ensure compliance with existing laws. Toward that goal, “it must be possible for supervisory authorities to scrutinise and verify the legality of ADM systems and their compliance with existing laws so that they can impose penalties if the law is infringed.”²⁴⁰⁴ Vzbv also noted it is “important to ensure consumers’ self-determination when making decisions, to strengthen consumers’ confidence in ADM systems by creating transparency and to foster competition and innovation.”

²⁴⁰⁰ Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz, *Report of the Data Ethics Commission Strengthens Data Protection* (Oct. 23, 2019),

https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2019/24_Datenethikkommission.html

²⁴⁰¹ Datenethikkommission, *Opinion of the Data Ethics Commission—Executive Summary* (Oct. 23, 2019), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Datenschutz/Data-Ethics-Commission_Opinion.pdf

²⁴⁰² Louisa Well, *Algorithmwatch Automating Society Report - Germany* (2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/germany/>

²⁴⁰³ Vzbv, Communication between the Editor and Isabelle Buscke (Nov. 27, 2020)

²⁴⁰⁴ Vzbv, *Artificial Intelligence: Trust is Good, Control is Better* (2019), https://www.vzbv.de/sites/default/files/2019_vzbv_factsheet_artificial_intelligence.pdf

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Germany shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).²⁴⁰⁵ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The DSA also bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs. The DSA also bans targeted advertising to minors based on profiling.

Through the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation,²⁴⁰⁶ which counts as a mitigation measure under the DSA, signatories commit to take action in several domains, such as demonetizing the dissemination of disinformation; ensuring the transparency of political advertising; empowering users; enhancing the cooperation with fact-checkers; and providing researchers with better access to data.

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Germany is bound by the EU AI Act.²⁴⁰⁷ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI. The first provisions of the AI Act entered into force on August 1, 2024.²⁴⁰⁸ Germany missed the August 2025 deadline to designate competent authorities but released a draft bill to designate authorities in late 2025. The draft AI Market Surveillance and Innovation Promotion Act²⁴⁰⁹ would designate the Federal Network Agency (*Bundesnetzagentur*) as the central market surveillance and

²⁴⁰⁵ EUR-Lex, Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

²⁴⁰⁶ European Commission, *The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation*, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

²⁴⁰⁷ European Parliament, Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1689>

²⁴⁰⁸ European Commission, *Artificial Intelligence - Questions and Answers*, Press Corner (Aug. 1, 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1683

²⁴⁰⁹ Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation, *Draft Law for Implementation of EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence [Gesetz zur Durchführung der KI-Verordnung]* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://bmds.bund.de/service/gesetzgebungsverfahren/gesetz-zur-durchfuehrung-der-ki-verordnung>

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notifying authority, providing a one-stop shop for businesses. The Agency launched an AI Service Desk to guide businesses through compliance requirements.²⁴¹⁰

The Digital Minister established in 2025 expressed disagreements with the EU AI Act in its current form, seeing it as “overloaded and too complex,” and wanting to make it more “innovation-friendly”²⁴¹¹ by loosening the rules. He noted, “You should regulate when you have a market, when you have products,” otherwise “companies develop elsewhere.”²⁴¹²

Public Participation

Germany’s national AI strategy points out that the 2019 data strategy is based on “broad public consultation and a host of expert discussions,” though participation in developing and updating its AI strategy was primarily limited to “experts in expert forums.”²⁴¹³

One initiative, Platform for Self-Learning Systems (*Plattform Lernende Systeme*),²⁴¹⁴ sometimes known as Platform for AI, focuses on fostering dialogue between stakeholders including civil society, government, and business on the topic of self-learning systems. The Platform also aims to “shape self-learning systems to ensure positive, fair and responsible social coexistence” as well as strengthen skills for developing and using self-learning systems. The IT Security, Privacy, Legal and Ethical Framework working group has published several papers on AI security and ethical issues.²⁴¹⁵

To inform the public about AI policy, the German government created a website ([KI-Strategie-Deutschland.de](https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de)) to provide information on AI strategy

²⁴¹⁰ Federal Network Agency, *Bundesnetzagentur’s AI Service Desk Launched* (Aug. 3, 2025), https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2025/20250703_KI_Service_Desk.html?nn=691794

²⁴¹¹ Euroactiv, *German Digital Minister Attacks AI Act, Defends Gigafactories* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://www.euractiv.com/news/german-digital-minister-attacks-ai-act-defends-gigafactories/>

²⁴¹² Business Insider, *The Head of Germany’s Answer to DOGE Wants to Scale Back Regulation and “Open up the Gates”* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.businessinsider.com/germany-karsten-wildberger-ai-regulation-doge-2025-9>

²⁴¹³ German Federal Government, *Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the German Federal Government* (Dec. 2020), https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/files/downloads/Fortschreibung_KI-Strategie_engl.pdf

²⁴¹⁴ Lernende Systeme, *Mission Statement*, <https://www.plattform-lernende-systeme.de/mission-statement.html>

²⁴¹⁵ Lernende Systeme, *WG 3: IT Security, Privacy, Legal and Ethical Framework*, <https://www.plattform-lernende-systeme.de/wg-3.html>

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implementation and new policy developments.²⁴¹⁶ *Plattform Lernende Systeme* also offers a map that shows AI developments across Germany by region.²⁴¹⁷

Germany's federal parliament also set up the Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence, Social Responsibility, and Economic, Social, and Ecological Potential, which comprised equal numbers of parliamentary representatives and experts.²⁴¹⁸ The Commission's aim was to develop recommendations on AI and examine its impact on "our value systems, fundamental and human rights, and [its] benefits for society and the economy." Some of their meetings were broadcast on parliamentary television or could be attended in person. After two years of work, the Study Commission presented its final report to the federal parliament (*Bundestag*) on October 28, 2020. The Commission's findings were then debated in the *Bundestag*.²⁴¹⁹

Germany's Federal Ministry for Digital and State Modernization opened consultation on a draft federal law implementing the EU AI Act, the AI Market Surveillance and Innovation Promotion Act,²⁴²⁰ in 2025. The Ministry published a spreadsheet with more than 50 responses to the call for comments, along with individual files for additional comments received outside the consultation period. The Cabinet approved the government draft in February 2026.

Data Protection

Since Germany is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)²⁴²¹ is directly applicable in Germany and to Germans. The aim of the GDPR is to "strengthen individuals' fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in

²⁴¹⁶ German Federal Government, *KI-Strategie*, <https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/home.html>

²⁴¹⁷ *Lernende Systeme, Artificial Intelligence in Germany*, <https://www.plattform-lernende-systeme.de/map-on-ai.html>

²⁴¹⁸ German Parliament, Enquete-Kommission, *Künstliche Intelligenz – Gesellschaftliche Verantwortung und wirtschaftliche, soziale und ökologische Potenziale*, https://www.bundestag.de/webarchiv/Ausschuesse/ausschuesse19/weitere_gremien/enquete_ki

²⁴¹⁹ German Parliament, *Executive Summary of the Final Report of the Study Commission on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 27, 2020), <https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/804184/f31eb697deef36fc271c0587e85e5b19/Kurzfassung-des-Gesamtberichts-englische-Uebersetzung-data.pdf>

²⁴²⁰ Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation, *Draft Law for Implementation of EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence [Gesetz zur Durchführung der KI-Verordnung]* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://bmds.bund.de/service/gesetzgebungsverfahren/gesetz-zur-durchfuehrung-der-ki-verordnung>

²⁴²¹ EUR-Lex, *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Summary* (Jan. 7, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”²⁴²² The GDPR entered into force in May 2016 and has applied since May 2018.

The activities of law enforcement authorities have been addressed at the EU level by the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED).²⁴²³ The directive ensures that the “personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”²⁴²⁴ The LED prohibits any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.²⁴²⁵

Germany’s Federal Data Protection Act (*Bundesdatenschutzgesetz*, BDSG) was designed to bring the German privacy law on par with the GDPR and the LED. It is usually referred to as the “BDSG-new” since it replaced the former BDSG.²⁴²⁶ The German Federal Cabinet approved the Draft Law²⁴²⁷ to amend the BDSG in February 2024. After the legislative body’s (*Bundesrat*) opinion, the Draft Law was discussed by the Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*).²⁴²⁸ The Draft Law would institutionalize a committee of Independent German Federal and State Data Protection Supervisory Authorities (Data Protection Conference—DSK), whose decisions would be legally non-binding. No updates on further action on the BDSG-new are available.

The German Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (*Der Bundesbeauftragte für den Datenschutz und die*

²⁴²² European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²⁴²³ Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²⁴²⁴ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

²⁴²⁵ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²⁴²⁶ *Federal Data Protection Act* (Bundesdatenschutzgesetz, BDSG), https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bdsg_2018/

²⁴²⁷ *Bundesregierung*, Draft of a First Act to Amend the Federal Data Protection Act [Entwurf eines Ersten Gesetzes zur Änderung des Bundesdatenschutz- gesetzes] (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/gesetzgebungsverfahren/DE/Downloads/kabinettsfassung/VII4/aendg-bdsg.pdf>

²⁴²⁸ Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat, *Erstes Gesetz zur Änderung des Bundesdatenschutzgesetzes*, Gesetzgebungsverfahren (Aug. 9, 2023), https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/gesetzgebungsverfahren/DE/aendg_bdsg.html

Informationsfreiheit) is the national data protection authority for Germany. The Federal Commissioner is, however, in charge of only federal government authorities and private telecoms and postal services.²⁴²⁹ Any other private entity and all other authorities in Germany are regulated by the relevant state DPA. Bavaria has two DPAs, one responsible for the private sector and one for the public sector.²⁴³⁰ In other states, such as Hessian,²⁴³¹ one authority is responsible for all data protection supervision and enforcement in the state. The Federal Data Protection Commissioner serves as the joint representative of the German data protection authorities within the European Data Protection Board.²⁴³²

The Digital Minister established in 2025 championed simplification and centralization of the data protection supervisory authority over the various data protection commissioners at the federal and state levels.²⁴³³ The Minister explained that making Germany attractive to businesses “requires consistent data protection and data security. [...] however, data protection must not become an innovation brake, because we also have to be able to try digital business models.”²⁴³⁴

In addition to the BDSG-new, there are various sector-specific data protection regulations, such as those governing financial and energy industries. For example, the Telecommunications Telemedia Data Protection Act (TTDSG) set to be enforced in 2023, contains regulations about cookie management and Personal Information Management Systems.²⁴³⁵ The name of the regulation was changed to Telecommunications Digital Services Data Protection Act (TDDDG) in 2024 as a part of the introduction of the Digital Services Act. The contents are essentially

²⁴²⁹ Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, *Tasks and Powers*, BfDI, https://www.bfdi.bund.de/EN/BfDI/UeberUns/DieBehoerde/diebehoerde_node.html

²⁴³⁰ Bayerisches Landesamt für Datenschutzaufsicht, *Zuständigkeit des BayLDA, Aufgaben*, <https://www.la.da.bayern.de/de/aufgaben.html>

²⁴³¹ Hessische Beauftragte für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit, *Zuständigkeit: Aufgaben und Organisation*, Über Uns, <https://datenschutz.hessen.de/ueber-uns/aufgaben-und-organisation>

²⁴³² Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, *The European Data Protection Board (EDPB)*, BfDI, https://www.bfdi.bund.de/EN/Fachthemen/Gremienarbeit/EuropaeischerDatenschutzausschuss/europaeischerdatenschutzausschuss_node.html

²⁴³³ IT-Journal, *Digital Minister Criticizes “Patchwork” on Data Protection* (Aug. 2, 2025), <https://www.it-journal.de/220186-digitalminister-kritisiert-flickenteppich-beim-datenschutz.html>

²⁴³⁴ Federal Government, *Speech by the Federal Minister for Digital and State Modernisation, Dr. Karsten Wildberger, at the German Savings Bank Day 2025 on the 21st May 2025 in Nuremberg* (May 24, 2025), <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/newsletter-und-abos/bulletin/rede-des-bundesministers-fuer-digitales-und-staatsmodernisierung-dr-karsten-wildberger--2350424>

²⁴³⁵ TDDDG, *Telekommunikation-Digitale-Dienste-Datenschutz-Gesetz*, <https://gesetz-ttdsg.de>

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identical.²⁴³⁶ Further, the German Civil Code Article 327q is intended to protect user privacy in cases where a consumer gives their personal data to access a service.²⁴³⁷

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Germany is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.²⁴³⁸ The German Federal Council introduced a draft law in July 2024 to protect personal rights from deepfakes under criminal law. The draft law addresses privacy concerns related to deepfake technologies and provides coverage for individuals whose rights to privacy are violated.²⁴³⁹

The Federal Data Protection Commissioner is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2002. It co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI²⁴⁴⁰ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²⁴⁴¹ The Federal Data Protection Commissioner also sponsored the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability.²⁴⁴² However, the Federal Data Protection Commissioner did not endorse the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology.²⁴⁴³ Several State

²⁴³⁶ Ibid

²⁴³⁷ Federal Ministry of Justice, *German Civil Code*, https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_bgb/

²⁴³⁸ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

²⁴³⁹ Bundesrat, *Entwurf eines Gesetzes zum strafrechtlichen Schutz von Persönlichkeitsrechten vor Deepfakes* (Mar. 13, 2025), [https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2024/0201-0300/222-24\(B\).pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1](https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2024/0201-0300/222-24(B).pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1)

²⁴⁴⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁴⁴¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

²⁴⁴² Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

²⁴⁴³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and->

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DPA are members of the Global Privacy Assembly but none of them has endorsed GPA's AI-related resolutions.²⁴⁴⁴

AI Oversight

The Federal Data Protection Commissioner is also one of the members of the committee of Independent German Federal and State Data Protection Supervisory Authorities (Data Protection Conference—DSK). The DSK published a position paper in May 2024, ensuring that the member data protection authorities are prepared to be the designated national supervisory authority under the EU AI Act.²⁴⁴⁵ In the following days, the DSK published guidelines for implementing and using AI systems in compliance with the EU's data protection regulations.²⁴⁴⁶ The guidelines aim to clarify uncertainties in the use of AI systems and provide pre-implementation and implementation guidance with compliance requirements. However, the proposed AI Market Surveillance and Innovation Promotion Act, which would designate the Federal Network Agency as lead AI oversight authority under the EU AI Act,²⁴⁴⁷ reflects the new Digital Minister's stance against distributed authority. All 17 data protection authorities from every state (two from Bayern) immediately opposed the proposal, citing concerns over fundamental rights and the possible unconstitutionality of supervisory power from the federal agency on the uses of AI by state authorities.²⁴⁴⁸

The Federal Data Protection Commissioner is a member of the G7-Roundtable of the data protection and privacy authorities. The Roundtable issued the

Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf

²⁴⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members*, <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁴⁴⁵ Datenschutzkonferenz, *Nationale Zuständigkeiten für die Verordnung zur Künstlichen Intelligenz (KI-VO)*, (May. 3, 2024), https://www.datenschutzkonferenz-online.de/media/dskb/20240503_DSK_Positionspapier_Zustaendigkeiten_KI_VO.pdf

²⁴⁴⁶ Datenschutzkonferenz, *Künstliche Intelligenz und Datenschutz* (May 3, 2024), https://www.datenschutzkonferenz-online.de/media/oh/20240506_DSK_Orientierungshilfe_KI_und_Datenschutz.pdf

²⁴⁴⁷ Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation, *Draft Law for Implementation of EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence (Gesetz zur Durchführung der KI-Verordnung)* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://bmfs.bund.de/service/gesetzgebungsverfahren/gesetz-zur-durchfuehrung-der-ki-verordnung>

²⁴⁴⁸ Independent Data Protection Supervisory Authorities of the Federal States, State data protection authorities sharply criticize: The Ministry of Digital Affairs wants to weaken fundamental rights protection in AI oversight (Sept. 4, 2025), https://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/pressemitteilungen/2025/20250904-Landesdatenschutzbehoerden-PM_KI-VO.pdf

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Statement on Generative AI²⁴⁴⁹ in 2023, the Statement on the Role of Data Protection Authorities in Fostering Trustworthy AI,²⁴⁵⁰ and the Statement on AI and Children²⁴⁵¹ in 2024. The Federal Data Protection Commissioner played a significant role in the statements.²⁴⁵²

The G7 Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) adopted a statement on AI governance in October 2024. They pointed out the critical role of DPAs in the realm of AI, emphasizing the need for protecting the right to privacy and data protection more than ever. The adopted statement “calls on policymakers and regulators for approaches that recognise the critical role of the DPAs in ensuring that AI technologies are developed and deployed responsibly and in identifying and addressing AI issues at their source.” The statement emphasized that “DPAs apply a human-centred lens to their mandate and have vast experience with data-driven processing and in operationalising many data protection overarching principles that can be transposed into broader AI governance frameworks, in particular fairness, accountability, transparency, and security.”²⁴⁵³

In 2021, numerous German DPAs launched a collective investigation on the use by German companies of third-party providers outside the EU and their compliance with the 2020 European Court of Justice’s *Schrems II* decision regarding international data transfers. The Court has made clear that DPAs shall intervene to suspend or prohibit transfers which do not match the *Schrems II* criteria.²⁴⁵⁴

The Hamburg Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information published an advisory in June 2024 on Meta’s new privacy policy,

²⁴⁴⁹ Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *Statement on Generative AI* (Jun. 21, 2023), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G7/2023_Statement-AI.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1

²⁴⁵⁰ Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *Statement on the Role of Data Protection Authorities in Fostering Trustworthy AI* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G7/2024_Statement-Trustworthy-AI.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

²⁴⁵¹ Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *Statement on AI and Children* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G7/2024_Statement-AI-Children.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

²⁴⁵² Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, *BfDI at G7 Roundtable in Rome*, BfDI, (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/13_G7-Roundtable-Rom.html

²⁴⁵³ Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, *G7 DPAs’ Communiqué: Privacy in the Age of Data* (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G7/2024_Communique.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

²⁴⁵⁴ European Data Protection Board, *Coordinated German Investigation of International Data Transfers* (Jul. 2021), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2021/coordinated-german-investigation-international-data-transfers_en

planned AI model training protocol, and the utilization conditions of users' personal data from social media applications. The Hamburg Commissioner provided helpful information on users' options and what they can do, Meta's new privacy policy's aims and goals, and what happens next.²⁴⁵⁵ Furthermore, the BayLDA published guidelines regarding the application of the GDPR and other legal requirements to the processing of personal data by AI systems. The BayLDA also expressed its opinion on the significant role and responsibility of data protection supervisory authorities in the field of AI supervision.²⁴⁵⁶

The German Institute for Human Rights, founded in 2001 by the German Bundestag (Parliament) as an independent national institution, works to ensure the observation and promotion of human rights by the German government in Germany and abroad.²⁴⁵⁷ The Institute published an interview on protecting human rights when applying AI in the context of elderly care in 2019²⁴⁵⁸ and has emphasized the importance of assessing and preventing the human rights risks of Artificial Intelligence in 2021,²⁴⁵⁹ though the Institute has not indicated that it sees a sustained oversight of AI-related human rights infringements as a priority.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community is creating the Advisory Center for AI (BeKI) as a central point for contacting and coordinating for AI projects at the federal level. BeKI is still under development²⁴⁶⁰ and aims to ensure a coordinated approach, advise on the legal, ethical, and technical topics for responsible and transparent use of AI, and transform administrative processes sustainably.²⁴⁶¹

²⁴⁵⁵ Hamburg Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, *AI Training with Personal Data on Instagram and Facebook*, Press Release (Jun. 27, 2024), https://datenschutz-hamburg.de/fileadmin/user_upload/HmbBfDI/Datenschutz/Informationen/240627_PM_AI_Training_with_personal_data_Insta_Facebook_EN.pdf

²⁴⁵⁶ BayLDA, *KI & Datenschutz*, Künstliche Intelligenz (Jun. 2024), https://www.lda.bayern.de/de/ki.html?mkt_tok=MTM4LUVaTS0wNDIAAAGVQHh4nfvGN0UqzOzd9guQEZYr0BeSK-YiffEsdz8i0DT-iweuplRCfhQNvco0i4ynZFqggLzoW0oAQM0DXYnSV_02iMc1DxKxuVAD-pGoad

²⁴⁵⁷ German Institute for Human Rights, *Das Institut*, <https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/das-institut>

²⁴⁵⁸ German Institute for Human Rights, *Miteinander von Mensch und Maschine* (Nov. 19, 2019), <https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuelles/detail/miteinander-von-mensch-und-maschine>

²⁴⁵⁹ German Institute for Human Rights, *Algorithmische Entscheidungssysteme* (Jul. 2021), https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Publikationen/Information/Information_Algorithmische_Entscheidungssysteme.pdf

²⁴⁶⁰ Deutscher Bundestag, *Beratungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz*, Presse (Jul. 19, 2024), <https://www.bundestag.de/presse/hib/kurzmeldungen-1013594>

²⁴⁶¹ Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, *Beratungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz (BeKI)*, <https://www.digitale->

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The State Commissioner for Data Protection in Lower Saxony announced the establishment of the Office for AI under his authority in 2024. The new unit will support the use of AI technologies in relation to data protection laws, serve as a competence center for AI-related questions, and collaborate with other relevant authorities. The Commissioner Lehmke pointed out: “The establishment of the staff unit is an important step to proactively meet the challenges that AI brings with it, to ensure the protection of personal data in an increasingly digitalized world, and at the same time to accompany the opportunities of technical development.” The unit also aims to devise safeguards for the implementation and evaluation of AI, evaluate the potential hazards of AI-based systems, provide assistance for research, promote awareness among various stakeholders, and conclusively ensure the implementation of AI in accordance with data protection regulations.²⁴⁶²

Algorithmic Transparency

Germany is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Germans have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.²⁴⁶³ In line with a 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems,²⁴⁶⁴ these rights include requirements on transparency, accountability, and effective remedies.

The Ministry of Education and Research started a funding priority for AI R&D projects on explainability and transparency in 2019. The Ministry stated that improving explainability and transparency are two of the Federal government’s central research goals.²⁴⁶⁵ Funding is “aimed at collaborative projects between science and industry in an interdisciplinary composition.”²⁴⁶⁶ The German consumer

[verwaltung.de/SharedDocs/downloads/Webs/DV/DE/Transformation/akteurssteckbrief-beki.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5](https://www.verwaltung.de/SharedDocs/downloads/Webs/DV/DE/Transformation/akteurssteckbrief-beki.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5)

²⁴⁶² Der Landesbeauftragte für den Datenschutz Niedersachsen, *Landesbeauftragter für den Datenschutz richtet Stabsstelle für Künstliche Intelligenz ein*, Pressemitteilung Nr. 16/2024 (Sept. 30, 2024),

<https://www.lfd.niedersachsen.de/startseite/infothek/presseinformationen/landesbeauftragter-fur-den-datenschutz-richtet-stabsstelle-fur-kunstliche-intelligenz-ein-236012.html>

²⁴⁶³ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

²⁴⁶⁴ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²⁴⁶⁵ Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, *KI-Erklärbarkeit und Transparenz*, <https://www.softwaresysteme.pt-dlr.de/de/ki-erkl-rbarkeit-und-transparenz.php>

²⁴⁶⁶ OECD G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Examples of AI National Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

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organization vzbv emphasized in 2019 that the aim of automated decision-making regulation must be to ensure compliance with existing laws.²⁴⁶⁷

The German Data Ethics Commission sees auditability, explainability, and redress possibilities as crucial for algorithm safety.²⁴⁶⁸ However, even though Germany has had a significant impact on the drafting of the EU AI Act and its transparency regulations, AlgorithmWatch has noted that Germany (and specifically its Ministry of the Interior) has in recent years tried to water down transparency obligations for AI systems in the AI Act, most notably with regard to exemptions for AI use in “law enforcement, migration, asylum and border control,” including remote biometric identification systems.²⁴⁶⁹

According to AlgorithmWatch,²⁴⁷⁰ the data protection agencies of the federal government and eight German federal states stated that greater transparency in the implementation of algorithms in the administration was indispensable for the protection of fundamental rights.²⁴⁷¹ The agencies demanded that if automated systems are used in the public sector, it is crucial that processes are intelligible and can be audited and controlled. In addition, public administration officials must be able to provide an explanation of the logic of the systems used and the consequences of their use. Self-learning systems must also be accompanied by technical tools to analyze and explain their methods. An audit trail should be created, and the software code should be made available to the administration and, if possible, to the public. According to the position paper, there need to be mechanisms for citizens to demand redress or reversal of decisions, and the processes must not be discriminating. In cases where there is a high risk for citizens, there needs to be a risk assessment done before deployment. Very sensitive systems should require authorization by a public agency that has yet to be created.

One of the State DPAs, the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (BlnBDI), rendered a decision reasserting the importance of algorithmic transparency. In May 2023, the Berlin Data Protection Authority fined a

²⁴⁶⁷ Vzbv, *Artificial Intelligence: Trust is Good, Control is Better* (2019), https://www.vzbv.de/sites/default/files/2019_vzbv_factsheet_artificial_intelligence.pdf

²⁴⁶⁸ Datenethikkommission, *Opinion of the Data Ethics Commission* (Oct. 2019), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Datenschutz/Data-Ethics-Commission_Opinion.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

²⁴⁶⁹ Nikolett Aszódi and Matthias Spielkamp, *How the German Government Decided Not to Protect People against the Risks of AI* (Dec. 6, 2022), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/german-government-risks-of-ai/>

²⁴⁷⁰ Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society: Germany* (Jan. 29, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/automating-society-2019/germany>

²⁴⁷¹ Freedom of Information Commissioners in Germany, *Transparenz der Verwaltung beim Einsatz von Algorithmen für gelebten Grundrechtsschutz unabdingbar* (Oct. 16, 2018), https://www.datenschutzzentrum.de/uploads/informationsfreiheit/2018_Positionspapier-Transparenz-von-Algorithmen.pdf

Berlin-based bank € 300,000. The Bank used an online form to request various data about the applicant's income, occupation and personal details for a credit card application. Based on the information requested and additional data from external sources, the bank's algorithm rejected the customer's application without any justification. The algorithm is based on criteria and rules previously defined by the bank. Since the client had a good credit rating and a regular high income, he doubted the automated rejection and complained to the Berlin data protection commissioner. The lack of transparency regarding the automated decision led to the imposition of a fine by the State DPA.²⁴⁷²

Mannheim, in collaboration with eight other cities across Europe and with the help of Eurocities' Digital Forum, adopted an algorithm register, the Algorithmic Transparency Standard in January 2023.²⁴⁷³ The aim is to provide more information for residents about the use of algorithm by municipalities and their impact. The register includes a range of information such as the type and purpose of an algorithm, the department using the algorithm, the geographical area and domain it relates to and a risk category. It also includes details on the data source and training data, any bias and mitigation, and human oversight. This initiative builds on similar algorithm registers launched in Amsterdam and Helsinki.²⁴⁷⁴ The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community opened the AI Opportunity Market²⁴⁷⁵ in 2025. The AI Opportunity Market offers an overview of existing and planned AI systems in the German federal, state, and local governments. According to the Ministry website, the AI Opportunity Market "already meets many of the transparency requirements' set out in the EU AI Act."²⁴⁷⁶

The German Institution for Standardization (DIN) issued the DIN SPEC 92001-3 in 2023 as a guide for appropriate approaches and methods to enhance explainability throughout the life cycle of AI systems. The guide describes quality criteria, which promote explainable AI, for all types of AI systems and for all sectors. These criteria form the specific requirements for explainability and provide proof of technical operation correctness, allowing organizations to embed transparency

²⁴⁷² Berliner Beauftragte für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit (BlnBDI), *Computer Sagt Nein, Pressemitteilung* (May 31, 2023), <https://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/pressemitteilung/computer-sagt-nein>

²⁴⁷³ Algorithm Register, *Algorithmic Transparency Standard*, <https://www.algorithmregister.org>

²⁴⁷⁴ Eurocities, *Nine Cities Set Standards for the Transparent Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 19, 2023), <https://eurocities.eu/latest/nine-cities-set-standards-for-the-transparent-use-of-artificial-intelligence/>

²⁴⁷⁵ Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation, *AI Opportunity Market* (Jul. 24, 2025), <https://www.kimarktplatz.bund.de/>

²⁴⁷⁶ Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, *Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Administration: AI Opportunity Market and Transparency Database Now Open* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2025/01/maki-pm.html>

principles in their AI-based applications. The guide is the outcome of the CERTIFIED AI project, which was financed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.²⁴⁷⁷

The Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) published a whitepaper on transparency of AI systems in 2024. In the whitepaper, the BSI highlighted the importance of transparency for AI system's trustworthiness and defined transparency in the context of AI systems for different stakeholders. The definition has been made in a technology-neutral and future-proof manner and covers the entire ecosystem related to AI, considering transparency beyond the actual system. The whitepaper also enumerates the transparency requirements of EU AI Act and examines the opportunities and risks of transparent AI systems.²⁴⁷⁸

The Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) and Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI) issued the AI guidelines in June 2024. The guidelines outline the framework for utilizing AI within the BMDV and BMI. It has been emphasized that the BMDV "use and design AI systems in such a way that results, modes of operation, decision-making principles and paths are presented as comprehensibly as possible for all those involved (explainable AI). This enables people to consciously acknowledge the results of AI, take responsibility for them and intervene if necessary. We make the use of AI recognizable." Furthermore, transparency regarding existing data, AI literacy, and broad participation opportunities in the AI environment are promoted.²⁴⁷⁹ The BMI elucidated the manner and rationale for the utilization of AI, as well as their guiding principles regarding its application.²⁴⁸⁰

Facial Recognition

German governments have launched several projects on facial recognition technology, but these have been met with considerable public resistance. In 2017, Hamburg police deployed facial recognition technology in the wake of the G20 protests, which led to a three-year legal battle involving the Hamburg DPA and

²⁴⁷⁷ DIN, *Künstliche Intelligenz transparenter machen*, Presse (Jul. 19, 2023), <https://www.din.de/de/din-und-seine-partner/presse/mitteilungen/kuenstliche-intelligenz-transparenter-machen-931058>

²⁴⁷⁸ Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik, *Transparenz von KI-Systemen* (Jul. 1, 2024), https://www.bsi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/BSI/KI/Whitepaper-Transparenz-KI-Systeme.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

²⁴⁷⁹ Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr, *BMDV-KI-Leitlinien* (Jun. 17, 2024), https://bmdv.bund.de/SharedDocs/DE/Anlage/K/presse/pm-047-ki-richtlinie.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

²⁴⁸⁰ Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat, *KI-Leitbild für das Ressort BMI* (Jun. 2024), https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/it-digitalpolitik/BMI24014.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

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several courts that ended with the police deleting its biometric database in 2020.²⁴⁸¹ In 2018, the German Ministry of the Interior deployed facial recognition technology at a large train station in Berlin, sparking opposition from civil society.²⁴⁸² There was further outcry in 2020, when *Der Spiegel* reported that Germany planned to set up cameras capable of identifying people at 134 train stations and 14 airports.²⁴⁸³ In 2021, Germany's incoming coalition government said it would exclude biometric recognition in public spaces as well as automated state scoring systems by AI.²⁴⁸⁴ A January 2023 study showed that German citizens, when asked about facial recognition technology, generally "call for strong regulations to address associated risks," although citizens' trust in the government is correlated with their attitudes towards facial recognition technology.²⁴⁸⁵

In late 2022 and early 2023, Germany made clear the country's reservations on the AI Act, although the position seems to mesh well with the Act's general approach.²⁴⁸⁶ The German government favored a total ban on remote biometric identification technology in 2021 as per its coalition agreement²⁴⁸⁷ while, in 2023, it only supported a ban on *real-time* biometric recognition identification and would allow ex-post identification systems.²⁴⁸⁸ The German Data Protection Conference (DSK) released a resolution on the use of facial recognition systems by health authorities in 2024 that reiterated Germany's resolve to uphold a ban on facial

²⁴⁸¹ Identity Week, *Hamburg Deletes Facial Database for G20* (Jun. 2, 2020), <https://identityweek.net/hamburg-deletes-facial-database-for-g20/>

²⁴⁸² Janosch Delcker, *Big Brother in Berlin*, Politico (Sept. 13, 2018), <https://www.politico.eu/article/berlin-big-brother-state-surveillance-facial-recognition-technology/>

²⁴⁸³ Philipp Grüll, *Germany's Plans for Automatic Facial Recognition Meet Fierce Criticism*, Euractiv (Jan. 10, 2020), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/news/german-ministers-plan-to-expand-automatic-facial-recognition-meets-fierce-criticism/>

²⁴⁸⁴ POLITICO, *German Coalition Backs Ban on Facial Recognition in Public Places* (Nov. 24, 2021), <https://www.politico.eu/article/german-coalition-backs-ban-on-facial-recognition-in-public-places/>; Alliance for Freedom, Justice, and Sustainability, *Dare More Progress: Coalition agreement 2021–2025 between the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), ALLIANCE 90 / THE GREENS and the Free Democrats (FDP)*, https://www.welt.de/bin/Koalitionsvertrag%202021-2025.pdf_bn-235257672.pdf

²⁴⁸⁵ Genia Kostka, Léa Steinacker and Miriam Meckel, *Under Big Brother's Watchful Eye: Cross-Country Attitudes Toward Facial Recognition Technology*, Government Information Quarterly, 40(1) (Jan. 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2022.101761>

²⁴⁸⁶ Luca Bertuzzi and Molly Killeen, *Tech Brief: Germany's AI Reservations, Fair Share Moves in the Metaverse* (Jan. 13, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/tech-brief-germanys-ai-reservations-fair-share-moves-in-the-metaverse/>

²⁴⁸⁷ SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and FDP, *Mehr Fortschritt Wagen* (2021), <https://cms.gruene.de/uploads/assets/Koalitionsvertrag-SPD-GRUENE-FDP-2021-2025.pdf>

²⁴⁸⁸ Luca Bertuzzi, *Germany Could Become MEPs' Ally in AI Act Negotiations*, Euractiv (Jan. 9, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/artificial-intelligence/news/germany-could-become-meps-ally-in-ai-act-negotiations/>

recognition in public spaces. The DSK asserts that the use of automated facial recognition—if permissible at all—must be absolutely necessary for the protection of high-ranking legal interests and must be subject to appropriate conditions depending on the deployment scenario and the level of intrusion. The legal basis for its use must include sufficient safeguards for fundamental rights and additional protective mechanisms.²⁴⁸⁹

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) produced guidelines on the use of facial recognition technologies in law enforcement in 2022.²⁴⁹⁰ The EDPB stresses that facial recognition tools should only be used in strict compliance with the Law Enforcement Directive (LED). Moreover, such tools should only be used if necessary and proportionate, as laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.”²⁴⁹¹ After public consultation, the EDPB adopted guidelines for the use of facial recognition technologies in 2023. In version 2.0, practical examples and guidance were provided regarding facial recognition scenarios.²⁴⁹²

In 2024, the EDPB urged airline companies and airport operators to opt for less intrusive ways to streamline passenger flows, when possible. In the view of the EDPB Chair, “individuals should have maximum control over their own biometric data.”²⁴⁹³

In 2024, after a terrorist attack in Solingen, the Federal Government presented two draft bills, the so-called “security package,” to tighten security measures. The first draft bill, which aims to enhance internal security and the asylum system, empowers the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees to utilize biometric data to ascertain the identity of asylum seekers that do not carry IDs by comparing

²⁴⁸⁹ German Data Protection Conference (DSK), *Caution Advised for Security Authorities Using Facial Recognition [Vorsicht bei dem Einsatz von Gesichtserkennungssystemen durch Sicherheitsbehörden]* (Sept. 20, 2024), https://www.datenschutzkonferenz-online.de/media/en/2024-09-20_Entscheidung_DSK_Gesichtserkennung.pdf

²⁴⁹⁰ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the use of facial recognition technology in the area of law enforcement* [obsolete] (May 12, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2022-05/edpb-guidelines_202205_frlawenforcement_en_1.pdf

²⁴⁹¹ European Data Protection Board, *EDPB Adopts Guidelines on Calculation of Fines & Guidelines on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement*, Press release (May 16, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/edpb-adopts-guidelines-calculation-fines-guidelines-use-facial-recognition_en

²⁴⁹² European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement*, Version 2.0 (Apr. 26, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/edpb_guidelines_202304_frlawenforcement_v2_en.pdf

²⁴⁹³ European Data Protection Board, *Facial Recognition at Airports: Individuals Should Have Maximum Control Over Biometric Data* (Mar. 25, 2024), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2024/facial-recognition-airports-individuals-should-have-maximum-control-over-biometric_en

biometrics with publicly accessible data from the Internet.²⁴⁹⁴ The second draft bill, which aims to improve the fight against terrorism, allows the use of biometric comparison for facial recognition to identify suspects easier.²⁴⁹⁵ The security package has been subjected to serious criticism.²⁴⁹⁶ The two draft bills were terminated with the end of the 20th legislative period. The Federal Ministry of the Interior of the new federal government, however, reportedly wants to renew these proposals in new draft legislation in 2025.²⁴⁹⁷ Digital rights organizations have strongly criticized the renewed effort, stating that the measures will “enable total surveillance of public space.”²⁴⁹⁸

Predictive Policing

The German police has launched several projects using AI to assist in predictive policing both on the federal and state level. The Federal Crime Agency has used risk scoring for “militant Salafists”²⁴⁹⁹ while several state police forces have deployed PRECOBS, an anti-burglary system, with varying success. The police of Baden-Württemberg, for instance, started a pilot project with PRECOBS in 2015²⁵⁰⁰ that was ended in 2019 “due to data quality issues.”²⁵⁰¹ North Rhine-Westphalia developed and tested the predictive policing tool SKALA from 2015 to 2018.²⁵⁰² In late 2022, Germany’s Constitutional Court started a legal review of surveillance software deployed by police in the state of Hesse since 2017. The software, dubbed ‘Hessendata’, is based on the US company Palantir’s Gotham program and its use has been met with public criticism.²⁵⁰³ In the case, the court found that provisions in

²⁴⁹⁴ Deutscher Bundestag, *Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Verbesserung der inneren Sicherheit und des Asylsystems*, (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/128/2012805.pdf>

²⁴⁹⁵ Ibid

²⁴⁹⁶ Svea Windwehr, *Germany Rushes to Expand Biometric Surveillance*, EFF (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2024/10/germany-rushes-expand-biometric-surveillance>

²⁴⁹⁷ netzpolitik.org, *Interior Minister Dobrindt Plans New Security Package* (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://netzpolitik.org/2025/gesichtserkennung-und-ki-innenminister-dobrindt-plant-neues-sicherheitspaket/>

²⁴⁹⁸ Ibid

²⁴⁹⁹ Louisa Well, *AlgorithmWatch Automating Society Report 2020: Germany* (2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/germany/>

²⁵⁰⁰ Dominik Gerstner, *Predictive Policing in the Context of Residential Burglary: An Empirical Illustration on the Basis of a Pilot Project in Baden-Württemberg, Germany*, *European Journal for Security Research*, 3 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41125-018-0033-0>

²⁵⁰¹ Louisa Well, *AlgorithmWatch Automating Society Report 2020: Germany* (2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/germany/>

²⁵⁰² Police North Rhine-Westphalia, *Projekt SKALA* (Jun. 8, 2018) <https://polizei.nrw/artikel/projekt-skala-predictive-policing-in-nrw-ergebnisse>

²⁵⁰³ Ben Knight, *Germany: Police Surveillance Software a Legal Headache* (Dec. 22, 2022), <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-police-surveillance-software-a-legal-headache/a-64186870>

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the laws of the states of Hesse and Hamburg, which enable the police to process data by matching data from various databases and to carry out automatic data analysis, were unconstitutional.²⁵⁰⁴

In the EU AI Act negotiations, Germany called for a ban on systems that would replace human judges in crime and recidivism risk assessment as well, but it also pushed for exemptions for law enforcement in other areas.²⁵⁰⁵

According to Germany's "security package," the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police will be able to compare biometric data with online sources and evaluate large volumes of data using AI. AI-based analysis can be used to establish connections between information held by law enforcement and the Internet, which is often used for predictive policing. The authority granted to law enforcement could be utilized in the event of a "particularly serious" crime suspicion.²⁵⁰⁶ The widely criticized draft has not yet been enacted into law.

Environmental Impact of AI

The German Federal Government has acknowledged the importance of developing AI that is sustainable for the planet. In the 2020 update of Germany's Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the Federal Government says that it "will work to encourage that the technology is designed to be both energy and resource-efficient and is used as an instrument for environmental conservation. Direct and indirect environmental impacts will also be taken into account in all of this, so as to include rebound effects and shifting of environmental problems."²⁵⁰⁷ There are currently no policies that explicitly refer to both AI and sustainability. However, in April 2024, the G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment committed to "promote and share emerging transformative capacity using artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve the complementary use of remote and in situ environmental data

²⁵⁰⁴ First Senate of 16 Feb. 2023 *Headnotes to the Judgment of 16 February 2023*, 1 BvR 1547/19, 1 BvR 2634/20, *Automated Data Analysis* (Feb. 16, 2023), https://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Entscheidungen/EN/2023/02/rs20230216_1bvr154719en.html

²⁵⁰⁵ Luca Bertuzzi, *Germany Could Become MEPs' Ally in AI Act Negotiations*, Euractiv (Jan. 9, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/artificial-intelligence/news/germany-could-become-meps-ally-in-ai-act-negotiations>

²⁵⁰⁶ Deutscher Bundestag, *Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Verbesserung der Terrorismusbekämpfung*, (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/128/2012806.pdf>

²⁵⁰⁷ German Federal Government, *Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the German Federal Government, 2020 Update* (Dec. 2020), https://www.ki-strategie-deutschland.de/files/downloads/Fortschreibung_KI-Strategie_engl.pdf

for climate, energy and environment decision making” in the Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué.²⁵⁰⁸

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new platform designed to help ensure that responsible artificial intelligence is used for sustainable development in October 2024.²⁵⁰⁹ The platform includes a list of five Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as a way for participants to submit proposals for their initiatives. The initiatives should meet three criteria: (1) the initiative should be international, regional, or global, (2) the initiative should demonstrate its impact of its ability to achieve significant impact, and (3) at least one of the initiatives main goals should be to achieving one of the SDG in a developing country.²⁵¹⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The German government’s 2018 coalition agreement stated that it “rejects autonomous weapon systems devoid of human control” and called for a global ban.²⁵¹¹ Also in 2018, in cooperation with the French government, the German government published a joint statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons at the Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). They wrote, “At the heart of our proposal is the recommendation for a political declaration, which should affirm that State parties share the conviction that humans should continue to be able to make ultimate decisions with regard to the use of lethal force and should continue to exert sufficient control over lethal weapons systems they use.”²⁵¹²

²⁵⁰⁸ G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment, *Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué* (Apr. 29–30, 2024), https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/G7-Climate-Energy-Environment-Ministerial-Communiqué_Final.pdf

²⁵⁰⁹ UN Development Programme (UNDP), *Global Collective Action Platform for Responsible AI for Sustainable Development Initiated by UN Development Programme and Germany’s Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/global-collective-action-platform-responsible-ai-sustainable-development-initiated-un-development-programme-and-germanys-ministry>

²⁵¹⁰ BMZ & UNDP, *AI for the Sustainable Development Goals* (2024), <https://www.sdgaicompendium.org/>

²⁵¹¹ Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Europe, *A New Awakening for Europe. A New Dynamic for Germany. A New Solidarity for Our Country: Coalition Agreement between CDU, CSU, and SPD* (2018), https://www.kas.de/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=bd41f012-1a71-9129-8170-8189a1d06757&groupId=284153

²⁵¹² Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva & Représentation Permanente de la France auprès de la Conférence du Désarmement, Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, *Statement by France and Germany* (Apr. 2018), <http://perma.cc/2FQB-W8FX>)

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In 2019, the then-Foreign Minister of Germany, Heiko Maas, reasserted the German position as being in favor of a total ban on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,²⁵¹³ and the Foreign Ministry organized a virtual forum on LAWS in 2020 to move closer to a “collective normative framework.”²⁵¹⁴ Observers have argued, however, that the 2021 German coalition agreement is “ambivalent about legally binding action on autonomous weapons” and that it merely “rejects” these systems instead of pushing for regulation.²⁵¹⁵

The German government’s 2021 coalition agreement states, “We reject lethal autonomous weapon systems that are completely removed from human control. We actively promote their international outlawing. We want the peaceful use of space and cyberspace. For weapons technology developments in biotech, hypersonics, space, cyber and AI, we will take early arms control initiatives. We want to contribute to strengthening norms for responsible state behavior in cyberspace.”²⁵¹⁶

In October 2022, Germany was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.²⁵¹⁷ In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”²⁵¹⁸

²⁵¹³ Federal Foreign Office, *Foreign Minister Maas on Agreement of Guiding Principles Relating to the Use of Fully Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-autonomous-weapons-systems/2277194>

²⁵¹⁴ Federal Foreign Office, *Forum on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 2, 2020), <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/forum-laws/2330682>

²⁵¹⁵ Autonomous Weapons, *New German “Traffic Light Coalition” Ambivalent About Legally Binding Action on Autonomous Weapons* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://autonomousweapons.org/new-german-traffic-light-coalition-ambivalent-about-legally-binding-action-on-autonomous-weapons/>

²⁵¹⁶ SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and FDP, *Mehr Fortschritt Wagen*, p. 45 (2021),

<https://cms.gruene.de/uploads/assets/Koalitionsvertrag-SPD-GRUENE-FDP-2021-2025.pdf>

²⁵¹⁷ Ousman Noor, *70 states deliver joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Oct. 21, 2022) <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

²⁵¹⁸ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Germany voted in favor²⁵¹⁹ of resolution L.56²⁵²⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. Germany’s submission reiterated support for “a legally binding instrument in the framework of the Group of Governmental Experts that prohibits the development, fielding or deployment of lethal autonomous weapons systems that cannot comply with international humanitarian law and are ipso facto prohibited.” Germany also supported “a set of regulations of weapons systems with autonomous functions, to ensure that human control is retained at all times [and] the creation of an additional protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons that entails the prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons systems operating outside of human control and a responsible chain of command.”²⁵²¹

Germany supported of Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems at the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee. The resolution raises concerns about the “negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability” and stresses “the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability and for States to comply with international law.”²⁵²²

Germany also co-facilitated the Pact for the Future adopted by UN Member States in September 2024 that provides concrete measures to ensure a world that is safer, more peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive for the generations to come.²⁵²³ As per the provisions of the Pact, the Member States have taken the decision to “advance with urgency discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems through the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems with the aim to develop an instrument, without

²⁵¹⁹ Isabelle Jones, *164 states vote against the machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

²⁵²⁰ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct.12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²⁵²¹ UN Secretary-General, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Jul. 1, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session \(2024\)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General%20Assembly%20First%20Committee%20-%20Seventy-Ninth%20session%20(2024)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf)

²⁵²² UN General Assembly, *Seventy Ninth Session, First Committee, Agenda 98, Lethal Autonomous Weapons System* (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ld/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

²⁵²³ Vibhu Mishra, *Pact for the Future: World Leaders Pledge Action for Peace, Sustainable Development*, UN News (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154671>

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prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, recognizing that international humanitarian law continues to apply fully to all weapons systems, including the potential development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems.”²⁵²⁴

Germany participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the Summit, Germany, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action²⁵²⁵ on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain to “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” Germany also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.²⁵²⁶

The second REAIM summit took place in Seoul on September 9–10, 2024. The REAIM Blueprint for Action was the outcome document for the summit. The blueprint encourages states, industry, civil society, and regional and international organizations to recognize and affirm the impact of AI applications on the military domain, especially on international peace and security. The blueprint exhorts stakeholders to implement ethical and human-centric AI applications while considering national and international laws. The importance of maintaining a global and regional dialogue and fostering active participation among stakeholders has been emphasized. Germany is one of the supporting countries for this blueprint.²⁵²⁷

AI Literacy

Germany’s AI Action Plan recognizes education, skills, and public awareness as prerequisites for responsible innovation.²⁵²⁸ Most of these initiatives have centered on

²⁵²⁴ United Nations, *Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (Sept. 2024), https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopied.pdf

²⁵²⁵ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

²⁵²⁶ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 9, 2023), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

²⁵²⁷ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Blueprint for Action*, DigWatch (Sept. 11, 2024), https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-ream-blueprint-for-action#REAIM_Blueprint_for_Action

²⁵²⁸ Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, *Artificial Intelligence, AI Action Plan* (Nov. 2023),

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building expertise in AI research and STEM, although some, including the Data Literacy Toolbox, focus on more general literacy skills, which would facilitate participation in policymaking related to digital and AI concerns.

Human Rights

According to Freedom House, Germany is one of the top countries in the world for the protection of political rights and civil liberties, receiving a score of 95/100²⁵²⁹ and a ranking as “Free” in 2025. Freedom House reports that, “Germany is a representative democracy with a vibrant political culture and civil society. Political rights and civil liberties are largely upheld by law and in practice.”

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers reminded member States of commitment to “ensuring the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to everyone within their jurisdiction” and that “member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”²⁵³⁰

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Germany participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.²⁵³¹ Germany thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed,

https://www.bmfr.bund.de/EN/Research/EmergingTechnologies/ArtificialIntelligence/artificialintelligence_node.html

²⁵²⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Germany* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/germany/freedom-world/2025>

²⁵³⁰ Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

²⁵³¹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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developed, deployed, and used in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

Germany participated in the AI Seoul Summit in May 2024, which built on the AI Safety Summit hosted by the UK at Bletchley Park.²⁵³²

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Germany is a member of the OECD and endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles.²⁵³³ In 2020, Germany joined 14 other countries to announce the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to “support and accompany the responsible use of AI on the basis of human rights, fundamental freedoms, inclusion, diversity, innovation, economic growth and the common good, as well as to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”²⁵³⁴

In 2021, the OECD noted several examples of Germany’s implementation of the OECD AI Principles, including guidelines for trustworthy AI that are largely in line with the OECD AI Principles (Germany’s Data Ethics Commission ethics recommendations), the establishment of a dedicated body to coordinate and evaluate AI strategies, and the development of partnerships between public and private research organizations.²⁵³⁵ The OECD’s 2024 review noted Germany’s strong research base and public investment in AI infrastructure, as well as the ethical focus reflected in the Data Ethics Commission’s recommendations. Persistent challenges include fragmented AI governance, limited AI adoption by small and medium-sized enterprises, and skills shortages.²⁵³⁶

²⁵³² UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders’ Session: AI Seoul Summit* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-by-participants-attending-the-leaders-session-ai-seoul-summit-21-may-2024>

²⁵³³ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

²⁵³⁴ Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, *Germany Is a Founding Member of the “Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence”* (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/deutschland-ist-gruendungsmitglied-der-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence.html>

²⁵³⁵ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Insights from National AI Policies* pp. 10, 14, 15, 65 (Jun. 2021), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles_1cd40c44-en

²⁵³⁶ OECD, *OECD Artificial Intelligence Review of Germany* (Jun. 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1787/609808d6-en>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Germany contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.²⁵³⁷ On September 2024, the EU signed this first legally binding international AI treaty on behalf of its members, including Germany. Germany has not taken independent action to sign or ratify the treaty.²⁵³⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Germany is a signatory to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. While its AI plan was published before the development of the UNESCO Recommendation, the German UNESCO Commission released a report in 2022 which showed that Germany “has taken important steps to regulate AI in a way that corresponds to human rights and the public good,” although more work is needed in some areas.²⁵³⁹

The German Bundestag held discussions over the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in 2022. However, no action has followed despite the discussions proposing action within 4 years of the release of the UNESCO Recommendation.²⁵⁴⁰

UNESCO has provided Member States with the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to help countries assess how prepared they are to implement UNESCO’s Recommendation on AI Ethics. The RAM uses both quantitative and qualitative questions to assess a country’s readiness. Germany has not yet implemented the RAM.²⁵⁴¹ However, the country responded to a UNESCO survey reporting on progress implementing the Recommendations in 2025.²⁵⁴²

²⁵³⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁵³⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 18, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²⁵³⁹ UNESCO Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission, *Ethical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.de/wissen/wissenschaft/ethik-und-philosophie/studie-umsetzung-ki-ethik-empfehlung>

²⁵⁴⁰ German Bundestag, *Meeting Protocol* (Sept. 23, 2022), <https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/911624/0b4a2e35fc56a4f1197970a0684e8afd/to018-data.pdf>

²⁵⁴¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

²⁵⁴² German Commission for UNESCO, *First German State Report (2025) on the UNESCO Recommendation of 2021 on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence [Erster deutscher Staatenbericht (2025) zur UNESCO-Empfehlung von 2021 zur Ethik der Künstlichen Intelligenz]* (Feb. 2025),

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Evaluation

Germany's national AI strategy emphasizes AI ethics, and Germany has called for regulating AI at EU level. However, while generally in favor of regulation and transparency, the German position on the risks of AI systems (particularly on biometric identification and predictive policing) is difficult to pin down, as different ministries, coalition members, and state governments may have different priorities and opinions.²⁵⁴³ The same could be said about the regulation of GPAI models. Germany has made progress to establish a national supervisory mechanism to take the protection of human rights seriously. However, the draft law appointment of the Federal Network Agency and emphasis on innovation-friendly regulation raises concerns in this regard, as articulated by federal and state data protection agencies.

Germany has progressed on implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and OECD AI Principles, through actions such as the establishment of the Data Ethics Commission. The data protection authorities have also demonstrated a willingness to challenge companies in violation of data protection. However, the lack of clarity on sanctions and even applications across the federated agencies remains a challenge.

https://www.unesco.de/assets/dokumente/Digitalisierung_und_KI/01_Digitalisierung_KI_allgemein/2025_DE_Staatenbericht_No1_UNESCO_Empfehlung_KI_Ethik_FIN.pdf

²⁵⁴³ Luca Bertuzzi, *Germany Could Become MEPs' Ally in AI Act Negotiations*, Euractiv (Jan. 9, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/artificial-intelligence/news/germany-could-become-meps-ally-in-ai-act-negotiations/>

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Ghana

In 2025, Ghana official launched the National AI Strategy 2025–2030 and turned toward implementation through initiatives in education, training, and governance. Drafts of an updated Data Protection Bill and other technology-related bills would establish a legal framework to protect citizens from well-known risks of AI and other emerging technologies.

National AI Strategy

Ghana’s Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI) officially established a national framework for ethical, inclusive, and transparent AI governance with the launch of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2033.²⁵⁴⁴ The Strategy, which was developed in 2022 with the support of The Future Society, GIZ FAIR Forward, and Smart Africa,²⁵⁴⁵ sets eight priority pillars: education and skills, data governance, digital infrastructure, applied research, sectoral AI adoption, ecosystem coordination, youth employment, and public-sector innovation, aligned with UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The strategy emphasizes ethical AI practices, international collaboration, AI adoption in key sectors, skills development, and the establishment of a Natural Language Processing Centre of Excellence to promote local language integration.²⁵⁴⁶ The Strategy is expected to ensure better conditions for the development and use of this innovative technology for the benefit of citizens.

Flagship programmes such as the One Million Coders Ghana initiative²⁵⁴⁷ and a legislative package including the draft Data Protection Bill and Emerging Technologies Bill²⁵⁴⁸ mark early activation of the Strategy. Minister Samuel Nartey George unveiled Ghana’s plan to become Africa’s leading AI hub by 2028,

²⁵⁴⁴ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *Ghana National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2033* (May 2025), <https://www.africadataprotection.org/Ghana-AI-Strat.pdf>

²⁵⁴⁵ Ministry of Communications and Digitisation with Smart Africa, GIZ FAIR Forward, and The Future Society (TFS), *Republic of Ghana National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, 2023–2033*, Africa Data Protection (Oct. 2022), <https://www.africadataprotection.org/Ghana-AI-Strat.pdf>

²⁵⁴⁶ Povo News, *Ghana’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2023–2033*, Slideshare (Aug. 14, 2024), <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/ghana-s-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy-2023-2033-pdf/270928634>

²⁵⁴⁷ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *President Mahama Launches One Million Coders Program* (May 2, 2025), <https://moc.gov.gh/2025/05/02/president-mahama-launches-one-million-coders-program/>

²⁵⁴⁸ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *Legislative Instruments: Legislative Review Exercise and Call for Comments*, https://moc.gov.gh/legislative_instruments/

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emphasizing AI innovation, digital transformation, and public-private collaboration.²⁵⁴⁹ Ghana's Ministry of Communications, Digital Technology, and Innovation signed an MoU with MTN at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, focusing on training youth in AI, cybersecurity, and data governance.²⁵⁵⁰

The Ministry of Communications and Digitalization, through the Data Protection Commission (DPC), launched the UNESCO Readiness Methodology (RAM) in October 2024 to help guide AI governance and development.²⁵⁵¹

Regional AI Governance Collaboration

As member of the African Union (AU), Ghana is working to align with the AU Digital Transformation Strategy²⁵⁵² as well as the Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa. Ghana's Ministry of Communications and Digitalization participated in a consultative workshop organized by the AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET).²⁵⁵³ The APET discussions aimed at gathering input about “myths, challenges, and benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Africa,” urging African countries to invest in AI literacy, cooperate internationally for AI innovation, enhance data protection, invest in infrastructure, and review policy implementation frameworks governing AI.

The AU finalized the Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa²⁵⁵⁴ at its 45th Ordinary Session in Accra, Ghana, in July 2024. The AU introduced the African Digital Compact (ADC)²⁵⁵⁵ in the same session as an initiative to leverage digital technologies and promote inclusivity in the drive for sustainable development and innovation across the continent. The ADC, aligned with Africa's

²⁵⁴⁹ Ministry of Communications, Digital Technology and Innovations Ghana, *Embracing the Future: Ghana Launches National AI Strategy Stakeholder Consultation Forum* (May 2, 2025), <https://moc.gov.gh/2025/05/02/embracing-the-future-ghana-launches-national-ai-strategy-to-drive-innovation-2/>

²⁵⁵⁰ The Herald Ghana, *Ghana, MTN Sign MoU to Boost Digital Skills Training* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://theheraldghana.com/ghana-mtn-sign-mou-to-boost-digital-skills-training/>

²⁵⁵¹ Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, *Readiness Assessment Measurement (RAM)—Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Launched* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/10/01/readiness-assessment-measurement-ram-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-launched/>

²⁵⁵² African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

²⁵⁵³ AUDA-NEPAD, *The African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa* (May 30, 2022), <https://www.nepad.org/news/african-union-artificial-intelligence-continental-strategy-africa>

²⁵⁵⁴ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Jul. 2024), [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-Continental AI Strategy July 2024.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf)

²⁵⁵⁵ African Union, *African Digital Compact* (Jul. 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/african-digital-compact-adc>

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Agenda 2063²⁵⁵⁶ and the UN Global Digital Compact,²⁵⁵⁷ calls for collaborative efforts from governments, businesses, and civil society to bridge digital divides and secure digital rights, fostering a resilient, digitally empowered Africa. With major AU policy developments taking place in Accra itself, Ghana could see a renewed push towards AU's Digital Transformation Strategy.²⁵⁵⁸

Public Participation

Stakeholder engagement for public policies is an established practice in Ghana, led by the Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovation (MoCDTI). Annual budgets support the planning sessions to formulation of new policies.²⁵⁵⁹ Stakeholder engagements took place for Ghana's Digital Economy Policy at the Accra Digital Centre in November 2022.²⁵⁶⁰ Minister Ursula Owusu-Ekuful highlighted the significance of the ministerial consultation as a means to ensure inclusiveness and comprehensiveness of the policy, covering data governance, emerging tech and regulation, data classification, data sharing and open data.²⁵⁶¹

In October 2025, the MoCDTI launched a nationwide public consultation on a package of draft digital governance bills, including the Emerging Technologies Bill, Data Protection Bill, and Cybersecurity (Amendment) Bill. Draft texts and public comment forms were published on the MoCDTI portal and submission deadlines extended to mid-November 2025 to invite feedback from civil society, academia, and the private sector.²⁵⁶² The Misinformation, Disinformation and Hate Speech Bill further introduces transparency and human rights safeguards in

²⁵⁵⁶ African Union, *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* (Jun. 10, 2013), https://au.int/Agenda2063/polar_version

²⁵⁵⁷ United Nations, *Global Digital Compact* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact>

²⁵⁵⁸ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

²⁵⁵⁹ Ministry of Communication and Digitalization, *Programme Based Budget Estimates for 2022*, pp. 11 and 28 (2022), <https://mofep.gov.gh/sites/default/files/pbb-estimates/2022/2022-PBB-MOCD.pdf>

²⁵⁶⁰ Graphic Online, *Ministry Develops Policy for Digital Economy* (Dec. 13, 2022), <https://www.graphic.com.gh/business/business-news/ministry-develops-policy-for-digital-economy.html>

²⁵⁶¹ The Future Society, *Stakeholder Consultation Workshops Drive Insights for National AI Strategies in Tunisia and Ghana* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/stakeholder-consultation-workshops-drive-insights-for-national-ai-strategies-in-tunisia-and-ghana/>

²⁵⁶² Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), *Legislative Review Exercise—Call for Comments* (Oct. 2025), https://moc.gov.gh/legislative_instruments/

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algorithmic content moderation, risk assessments, and fact-checking requirements, reinforcing participatory oversight of digital systems.

The National AI Strategy is the result of the collaborative efforts of Ghana's Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana's Data Protection Commission, GIZ FAIR Forward,²⁵⁶³ Smart Africa²⁵⁶⁴ and The Future Society.²⁵⁶⁵ In total, the strategy is based on 40+ local stakeholder consultations, in-depth AI policy landscape mapping, and SWOT Analysis of Ghana's AI ecosystem, and 4 high-level public sector consultation workshops to iterate the mission and vision, recommendations and action plan, and a detailed booklet of AI use cases across key sectors.²⁵⁶⁶

For example, in May 2022, The Future Society co-led a stakeholder consultation workshop in Ghana to support the development of Ghana's AI strategy.²⁵⁶⁷ The workshop sessions addressed AI governance and frameworks, policies, implementation plans, SWOT, local AI ecosystems, AI ethical guidelines and recommendations for the establishment of program offices to drive implementation. The Future Society together with Ghana's Data Protection Commission, GIZ FAIR Forward, and Smart Africa held the third high-level public sector consultation workshop in August 2022 with representatives from private and public sector, academia, and civil society, to discuss the establishment of precautionary guardrails for AI across sectors.

As a member of the African Union, Ghana also took part in the planning for the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy.²⁵⁶⁸ The document, in section 2.4.1, AI Governance and Regulation, cites the need for a multi-tiered governance approach to ensure transparency and accountability of the systems used and developed in Africa. Such an approach would include open public consultations comprising various sectors.

²⁵⁶³ Digital Global, *Artificial Intelligence for Development Cooperation—FAIR Forward*, <https://www.bmz-digital.global/en/overview-of-initiatives/fair-forward/>

²⁵⁶⁴ Smart Africa, *SADA Launches Its National Digital Academy in Ghana* (May 20, 2022), <https://smartafrica.org/sada-launches-its-national-digital-academy-in-ghana/>

²⁵⁶⁵ The Future Society, *Aligning Artificial Intelligence through Better Governance* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org>

²⁵⁶⁶ The Future Society, *National AI Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development* (Apr. 30, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/2022/04/03/policies-ai-sustainable-development/>

²⁵⁶⁷ The Future Society, *Stakeholder Consultation Workshops Drive Insights for National AI Strategies in Tunisia and Ghana* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/stakeholder-consultation-workshops-drive-insights-for-national-ai-strategies-in-tunisia-and-ghana/>

²⁵⁶⁸ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Jul. 2024), https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf

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The MoCD, in partnership with Smart Africa, held a workshop aimed at finalizing Ghana's National Data Strategy in June 2024.²⁵⁶⁹ Supported by the Data Protection Commission and the GIZ, the workshop brought together experts and government officials to align on strategic objectives for data governance, infrastructure, and capacity building. A collaborative approach was recognized as vital for empowering regulatory bodies, fostering partnerships across sectors, and ensuring effective data management and compliance to enhance AI integration and cybersecurity.

While stakeholder inputs have been gathered in the past for the National AI Strategy in Ghana, not all policies are publicly accessible through government sources. Increasing transparency by making these contributions available could strengthen public trust and engagement in AI policy development.

Data Protection

Ghana enacted the Data Protection Act in 2012.²⁵⁷⁰ Section 41 of the Data Protection Act provides for the right of the data subject to object for decisions that significantly affect him to not be based solely on automated processing of personal data. The Data Protection Act establishes the Data Protection Commission,²⁵⁷¹ which is an independent statutory body in charge of enforcing the Data Protection Act and protecting data subjects' rights.

The Data Protection Commission and GIZ supported a workshop to finalize the National Data Strategy in June 2024, in partnership with the Ministry of Communication and Digitization (now MoCDTI) and Smart Africa.²⁵⁷² Key discussions among the experts and government officials centered on updating the legal framework to keep pace with technological advancements, enhancing technical infrastructure, improving data privacy and protection, and fostering inclusivity in data use, including the promotion of AI and cloud services.

The MoCDTI inaugurated a new Governing Board of the Data Protection Commission in 2025.²⁵⁷³ Chaired by digital rights expert Teki Akuetteh, the Board is

²⁵⁶⁹ Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation Ghana, *Ghana National Data Strategy Validation Workshop Kicks Off in Accra* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/06/27/ghana-national-data-strategy-validation-workshop-kicks-off-in-accra/>

²⁵⁷⁰ Data Protection Commission, *The Data Protection Act (Act 843)* (2012), <https://nita.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Data-Protection-Act-2012-Act-843.pdf>

²⁵⁷¹ Data Protection Commission, *Home* (2026), <https://dataprotection.org.gh/>

²⁵⁷² Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation Ghana, *Ghana National Data Strategy Validation Workshop kicks off in Accra* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/06/27/ghana-national-data-strategy-validation-workshop-kicks-off-in-accra/>

²⁵⁷³ Akim Benamara, *Ghana Takes Major Step towards Digital Future with New Data Protection Board*, Tech Africa News (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://techafricanews.com/2025/08/01/ghana-takes-major-step-towards-secure-digital-future-with-new-data-protection-board/>

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tasked with developing a National Data Governance Framework to advance Ghana's digital economy and AI goals. In October 2025, MoCDTI launched a public consultation on the Data Protection Bill 2025,²⁵⁷⁴ proposing to repeal and replace the 2012 Act with a new Data Protection Authority, codify transparency in automated decision-making, require data protection impact assessments for AI systems, and strengthen cross-border data transfer and localization rules. The draft Data Protection Bill would strengthen enforcement mechanisms and citizens' rights in relation to AI systems, automated decision-making, and cross-border data transfers.

Ghana ratified (in 2019) the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention).²⁵⁷⁵ The Convention, drafted in 2011 and adopted in 2014 is an initial step to the establishment of a regulatory framework for data protection in the African region.²⁵⁷⁶ The agreement emphasized that each country is to develop its own legislative framework, observing the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, respecting privacy and freedoms while enhancing the promotion and development of ICT.²⁵⁷⁷

Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2014, the Data Protection Commission has not endorsed the 2018 GPA resolution on AI and Ethics,²⁵⁷⁸ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,²⁵⁷⁹ the 2022

²⁵⁷⁴ Data Protection Commission, *Draft Data Protection Bill, 2025* (2025), https://dataprotection.org.gh/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/DATA_PROTECTION_BILL1_DRAFT-1.pdf

²⁵⁷⁵ African Union, *List of Countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Jul. 8, 2022), [https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN%20UNION%20CONVENTION%20ON%20CYBER%20SECURITY%20AND%20PERSONAL%20DATA%20PROTECTION.pdf)

²⁵⁷⁶ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

²⁵⁷⁷ CCDCOE, *Mixed Feedback on the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection*, <https://ccdcoc.org/incyber-articles/mixed-feedback-on-the-african-union-convention-on-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection/>

²⁵⁷⁸ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁵⁷⁹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

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Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,²⁵⁸⁰ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²⁵⁸¹

Algorithmic Transparency

The widespread use of social media and online tools in African countries makes regulating algorithmic transparency critical to protect against misuse.²⁵⁸² The Data Protection Act of 2012 establishes the principle of “fair and transparent processing of a data subject’s personal data”²⁵⁸³ and provides that subjects need to be informed by the data processor when a decision has been made by automated means. Section 17 of the DPA sets out principles that data controllers must follow when processing personal data. Section 17 (f) provides for openness as a principle for processing personal data. This section could be interpreted as including algorithmic transparency, but it would need confirmation either by the Data Protection Commission or by court. The Malabo Convention does not explicitly provide for algorithmic transparency. Both data protection regimes could more explicitly include algorithmic transparency to ensure that individuals are informed about how algorithms influence decisions that affect them.

The draft Data Protection Bill 2025²⁵⁸⁴ lays out specific rights in relation to automated decisions, including the right to opt-out of fully automated decisions and to request a review of automated decisions. Under Application of Emerging Technologies,²⁵⁸⁵ the bill also requires that “Technology-driven decisions impacting data subjects shall be explainable, contestable, and subject to human oversight to prevent bias and harm.” The bill would also require mandatory data protection impact

²⁵⁸⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁵⁸¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>.

²⁵⁸² African Policy Research Institute (APRI), *AI in Africa: Key Concerns and Policy Considerations for the Future of the Continent* (May 30, 2022), <https://afripoli.org/ai-in-africa-key-concerns-and-policy-considerations-for-the-future-of-the-continent>

²⁵⁸³ Data Protection Commission, *The Data Protection Act, 2012 (ACT 843)* (2012), <https://nita.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Data-Protection-Act-2012-Act-843.pdf>

²⁵⁸⁴ Data Protection Commission, *Draft Data Protection Bill, 2025*, sec. 65 (2025), https://dataprotection.org.gh/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/DATA_PROTECTION_BILL1_DRAFT-1.pdf

²⁵⁸⁵ Ibid, 53(2), 53(7)

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assessments prior to launch for “any service that utilises personal data to provide tailored experiences.”

The Emerging Technologies Bill 2025 released by the Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI) for public comment proposes standards for accountability, human oversight, and explainability in automated decision-making.²⁵⁸⁶ MoCDTI also introduced the Misinformation, Disinformation and Hate Speech (MDHI) Bill 2025, requiring human rights due diligence for algorithmic content moderation, annual risk assessments, and transparency obligations for media institutions.²⁵⁸⁷ Together, these draft laws represent Ghana's first effort to codify algorithmic transparency and redress mechanisms, aligned with the governance and ethics pillar of the National AI Strategy 2025–2033.²⁵⁸⁸

A study by International Telecommunications Society (ITS) on the use of artificial intelligence in the Fintech industry of Ghana and three other African countries found gender bias in financial services decisions. A lack of algorithmic transparency and explainability were areas of concern, contributing to the inability to make institutions accountable for biased decisions.²⁵⁸⁹

Facial Recognition

Practices of surveillance and use of facial recognition are of concern in the country. Ghana's National Service Scheme has implemented facial recognition in its registration process to prevent fraud and identity thefts in the receipt of payments to public employees. The deployment, which included testing, staff training sessions, and public awareness, has achieved its desired outcome according to government reports.²⁵⁹⁰

²⁵⁸⁶ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), *Legislative Review Exercise—Call for Comments* (Oct. 2025), https://moc.gov.gh/legislative_instruments/

²⁵⁸⁷ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations (MoCDTI), *Misinformation, Disinformation, Hate Speech and Publication of Other Information (MDHI) Bill* (2025), https://moc.gov.gh/legislative_instruments/

²⁵⁸⁸ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *Ghana National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2033* (May 2025), <https://www.africadataprotection.org/Ghana-AI-Strat.pdf>

²⁵⁸⁹ Shamira Ahmed, *A Gender Perspective on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Africa's FinTech Industry: Case Studies from South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana*, Research ICT Africa (Jun. 21, 2021), <https://researchictafrica.net/research/a-gender-perspective-on-the-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-africas-fintech-industry-case-studies-from-south-africa-kenya-nigeria-and-ghana/>

²⁵⁹⁰ BiometricUpdate, *Ghana National Service Officials Praise Face Biometrics Onboarding* (Nov. 23, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202211/ghana-national-service-officials-praise-face-biometrics-onboarding>

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A 2023 report reveals that the government has increased its possession of surveillance technologies. Ghana is implementing the Integrated National Security Communications Enhancement Network (ALPHA) project, a safe city project, which will incorporate the use of facial recognition CCTV cameras.²⁵⁹¹ The project is valued at approximately \$184 million, involving multiple international companies, primarily incorporating facial recognition AI from Huawei and biometric systems requiring citizen data.²⁵⁹² Concerns exist that the Ghanaian government will use this technology to identify and target citizens expressing dissenting viewpoints, with reported cases of harassment and detention of individuals expressing dissent in violation of international human rights law.²⁵⁹³

Minister Samuel Nartey George announced in March 2026 that Ghana's SIM re-registration exercise will introduce a liveness test requiring individuals to undergo facial recognition to verify their identity, citing widespread use of fraudulent Ghana Cards in the first phase of registration.²⁵⁹⁴

Credit Scoring

In 2019, Algorithm Watch found citizen scoring mechanisms in Ghana by the National Identification Authority. The investigation identified six biometric databases owned by public authorities that provide citizen scores, including credit reference scores issued by the Credit Reference Bureau.²⁵⁹⁵

According to a report by the Bank of Ghana, it initiated discussions with credit bureaus to introduce credit scoring as a complement to the credit reports already offered by these bureaus in 2023. This initiative followed the introduction of the Ghana Card, which serves as a distinct identifier for individuals with credit information. The goal was to facilitate the implementation of the credit scoring

²⁵⁹¹ Institute of Development Studies, *Mapping the Supply of Surveillance Technologies to Africa: Case Studies from Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Malawi, and Zambia* (2023), <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/18120>

²⁵⁹² Institute of Development Studies, *Ghana's Democracy at Risk Due to Use of Surveillance Technology, Warns New Report* (Sept. 27, 2023), <https://www.ids.ac.uk/press-releases/ghanas-democracy-at-risk-due-to-use-of-surveillance-technology-warns-new-report/>

²⁵⁹³ Institute of Development Studies, *Mapping the Supply of Surveillance Technologies to Africa: Case Studies from Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Malawi, and Zambia* (2023), <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/18120>

²⁵⁹⁴ GBC Ghana Online, *Ghanaians to Undergo Facial Recognition in SIM Re-registration—Sam George* (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/technology/ghanaians-to-undergo-facial-recognition-in-sim-re-registration-sam-george/2026/>

²⁵⁹⁵ Nicolas Kayser-Bril, *Identity-Management and Citizen Scoring in Ghana, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and China*, Algorithm Watch (Oct. 21, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Identity-management-and-citizen-scoring-in-Ghana-Rwanda-Tunesia-Uganda-Zimbabwe-and-China-report-by-AlgorithmWatch-2019.pdf>

system by ensuring that financial institutions update existing credit information with new details from the Ghana Card.²⁵⁹⁶

Ghana's Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, launched the initiative known as myCreditScore in November 2024.²⁵⁹⁷ Thus, the country is the second on the African continent to have such a system, the first being South Africa. Within the government, the initiative is viewed with favor and any discussions about possible harms are dismissed as criticism from the opposition.²⁵⁹⁸ Additionally, several financial institutions have made significant progress in updating their existing credit information with the new Ghana Card data. This effort, combined with the integration of credit bureaus with the National Identification Authority (NIA) database, is anticipated to provide a strong foundation for the introduction of the credit scoring regime in the Ghanaian credit market.²⁵⁹⁹

The Bank of Ghana formally approved credit bureaus to implement credit scoring in 2025. MyCredit Score Limited and Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau Limited rolled out their scoring products. The Bank of Ghana stated it would continue to oversee and monitor scoring methodologies to ensure the system remains fair and consumer interests are protected.²⁶⁰⁰ Concerns about algorithmic transparency in the credit scoring system have been raised by users, who note that the basis for individual credit score ratings is not disclosed, limiting individuals' ability to understand or contest decisions affecting their access to credit.²⁶⁰¹

Biometrics

Ghanaian Police Service has adopted biometric devices as part of a digitization strategy with the objective to “dramatically improve policing in

²⁵⁹⁶ Bank of Ghana (Financial Stability Department), *Credit Reporting Activity, Annual Report* (2022), <https://www.bog.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Credit-Reporting-Activity-Report-2022.pdf>

²⁵⁹⁷ Joy Online, *Bawumia launches Credit Scoring System for Ghana* (Nov. 7, 2024) <https://www.myjoyonline.com/bawumia-launches-credit-scoring-system-for-ghana/>

²⁵⁹⁸ GhanaWeb, *They Criticize without Knowledge—Bawumia Replies Critics of His Credit Scoring System* (Jul. 27, 2024), <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/They-criticize-without-knowledge-Bawumia-replies-critics-of-his-credit-scoring-system-1942562>

²⁵⁹⁹ Bank of Ghana (Financial Stability Department), *Credit Reporting Activity, Annual Report* (2023), <https://www.bog.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2023-ANNUAL-CREDIT-REPORTING-ACTIVITY-REPORT-170924.pdf>

²⁶⁰⁰ Ghana News Agency, *Bank of Ghana approves Credit Scoring to Strengthen Ghana's Financial Sector* (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://gna.org.gh/2025/08/bank-of-ghana-approves-credit-scoring-to-strengthen-ghanas-financial-sector/>

²⁶⁰¹ myCreditScore App Store Reviews, *myCreditScore—Credit Check App*, Apple App Store, <https://apps.apple.com/gh/app/mycreditscore-credit-check/id6677019193>

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Ghana.”²⁶⁰² The police uses biometrics to check wanted individuals against the National Identification Authority’s (NIA) database. The process started in 2017 with the issuing of the new Ghana card, aimed to centralize the identity management systems.²⁶⁰³ The NIA biometric database amounts to 17 million records, including Ghana ID card, car registration, and insurance information, allowing for identification in real time with biometric devices. The NIA National Identity System employs three biometric technologies for identification: unique fingerprints represented as digitized templates, facial templates depicted as digitized color photos of the cardholder, and iris recognition.²⁶⁰⁴ The Minister of Interior commissioned a new governing board for the NIA in May 2025, calling on members to deepen oversight, strengthen public trust, and accelerate the delivery of secure and inclusive identity services.²⁶⁰⁵

A report by Privacy International identified practices of surveillance in Ghana during the phase of emergency response to the COVID pandemic.²⁶⁰⁶ The PanaBIOS app endorsed by the African Union and deployed by the Ghanaian border enforcement, used algorithms to track and trace individuals that might pose a health threat.

The Ghanaian government announced in January 2024 that government employees who had not registered with the Ghana Card system would have their salaries frozen as of March. According to presidential correspondent Charles Takyi-Boadu, the initiative assumed that any citizen who did not register was deceased and freezing salaries would eliminate “ghost registrations” from the payroll.²⁶⁰⁷

Groups such as the People's National Convention (PNC), Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP), and Election Watch Ghana held demonstrations calling on the

²⁶⁰² BiometricUpdate, *Ghana Police Get Over 100 Biometric Devices for Fields Checks against Database* (Jan. 2, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/ghana-police-get-over-100-biometric-devices-for-field-checks-against-national-database>

²⁶⁰³ Nicolas Kayser-Bril, *Identity-Management and Citizen Scoring in Ghana, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and China*, Algorithm Watch (Oct. 21, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Identity-management-and-citizen-scoring-in-Ghana-Rwanda-Tunesia-Uganda-Zimbabwe-and-China-report-by-AlgorithmWatch-2019.pdf>

²⁶⁰⁴ National Identification Authority, *Introduction to the GhanaCard*, <https://nia.gov.gh/the-ghanacard-introduction/>

²⁶⁰⁵ Biometric Update, *Ghana’s New Identification Authority Board to Focus on Public Trust, Inclusive Service Delivery* (May 12, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202505/ghanas-new-identification-authority-board-to-focus-on-public-trust-inclusive-service-delivery>

²⁶⁰⁶ Privacy International (PI), *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses. Global Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Dec. 2022), <https://privacyinternational.org/report/5003/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses-global-lessons-covid-19>

²⁶⁰⁷ Daily Guide Network, *Govt Rolls Out New Payroll No Ghana Card, No Pay* (Jan. 11, 2024), <https://dailyguidenetwork.com/govt-rolls-out-new-payroll-no-ghana-card-no-pay/>

Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC) to be more transparent about biometric voter registration and the delivery of device kits to all political parties in the country after cases of the disappearance and destruction of several of these devices were reported.²⁶⁰⁸ The following month, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong announced that a new model of digital passport would be introduced in the country, with an electronic chip that has a biometric identifier, which would be used to authenticate the holder's identity.²⁶⁰⁹ President Akufo-Addo officially launched the chip-embedded biometric passport compliant with ICAO regulations on December 2, 2024.

Ghana launched the blockchain-based digital platform CitizenApp Data Interoperability System (CADIS) in October 2024 to facilitate access to digital government services. Identity verification is done through the Ghana Card and the citizen's phone number. Information such as biometric passport applications is available for consultation on the app.²⁶¹⁰ The mobile app was designed by the government to improve access to public services in Ghana, described as "Ghana's Roadmap to Intelligent Governance."²⁶¹¹ Notably, this shift resonates with earlier initiatives, such as Ghana's adoption of biometrics for driver's licenses and vehicle registration.²⁶¹²

The Minister of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovation announced a new legislative framework to link SIM cards to the Ghana Card national digital ID in 2025.²⁶¹³ The new framework involves biometric SIM registration and a Centralized Equipment Identity Register linked to the NIA database. The new

²⁶⁰⁸ GhanaWeb, *Share Details of All Your Biometric Voter Registration Kits, Devices with All Political Parties—EC Told* (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Share-details-of-all-your-biometric-voter-registration-kits-devices-with-all-political-parties-EC-told-1926363>

²⁶⁰⁹ GBC Ghana Online, *Ghana to Introduce Chip-Embedded Passports in Six Months—Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong* (Apr. 4, 2024), <https://www.gbcbghanaonline.com/general/ghana-chip-passport/2024/>

²⁶¹⁰ Biometric Update, *Ghana Launches CitizenApp to Facilitate Access to Digital Govt Services* (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202410/ghana-launches-citizenapp-to-facilitate-access-to-digital-govt-services>

²⁶¹¹ Lezeth Khoza, *Ghana Launches App to Improve Access to Public Services*, ITWeb Press Council FAIR (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://itweb.africa/content/G98YdqLG8DaMX2PD>; see also Ghana, *CitizenApp is Ghana's Roadmap to Intelligent Governance*, CitizenApp (2024), www.citizen.gov.gh/

²⁶¹² Ayang Macdonald, *Benin, Ghana Adopt Biometrics for Driver's Licenses, Vehicle Registration*, Biometric Update (Dec. 21, 2022), www.biometricupdate.com/202212/benin-ghana-adopt-biometrics-for-drivers-licenses-vehicle-registration

²⁶¹³ Biometric Update, *Ghana Plans New Framework for SIM Card-Digital ID Linkage* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202509/ghana-plans-new-framework-for-sim-card-digital-id-linkage>

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framework aiming to combat mobile money fraud was operationalized through a mandatory facial recognition liveness test announced in March 2026. The Minister of Interior activated a biometric passenger monitoring system in February 2026 at Ghana's borders, designed to strengthen national security and facilitate trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area, replacing manual border checks with intelligence-driven biometric technology.²⁶¹⁴

Generative AI was linked to over a third of new biometric fraud cases in Africa in 2024, with deepfake videos increasing sevenfold in the second half of the year.²⁶¹⁵ The rise of AI-driven digital identity fraud presents both challenges and investment opportunities in Ghana, with companies securing significant venture funding to counter these threats.

EdTech

Ghana was a subject of a study by Human Rights Watch about the use of government-endorsed Ed Tech tools for online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic across 49 countries.²⁶¹⁶ The findings show that the government of Ghana endorsed platforms that have the capability to identify, tag, and track users, including children. Further, learning apps endorsed by Ghana tracked and collected data from children and teachers for advertising and revenue purpose, transmitting data to AdTech companies. For Ghana, the apps in this category were Edmodo and Ghana Electronic Library. Ghana was one of only nine countries that disclosed in their privacy policies that they collected and used children's data for "behavioral advertising purposes."

The Cyber Security Authority issued the National Child Online Protection Framework in October 2024,²⁶¹⁷ outlining plans to address threats children face in the digital space including cyberbullying, harassment, and online exploitation, and announcing the development of guidelines for the removal of child abuse materials and reporting procedures.

In the same month, the Ministry of Education introduced a new Senior High School curriculum focused on competencies, character development, and Ghanaian

²⁶¹⁴ GhanaWeb, *What You Need to Know about Ghana's Newly Activated Biometric Tracking System* (Feb. 7, 2026), <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/What-you-need-to-know-about-Ghana-s-newly-activated-biometric-tracking-system-2020667>

²⁶¹⁵ Alexander Onukwue, *Surge in Deepfakes Heightens Fraud Risk for African Businesses*, Semafor (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.semafor.com/article/01/28/2025/surge-in-deepfakes-heightens-fraud-risk-for-african-businesses>

²⁶¹⁶ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life?* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

²⁶¹⁷ Cyber Security Authority Ghana, *National Child Online Protection Framework* (Oct. 2024), <https://digitalpolicyalert.org/digest/dpa-digital-digest-ghana>

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identity, requiring the retraining of 68,000 teachers to deliver the programme to 1.4 million students, with subsidized AI support from AWS and Anthropic.²⁶¹⁸ Ghana is preparing for a national rollout in October 2025, with several African countries expressing interest in replicating the model.

UNICEF launched the Learning Pioneers Programme in 2024, a two-year initiative in which six countries, including Ghana, are partnering with the Office of Innovation Learning Innovation Hub “to pilot and accelerate digital learning tools to address the learning crisis and shape the future of learning.” Under the slogan “Map, Match, and Make it Happen,” the countries will be mapping, testing, and developing scalable EdTech tools.²⁶¹⁹

Environmental Impact of AI

Ghana responded to the global call to action to end poverty, protect the earth’s environment and climate, and ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity, captured in 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.²⁶²⁰ According to the 2025 Voluntary National Review, Ghana has made progress toward SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and SDG 13 on climate action, while acknowledging significant challenges remain before the 2030 deadline.²⁶²¹ Notably, the environmental impact of Artificial Intelligence, including energy consumption and its carbon footprint poses further challenges to achieve these goals. While academic research purports that Artificial Intelligence can help the Ghanaian Government plan for a renewable energy future,²⁶²² the research also acknowledges that AI poses risks to the environment.

²⁶¹⁸ Ghana News Agency, *Ghana Charts a Bold Path for Ethical AI in Education* (Nov. 26, 2025), <https://gna.org.gh/2025/11/ghana-charts-a-bold-path-for-ethical-ai-in-education-a-journey-begins-in-a-classroom/>

²⁶¹⁹ UNICEF, *UNICEF's Learning Pioneers Programme: Shaping the Future of Learning* (Aug. 12, 2024), <https://www.unicef.org/digitaleducation/stories/unicefs-learning-pioneers-programme-shaping-future-learning>

²⁶²⁰ United Nations Ghana, *Our Work on the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana* (2024), <https://ghana.un.org/en/sdgs>

²⁶²¹ National Development Planning Commission, *Ghana's Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (Jul. 2025), https://ndpc.gov.gh/media/2025_VNR_Report.pdf

²⁶²² Dom Byrne, *How Artificial Intelligence Is Helping Ghana Plan for a Renewable Energy Future*, Nature (May 7, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-01316-w>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Ghana has not acceded to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).²⁶²³ However, the country has participated in several CCW meetings since 2014.²⁶²⁴ In a statement to the 2016 CCW informal meeting of experts on LAWS, Ghana called for the “promotion and preservation of human dignity for humanity as a whole [...] In our view, fully automated lethal systems must be proscribed before they are fully developed.”²⁶²⁵

Ghana is a member of the African Group within the United Nations, which supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems. The African Group issued a statement in 2021 CCW calling attention to the “ethical, legal, moral and technical questions” in the use of autonomous weapons systems and urging concrete policy recommendations, including prohibitions and regulations.²⁶²⁶

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Ghana voted in favor²⁶²⁷ of resolution L.56²⁶²⁸ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

At the 79th Session of the First Committee in 2024, Ghana voted in favor of resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapon systems.²⁶²⁹ At the thematic debate, Ghana's delegation stated that LAWS “raise serious humanitarian, legal, and ethical

²⁶²³ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

²⁶²⁴ Automated Research, *State Positions: Ghana*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/ghana/

²⁶²⁵ Ghana, *Comments and Questions by Ghana at the CCW Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, Reaching Critical Will (Apr. 16, 2015), https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2015/meeting-experts-laws/statements/16April_Ghana.pdf

²⁶²⁶ *Statement by the African Group, CCW Group of Governmental Experts Meeting on LAWS* (Dec 3, 2021), http://149.202.215.129:8080/s2t/UNOG/LAWS3-03-12-2021-AM_mp3_en.html

²⁶²⁷ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

²⁶²⁸ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, Resolution L56 (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²⁶²⁹ Isabelle Jones, *161 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/161-states-vote-against-the-machine-at-the-un-general-assembly/>

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questions, which must be addressed through clear regulations,”²⁶³⁰ aligning with the joint call of the UN Secretary-General and the ICRC for new prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapons. The resolution was formally adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 2, 2024 as Resolution 79/62, with 166 votes in favor.²⁶³¹ While the earlier resolution recognized potential risks of these systems, L.77 emphasizes the urgency of addressing the challenges posed by lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to address diverse perspectives related to these systems. The resolution includes specific calls for action, such as convening open informal consultations in 2025 and inviting participation from various stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community.

AI Literacy

Ghana's Digital Economy Policy 2024 identifies digital skills as a core strategic pillar, integrating digital literacy into the national education curriculum and setting a target to train at least one million citizens in basic digital literacy through community-based programmes and digital centers.²⁶³² President Mahama launched the One Million Coders Ghana Programme in May 2025²⁶³³ as a flagship pillar of the National AI Strategy 2025–2033, with a focus on youth and women. The program includes modules on ethical AI, data protection, and responsible innovation delivered through public universities and regional innovation hubs. The program complements MoCDTI's public consultation efforts by fostering an informed citizenry capable of engaging in AI governance discussions.²⁶³⁴ A three-day Ministerial Bootcamp on AI run in partnership with UNDP aimed to equip Ministers and senior officials with foundational AI knowledge, including ethical implications and public service delivery applications. The bootcamp aligned with preparations to submit the National AI Strategy to Parliament.²⁶³⁵

²⁶³⁰ Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations, *First Committee, 18th Plenary Meeting on Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://www.ghanamissionun.org/1024/2024/>

²⁶³¹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 79/62: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

²⁶³² Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *Programme-Based Budget Estimates for 2024 (2024–2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework)*, https://mofep.gov.gh/sites/default/files/pbb-estimates/2024/2024-PBB-MOCD_.pdf

²⁶³³ Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, *President Mahama Launches One Million Coders Program* (May 2, 2025), <https://moc.gov.gh/2025/05/02/president-mahama-launches-one-million-coders-program/>

²⁶³⁴ Ibid

²⁶³⁵ UNDP Ghana, *Government of Ghana and UNDP Kicks Off Ministerial Bootcamp to Strengthen AI Capacity and Advance AI-enabled Public Services* (Jul. 25, 2025),

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Ghana's inclusive AI literacy efforts extend to gender equity. The Ministry of Communication's Ms. Geek programme aims to increase gender diversity in STEM, while Ghana Tech Lab supports women's enrollment in AI training programmes.²⁶³⁶ In 2025, Heritors Labs and GIZ FAIR Forward published the Ghana Artificial Intelligence Practitioners' Guide, providing a multi-stakeholder framework for responsible AI adoption and a dedicated section on ethical AI governance for government, civil society, and the private sector.²⁶³⁷

The 2025 UNDP Human Development Report, launched in Accra in July 2025, found that more than 70% of Ghanaian respondents expressed optimism that AI will improve their productivity, while underscoring the urgency of closing digital access gaps to ensure AI benefits reach all segments of Ghanaian society, particularly youth and underserved populations.²⁶³⁸

Human Rights

Ghana is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and has enshrined the key provisions of the UDHR in its Constitution. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana²⁶³⁹ provides for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. The UDHR provides for the right to privacy under Article 12. The right to privacy is guaranteed under Article 18 of the Constitution: "No person shall be subjected to interference with the privacy of his home, property, correspondence or communication except in accordance with law and as may be necessary in a free and democratic society for public safety or economic well-being of the country, for the protection of health or morals, for the prevention of disorder or crime or for the protection of rights and freedoms of others."

Ghana is a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In its 2019 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), in

<https://www.undp.org/ghana/press-releases/government-ghana-and-undp-kicks-ministerial-bootcamp-strengthen-ai-capacity-and-advance-ai-enabled-public-services>

²⁶³⁶ Wilson Center, *Regulating Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Strategies and Insights from Kenya, Ghana, and the African Union* (2024), <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/regulating-artificial-intelligence-africa-strategies-and-insights-kenya-ghana-and-african>

²⁶³⁷ Heritors Labs and GIZ FAIR Forward, *Ghana Artificial Intelligence Practitioners' Guide* (2025), <https://www.bmz-digital.global/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/GhanaArtificialIntelligencePractitionersGuide.pdf>

²⁶³⁸ UNDP Ghana, *The Human Development and AI Paradox: A 35-Year Low with New Horizons for Ghana* (Jul. 9, 2025), <https://www.undp.org/ghana/press-releases/human-development-and-ai-paradox-35-year-low-new-horizons-ghana>

²⁶³⁹ Ghana, *Constitution of Ghana*, Constituent Project (1996), https://www.constituentproject.org/constitution/Ghana_1996.pdf

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charge of interpreting the Charter,²⁶⁴⁰ called on states to ensure that the “development, use and application of AI, algorithms and other similar technologies by internet intermediaries are compatible with international human rights law and standards, and do not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and other human rights.”²⁶⁴¹

The ACHPR adopted Resolution 473 in February 2021, having recognized that emerging technologies such as AI have a bearing on the enjoyment of human rights under the African Charter.²⁶⁴² The ACHPR called on state parties to ensure that the development and use of AI and other emerging technologies is compatible with the rights and duties in the African Charter and other regional and international human rights instruments to uphold human dignity, privacy, equality, non-discrimination, inclusion, diversity, safety, fairness, transparency, accountability, and economic development.

The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa recalled in 2022 that, with Resolution 473, the Commission, “observed that whilst making government services and information digital enhances transparency and accessibility and artificial intelligence allows for a number of benefits in the society, it has to be accompanied by human rights considerations and a bridging of the digital divide.” The Special Rapporteur also declared that “State Parties are encouraged to develop domestic legal frameworks regulating AI and e-governance; ensure these technologies are developed and used transparently; and ensure that imported AI and e-governance systems align with the African Charter.”²⁶⁴³ The

²⁶⁴⁰ African Union, *African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights*, Articles 30, 45(3) (Oct. 21, 1986), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights>

²⁶⁴¹ Diplo, *Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Continental Policies and Initiatives* (2021), <https://www.diplomacy.edu/resource/report-stronger-digital-voices-from-africa/ai-africa-continental-policies/>

²⁶⁴² African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, *Resolution on the need to undertake a Study on human and peoples’ rights and artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and other new and emerging technologies in Africa - ACHPR/Res. 473 (EXT.OS/ XXXI) 2021* (Mar. 10, 2021), <https://achpr.au.int/en/adopted-resolutions/473-resolution-need-undertake-study-human-and-peoples-rights-and-art>; University of Pretoria, *Centre for Human Rights Welcomes African Commission Resolution on Emerging Technologies*, Centre for Human Rights News (Mar. 18, 2021), <https://www.chr.up.ac.za/tech4rights-news/2451-press-statement-centre-for-humanrights-welcomes-african-commission-resolution-on-emerging-technologies>; CAIDP, *African Commission on Human and People’s Rights Resolution 473: Statement of The Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP)* (Apr. 5, 2021), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8308244063/CAIDP-ACHPR-Res473-04052021.pdf>

²⁶⁴³ African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, *Press Statement by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, on the Occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information* (Sept. 28, 2022), <https://achpr.au.int/en/news/press-releases/2022-09-28/special-rapporteur-freedom-expression-access-international-day>

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ACHPR opened a call for inputs in April to its study mandated by Resolution 473 on AI, robotics, and emerging technologies' human rights impacts.²⁶⁴⁴

Freedom House's 2025 Freedom in the World report²⁶⁴⁵ rates Ghana as "Free" with a score of 80/100. Ghana is rated "Partly Free" with a score of 65/100 on the Freedom on the Net report.²⁶⁴⁶ According to Freedom House, Ghanaian political rights and civil liberties are backed by a stable democracy, with competitive multi-party elections since 1992 and peaceful transfer of power between the two major political parties. Discrimination against women persists, and LGBT+ people face widespread discrimination, intimidation, and violence. Areas of weakness concern judicial independence and the rule of law. Corruption also poses challenges to the effective performance of the government. The Freedom House report also highlights political violence as a growing concern.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Ghana is not a member of the OECD and has not officially endorsed the OECD principles.²⁶⁴⁷ However, Ghana is a member of the African Union, which joined the G20 in 2023 and endorsed the G20 AI Principles.²⁶⁴⁸ Ghana is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).²⁶⁴⁹

Ghana is a member of the OECD Development Centre since 2015, collaborating with members and non-member countries in policy to improve living conditions in developing and emerging economies.²⁶⁵⁰ In the development of Ghana's national AI strategy, the government of Ghana and The Future Society

²⁶⁴⁴ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *Call for Input on the Draft Study on Human and Peoples' Rights and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, and Other New and Emerging Technologies in Africa* (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://achpr.au.int/en/news/announcements/2025-04-08/call-input-study-human-and-peoples-rights-artificial-intelligence-ai>

²⁶⁴⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Ghana* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ghana/freedom-world/2025>

²⁶⁴⁶ Freedom House, *Ghana: Freedom on the Net 2024* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ghana/freedom-net/2024>

²⁶⁴⁷ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

²⁶⁴⁸ G20, *G20 Members* (2024), <https://g20.org/about-g20/g20-members/>

²⁶⁴⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

²⁶⁵⁰ Modern Ghana, *Ghana Becomes the 50th Member of the OECD Development Centre* (Oct. 6, 2015), <https://www.modernghana.com/news/647449/ghana-becomes-the-50th-member-of-the-oecd-development-centre.html>

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collaborated with the OECD AI Policy Observatory among other organizations that champion human-centric AI.²⁶⁵¹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Ghana is not a member state of the Council of Europe and has not signed this first legally binding international AI treaty.²⁶⁵²

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Ghana is a member of UNESCO and adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in 2021.²⁶⁵³

Ghana's former Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in Ghana at a public workshop launching the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) study in October 2024.²⁶⁵⁴ The minister emphasized the role of public workshops as a significant step to leverage AI responsibly, to follow guidelines and principles outlined by UNESCO's Recommendation on AI Ethics, and to play a pivotal role in achieving AU's Agenda 2063²⁶⁵⁵ and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.²⁶⁵⁶

²⁶⁵¹ Yolanda Lannquist and Nicolas Mialhe, *National AI Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, The Future Society (Apr. 30, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/2022/04/03/policies-ai-sustainable-development/>

²⁶⁵² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 29, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²⁶⁵³ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

²⁶⁵⁴ Ministry for Communications and Digitalisation, *Readiness Assessment Measurement (RAM) Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Launched* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/10/01/readiness-assessment-measurement-ram-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-launched/>; Margaret Adjeley Sosah, *Govt Launches AI Readiness Assessment Measurement Tool*, Modern Ghana (Oct. 3, 2024), <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1345918/govt-launches-ai-readiness-assessment-measurement.html>

²⁶⁵⁵ African Union, *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*, <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

²⁶⁵⁶ Ministry for Communications and Digitalisation, *Readiness Assessment Measurement (RAM) Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Launched* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/10/01/readiness-assessment-measurement-ram-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-launched/>

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Ghana has initiated the RAM process²⁶⁵⁷ but has not yet implemented the UNESCO Ethical Impact Assessment tool.

Evaluation

Ghana has made significant progress toward ethical AI governance by endorsing the Continental AI strategy, launching a national steering committee to oversee AI readiness, and advancing data governance reforms including the 2025 Data Protection Bill. Ghana formalized the National AI Strategy in May 2025 and contributed to the development of the Continental AI Strategy for Africa, which was finalized in 2024. The Continental Strategy informs national implementation. The country has taken the first step to meaningfully implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI with the initiation of RAM.

Efforts are underway to establish partnerships to further the digital strategy. While public addresses emphasize the importance of public participation and transparent policymaking, these principles are primarily showcased at events involving international partners, with limited practical engagement of Ghanaian citizens.

Ghana benefits from an independent Data Protection Commission and developed its own data protection legal framework and ratified the Malabo Convention. Amid the rapid deployment of AI in the country, the proposed amendments in the Data Protection Bill 2025 would add transparency and accountability. The regulation of practices of biometrics identification, facial recognition, and individual scoring is essential to realize the benefits of AI for the Ghanaian society.

²⁶⁵⁷ Ministry for Communications and Digitalisation, *Readiness Assessment Measurement (RAM) Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Launched* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://moc.gov.gh/2024/10/01/readiness-assessment-measurement-ram-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-launched/>

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Greece

In 2025, Greece continued efforts to implement the Blueprint for AI Transformation and designated rights-protecting authorities under the EU AI Act. The country also ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108+.

National AI Strategy

Greece created A High Level Advisory Committee for Artificial Intelligence in October 2023 to develop a national AI strategy.²⁶⁵⁸ The Committee published the Blueprint for Greece's AI Transformation that envisions a comprehensive plan to leverage AI to foster economic growth, enhance public services, and reinforce democratic values, while establishing safeguards for national security and resilience.²⁶⁵⁹ Priority areas also include preparing citizens for the AI transition, promoting quality healthcare for all, enhancing access to and the quality of education, enriching cultural heritage, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.²⁶⁶⁰

The AI Blueprint promotes principles and values including respect for human dignity, human flourishing, pluralism, participation, transparency, oversight, adaptability and international multilateral cooperation.²⁶⁶¹ To advance its leadership in AI governance and ethics, the AI Blueprint proposes launching a Global AI Forum to increase AI literacy, convene high-level meetings on AI ethics and policy, and track the impact of AI on democratic processes globally.²⁶⁶² The AI Blueprint proposes establishing new regulatory agencies: the National AI Supervisory Authority as an independent oversight body aligned with the EU AI Act mandates, a Chief AI Strategy Officer for planning the AI Strategy, and a Data and AI Office for data curation, data governance, and AI implementation.²⁶⁶³ The Blueprint also proposes transforming the Data Protection Authority into the Data Protection and Access to Information Authority to reconcile GDPR mandates for the right to personal data protection and the right to freedom of expression, noting “Data Controllers or AI providers/deployers would not be able to use data protection as a pretext to refuse access to crucial data.”²⁶⁶⁴

²⁶⁵⁸ Office of the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, *Announcement—Prime Minister's Press Office* (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://www.primeminister.gr/2023/10/19/32817>

²⁶⁵⁹ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece's AI Transformation* (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 10–11

²⁶⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 13

²⁶⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 22

²⁶⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 81–83

²⁶⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 82

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Greece is fully and directly bound by the EU Digital Services Act.²⁶⁶⁵ The Greek Parliament adopted Law 5099/2024 for the implementation of the EU Digital Services Act in Greece in April 2024.²⁶⁶⁶ The law designates the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) as the Digital Services Coordinator. The National Council for Radio and Television (NCRTV) and the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDPa) are the competent authorities responsible for supervising intermediary service providers and enforcing the DSA in Greece.²⁶⁶⁷

EU AI Act

As part of implementing the EU AI Act, Greece has designated four existing national authorities to collectively supervise the protection of fundamental rights in relation to high-risk AI systems. The entities include the:²⁶⁶⁸

- Hellenic Data Protection Authority
- Greek Ombudsman
- Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy
- National Commission for Human Rights.

While the AI Blueprint proposes a National AI Supervisory Authority as the independent supervisory authority and for national and EU level coordination on AI, the office has not yet been officially announced as the designated market surveillance authority despite the EU AI Act deadline of August 2, 2025.²⁶⁶⁹

²⁶⁶⁵ European Union, *Digital Services Act* (Nov. 11, 2022), https://www.eu-digital-services-act.com/Digital_Services_Act_Articles.html

²⁶⁶⁶ Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic, *Law 5099/2024 [NOMOS 5099, ΦΕΚ Α 48]*, Isokratis Legal Information Bank (Apr. 5, 2024), <https://www.dsanet.gr/Epikairothta/Nomothesia/48.PDF>

²⁶⁶⁷ European Union, *Greece: Policy Monitor Country Profile* (Feb. 2025), <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/knowledge-hub/greece-policy-monitor-country-profile>; see also, Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission, *Who We Are* (2023), <https://www.eett.gr/en/eett/about-eett/who-we-are/>

²⁶⁶⁸ Hellenic Republic Ministry of Digital Governance, *The Principles of Protection of Fundamental Rights in Relation to the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Greece [Οι Αρχές προστασίας των θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων σε σχέση με τη χρήση Τεχνητής Νοημοσύνης στην Ελλάδα]* (Nov. 12, 2024), <https://www.mindigital.gr/archives/6901>

²⁶⁶⁹ European Commission, *Market Surveillance Authorities under the AI Act* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/market-surveillance-authorities-under-ai-act#1720699867912-2>

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Public Participation

Members in the High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence that drafted Greece's AI Blueprint were predominantly academics from universities and research centers, with a few from the private and public sectors.²⁶⁷⁰ The Committee engaged in interviews with stakeholders from various sectors, including government and state officials, researchers and stakeholders in education and research, representatives from the private sector, and international experts.²⁶⁷¹

Public policies are generally accessible online through the relevant ministries and government agencies or ISOKRATIS Legal Information Bank.²⁶⁷²

Data Protection

Greece has progressively aligned its data protection framework with European standards, embedding personal data rights into both constitutional and legislative instruments. Article 9A of the Greek Constitution establishes the protection of personal data as a fundamental right.²⁶⁷³ Prior to the EU GDPR, Greece enforced Law 2472/1997, which implemented Directive 95/46/EC and introduced foundational rules around consent, data minimization, and supervisory oversight.²⁶⁷⁴ With the enactment of Law 4624/2019, Greece formally supplemented the GDPR, incorporating sector-specific provisions and further clarifying the mandate of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (Hellenic DPA).²⁶⁷⁵

The Hellenic DPA is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).²⁶⁷⁶ The Hellenic DPA did not co-sponsor the resolutions and declarations related to AI and facial technology, however.²⁶⁷⁷

²⁶⁷⁰ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece's AI Transformation*, p. 1 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁷¹ Ibid, p. 28

²⁶⁷² Athens Bar Association, *Isokratis Legal Information Bank* (2025), <https://www.dsanet.gr/#>

²⁶⁷³ Hellenic Parliament, *The Constitution of Greece* (Nov. 25, 2019), <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/f3c70a23-7696-49db-9148-f24dce6a27c8/THE%20CONSTITUTION%20OF%20GREECE.pdf>

²⁶⁷⁴ Hellenic Data Protection Authority, *Law 2472/1997 on the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (Nov. 10, 1997), www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2019-10/law_2472-97-nov2013-en.pdf

²⁶⁷⁵ Gazette of the Hellenic Republic, *Law 4624/2019* (Aug. 29, 2019), https://www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2020-08/LAW%204624_2019_EN_TRANSLATED%20BY%20THE%20HDPA.PDF

²⁶⁷⁶ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

²⁶⁷⁷ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018),

Algorithmic Transparency

The GDPR and Greek Law No. 4624 establish algorithmic transparency as a legal right in Greece.²⁶⁷⁸ Greece's ratification of Council of Europe Convention 108+ in 2025 clarified the extent of those rights.²⁶⁷⁹ Greek citizens have the right to receive meaningful information about the logic involved in automated processing, and the right to contest a decision made solely by an algorithm that has a significant impact on them. This includes the right to obtain human intervention and challenge an automated conclusion. The Convention 108 + also ensures that citizens' views are taken into consideration, and they can obtain information about the logic behind the automated processing.

Law 4961/2022 explicitly addressed challenges posed by AI with the first dedicated legal framework addressing AI, algorithmic transparency, and emerging technologies.²⁶⁸⁰ This law requires public entities to register the AI systems they deploy and perform algorithmic impact assessments (AIAs) for high-risk systems, especially those involving automated decision-making or profiling. Private companies using AI for personalization or prediction must also disclose key information about system operation, legal basis, and potential biases.

The AI Blueprint recommends transforming the Data Protection Authority into a Data Protection and Access to Information Authority to enhance algorithmic

https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf; Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

²⁶⁷⁸ Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic, *Law 4624/2019* (Aug. 29, 2019), https://www.dpa.gr/sites/default/files/2020-08/LAW%204624_2019_EN_TRANSLATED%20BY%20THE%20HDPA.PDF

²⁶⁷⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Convention 108+) (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

²⁶⁸⁰ National Printing House, *Gazette of the Hellenic Republic Law 4961/2022 [Nomos Yπ' Αριθμ. 4961]* (Jul. 27, 2022), <https://search.et.gr/en/fek/?fekId=618783>

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transparency rights.²⁶⁸¹ The proposed consolidated authority would ensure that access to data is not blocked by privacy claims by Data controllers and AI providers and deployers.²⁶⁸²

Clearview AI

The Hellenic DPA imposed a €20 million fine on Clearview AI, a facial recognition technology company that builds biometric profiles by scraping publicly available images from websites, including social media platforms without consent in 2022. The ruling cited unlawful processing of biometric data, lack of transparency, and failure to comply with data subject rights.²⁶⁸³ The Hellenic DPA found that the company violated “the principles of lawfulness and transparency (art. 5 paragraphs 1(a) and (2), 6, 9 GDPR) and its obligations under Articles 12, 14, 15 and 27 of the GDPR.” The Hellenic DPA ordered the company to delete all biometric data of individuals in Greece and cease further processing operations within national territory.

AI in Border Control

The Hellenic DPA imposed an administrative fine of €175,000 on the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in 2024 for failing to cooperate fully with the Authority and for submitting impact assessments deemed “substantially incomplete and limited in scope.”²⁶⁸⁴ The Hellenic DPA received multiple inquiries in 2022—including from the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs; UNHCR Greece; and civil society organizations—regarding the use of the Hyperion and Centaur systems in reception and accommodation facilities for asylum seekers. The Centaur system is an “integrated digital system for managing electronic and physical security,” while Hyperion is an integrated entry-exit control system that uses an RFID reader and fingerprint for two-factor authentication. Both involve processing personal and biometric data and violated protections related to transparency and consent.

²⁶⁸¹ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece’s AI Transformation*, p. 82 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 22

²⁶⁸³ European Data Protection Board, *Hellenic DPA Fines Clearview AI 20 Million Euros* (Jul. 22, 2022), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2022/hellenic-dpa-fines-clearview-ai-20-million-euros_en

²⁶⁸⁴ Hellenic Data Protection Authority, *Ministry of Migration and Asylum Receives Administrative Fine and GDPR Compliance Order Following an Own-Initiative Investigation by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority* (Apr. 3, 2024), <https://www.dpa.gr/en/enimerwtiko/press-releases/ministry-migration-and-asylum-receives-administrative-fine-and-gdpr>

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AI Literacy

Greece's AI Blueprint identifies improving AI literacy as a priority area to prepare citizens for the AI transition. As part of this mission, the Blueprint describes “introducing AI and its associated disciplines, including topics on the ethical use of AI, to the educational curriculum, starting at the primary level; introducing reskilling and upskilling programs for the general population; improving AI literacy and spreading its empowerment opportunities across the Greek population; strengthening Greece’s AI innovation potential.”²⁶⁸⁵

To carry out this strategy, the AI Blueprint proposes an AI Center of Excellence: a new graduate school and research center focusing on AI research, ethics, philosophy, social sciences, and executive education.²⁶⁸⁶ It also proposes actions for lifelong learning, professional training, and vocational education to develop and support AI skills and talent and workforce.²⁶⁸⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

The EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2023/1791) introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of large data centers (>500 kW).²⁶⁸⁸ While the EU AI Act promotes standards and voluntary codes of conduct to improve energy efficiency,²⁶⁸⁹ the limited focus overlooks the broader environmental impacts of AI’s lifecycle, including intensive water use and the destructive extraction of rare earth minerals.²⁶⁹⁰

At the national level, Greece’s AI Blueprint addresses some of these gaps by including appended guidelines on the responsible development and use of AI,

²⁶⁸⁵ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece’s AI Transformation*, p. 10 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁸⁶ Ibid, pp. 17, 67

²⁶⁸⁷ Ibid, pp. 72–79

²⁶⁸⁸ European Union, *Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)*, Article 12 (Sept. 13, 2023), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj#art_12

²⁶⁸⁹ European Commission, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) OJ L2024/1689*, Article 40 and 95 (Aug. 1, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

²⁶⁹⁰ UNEP, *AI Has an Environmental Problem. Here’s What the World Can Do about That* (Sept. 21, 2024), <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ai-has-environmental-problem-heres-what-world-can-do-about>

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highlighting environmental sustainability as a key consideration.²⁶⁹¹ The guidance extends beyond reducing carbon footprint to encompass responsible sourcing of materials, reducing electronic waste, and promoting recycling and reuse practices. However, government entities have yet to adopt formal regulation or legislation to hold developers or deployers accountable to these guidelines.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Greece has actively engaged in international discussions regarding lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Greece supports the UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241, which emphasized the urgent need to address the challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems.²⁶⁹² In comments to the UN Secretary-General for the report on Member States' views, Greece supported a two-tier system of prohibitions and restrictions of LAWS and noted “compliance with fundamental principles and requirements of international humanitarian law, such as, the principles and requirements of target distinction, proportionality and precautions at the evolving of environment of a battlefield raises serious concerns.”²⁶⁹³

Greece's position at the UN and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS underscores the importance of meaningful human control over the use of force and the necessity for accountability in military operations involving AI technologies.²⁶⁹⁴

Human Rights

Greece is a member of the United Nations and has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.²⁶⁹⁵ Freedom House rates Greece as “Free” with a score

²⁶⁹¹ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece's AI Transformation*, p. 147 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁹² United Nations, *A/RES/78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/241>

²⁶⁹³ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *General Assembly First Committee, Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 2023), https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_%202024%29/78-241-Greece-EN.pdf

²⁶⁹⁴ Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office & the Other International Organizations, *Potential Challenges Posed by Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems to International Humanitarian Law*, Statement by Greece to the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), UNODA (Mar. 2019), https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_%202019%29/GGE%2BLAWS%2BSTATEMENT%2Bby%2BGREECE-%2BChallenges%2Bto%2BIHL.pdf

²⁶⁹⁵ Greece United Nations Security Council 2025–2026, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Turns 75* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://greeceforunsc.mfa.gr/on-human-rights-day>

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of 85 of 100, commending the country's parliamentary democracy supported by active political competition and largely upheld civil liberties.²⁶⁹⁶ However, persistent challenges remain, including corruption, government surveillance, discrimination against immigrants and religious and ethnic minority groups, and poor conditions for irregular migrants and asylum seekers.

Greece's approach to artificial intelligence governance emphasizes protecting human rights and democratic values. The country's AI strategy includes principles such as inclusive growth, respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values, as well as transparency, explainability, robustness, security, safety, and accountability.²⁶⁹⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As a member state of OECD, Greece is an adherent of the OECD AI Principles.²⁶⁹⁸ Greece's AI Blueprint reflects many of these principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Greece is party to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law through its membership in the European Union,²⁶⁹⁹ which endorsed the treaty on September 5, 2024.²⁷⁰⁰ Endorsement signals a commitment to align national AI policies with the standards outlined in the treaty, however Greece has not acted independently to endorse or ratify the treaty.²⁷⁰¹

²⁶⁹⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Greece* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/greece>

²⁶⁹⁷ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece's AI Transformation*, p. 22 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁶⁹⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

²⁶⁹⁹ CAIDP, *Council of Europe AI Treaty* (2025), <https://www.caidp.org/resources/coe-ai-treaty/>

²⁷⁰⁰ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁷⁰¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member state of UNESCO, Greece endorses the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.²⁷⁰² The guiding principles in Greece’s AI Blueprint—human dignity, oversight, adaptability, and pluralism—and four domains of action—innovation and entrepreneurship, education and research, regulatory framework, public sector transformation—align with the Recommendation.²⁷⁰³ However, these have not been implemented. Greece has not completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).²⁷⁰⁴

Evaluation

Greece’s AI strategy and data protection regulations generally uphold fundamental rights, democratic values, and the rule of law. In addition to meeting EU-level obligations on AI and data protection, Greece’s national AI strategy and international commitments—such as adherence to the OECD AI Principles, the Council of Europe AI Treaty, and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI—reinforce a rights-based, democratic, and human-centric approach to AI governance. The decisions issued by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority demonstrate its effectiveness as an oversight body, ensuring compliance with data protection regulations and safeguarding individuals’ fundamental rights.

AI governance is still nascent, given the recency of the AI Blueprint. Implementing the UNESCO RAM could provide the country “detailed and comprehensive insights into different dimensions of AI readiness”²⁷⁰⁵ that could enhance Greece’s ability to identify systematic institutional and regulatory gaps in its AI ecosystem. The RAM and further legislation could also provide the opportunity for greater public participation in AI governance.

²⁷⁰² UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 26, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

²⁷⁰³ High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *A Blueprint for Greece’s AI Transformation*, p. 22 (Nov. 2024), https://foresight.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Blueprint_GREECES_AI_TRANSFORMATION.pdf

²⁷⁰⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

²⁷⁰⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

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Hong Kong

In 2025, Hong Kong's Digital Policy Office updated the Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework and issued guidance on Generative AI. The Privacy Commission released guidelines on Generative AI for employees and joined 19 other data privacy authorities in a joint statement on data governance frameworks for privacy-protecting AI.

National AI Strategy

Hong Kong is making significant advances in AI development and policy implementation through the issuance of guidelines, policies, and AI technology applications across sectors. Although this special administrative region²⁷⁰⁶ largely controlled by China does not have a national strategy for the regulation of AI, several sectoral and overall guidelines exist, along with more reforms underway to guide organizations in adopting accountable and ethical AI models and processes.

A 2021 Guideline on Ethical Development and Use of AI issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) aims to guide organizations in their adherence to personal data and privacy requirements.²⁷⁰⁷ In 2022, the Government Chief Information Officer (now Digital Policy Office) expanded the seven original principles to twelve and categorized them into Performance and Generalized Principles.²⁷⁰⁸ Performance Principles include (1) Transparency and Interpretability and (2) Reliability, Robustness, and Security while Generalized Principles are: (1) Fairness, (2) Diversity and Inclusion, (3) Human Oversight, (4) Lawfulness and Compliance, (5) Data Privacy, (6) Safety, (7) Accountability, (8) Beneficial AI, (9) Cooperation and Openness and (10) Sustainability and Just Transition.

Since the Hong Kong government officially merged the Government Chief Information Office and the Efficiency Office to create the Digital Policy Office

²⁷⁰⁶ Referred to as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

²⁷⁰⁷ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data PCPD), *Guidance on Ethical Development and Use of AI* (Aug. 18, 2021),

https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_ethical_e.pdf; PCPD, *Inspection Report on Customers' Personal Data Systems* (Aug. 18, 2021),

https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/enforcement/commissioners_findings/files/r21_3099_e.pdf

²⁷⁰⁸ Digital Policy Office, *Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework* (Sept. 2022),

https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/

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(DPO) in 2024,²⁷⁰⁹ the ethical principles were updated again, to Version 1.4.²⁷¹⁰ The updated ethical principles include more detailed for the AI governance mechanism. The updated mechanism takes a three-prong defense approach. 1) Project Team, responsible for AI application development, risk evaluation, execution of actions to mitigate identified risks and documentation of AI Impact Assessments; 2) Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Assurance Team (PAT), responsible for ensuring project quality, defining acceptance criteria for AI applications, providing independent review, and approving AI applications; and 3) IT Board, or Chief Information Officer (CIO) if no IT Board is in place, with optional support by an Ethical AI Committee, which may consist of external advisors.

The DPO commissioned the Hong Kong Generative AI Research and Development Center (HKGAI) to research and formulate guidelines on generative AI for developers, service providers, and service users.²⁷¹¹ The guidelines released in 2025 provides an introduction to Generative AI and lays out the technical limitations, dimensions of governance, and key principles for the governance of the technology. The final section details practical guidelines for each of Technology Developers, Service Providers, and Service Users, who are charged to be “proactive stewards of benevolent AI.”

Sectoral initiatives are also relevant. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) issued guidelines on consumer protection in the use of AI in customer-facing applications in August 2024 to protect against user harms from hallucination and incomplete results from GenAI.²⁷¹² However, in its circular, the HKMA acknowledges that adoption of GenAI in the banking sector is still at “an early stage, with most of the current applications focusing on improving banks’ operational efficiency. Nonetheless, the ability of GenAI in content-creation means that GenAI could be more extensively adopted by the banking sector in customer-facing activities.” The guidelines build on the 2019 HKMA guidelines on consumer

²⁷⁰⁹ Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *Digital Policy Office Established Today* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202407/25/P2024072400394.htm>

²⁷¹⁰ Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework* (Version 1.4) (Jul. 2024), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/Ethical_AI_Framework.pdf

²⁷¹¹ Digital Policy Office, *Hong Kong Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline* (Dec. 2025), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/HK_Generative_AI_Technical_and_Application_Guideline_en.pdf

²⁷¹² Hong Kong Monetary Authority, *Consumer Protection in Respect of the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 2024), <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2024/20240819e1.pdf>

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protection and adds requirements.²⁷¹³ These include defining the scope, policies, using a human-in-the-loop approach, ensuring fairness, providing opt-out mechanisms, disclosing AI models' limitations, and abiding by Hong Kong's privacy regulations.

The HKMA is also taking steps to promote the use of AI for detecting suspicious activities by financial institutions. In September 2024, the HKMA released a circular on the Use of Artificial Intelligence for Monitoring of Suspicious Activities outlining several initiatives that the authority was undertaking to promote AI use.²⁷¹⁴ This includes an experience sharing forum, fintech sandbox,²⁷¹⁵ and guidance from the HKMA on innovating.

Hong Kong's technology development sector, specifically AI, is seeing increased integration with mainland China. In her 2021 policy address, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam stated that "the developments of Hong Kong and our country are closely related. Only by leveraging the Central Government's policies in support of Hong Kong can we give full play to our unique strengths, which will, in turn, bring continuous impetus to our economy."²⁷¹⁶ This, coupled with the passage of the Hong Kong National Security Law in 2020 by China's top legislature,²⁷¹⁷ cast some doubts on the future of the One Country, Two Systems model for the governance of Hong Kong.²⁷¹⁸

Public Participation

Hong Kong does not have a structured process for public participation in the development of AI policy; however, government organizations have included citizen engagement in some significant AI-related developments. For instance, in July 2024,

²⁷¹³ Hong Kong Monetary Authority, *Consumer Protection in Respect of the Use of Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence by Authorized Institutions* (Nov. 2019), <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2019/20191105e1.pdf>

²⁷¹⁴ Hong Kong Monetary Authority, *Use of Artificial Intelligence for Monitoring of Suspicious Activities* (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2024/20240909e1.pdf>

²⁷¹⁵ Hong Kong Monetary Authority, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Sandbox* (Sept. 20, 2024), <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2024/20240920e1.pdf>

²⁷¹⁶ Special Administrative Region, *The Chief Executive's 2021 Address* (Oct. 6, 2021), <https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2021/eng/p38.html>

²⁷¹⁷ Hong Kong Free Press, *Official English Translation of the Hong Kong National Security Law* (Jul. 1, 2020), <https://hongkongfp.com/2020/07/01/in-full-english-translation-of-the-hong-kong-national-security-law/>

²⁷¹⁸ William Overholt, *Hong Kong: The Rise and Fall of "One Country, Two Systems"* (Dec. 2019), https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/overholt_hong_kong_paper_final.pdf

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the Hong Kong Commerce and Economic Development Bureau began a two-month public consultation on required legal amendments to protect copyrights in the training and use of AI models.²⁷¹⁹ Contributions were accepted through various channels, including written submissions, briefing sessions, and a public forum. After the consultation process ended in February 2025, the Bureau published a document summarizing the public views and the Bureau's response. The document also presented agenda for the next steps on AI and copyright, including the future formulation of Guidelines on Copyright Issues Relating to Generative AI and the need to amend the Copyright Ordinance to include a text and data mining exception.²⁷²⁰

Hong Kong's Department of Justice (DoJ) established the Consultation Group on LawTech Development to promote AI-driven legal solutions and document automation in 2025.²⁷²¹ The Consultation Group will provide advice and assistance to the DoJ regarding the promotion and development of law tech in Hong Kong.

Data Protection

Hong Kong passed the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) in 1995, which instilled a principles-based approach to data privacy and established the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) as an independent data privacy regulator.

The PDPO saw amendments in 2012²⁷²² and 2021²⁷²³ to address direct marketing and criminalize doxxing, respectively. The anti-doxxing amendments allow the PCPD to conduct investigations without a warrant, press charges independently, force content to be taken down, and charge non-compliant internet

²⁷¹⁹ Commerce and Economic Development Bureau Intellectual Property Department, *Copyright and Artificial Intelligence Public Consultation* (Jul. 2024),

[https://www.cedb.gov.hk/assets/resources/cedb/consultations-and-publications/Eng_Copyright%20and%20AI%20Consultation%20Paper%20\(2024.07.08\).pdf](https://www.cedb.gov.hk/assets/resources/cedb/consultations-and-publications/Eng_Copyright%20and%20AI%20Consultation%20Paper%20(2024.07.08).pdf)

²⁷²⁰ Commerce and Economic Development Bureau Intellectual Property Department, *Legislative Council Paper no. CB(2)240/2025(04): Enhancement of the Copyright Ordinance regarding Protection for Artificial Intelligence Technology Development—Outcomes of Public Consultation and Proposed Way Forward* (Feb. 2, 2025),

<https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2025/english/panels/ci/papers/ci20250218cb2-240-4-e.pdf>

²⁷²¹ Department of Justice, *Consultation Group on LawTech Development of DoJ Committed to Promoting Use of LawTech in Industry* (Feb. 2025),

https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/community_engagement/press/20250210_pr2.html

²⁷²² Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *Amendments 2012* (2012), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/data_privacy_law/amendments_2012/amendment_2012.html

²⁷²³ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *The Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 Takes Effect Today to Criminalise Doxxing Acts* (Oct. 8, 2021), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/news_events/media_statements/press_20211008.html

platforms, raising concerns that the amendment will be used to restrict dissenting opinions.²⁷²⁴ The PCPD reported more than 1400 notices to remove messages on digital platforms in 2021–2022 and a man sentenced to eight months in prison.²⁷²⁵ The efforts continued in 2025, with a number of reported investigations and sentences.²⁷²⁶

The PDPO applies to both private and public data usage. However, it allows for specific exemptions for criminal investigations, the performance of judicial functions, security and defense, and emergency situations.²⁷²⁷ In the context of the recent Hong Kong National Security Law and associated protests, the broader implications of these exemptions on human rights are less clear. For example, police can request content be taken down or have online platforms provide information about users.²⁷²⁸

The PCPD released checklists and guidelines in 2025 to guide organizations on data protection related to artificial intelligence. The Checklist on Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI by Employees advises organizations to define permissible AI uses under the PDPO.²⁷²⁹ The Guide to Getting Started with Anonymization enhanced data de-identification standards.²⁷³⁰ The Chief Executive also proposed a review of laws to facilitate cross-border data flows with mainland China while

²⁷²⁴ Law Society of Hong Kong, *Proposed Doxxing Offence - Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Bill 2021* (Aug. 18, 2021), https://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/-/media/HKLS/pub_e/news/submissions/20210818.pdf

²⁷²⁵ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *New Anti-Doxxing Regime Is Beginning to Bear Fruits* (Dec. 2022), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/news_events/newspaper/newspaper_20221228.html

²⁷²⁶ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *A 54-Year-Old Male Arrested for Suspected Doxxing of a Former Employer* (Nov. 7, 2025), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/news_events/media_statements/press_20251107.html; PCPD, *A Female Arrested for Suspected Doxxing Arising from Online Shopping Dispute* (Mar. 10, 2025), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/news_events/media_statements/press_20250310.html

²⁷²⁷ Hong Kong e-legislation, *Cap. 486 Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Part 8, Exemptions*, <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap486>

²⁷²⁸ Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*, Press Release (Jul. 6, 2020), <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/06/P2020070600784.htm>

²⁷²⁹ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *Checklist on Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI by Employees* (Mar. 31, 2025), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidelines_ai_employees.pdf

²⁷³⁰ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *Guide to Getting Started with Anonymization* (Jul. 31, 2025), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/appa_anonymisation_guide072025.pdf

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safeguarding PDPO standards.²⁷³¹ This signaled legal modernization and regional integration for Hong Kong.

The PCPD has been an active participant in international discussions on data protection, algorithmic transparency, and many other key issues in the use of AI, especially in the General Privacy Assembly (GPA). The PCPD was a signatory to the GPA 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,²⁷³² sponsored the 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,²⁷³³ and co-sponsored the 2023 Resolution on Generative AI.²⁷³⁴ The PCPD did not endorse the 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology.²⁷³⁵ Hong Kong joined nineteen other national data protection authorities in signing the Joint Statement on Building Trustworthy Data Governance Frameworks, reaffirming privacy-by-design, following the GPA conference in 2025.²⁷³⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

The AI Guidance presented by the PCPD makes several recommendations to increase transparency around the use of AI, including “putting in controls that allow

²⁷³¹ J. Lee, *2025 Policy Address of the Chief Executive—Building Hong Kong into an International AI Hub* (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2025/en/policy.html>

²⁷³² International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁷³³ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

²⁷³⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

²⁷³⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁷³⁶ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, *Joint Statement on Building Trustworthy Data Governance Frameworks to Encourage Development of Innovative and Privacy-Protecting AI* (Sept. 17, 2025), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/news_events/media_statements/files/New_JointStatementonDataGovernance_Signed.pdf

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human oversight and intervention of the operations of the relevant AI system.”²⁷³⁷ Similarly, the guidelines for banks using AI from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority push banks to hold leadership accountable for AI decision-making, to ensure results from AI systems are explainable and auditable, and to provide transparency to consumers on the use of AI.²⁷³⁸ These recommendations align with established principles such as the OECD AI Principles, and similar recommendations in the proposed EU AI Act; however, the recommendations are advisory and non-binding.

The PCPD published the Artificial Intelligence: Model Personal Data Protection Framework in 2024.²⁷³⁹ The Framework provides a set of practical and detailed recommendations for local enterprises through a risk-based approach, offering key principles such as human oversight, data privacy, fairness, transparency, interpretability, reliability, robustness, and security to guide the procurement, implementation, and use of AI systems. The Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline builds on this foundation by broadening the principle of transparency in generative AI.²⁷⁴⁰ The Guideline requires that stakeholders maintain transparency across all stages of the AI system life cycle, from data collection and model development to deployment, usage, and maintenance, including through documentation of training data, disclosure of system capabilities and limitations, and traceability of outputs. The Guideline also discourages opaque or black box operations by promoting the use of explainable AI techniques.

Data Scraping

The PCPD and international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy in 2024.²⁷⁴¹ The initial statement in August 2023

²⁷³⁷ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), *Guidance on the Ethical Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 2021),

https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_ethical_e.pdf

²⁷³⁸ Hong Kong Monetary Authority, *High Level Principles on Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 1, 2019),

<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2019/20191101e1.pdf>

²⁷³⁹ Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, *Artificial Intelligence: Model Personal Data Protection Framework* (Jun. 2024),

https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/ai_protection_framework.pdf

²⁷⁴⁰ Digital Policy Office, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline* (Dec. 2025),

https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/HK_Generative_AI_Technical_and_Application_Guideline_en.pdf

²⁷⁴¹ UK Information Commissioner’s Office, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

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established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”²⁷⁴² The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models.”²⁷⁴³ The April 2025 Hong Kong Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline²⁷⁴³ builds on this foundation by broadening the principle of transparency in generative AI. It requires that stakeholders maintain transparency across all stages of the AI system life cycle, from data collection and model development to deployment, usage, and maintenance, including through documentation of training data, disclosure of system capabilities and limitations, and traceability of outputs. The Guideline also discourages opaque or “black box” operations by promoting the use of explainable AI techniques.”²⁷⁴⁴ Generative models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”²⁷⁴⁴

Data scraping generally involves the automated extraction of data from the web. Data protection authorities are seeing increasing incidents involving data scraping, particularly from social media companies and the operators of other websites that host publicly accessible data. Scraped personal information can be exploited for targeted cyberattacks, identity fraud, monitoring, profiling and surveillance purposes, unauthorized political or intelligence gathering purposes, unwanted direct marketing or spam.

Facial Recognition

Hong Kong has long-standing concerns about AI surveillance, especially in relation to mainland China and the preservation of democracy in Hong Kong. During the 2019 anti-government protests, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam invoked

²⁷⁴² Regulatory Supervision Information Commissioner’s Office of the United Kingdom, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/media2/migrated/4026232/joint-statement-data-scraping-202308.pdf>

²⁷⁴³ Digital Policy Office, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline* (Dec. 2025), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/HK_Generative_AI_Technical_and_Application_Guideline_en.pdf

²⁷⁴⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

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the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, which gives the chief executive the power to “make any regulations whatsoever which [they] may consider desirable in the public interest,”²⁷⁴⁵ to ban the use of face masks. The ban aimed at preventing protestors from hiding their identities.²⁷⁴⁶ Hong Kong’s Court of Final Appeal largely upheld the application of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance for the facemask ban.²⁷⁴⁷

Hong Kong has also been a strong proponent of the use of technology in public spaces, laying out its future plans through the Hong Kong Smart Cities Blueprint 2.0, published.²⁷⁴⁸ These plans include the use of the StayHomeSafe mobile app and companion tracking bracelet, whose use was required for all new entrants into Hong Kong.²⁷⁴⁹ The blueprint and associated initiatives outline many plans such as the increased rollout of public wifi and contact tracing for COVID, as well as funding for robotic patrols of airport terminals and a new LawTech Fund.

Despite the clear potential upside in the Smart City Blueprint, there is no mention of potential concerns, such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, or the potential violation of human rights in the documents rolling out these new initiatives. Furthermore, there was no significant public engagement, despite concerns about negative impacts.²⁷⁵⁰ The rollout of new technology in public places, the Hong Kong National Security Law, and the development and use of facial recognition technology by local companies all threaten the increased use of AI for surveillance purposes in Hong Kong.²⁷⁵¹

In July 2024, Hong Kong's security chief, Chris Tang, informed local media that the police aim to install 2,000 new surveillance cameras and plan to incorporate

²⁷⁴⁵ Hong Kong E-Legislation, *Cap. 241 Emergency Relations Ordinance* (2018), <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap241>

²⁷⁴⁶ BBC News, *Hong Kong: Face Mask Ban Prompts Thousands to Protest* (Oct. 4, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49939173>

²⁷⁴⁷ Washington Post, *Hong Kong’s Highest Court Upholds Ban on Masks at Protests* (Dec. 21, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/hongkong-mask-ban-ruling/2020/12/20/f2722af0-4340-11eb-a277-49a6d1f9dff1_story.html

²⁷⁴⁸ Innovation and Technology Bureau, *Hong Kong Smart Cities Blueprint 2.0* (Dec. 2020), [https://www.smartcity.gov.hk/modules/custom/custom_global_js_css/assets/files/HKSmartCityBlueprint\(ENG\)v2.pdf](https://www.smartcity.gov.hk/modules/custom/custom_global_js_css/assets/files/HKSmartCityBlueprint(ENG)v2.pdf)

²⁷⁴⁹ Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *StayHomeSafe User Guide*, <https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/stay-home-safe.html>

²⁷⁵⁰ Neville Lai and Justin Chan, *People have to be at the heart of Hong Kong’s smart city plans*” (Nov. 27, 2021), <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/hong-kong/article/3157263/people-have-be-heart-hong-kongs-smart-city-plans>

²⁷⁵¹ Lachlan Markay, *Scoop: Chinese tech firm sidesteps sanctions* (Sept. 29, 2021), <https://www.axios.com/chinese-tech-firm-sidesteps-sanctions-de43feaf-7df5-46ad-85bd-8a37ab468e2e.html>

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facial recognition technology, with the potential for AI-assisted suspect tracking.²⁷⁵² However, it remains unclear whether Hong Kong will implement continuous live facial recognition scanning of public spaces or if it will limit facial recognition to retrospective analysis of footage following a crime or upon legal authorization. Some experts have expressed concern that Hong Kong may be moving closer to mainland China's pervasive surveillance practices.

Hong Kong launched a facial recognition pilot at the Chung Ying Street checkpoint in December 2024 to support future tourism development and simplify the process of crossing borders.²⁷⁵³ The Hong Kong Police Force commissioned an independent consultancy to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment for the use of facial recognition technology in the 'e-Corridor' system at the checkpoint. Legal advice was also sought to ensure compliance with privacy regulations and public notices inform individuals of ongoing CCTV surveillance. Additionally, Security Risk Assessments and independent audits were conducted to evaluate the system's security and data protection measures.²⁷⁵⁴

Environmental Impact of AI

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has considered the environmental impact of AI. The Twelve Ethical AI Principles include "Sustainability and Just Transition." Any AI development should ensure that there are mitigation strategies in place to address potential impacts on society and the environment.²⁷⁵⁵ The framework specifically acknowledges that AI can have an impact on planet preservation and cites examples of using AI to optimize power usage and reduce carbon footprint. Although no dedicated AI environmental impact assessment framework exists, the Digital Policy Office's 2025 Guideline encourages energy-efficient data processing and carbon footprint monitoring in government AI

²⁷⁵² Jessie Yeung, CNN, *Hong Kong plans to install thousands of surveillance cameras. Critics say it's more proof the city is moving closer to China* (Oct. 2024), <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/05/asia/hong-kong-police-cameras-facial-recognition-intl-hnk-dst/index.html>

²⁷⁵³ Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, *Opening Ceremony of Reprovisioned Chung Ying Street Checkpoint in Sha Tau Kok Held Today* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202412/23/P2024122300484.htm?utm>

²⁷⁵⁴ Edith Lin, *Hong Kong Police Chief Raymond Siu Backs Government Plan to Install 2,000 Surveillance Cameras by End of Year* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3251776/hong-kong-police-chief-raymond-siu-backs-government-plan-install-2000-surveillance-cameras>

²⁷⁵⁵ Digital Policy Office, *Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework* (Version 1.4) (Jul. 2024), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/Quick_Reference_Guide-Ethical_AI_Framework.pdf

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projects.²⁷⁵⁶ Policies such as the Green Data Centre Guidelines issued by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer seek to address the challenges expanded AI infrastructure poses on ambitions for carbon neutrality.²⁷⁵⁷ Strategic efforts, including the Hydrogen Development Strategy 2024 and the Climate Action Plan 2050's target to increase renewable energy to 7.5-10% of the electricity mix by 2035, also aim to expand renewable energy use, ensuring AI growth aligns with broader climate objectives.²⁷⁵⁸

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Given Hong Kong's status as a Special Administrative Region of China, policies and regulations formulated by the Chinese government, including those related to lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), have the potential to influence Hong Kong's stance and policies on these matters.²⁷⁵⁹ Hong Kong is not a signatory to international treaties such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) but adheres to the CCW provisions through China's ratification.³⁰

AI Literacy

Hong Kong mounted its most ambitious AI literacy campaign in 2025, combining government funding exceeding HK\$4 billion with public-private partnerships targeting students, teachers, workers, and the public. The Education Bureau mandated 10–14 hours of AI education for all junior secondary level students (Junior Secondary Level) as part of the ICT curriculum implemented since 2023/24.²⁷⁶⁰ The bureau aimed for 82% implementation across schools by June 2025 with a target of 95% by year-end. Teacher professional development programs targeting over 1,000 secondary ICT teachers and Microsoft Hong Kong's Partners in

²⁷⁵⁶ Digital Policy Office, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Technical and Application Guideline* (Dec. 2025), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/HK_Generative_AI_Technical_and_Application_Guideline_en.pdf

²⁷⁵⁷ Arendse Huld, *Hong Kong's Data Center Sector: Industry and Regulatory Landscape* (Sept. 7, 2023), <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/hong-kong-data-center-sector-industry-regulatory-landscape/>

²⁷⁵⁸ Environment and Ecology Bureau, *The Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong* (Jun. 2024), https://cnsd.gov.hk/strategy-of-hydrogen-development-in-hong-kong_booklet_en.pdf

²⁷⁵⁹ *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), High Contracting Parties and Signatories to the CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

²⁷⁶⁰ Education Bureau, *Subjects under the Eight Key Learning Areas (2025/26 School Year)*, Technology Education (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/overview.html>

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Learning Program 5.0 reached 450+ schools (70% participation), providing capacity-building for educators who could facilitate public understanding of AI governance issues, though no formal metrics on educator capacity to influence policy discussions have been established. The private-public partnership under the Just Start campaign set an ambitious goal to teach AI skills to 1 million people in Hong Kong.²⁷⁶¹ More than 30 organizations including Google, Microsoft, and Meta, and the government introduced the AI-Q Test, Hong Kong's first free, open-access AI self-assessment tool enabling personalized learning recommendations.

Human Rights

As a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong has not ratified the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) but is protected by the convention through China's endorsement.²⁷⁶² The UN International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) apply to Hong Kong.²⁷⁶³

These human rights conventions are also complemented by other articles that protect the rights of citizens, including the Hong Kong Bill of Rights²⁷⁶⁴ and the Basic Law.²⁷⁶⁵ One of the key provisions in Article 30 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance protects citizens' right to privacy and clearly identifies principles to be adhered to in the use of personal data.²⁷⁶⁶ The key regulatory bodies responsible for monitoring human rights implementation in Hong Kong include the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong. These agencies are tasked with overseeing compliance with human rights standards and

²⁷⁶¹ Hong Kong AI Literacy Initiative, *Just Start Campaign*, <https://www.preface.ai/just-start/en/>

²⁷⁶² United Nations, *Member States*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states#gotoH>

²⁷⁶³ United Nations Treaty Collection, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, China*, fn6, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=en#4; *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, China*, fn8 (with reservations), https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-3&chapter=4&clang=en#8

²⁷⁶⁴ Hong Kong e-Legislation, *Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance of 1991*, CAP. 383 (Jun. 8, 1991), <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap383>

²⁷⁶⁵ Hong Kong e-Legislation, *Basic Law of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China* (Apr. 4, 1990), <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/A101!en@1997-07-01T00:00:00>

²⁷⁶⁶ Hong Kong e-legislation, *Cap. 486 Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance* (Aug. 1, 1996), <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap486>

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investigating violations, including issues concerning freedom of speech, assembly, and privacy.²⁷⁶⁷

The Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region adopted the Safeguarding National Security Bill in March of 2024.²⁷⁶⁸ The Article 23 National Security Law criminalizes secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces, marking a significant step in the tightening of political and civil rights.²⁷⁶⁹ Amnesty International has raised concerns that the implementation of Article 23 and the tightening restrictions freedoms of expression, association, and assembly will lead to the prosecution of individuals expressing dissenting views against the government.²⁷⁷⁰

The Freedom House 2025 Report ranks Hong Kong as “Partly Free” with a total score of 40/100.²⁷⁷¹ Political rights and civil liberties are scored very low on the report because of the prevalence of pro-Beijing interests in the country’s political system and the limitations on freedom and autonomy because of political interventions from mainland China. Civil-society organizations continued to face restricted operating space under the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (2024). Reports by Amnesty International²⁷⁷² and Human Rights Watch²⁷⁷³ documented expanded surveillance and constraints on expression, de facto limiting public participation in AI policy dialogue and rights-impact assessments.

²⁷⁶⁷ Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB), *The Rights of the Individual* (2025), <https://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/individuals.htm>

²⁷⁶⁸ Security Bureau, *Basic Law Article 23 Legislation: Safeguarding National Security Bill* (Mar. 7, 2024), https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2024/english/brief/sb20240308_20240308-e.pdf

²⁷⁶⁹ Greg Torode and Jessie Pang, *Hong Kong’s New National Security Law and Its impact*, Reuters (Mar. 19, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/article-23-what-you-need-know-about-hong-kongs-new-national-security-laws-2024-03-19/>

²⁷⁷⁰ Amnesty International, *What Is Hong Kong’s Article 23 Law? 10 Things You Need to Know* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/what-is-hong-kongs-article-23-law-10-things-you-need-to-know/>

²⁷⁷¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Hong Kong* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/hong-kong/freedom-world/2025>

²⁷⁷² Amnesty International, *Hong Kong: Article 23 Law Used to “Normalize Repression”* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/03/hong-kong-article-23-law-used-to-normalize-repression-one-year-since-enactment/>

²⁷⁷³ Human Rights Watch, *Hong Kong: Targeting of Exiled Activists’ Families Escalates* (May 4, 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/04/hong-kong-targeting-exiled-activists-families-escalates>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Hong Kong is not a member of the OECD or the G20 and has not endorsed the OECD / G20 AI Principles.²⁷⁷⁴

Despite no official endorsement, Hong Kong's approach to AI governance such as the ethical framework includes many of the OECD's principles and implementation recommendations.²⁷⁷⁵ Limitations, such as insufficient human capacity and incomplete alignment with human rights and democratic values, notably due to the use of facial recognition for surveillance purposes, undermine the region's implementation of the OECD Principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Neither Hong Kong nor China have signed the Council of Europe AI treaty.²⁷⁷⁶ Hong Kong and China also did not participate in the negotiations, which began in 2022, with input from 68 international representatives from civil society, academia, industry, and other international organizations was gathered.²⁷⁷⁷

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member of UNESCO, Hong Kong adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in November 2021.²⁷⁷⁸ The AI Literacy initiatives to improve understanding of AI align with UNESCO's Education and Research policy action for implementing the Recommendation.²⁷⁷⁹ Hong Kong's Ethical AI

²⁷⁷⁴ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council of Artificial Intelligence* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

²⁷⁷⁵ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Hong Kong, *Guidance on the Ethical Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 2021), https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_ethical_e.pdf

²⁷⁷⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 3, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²⁷⁷⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

²⁷⁷⁸ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 26, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

²⁷⁷⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Key Facts* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

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Framework includes an Application Impact Assessment.²⁷⁸⁰ UNESCO offers a related Ethical Impact Assessment tool to implement the Recommendation.²⁷⁸¹

Hong Kong has not stated a plan or participated independently in UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) for artificial intelligence.²⁷⁸² Hong Kong's AI policies align with those of mainland China. China has not yet engaged in the RAM process and has not publicly indicated plans to do so.

Evaluation

Hong Kong has made significant progress in Artificial Intelligence policy, publishing frameworks and principles to enhance personal data privacy protection, to embed ethical considerations into the AI life cycle, and ensure consumer protection. Establishing the Digital Policy Office marked a development that brought with it the creation of an ethical framework in AI, as well as the establishment as an institution to monitor its development., although it could be safe to link this special administrative region with some of China's AI efforts and achievements due to the administrative relationship.

Hong Kong has not been a signatory to the OECD AI Principles; however, it has proposed and implemented similar principles and guidelines and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The leading role played by Hong Kong through the PCPD-sponsored resolution on greater accountability in the development and use of AI to the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) shows that the region has the potential to play a prominent role in key global AI policy development and implementation. Hong Kong's policies around AI literacy, including children and students, support ethical AI initiatives in line with public engagement. However, as in other areas, public participation in policymaking is still limited

Irrespective of its complicated relationship with mainland China, especially as it relates to surveillance and data protection issues, there is some effort by the government to regulate and promote ethical AI development and use in the country. More effort is needed by the government to adopt a comprehensive national AI strategy that promotes democratic values and human rights, as well as alignment with international commitments to AI principles.

²⁷⁸⁰ Digital Policy Office, *Ethical Artificial Intelligence Framework* (Version 2.0) (Dec. 2025), https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/data_governance/policies_standards/ethical_ai_framework/doc/Ethical_AI_Framework_en.pdf

²⁷⁸¹ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

²⁷⁸² UNESCO, Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

Hungary

In 2025, Hungary passed a national AI Act to implement the EU AI Act and designated the supervisory and market surveillance authorities to align with the legislation. Hungary also published a Renewed AI Strategy to explicitly align with the OECD AI Principles, UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, and Hiroshima Process.

National AI Strategy

The Hungarian government developed a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy through the Artificial Intelligence Coalition (*Mesterséges Intelligencia Koalíció*) and over 1000 experts. The Strategy aims to identify “fundamental principles, technological focus areas, and projects” necessary to “prepare Hungarian society and the Hungarian economy for the fact that this technology is coming, this technology is already here, and that we must do our best to use it.”²⁷⁸³ The Strategy centers on expanding AI applications and use. Two of the six foundation pillars²⁷⁸⁴—“Regulatory and ethical framework” for “Reliable, regulated use” and “Education, competence development and societal preparedness,” or “Focusing on human competencies”—address the need for governance structures and protections against the negative impacts of AI technology. The document sets goals to 2030 and outlines an action plan extending up to 2025.²⁷⁸⁵ The AI Strategy is, however, considered as a living document due to rapid technological developments and experience gathered through the spread of applications.

The Renewed AI Strategy released in 2025 updates the original 2020 Strategy to align with EU AI Act standards. The revised Strategy integrates economic, social, and ethical priorities, explicitly aligning with OECD principles, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, and the G7 Hiroshima AI Process.²⁷⁸⁶ The new strategy maintains the focus on AI applications to both improve

²⁷⁸³ László Palkovics, *Hungary Would Like to Benefit from the Opportunities Afforded by Artificial Intelligence*, Ministry for Innovation and Technology (Sept. 8, 2020), <https://2015-2019.kormany.hu/en/ministry-for-innovation-and-technology/news/hungary-would-like-to-benefit-from-the-opportunities-afforded-by-artificial-intelligence>

²⁷⁸⁴ Ministry for Innovation and Technology, *Hungary’s Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2020–2030*, pp. 23–24 (May 2020), <https://mik.neum.hu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2020-hungarian-AI-strategy.pdf>

²⁷⁸⁵ Ibid

²⁷⁸⁶ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* [*Magyarország Mesterséges Intelligencia Stratégiája*], p. 45 (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

lives and ensure Hungary's competitive advantage in AI industries, as well as human development.²⁷⁸⁷

The Strategy requires a whole-of-government effort that brings together different government ministries under the leadership of the newly appointed Government Commissioner for AI.²⁷⁸⁸ Implementing the Strategy and achieving its "AI goals" is also at the heart of the mandate of the new AI supervisory authority established within the Ministry of Economy.²⁷⁸⁹ This effort will also be supported by AI Coalition teams supporting the relevant ministries, as well as a Multisectoral Committee of Artificial Intelligence and a Scientific Committee of experts. While these positions are not fully independent, their designation marks a concrete step toward centralized AI oversight capacity.²⁷⁹⁰ A Government Resolution assigned ministries and the Government Commissioner for AI a variety of tasks to strengthen AI development across the country to operationalize the Strategy.²⁷⁹¹

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Hungary shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).²⁷⁹² The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. The main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.

²⁷⁸⁷ Mesterséges Intelligencia Koalíció, *Hungary Presented its 2025–2030 Artificial Intelligence Strategy* [Aktualitások: Magyarország bemutatta a 2025–2030-as Mesterséges Intelligencia Stratégiát] (2025), <https://mik.neum.hu/>

²⁷⁸⁸ Magyar Közlöny (Hungarian Gazette), *Government Decision 1028/2025 (II.24.) on the appointment and responsibilities of the Government Commissioner for Artificial Intelligence* [A mesterséges intelligenciáért felelős kormánybiztos kinevezéséről és feladatairól] (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/522d9e0cf35ae2e7a3f7a4504970329a2e9d455d/megtekintes>

²⁷⁸⁹ Magyar Közlöny, *Government's Decision 1301/2024 (IX.30.) regarding the implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation* [Korm. határozata a mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló európai parlamenti és tanácsi rendelet végrehajtásához szükséges intézkedésekről] (Sept. 30, 2024), <https://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/0023a3c60cb4033ef9f687dd413894c4c157267e/megtekintes>

²⁷⁹⁰ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

²⁷⁹¹ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Government Resolution No. 1406/2025 (XI.4), on Measures Serving the domestic Strategic Strengthening of Artificial Intelligence and Priority Development Areas* [Korm. határozat a mesterséges intelligencia hazai stratégiai megerősítését és kiemelt fejlesztési területeit szolgáló intézkedésekről] (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-1406-30-22>

²⁷⁹² European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>

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EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Hungary is bound by the EU AI Act.²⁷⁹³ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI. The EU AI Act entered into force on August 1, 2024.

Hungary's National AI Act (Act LXXV) entered into force in December 2025,²⁷⁹⁴ signaling progress to implement the EU AI Act. The Act follows the AI Strategy to include a Legal and Ethical Code for high-risk AI applications in the public sector.²⁷⁹⁵ The Code mandates transparency, documentation, and independent audits, embedding accountability directly into government AI systems.²⁷⁹⁶

The Hungarian AI Act also designates authorities for overseeing the European AI Act and AI development more generally.²⁷⁹⁷ The National Artificial Intelligence Council will serve as an advisory body to government, academia, and businesses. The Government Commissioner for AI will coordinate efforts across ministerial bodies and chair the AI Council.²⁷⁹⁸ An office created under the Ministry of Economy will serve as the market surveillance authority and single point of

²⁷⁹³ European Parliament, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act)*, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

²⁷⁹⁴ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Decree 344/2025 on the Implementation of the Act Executing the European Union Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Hungary [Korm. rendelet Az Európai Unió mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló rendeletének magyarországi végrehajtásáról]* (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-344-20-22>

²⁷⁹⁵ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

²⁷⁹⁶ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Government's Decision 1301/2024 (IX.30.) regarding the implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation [a mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló európai parlamenti és tanácsi rendelet végrehajtásához szükséges intézkedésekről]* (Sept. 30, 2024), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2024-1301-30-22>

²⁷⁹⁷ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Act LXXV of 2025 on the Implementation of the European Union Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Hungary [2025. évi LXXV. törvény az Európai Unió mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló rendeletének magyarországi végrehajtásáról]* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-75-00-00>

²⁷⁹⁸ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Government Decision 1028/2025 (II.24.) on the appointment and responsibilities of the Government Commissioner for Artificial Intelligence [A mesterséges intelligenciáért felelős kormánybiztos kinevezéséről és feladatairól]* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-1028-30-22>

contact while the National Accreditation Authority (NAH) will serve as the notifying authority.²⁷⁹⁹

Public Participation

Hungary's AI Strategy was developed in cooperation with the Hungarian Artificial Intelligence Coalition.²⁸⁰⁰ The coalition was established in October 2018 to offer a community and forum for all stakeholders in the Hungarian AI ecosystem who wish to make an active contribution to the development of the Hungarian AI environment and skills.

Hungary's AI strategy also explicitly refers to public engagement activities. Hungary established an internet platform for its citizens to get trained, get exposure to the ongoing events in the AI sector, and engage with country-wide policy developments. The Hungarian government aims to get the best of artificial intelligence in terms of high-value economic return while countering possible adverse effects of the technology through increased public awareness and public participation. The National AI Strategy emphasizes that public engagement is a key aspect of the exercise of fundamental rights and a robust and inclusive business environment. For this reason, the Hungarian AI Strategy prioritizes the need to raise awareness of the use of artificial intelligence, its pragmatic and business applications as well as its projected impact on various sectors through an action plan entitled The AI Challenge. The Challenge aspires to train 100,000 people in the fundamentals of AI using domestically generated online course materials. The Action Plan also aims to raise 1 million people's awareness through interactive exhibitions, a website, and online professional content.²⁸⁰¹

During the development of the 2025 Renewed AI Strategy, Hungary continued to host stakeholder dialogues and cross-sector discussions, which represents efforts toward open policymaking and civic inclusion.²⁸⁰² However, the engagement emphasized expert and government input over popular participation.

²⁷⁹⁹ Magyar Közlöny, *Decree 344/2025 on the Implementation of the Act Executing the European Union Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Hungary* [Korm. rendelet Az Európai Unió mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló rendeletének magyarországi végrehajtásáról], Hungarian Gazette évi 127. szám, pp. 8329–8324 (Oct. 31, 2025),

<https://magyarkozlony.hu/dokumentumok/c19d54dc315cd8eee4294ca8fa244969bea9c3e8/megtekintes>; <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-344-20-22>

²⁸⁰⁰ European Commission, *Hungary AI Strategy Report* (Sept. 2020), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/hungary/hungary-ai-strategy-report_en#ecl-inpage-287

²⁸⁰¹ Neumann Technológiai Platform, *Artificial Intelligence Coalition, Artificial Intelligence Challenge (AI Challenge)*, <https://neum.hu/en/mi/>

²⁸⁰² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Mesterséges Intelligencia Stratégiája 2025–2030* (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://kormany.hu/dokumentumtar/magyarorszag-mesterseges-intelligencia-strategiaja-2025-2030-1>

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In November 2023, the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office invited feedback and input from the general public, stakeholders, and experts on the draft of the Law on the Digital State and Certain Rules for the Provision of Digital Services or “Digital Citizenship Law.” The scheme will enable personal identification for the use of state and market services, electronic signature, and payment of public utility bills. A trial period will start in April 2024. The scheme will be optional. It has been developed in line with the EU’s new Electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services (eIDAS) regulatory framework.²⁸⁰³

In September of 2024, an AI Summit was held in Budapest inviting participation from leaders of industry, government, and academia, highlighting Hungary’s determination to use AI as a catalyst for transformative change across multiple sectors.²⁸⁰⁴

Data Protection

Since Hungary is an EU Member State, the GDPR²⁸⁰⁵ is directly applicable in Hungary and to Hungarians. The activities of Hungarian law enforcement are regulated by the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED), which protects the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime.²⁸⁰⁶ The LED prohibits decisions based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and prohibits profiling that results in discrimination.²⁸⁰⁷

²⁸⁰³ About Hungary, Rogán: *DAP to Bring Transformation for Hungarian Citizens in Digital Data Handling* (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/rogan-dap-to-bring-transformation-for-hungarian-citizens-in-digital-data-handling>

²⁸⁰⁴ Budapest Business Journal, *AI Summit 2024: Hungary’s Role in the Artificial Intelligence Revolution* (Sept. 25, 2024), <https://bbj.hu/business/tech/innovation/ai-summit-2024-hungarys-role-in-the-artificial-intelligence-revolution/>

²⁸⁰⁵ Official Journal of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679>

²⁸⁰⁶ EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offenses or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

²⁸⁰⁷ *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offenses or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

The Hungarian Act CXII of 2011 on the Right of Informational Self-Determination and on Freedom of Information (Data Protection Act) was amended on July 26, 2018, to supplement the GDPR and implement the LED Directive.²⁸⁰⁸ The National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (*Nemzeti Adatvédelmi és Információszabadság Hatóság*, NAIH)²⁸⁰⁹ is the national supervisory authority in charge of enforcing both the GDPR and the LED. The Authority is also entrusted with duties in connection with the Schengen Information System (SIS), the Customs Information System (CIS), Europol, Eurodac, and the Visa Information System (VIS). The NAIH represents Hungary in the European Data Protection Board.

The NAIH issues annual reports on its enforcement activity.²⁸¹⁰ The NAIH annual report covering 2023 noted 8,672 new cases, which marked a substantial rise by more than 1,300. At a conference for data protection officers in 2024,²⁸¹¹ Professor Attila Péterfalvi highlighted “the positive experiences of the transparency procedures regarded as a novelty of 2023” and “several decisions in which the Authority took a stand concerning issues with long-term effects, including the resolution containing statements related to the use of artificial intelligence, and the decision concerning paparazzi activities affecting former public figures.”

Hungary is also a member of the Council of Europe and has signed and ratified²⁸¹² the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.²⁸¹³

The NAIH is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2002. The Authority endorsed the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics,²⁸¹⁴ but did not co-sponsor the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,²⁸¹⁵ the 2022 GPA

²⁸⁰⁸ NAIH, *Act CXII of 2011 on the Right of Informational Self-Determination and on Freedom of Information* (Oct. 11, 2013), https://www.naih.hu/files/Privacy_Act-CXII-of-2011_EN_201310.pdf

²⁸⁰⁹ NAIH, *About the Authority*, <https://www.naih.hu/about-the-authority>

²⁸¹⁰ NAIH, *Investigation by the Authority*, <https://www.naih.hu/data-protection/investigation-by-the-authority>

²⁸¹¹ NAIH, *2024 Conference of Data Protection Officers*, <https://www.naih.hu/2024-evi-dpo-konferencia/dpo-konferencia-2024-videok>

²⁸¹² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

²⁸¹³ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

²⁸¹⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

²⁸¹⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp->

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Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology²⁸¹⁶ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.²⁸¹⁷

Algorithmic Transparency

Ambassador Harry Alex Rusz, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe, deposited the instrument of ratification of Convention 108+ in the presence of Deputy Secretary General Bjørn Berge in August 2023.²⁸¹⁸ Convention 108+ aims to modernize and improve the Convention 108, the only binding international instrument with global relevance in this field. In addition, Hungary is subject to the GDPR. Hungarians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.²⁸¹⁹

The right to contest an automatic decision that adversely impacts on fundamental rights in these documents aligns with the 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems. The Recommendation clarified that “Contestation should include an opportunity to be heard, a thorough review of the decision and the possibility to obtain a non-automated decision. This right may not be waived, and should be affordable and easily enforceable before, during and after deployment, including through the provision of easily accessible contact points and hotlines.”²⁸²⁰

[content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf](#)

²⁸¹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

²⁸¹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

²⁸¹⁸ Council of Europe, *Hungary Ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108+ on Data Protection* (Oct. 19, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/-/hungary-ratified-the-council-of-europe-convention-108-on-data-protection>

²⁸¹⁹ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) Recital 63 and Article 22* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016R0679-20160504>

²⁸²⁰ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec (2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

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Hungary's Legal and Ethical Code for high-risk AI applications in the public sector in the Renewed AI Strategy and AI Act further enshrine these rights.²⁸²¹ The Code mandates transparency, documentation, and independent audits, embedding accountability directly into government AI systems.²⁸²²

AI Oversight

The Hungarian Competition Authority launched an investigation against Microsoft's European services subsidiary, Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited, in July 2023 for possible unfair practices against Hungarian consumers in its so-called "new Bing service." The integration of an artificial intelligence-based chat feature similar to ChatGPT in Microsoft's Bing search system instigated the investigation. The feature uses machine learning to answer questions in the search interface and the model learns from the content, data, and information shared by users. The investigation focuses on whether Microsoft adequately informs users about features of its search engine, particularly concerning the AI-based chat feature. The concerns raised include contradictory policies and inadequate information about the service, such as its reliability, data management practices, and language accessibility.²⁸²³

The market analysis investigated the use of AI in data collection, advertising practices, and consumer interactions, raising concerns about transparency, consumer privacy and susceptibility to manipulation. In the decision, the competition authority called on Microsoft to provide more up-to-date and transparent information to consumers on AI solutions.²⁸²⁴ This case prefigures the role that the Hungarian market surveillance authority identified for the EU AI Act could play in ensuring respect for fundamental rights.²⁸²⁵

²⁸²¹ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

²⁸²² Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Act LXXV of 2025 on the Implementation of the European Union Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Hungary [2025. évi LXXV. törvény az Európai Unió mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló rendeletének magyarországi végrehajtásáról]* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-75-00-00>

²⁸²³ Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH), *GVH Investigates How Microsoft Informs Consumers about Its New Search Service* (Jan. 4, 2024), https://www.gvh.hu/en/press_room/press_releases/press-releases-2023/gvh-investigates-how-microsoft-informs-consumers-about-its-new-search-service

²⁸²⁴ Gazdasági Versenyhivatal, *GVH: The Use of Artificial Intelligence Can Increase the Competitiveness of Hungarian Businesses* (Oct. 21, 2024), https://www.gvh.hu/en/press_room/press_releases/press-releases-2024/gvh-the-use-of-artificial-intelligence-can-increase-the-competitiveness-of-hungarian-businesses

²⁸²⁵ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Government's Decision 1301/2024 (IX.30.) regarding the implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation [a mesterséges intelligenciáról szóló*

The Hungarian media regulator issued a statement on the result of a study assessing the impact of online platforms' algorithms on Hungarian users. Among the regulator's conclusions were the need for more algorithmic transparency and human oversight in these platforms.²⁸²⁶ The Hungarian data protection authority (NAIH), it is taking part in a project aimed at helping European DPAs assess complex AI algorithms to effectively enforce data subject rights.²⁸²⁷

Emotion Recognition

The NAIH presented a case in the 2023 annual report where it imposed the highest fine to date of ca. EUR 670,000 (HUF 250 million). The case involved the personal data processing of a bank (acting as a data controller) which automatically analyzed the recorded audio of customer service calls. The bank used the results of the analysis to determine which customers should be called back. The emotional state of the caller was analyzed using an AI-based speech signal processing software that automatically analyzed the call based on a list of keywords and the emotional state of the caller. The software then established a ranking of the calls serving as a recommendation as to which caller should be called back as a priority.

During the procedure before the Authority, it appeared that for years the bank had failed to provide to the data subjects proper notice and the right to object. The Authority emphasized that the only lawful legal basis for the processing activity of emotions-based voice analysis can only be the freely given, informed consent of the data subjects.

The NAIH also highlighted that although the bank had carried out a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) and identified that the processing is of high risk to the data subjects, capable of profiling and scoring, the DPIA had failed to present substantial solutions to address these risks.

The legitimate interest test performed by the bank had failed to consider proportionality, the interests of the data subjects, it merely established that the data processing is necessary to achieve the purposes it pursues.

európai parlamenti és tanácsi rendelet végrehajtásához szükséges intézkedésekről] (Sept. 30, 2024), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2024-1301-30-22>

²⁸²⁶ National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH), *A mesterséges intelligencia dönti el, mi a tiltott, tűrt és támogatott* (Jan 28, 2025),

https://nmhh.hu/cikk/250507/A_mesterseges_intelligencia_donti_el_mi_a_tiltott_turt_es_tamogatott

²⁸²⁷ NAIH, *AI: Komplex algoritmusok és hatékony adatvédelmi felügyelet* (Jan. 31, 2025),

<https://naih.hu/hirek/731-ai-komplex-algoritmusok-es-hatekony-adatvedelmi-feluegyelet-projekt>

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The Authority, in addition to imposing a record fine,²⁸²⁸ obliged the bank to cease the analysis of emotions from voice analysis. The Authority highlighted that “artificial intelligence is generally difficult to understand and monitor due to the way it works, and even new technologies pose particular privacy risks. This is one of the reasons why the use of artificial intelligence in data management requires special attention, not only on paper but also in practice.”²⁸²⁹

Facial Recognition

A project called Szitakötő (dragonfly) was planned in 2016 to deploy 35,000 cameras with facial recognition capabilities in Budapest, and across the country.²⁸³⁰ Facial data of all residents of and visitors to Hungary are stored in a database that can be accessed by Hungarian law enforcement authorities. Hungary’s 35,000 CCTV cameras operate as part of a single centralised searchable system, and its biometric databases have been connected, allowing the police to identify any citizen from their face. The Hungarian Secret Services and police have already made use of the system, resulting in 6000 matches, 250 stop-and-searches, and 4 arrests as of 2021.²⁸³¹

Hungary’s data protection authority, the NAIH, investigated and fined a Hungarian municipality (Siófok) in 2022 for installing AI facial-recognition software within a 39-camera CCTV network. The NAIH found that this kind of data processing was unlawful and imposed a fine of HUF 500,000 (EUR 1,250) on the technical service provider partially owned by China. The investigation further revealed a lack of cooperation agreement between the municipality and the police regarding joint control of the CCTV network and the inadequate data security measures in place.²⁸³²

The Hungarian Parliament adopted three legislative amendments introducing stricter regulations on public demonstrations related to LGBTQAI+ issues and

²⁸²⁸ Zoltan Kozma and Mark Almasy, *Hungary: Record GDPR Fine by the Hungarian Data Protection Authority for the Unlawful Use of Artificial Intelligence*, Lexology (Apr. 12, 2022), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6f481141-b624-46dd-a443-e5e032bece26>

²⁸²⁹ National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (NAIH), *2023 Annual Report* (Feb. 2024) https://www.naih.hu/files/NAIH_annual_report_2023.pdf

²⁸³⁰ Budapest Business journal, *CCTV Is It Big Brother Budapest Watching You?* (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://bbj.hu/budapest/travel/sights/cctv-is-big-brother-budapest-watching-you/>

²⁸³¹ Biometric Update, *EU Parliamentary Group Maps Biometric Mass Surveillance across Bloc, Calls for Ban* (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202110/eu-parliamentary-group-maps-biometric-mass-surveillance-across-bloc-calls-for-ban>

²⁸³² Dora Petranyi and Marton Domokos, *Hungarian Data Protection Regulator Ruling Highlights Shortcomings of Facial-Recognition via CCTV* (Mar. 9, 2022), <https://cms-lawnow.com/en/alerts/2022/03/hungarian-data-protection-regulator-ruling-highlights-shortcomings-of-facial-recognition-via-cctv>

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expanding the scope of biometric surveillance measures.²⁸³³ Amendments related to the Facial Image Analysis Register and System passed within 24 hours and without public debate. Together, the amendments significantly expanded the use of facial recognition technology in Hungary, including in the context of minor infractions and peaceful assemblies, such as Budapest Pride.

The EU AI Act prohibits the use of “real-time remote biometric identification systems in publicly accessible spaces for the purpose of law enforcement” unless strictly necessary in specific, exhaustive situations.²⁸³⁴ The European Parliament provides “three exhaustively listed and narrowly defined situations.”²⁸³⁵ A joint open letter sent by 51 human and digital rights groups urged the European Commission to take action against this set of laws that aim to criminalize LGBTQIA+ demonstrations and expand the use of biometric surveillance to identify protesters.²⁸³⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Hungary has consistently acknowledged that lethal autonomous weapons systems warrant “substantial consideration” and supported continuing diplomatic talks addressing concerns and for an international treaty. Hungary was one of the 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the UN General Assembly calling for recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, the need for human oversight and accountability, and the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.²⁸³⁷ Hungary cosponsored Resolution L.56²⁸³⁸ on autonomous weapons systems in 2023 and voted in favor of

²⁸³³ European Digital Rights (EDRI), *Hungary’s New Biometric Surveillance Laws Violate the AI Act* (May 6, 2025), <https://edri.org/our-work/hungarys-new-biometric-surveillance-laws-violate-the-ai-act/>

²⁸³⁴ EU Artificial Intelligence Act, *Article 5: Prohibited Artificial Intelligence Practices* (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/article/5/>

²⁸³⁵ European Parliament, *Legislative Resolution on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act)* (Jun. 14, 2023), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-06-14_EN.html

²⁸³⁶ European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), *The EU Must Act against Biometric Surveillance of Protesters in Hungary* (Jun. 24, 2025), <https://ecnl.org/news/eu-must-act-against-biometric-surveillance-protesters-hungary>

²⁸³⁷ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/estements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

²⁸³⁸ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct.12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

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Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems.²⁸³⁹ The Chair's Summary of the 2024 Vienna conference Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation,²⁸⁴⁰ which Hungary endorsed was included in the Secretary-General report resulting from Resolution L.56.²⁸⁴¹

Hungary also supported the joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain in the February 2023 REAIM Summit²⁸⁴² and endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy in November 2023.²⁸⁴³

AI Literacy

The EU AI Act mandates that organizations providing or using AI systems ensure their staff and users have sufficient knowledge and understanding of AI's opportunities and risks.²⁸⁴⁴ Hungary's National AI Strategy identifies education and competence around AI skills as essential for achieving the objectives and preparing the workforce. However, details about specific programs are not available.

Hungary amended the Act on Higher Education to require higher education institutions to undertake a comprehensive review of their internal regulations.²⁸⁴⁵ The guideline aims to ensure the responsible and well-regulated integration of AI tools and technologies to ensure students are adequately prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

²⁸³⁹ United Nations, *Draft Resolution A/C.1/79/L.77 – Seventy-ninth Session* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/79/L.77>

²⁸⁴⁰ Automated Decision Research, *Hungary—State Position on Autonomous Weapons Systems* (2024), https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/hungary/

²⁸⁴¹ UN General Assembly, 79th Session, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

²⁸⁴² Government of the Netherlands, *Speech by Minister Hanke Bruins Slot at the High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2024/02/27/speech-by-minister-hanke-bruins-slot-at-the-conference-on-disarmament>

²⁸⁴³ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

²⁸⁴⁴ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (Text with EEA relevance)*, Article 4: AI Literacy (Jun. 13, 2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

²⁸⁴⁵ Government of Hungary, *évi CCIV. törvény a nemzeti felsőoktatásról* (Sept. 1, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-204-00-00>

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Human Rights

According to the 2025 Freedom House Freedom in the World report, Hungary is “partly free” with an overall score of 65/100, showing no change compared to the previous two years.²⁸⁴⁶ According to the report, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s Alliance of Young Democrats–Hungarian Civic Union (Fidesz) party has consolidated power since being elected in 2010. Through Constitutional and legal changes, the Fidesz party controls independent institutions, including the judiciary, and has laws that limit freedom of expression and operations for journalists, universities, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with oppositional views. Anti-immigrant anti-LGBT+ policies limit the rights of people in those groups in particular. Similar concerns were raised by the 2022 UN Human Rights Council’s Periodic Review of Hungary.²⁸⁴⁷

These findings also correspond to those of Human Rights Watch, which has cast shadow on the independence of the Hungarian data protection authority following citizens’ complaints related to the 2022 elections. Investigations found that data collected by the state for administering public services, such as registering for the COVID vaccine, administering tax benefits, and mandatory membership in professional associations, was repurposed to spread Fidesz’s campaign messages. Combined with the weakening of the political institutions responsible for safeguarding people’s right to privacy and guaranteeing an even political playing field, this misuse of data has raised serious human rights concerns.²⁸⁴⁸ NAIH’s president, Attila Peterfalvi, concluded, “We are convinced that the activity of our Authority is fully compliant with the requirements the applicable international and EU law as well as the Hungarian Constitution, governing the full independence of the Authority. To date, no statement refuting this conviction of ours has been made by an authoritative forum in this regard.”²⁸⁴⁹

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán enacted the controversial Defense of National Sovereignty Act, provides for the creation of a National Sovereignty Defense Office with broadly defined and extensive powers to investigate and report on any activity

²⁸⁴⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Hungary* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/hungary>

²⁸⁴⁷ Human Rights Council, *Human Rights Council Adopts Outcomes of Universal Periodic Review of Hungary, Suriname, Samoa and Greece* (Mar. 23, 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/human-rights-council-adopts-outcomes-universal-periodic-review-hungary>

²⁸⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Trapped in the Web* (2022),

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/12/01/trapped-web/exploitation-personal-data-hungarys-2022-elections>

²⁸⁴⁹ National Authority for Data Protection, *Request to the Hungarian National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information*, Case No: NAIH-8218-2/2022 (Nov. 9, 2022), <https://www.naih.hu/data-protection/data-protection-reports>

suspected of serving foreign interests. Rights defenders have expressed fear that the law will empower authorities to target anyone critical of the government.²⁸⁵⁰ The European Commission is referring Hungary to the Court of Justice over its Defense of Sovereignty law, which it argues violates EU laws and fundamental rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and protections under EU data and market laws.²⁸⁵¹

Another concerning case is the Pegasus Affair.²⁸⁵² Investigations conducted by international journalists and Direkt36²⁸⁵³, a Hungarian investigative journalism channel, confirmed that around 300 persons in Hungary were potentially targeted by Pegasus, an Israeli cybersecurity tool that hacks mobile phones to monitor phone calls as well access data including emails and photos. Hungarian authorities initially denied or did not confirm their involvement and use of Pegasus until Lajos Kósa, Fidesz MP and Chair of the Hungarian Parliament's Committee on Defense and Law Enforcement, admitted that the Interior Ministry had bought and used Pegasus.²⁸⁵⁴ He argued that it was used lawfully upon authorization by the judiciary and/or the Minister of Justice. NAIH's report²⁸⁵⁵ found that all the hundreds of cases investigated met the required legal criteria (risk for national security, legal

²⁸⁵⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Hungary* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/hungary/freedom-world/2024>

²⁸⁵¹ European Commission, *The Commission decides to refer Hungary to the Court of Justice of the European Union Considering its National Law on the Defence of Sovereignty to be in Breach of EU law* (Oct. 3, 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4865

²⁸⁵² EU, *Pegasus and Spyware* (2022), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2022/732268/IPOL_IDA\(2022\)732268_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2022/732268/IPOL_IDA(2022)732268_EN.pdf); European Parliament, *The Use of Pegasus and Equivalent Surveillance Spyware—The Existing Legal Framework in EU Member States for the Acquisition and Use of Pegasus and Equivalent Surveillance Spyware* (Dec. 5, 2022), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_STU\(2022\)740151](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_STU(2022)740151); European Parliament, *MEPs Discuss the Draft Recommendations of the Spyware Inquiry Committee* (Jan. 23, 2023), <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230123IPR68611/meps-discuss-the-draft-recommendations-of-the-spyware-inquiry-committee>

²⁸⁵³ Telex - Direkt36, *Hungarian Journalists and Critics of Orbán Were Targeted with Pegasus, a Powerful Israeli Cyberweapon* (Jul. 19, 2021), <https://telex.hu/direkt36/2021/07/19/pegasus-nso-hungary-viktor-orban-cyberweapon>

²⁸⁵⁴ Hungarytoday, *Fidesz Government Admits Surveillance Israel Journalist Pegasus Spyware* (2022), <https://hungarytoday.hu/fidesz-governement-admit-surveillance-israel-journalist-pegasus-spyware/>

²⁸⁵⁵ NAIH, *Jelentés a Nemzeti Adatvédelmi és Információszabadság Hatóság hivatalból indított vizsgálatának megállapításai a „Pegasus” kémszoftver Magyarországon történő alkalmazásával összefüggésben* (2022), <https://www.naih.hu/adatvedelmi-jelentesek/file/486-jelentes-a-nemzeti-adatvedelmi-es-informacioszabadsaghatosag-hivatalbol-inditott-vizsgalatanak-megallapitasai-a-pegasus-kemszoftver-magyarorszagon-tortenoalkalmazasaval-osszefuggesben>

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authorization).²⁸⁵⁶ The Authority reportedly will file a criminal complaint against those who uncovered the mass surveillance for possibly mishandling data.²⁸⁵⁷

The EU Court of Justice found²⁸⁵⁸ that Hungary's 2025 laws expanding the scope of biometric surveillance and introducing stricter regulations on public demonstrations related to LGBTQAI+ issues violate the Charter of Fundamental Rights.²⁸⁵⁹ The Charter protects freedom of expression, including the right to publicly affirm one's sexual orientation; safeguards the right to peaceful assembly and association; prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation; and recognizes the inviolability of human dignity. By effectively banning LGBTQI+ demonstrations and qualifying participation in banned demonstrations as infractions, the new laws violate the Charter. The use of facial recognition technology to identify participants in these demonstrations violates the EU AI Act.²⁸⁶⁰ Moreover, Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union commits all member states to uphold the EU's foundational values, including human dignity, freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. Hungary's Pride ban and associated surveillance measures could be seen as evidence of violations of this Treaty.²⁸⁶¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As part of the G20 and as a member to the OECD, Hungary has endorsed the OECD AI Principles and G20 AI Guidelines. According to the 2021 OECD report on the State of implementation of the OECD AI Principles, the Hungarian national AI strategy exhibits features aligned with the OECD AI Principles such as the adoption

²⁸⁵⁶ Telexhu, *Pegasus-botrány: valóban voltak megfigyelések, minden esetben nemzetbiztonsági kockázatra hivatkozva* (2022), <https://telex.hu/belfold/2022/01/31/adatvedelem-peterfalvi-pegasus-vizsgalat>

²⁸⁵⁷ Eszter Zalan, *MEPs Hear Testimony from Pegasus Spy Victims*, EU Observer (Feb. 2, 2022), <https://euobserver.com/104460/meps-hear-testimony-from-pegasus-spy-victims/>

²⁸⁵⁸ Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties), *Legal Analysis: New Biometric Surveillance Laws in Hungary Violate the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the AI Act* (Jun. 25, 2025), <https://www.liberties.eu/f/tcbfhu>

²⁸⁵⁹ European Parliament, *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (Dec. 18 2000), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

²⁸⁶⁰ Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties), *Legal Analysis: New Biometric Surveillance Laws in Hungary Violate the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the AI Act* (Jun. 25, 2025), <https://www.liberties.eu/f/tcbfhu>

²⁸⁶¹ European Parliament, *Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union [2016] OJ C 202/1*, Article 2 (Mar. 1 2020), <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eut/teu/article/2>

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of ethical guidelines.²⁸⁶² The Renewed AI Strategy reaffirms the Principles.²⁸⁶³ While Hungary has made partial progress by beginning to incorporate principles such as human rights and accountability into its policy framework, full implementation of these principles has not yet been achieved.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The European Union signed the AI treaty on behalf of its 27 member states, including Hungary. Hungary has not yet taken action at the country level.²⁸⁶⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a UNESCO member, Hungary endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Hungary's Renewed AI Strategy includes ethics frameworks,²⁸⁶⁵ but institutional implementation is still in its early stages. Current efforts focus more on building structures than on enforcement. The Strategy includes references to the need for capacity-building and AI education, though no specific program has been introduced. Hungary has not begun the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).²⁸⁶⁶

Evaluation

Hungary has adopted the OECD/G20 AI Guidelines, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, a comprehensive National AI Strategy, and AI ethical Guidelines. The national AI Act passed in 2025 combined with an updated AI Strategy demonstrate a focus on stronger transparency and growing institutional capacity through new governance structures and ethical safeguards. The country also benefits from a strong data protection legal regime and the right to algorithmic

²⁸⁶² OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles – Insights from National AI Policies* (Jun. 2021), <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1cd40c44-en.pdf?expires=1680283942&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=4DEE9AF3E3BF420F8C5236B2BFF3DCE0>

²⁸⁶³ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

²⁸⁶⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²⁸⁶⁵ Government of Hungary, *Renewed Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2030)* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/c/c0/c0d/c0dfdbd37cfa520ae37361a168d244c85e7295af.pdf>

²⁸⁶⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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transparency. Still, the country's human rights record and surveillance practices raise concerns about the autocratic turn of the government. Questions about the independence of the data protection authority have surfaced, and there are similar concerns about the AI supervisory authority, which will be headed by a Government Commission for AI reporting directly to the Prime Minister.²⁸⁶⁷

²⁸⁶⁷ Nemzeti Jogszabálytár, *Government Decision 1028/2025 (II.24.) on the appointment and responsibilities of the Government Commissioner for Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2025-1028-30-22.0>

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India

In 2025, India made significant strides toward implementing principles for human-centered AI and digital policies by finalizing the AI Governance Guidelines, enacting the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and related rules, and completing consultations for the UNESCO RAM report.

National AI Strategy

Recognizing the potential of AI to transform and advance its economy, the government of India has initiated and implemented multiple strategies to address research, development, innovation, governance, standards setting, and accountability of AI.

The Indian Ministry of Commerce set up a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence to kick start the use of AI for India's Economic Transformation.²⁸⁶⁸ In 2018, the Task Force issued a benchmark report that has played a key role in setting forth India's vision regarding AI: "While there is a strong consensus that Artificial Intelligence will be a game-changer and a key factor in economic development, there is a concurrent need to arrive at frameworks that will promote its deployment taking all social factors into account." The Mission consists in (1) Leveraging AI for economic benefits; (2) Creating policy and legal framework to accelerate AI deployment; and (3) Formulating concrete 5-year horizon recommendations for specific government, industry and research programs.

The finance minister mandated NITI Aayog, a policy think tank of the Government of India providing guidance and policy insights, to establish the National Program on AI. NITI Aayog delineated a National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence "premised on the proposition that India, given its strengths and characteristics, has the potential to position itself among leaders on the global AI map—with a unique brand of #AIforAll."²⁸⁶⁹ An accompanying 2020 paper addressed enforcement for Responsible AI for All.²⁸⁷⁰ NITI Aayog proposed an oversight body charged with managing principles for Responsible AI in India, promoting education and awareness, clarify responsible behavior, enabling access to Responsible AI tools and techniques, and coordinate with AI regulators to harmonize

²⁸⁶⁸ Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, *Artificial Intelligence Task Force*, <https://www.aitf.org.in>

²⁸⁶⁹ NITI Aayog, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIforAll*, p. 5, (Jun. 2018), <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-03/National-Strategy-for-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

²⁸⁷⁰ NITI Aayog, *Working Document: Enforcement Mechanisms for Responsible #AIforAll* (Nov. 2020), <https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-11/Towards-Responsible-AI-Enforcement-of-Principles.pdf>

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policies across sectors. Another document proposed principles for the responsible management of AI systems: Safety and Reliability; Equality; Inclusivity and Non-discrimination; Privacy and Security; Transparency; Accountability; and Protection and Reinforcement of Positive Human Values.²⁸⁷¹

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has led India's operational and regulatory AI agenda. Between 2019 and 2023, MeitY constituted four expert committees focused on platforms and data, sectoral missions, policy enablers including skilling, and legal/ethical issues. These committees produced recommendations on areas such as data governance, standards, and sectoral adaptation; however, many outcomes have been consultative or strategy-setting rather than direct regulation.²⁸⁷²

In 2023, MeitY—via the Principal Scientific Advisor's office—established seven working groups that produced the first IndiaAI Expert Group Report, forming the backbone of the IndiaAI Mission.²⁸⁷³ Major initiatives since 2023 include the launch of the Centre for Generative AI,²⁸⁷⁴ the AI for Skills and Capacity Building' program, and five regional AI research hubs.²⁸⁷⁵ The IndiaAI Mission and MeitY's AI Governance Guidelines set the regulatory and operational standard for AI oversight, with an emphasis on public consultation, risk management, and ethics.²⁸⁷⁶ Actual statutory oversight, however, remains pending, with many recommendations still awaiting full legal implementation.

²⁸⁷¹ NITI Aayog, *Responsible AI #AIForAll Part 1 – Principles for Responsible AI* (Feb. 2021), <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-02/Responsible-AI-22022021.pdf>

²⁸⁷² Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence Committee Reports* (2019), [https://www.meity.gov.in/documents/reports/report-of-committee-gN0YTNtQWa?pageTitle=Artificial-Intelligence-Committees-Reports-\(2019\)](https://www.meity.gov.in/documents/reports/report-of-committee-gN0YTNtQWa?pageTitle=Artificial-Intelligence-Committees-Reports-(2019))

²⁸⁷³ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *India AI 2023* (Oct. 2023), <https://indiaai.gov.in/news/indiaai-2023-expert-group-report-first-edition>; <https://indiaai.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/docs/IndiaAI+Expert+Group+Report-First+Edition.pdf>

²⁸⁷⁴ INDIAai, *INDIAai Launched the Generative AI Report* (May 30, 2023), <https://indiaai.gov.in/news/indiaai-launched-the-generative-ai-report>

²⁸⁷⁵ INDIAai, *India AI and Meta Launch Srijan and YuvAI to Propel Open Source AI Innovation, Research and Skills Development in India* (Oct. 26, 2024), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/indiaai-and-meta-launch-srijan-and-yuvai-to-propel-open-source-ai-innovation-research-and-skill-development-in-india>

²⁸⁷⁶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *India AI Governance Guidelines* (2025), <https://indiaai.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/docs/guidelines-governance.pdf>; Shefali Malhotra, *What Will Take for India's New AI Governance Guidelines to Work*, Tech Policy Press (Dec. 3, 2025), <https://www.techpolicy.press/what-it-will-take-for-indias-new-ai-governance-guidelines-to-work/>

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Public Participation

The government of India has conducted several public consultations on AI policy. NITI Aayog requested public comments on its various #AIforAll documents.²⁸⁷⁷ In November 2020, the Software Freedom Law Center India (SFLC) wrote to the Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee regarding the Draft Personal Data Protection bill and asked the Committee to invite civil society organizations that “defend the rights of citizens in the digital space for consultation on the draft Data Protection Bill.”²⁸⁷⁸ The SFLC noted “core deficiencies in the draft bill “including the lack of surveillance reforms, wide exemptions and problems with the Data Protection Authority.”

India's commitment to public participation in AI governance has seen notable developments, particularly in structured engagement with stakeholders. The CyberGuard AI Hackathon, launched under IndiaAI's mission to democratize AI, demonstrates efforts to promote broader public engagement in AI development and policy formation.²⁸⁷⁹ MeitY conducted public consultations in 2025 on both the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules²⁸⁸⁰ and the Subcommittee on AI Governance and Guidelines Development's AI Governance report “to ensure that the governance mechanisms reflected India's aspirations.”²⁸⁸¹ UNESCO New Delhi's call for proposals for AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) further emphasized the push for multi-stakeholder consultation in AI governance.²⁸⁸²

However, significant gaps remain in public participation frameworks. Current engagement mechanisms primarily favor industry experts and technical stakeholders, with limited avenues for civil society organizations and affected communities to meaningfully influence AI governance decisions. This imbalance suggests a need for more inclusive participation mechanisms that extend beyond technical expertise to incorporate diverse public perspectives.

²⁸⁷⁷ For example, *NITI Aayog Seeks Comments on the Discussion Paper on Facial Recognition Technology*, IndiaAI (Nov. 4, 2022), <https://indiaai.gov.in/news/niti-aayog-seeks-comments-on-the-discussion-paper-on-facial-recognition-technology>

²⁸⁷⁸ SFLC, *Letter to Joint Parliamentary Committee on Inviting Civil Societies for Consultation on Draft Data Protection Bill* (Nov. 18, 2020), <https://sflc.in/letter-joint-parliamentary-committee-invitation-civil-society-organisations-consultation-draft-data/>

²⁸⁷⁹ IndiaAI, *AI for Citizen Safety: Join the IndiaAI CyberGuard AI Hackathon!* (Oct. 16, 2024), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/ai-for-citizen-safety-join-the-indiaai-cyberguard-ai-hackathon>

²⁸⁸⁰ Government of India, *Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025* (Jan. 03, 2025), <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/dpdp-rules-2025/>

²⁸⁸¹ IndiaAI, *Report on AI Governance Guidelines Development* (Jan. 06, 2025), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/report-on-ai-governance-guidelines-development>

²⁸⁸² IndiaAI, *MeitY and UNESCO Host Stakeholder Consultation on AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in India* (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/meity-and-unesco-host-stakeholder-consultation-on-ai-readiness-assessment-methodology-ram-in-india>

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Data Protection

India's president assented to the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Act) in August 2023,²⁸⁸³ following a long process of consultations, revisions, and drafts beginning in 2017.²⁸⁸⁴ Initial provisions of the DPDP Act entered into force in November 2025,²⁸⁸⁵ along with the release of Digital Personal Data Protection Rules.²⁸⁸⁶ The Central Government also established the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI), the statutory authority mandated with the primary function of enforcement under the Act, in November 2025.²⁸⁸⁷

The DPDP Act introduces several key provisions while maintaining granting significant discretionary powers to the Central Government for exempting specific data processing activities and exemptions for government data processing.²⁸⁸⁸ The Act establishes data fiduciaries' obligations and data principals' rights, including consent requirements for processing data of children and persons with disabilities. However, critical rights such as data portability and the right to object to processing are notably absent. The Data Protection Board, when established, will function primarily as an adjudicator rather than a regulator, marking a distinct approach to enforcement in India's data protection framework.

India's data protection landscape has undergone significant transformation following the passage of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. From January to March 2025, MeitY released the Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules for public consultation.²⁸⁸⁹ The rules provide detailed procedural guidance for implementing the Act, including provisions on the powers and functions of the yet-

²⁸⁸³ Money Control News, *India Gets a Data Protection Law* (Aug. 11, 2023),

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/india-gets-a-data-protection-law-11164481.html>

²⁸⁸⁴ Bill No. 373: *Personal Data Protection Bill* (2019),

https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2019/Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Bill,%202019.pdf; Atlantic Council, *Experts React: India's Personal Data Protection Bill Tabled in Parliament* (Jan. 4, 2022), <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/experts-react-indias-personal-data-protection-bill-tabled-in-parliament/>

²⁸⁸⁵ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Notification G.S.R. 843(E)*, Gazette of India: Extraordinary (Nov. 13, 2025),

<https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/c56ceae6c383460ca69577428d36828b.pdf>

²⁸⁸⁶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025* (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.meity.gov.in/documents/act-and-policies/digital-personal-data-protection-rules-2025-gDOxUjMtQWa?pageTitle=Digital-Personal-Data-Protection-Rules-2025>

²⁸⁸⁷ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Notification G.S.R. 844(E)*, Gazette of India: Extraordinary (Nov. 13, 2025),

<https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/cc217843dc3bcb37b2b05bcc3b4e031f.pdf>

²⁸⁸⁸ Ministry of Law and Justice, *The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023* (Aug. 11, 2023), <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2023/248045.pdf>

²⁸⁸⁹ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025* (Jan–Mar 2025), <https://dpdpa.com/dpdparules.html>

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to-be-fully-functional Data Protection Board of India (DPBI), consent management mechanisms, and cross-border data transfer regulations that are critical given the global nature of AI systems.

MeitY has Observer status in Global Privacy Assembly (GPA); thus, India has endorsed no relevant GPA resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

Prime Minister Modi addressed the issue of algorithmic transparency directly in October 2020.²⁸⁹⁰ Speaking at the Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) summit, he declared, “It remains our collective responsibility to ensure trust in how AI is used. Algorithm Transparency is key to establishing this Trust. Equally important is accountability. We must protect the world against weaponization of AI by Non-State Actors.”

The DPDP Act does not explicitly and comprehensively provide for algorithmic transparency. However, Section 11 grants data subjects the right to obtain a summary of personal data being processed, descriptions of processing activities, and identities of other data fiduciaries or processors with whom data has been shared.²⁸⁹¹ The right is limited to summaries rather than full data or algorithmic logic disclosures, reflecting a balance between transparency and protection of proprietary processing logic. Credit scoring and other algorithmic decision-making systems, which sometimes depend on opaque or proprietary algorithms, must balance the conflict between preserving proprietary processing logic and meeting transparency requirements.²⁸⁹²

Growing concerns about automated decision-making systems has sparked some action. According to a recent analysis by Siddharth Yadav,²⁸⁹³ the government has recognized that individuals using online platforms are largely unaware of how algorithmic systems function or how they influence content distribution. To address this “control asymmetry,” India is moving toward mandating “white-box” rather than “black-box” explanations of algorithmic systems. While black-box descriptions merely provide high-level justifications for system outputs, white-box explanations

²⁸⁹⁰ PM Narendra Modi, *We Want India to Become a Global Hub for Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 5, 2020), <https://www.narendramodi.in/text-of-pm-s-address-at-the-inauguration-of-responsible-ai-for-social-empowerment-2020-summit-551754>

²⁸⁹¹ Gazette of India, *Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023* (Aug. 11, 2023), <https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2024/06/2bf1f0e9f04e6fb4f8fef35e82c42aa5.pdf>

²⁸⁹² Amar Mali, *Section 11, Interpretation*, <https://dpdpa.com/dpdpa2023/chapter-3/section11.html>

²⁸⁹³ Siddharth Yadav, *Algorithmic Transparency : Public Access to Information on Automated Decision-Making*, Observer Research Foundation (Sept. 27, 2024), <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/algorithmic-transparency-public-access-to-information-on-automated-decision-making>

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require companies to detail how their systems process and score inputs to arrive at specific outcomes. This shift is particularly significant for high-impact systems used in public sector decision-making and large social media platforms. Regulators have also begun mandating that social media platforms include tools in their user interfaces explaining how user actions are scored and used for content distribution. However, implementation challenges remain, particularly around balancing transparency requirements with commercial interests and technical complexity.

AI-Generated Content

The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued a directive in January 2025 mandating all political parties to disclose synthetic or AI-generated content in campaign materials.²⁸⁹⁴ The directive represented India's first electoral AI-transparency requirement to protect voters' access to authentic information and ensure accountability during political communications. The Commission later reinforced these provisions ahead of the Bihar state elections, expanding their application at the subnational level.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued draft amendments to the Information Technology Rules, in 2025 to introduce mandatory labelling of AI-generated images, audio, and video content.²⁸⁹⁵ The amendments establish user disclosure requirements and platform accountability for synthetic content, marking the first enforceable framework on AI-generated media in India.

Biometric Identity System

In 2009, India created UIDAI (Unique Identity Authority of India) and embarked on the creation of an ambitious digital biometric identity ecosystem, the Aadhaar identity system. This ecosystem utilizes AI and machine learning techniques throughout. To facilitate a fully digital, cashless society and economy, many open application programming interfaces or APIs are now associated with the Aadhaar ecosystem.

When these APIs are linked to services or data, including those utilizing AI, it is part of "The India Stack."²⁸⁹⁶ In 2019, to further address concerns of standardization of AI development, the Department of Telecommunications formed

²⁸⁹⁴ Election Commission of India (ECI), *Advisory for Labelling Synthetic/AI Generated content Used by Political Parties for Election Campaigning—Reg* (Jan. 16, 2025), *Advisory on Responsible Use and Disclosure of Synthetically Generated Information and AI-Generated Content during Elections—Reg* (Oct. 24, 2025), https://ceogoa.nic.in/pdf/Advisory_%20AI.pdf

²⁸⁹⁵ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, *Draft Amendments to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (AI Content Labelling)* (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2181719>

²⁸⁹⁶ India Stack, *FAQs*, <https://indiastack.org/faq.html>

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an AI standardization committee to develop interface standards and design India's AI Stack, a framework designed to provide standards for all sectors addressing: data privacy, protection, federation, and minimization; defined data structures; interfaces and protocols; ethical standards; digital rights; and trustworthiness.²⁸⁹⁷ The committee released a report in 2020, and invited public comments on the design of India's AI Stack. The India Stack is the largest system of its kind in the world, and by extension, among the largest AI / Machine Learning based systems in the world.

The Aadhaar system, originally a voluntary pilot program, became mandatory overtime and was tied to many services, which eventually created substantive human rights and privacy issues.²⁸⁹⁸ However, a series of landmark rulings from the Supreme Court of India, culminating in the landmark *Aadhaar Privacy* judgment of 2018,²⁸⁹⁹ attempted to curtail the negative uses of the Aadhaar system although a significant national mandate for technological, procedural, and policy improvements remained.²⁹⁰⁰ Because of this, throughout India there is a strong impetus toward implementing mitigation for privacy and autonomy concerns in the Aadhaar system, the "India Stack", and in general, AI systems. This mandate includes public participation in, and understanding of, AI systems. Since the *Aadhaar* ruling, many improvements have been made regarding AI-based identity systems and services, the "India Stack." However, the use and implementation of Aadhaar with AI tends to fall within the gray-zone of the *Aadhaar Privacy* judgment of 2018 as it prohibits the use of Aadhaar by private entities and limits the use of Aadhaar by the Government towards providing subsidies, benefits and services. In this regard, the Attorney General for India later issued a guiding opinion²⁹⁰¹ in 2019, the Aadhaar Act was further amended²⁹⁰² to make the statute comply with the *Aadhaar* judgment.²⁹⁰³

²⁸⁹⁷ INDIAai, *AI Standards & Policies* (2020), <https://indiaai.gov.in/ai-standards>

²⁸⁹⁸ Pam Dixon, *A Failure to "Do No Harm" – India's Aadhaar Biometric ID Program and Its Inability to Protect Privacy in Relation to Measures in Europe and the US, Health Technology* (May 4, 2017), <https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s12553-017-0202-6>

²⁸⁹⁹ Supreme Court Observer, *Aadhaar Review* (2025), <https://www.scobserver.in/cases/beghar-foundation-ks-puttaswamy-aadhaar-review-case-background/>

²⁹⁰⁰ The Hindu, *Reactions to the Aadhaar Verdict: Original Aadhaar Petitioner Justice Puttaswamy Welcomes Parts of the Judgment* (Sept. 27, 2018), <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/reactions-to-aadhaar-verdict/article25046282.ece>

²⁹⁰¹ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), *Opinion of the Attorney General for India* (Oct. 23, 2018), <https://uidai.gov.in/images/Circular%20-Use%20of%20Aadhaar%20for%20opening%20bank%20accounts%20and%20withdrawal%20of%20money%20through%20AePS-reg.pdf>

²⁹⁰² Ministry of Law and Justice, *The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act* (2019), https://www.uidai.gov.in/images/news/Amendment_Act_2019.pdf

²⁹⁰³ Supreme Court of India, *Contempt Petition (CIVIL) NO. 34 OF 2018 in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 1014 OF 2017* (Sept. 26, 2018), <https://www.supremecourtcases.com/justice-k-s-puttaswamy-retd-and-another-v-union-of-india-and-others/amp/>

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Another concern regarding the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar statute has also arisen as it was passed as a “money bill.”²⁹⁰⁴ However, privacy concerns remain and this area needs to be observed in the future. In addition, application of the GDPR in Europe renewed the focus on implementation of privacy and data protection features within India as well.

In January 2022, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology proposed a new model of “Federated Digital Identities” under which a citizen’s multiple digital IDs — from PAN and Aadhaar to driving license and passport numbers could be interlinked, stored, and accessed via one unique ID envisaged under India Digital Ecosystem Architecture 2.0.²⁹⁰⁵

Facial Recognition

As part of its series of publications on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (RAI), NITI Aayog published a case study for adopting a framework on facial recognition technology, seeking public comments.²⁹⁰⁶ The objective of this case study was to determine how the “governments can adhere to its stated objective of responsible and safe deployment of AI and algorithmic systems.”²⁹⁰⁷ Key recommendations include establishing liability for misuse, creating an independent ethical oversight body, and enforcing transparency for FRT deployments, particularly to address concerns over privacy and misuse.²⁹⁰⁸

In 2022, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO) and Privacy International (PI) joined together to conduct a broad survey of COVID-19 surveillance measures, such as facial recognition, adopted in 15 countries, including India. The organizations investigated negative impacts of surveillance technology and measures employed during the pandemic on activist movements and organizations.²⁹⁰⁹ The report shows that “surveillance technologies had and continue

²⁹⁰⁴ Bar and Bench, *Column: Decoding the Tribunal Judgment* (Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/column-decoding-the-tribunal-judgment>

²⁹⁰⁵ Internet Freedom Foundation, *Summary of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (InDEA) 2.0* (Feb. 16, 2022), <https://internetfreedom.in/summary-of-indea-2-0/>

²⁹⁰⁶ NITI Aayog, *Adopting the Framework: A Use Case Approach on Facial Recognition Technology* (Nov. 2022), https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-11/Ai_for_All_2022_02112022_0.pdf

²⁹⁰⁷ *Ibid*, p. 2

²⁹⁰⁸ NITI Aayog, *Adopting the Framework: A Use Case Approach on Facial Recognition Technology* (Nov. 2022), https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-11/Ai_for_All_2022_02112022_0.pdf

²⁹⁰⁹ European Center for Non-for-Profit Law, *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://ecnl.org/publications/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses>

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to have very serious implications for the enjoyment of human rights—and for civic space more broadly.”²⁹¹⁰

EdTech

In May 2022, Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including India, for children’s education during the pandemic.²⁹¹¹ Based on technical and policy analysis of several EdTech products used in India, Human Rights Watch found that India’s endorsement of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children’s rights. Some EdTech products targeted children with behavioral advertising. Many more EdTech products sent children’s data to AdTech companies that specialize in behavioral advertising or whose algorithms determine what children see online.

Environmental Impact of AI

As one of the fastest-growing economies and home to a diverse range of ecosystems, India faces the unique challenge of balancing development aspirations with environmental concerns to bear. Integration of AI into various sectors has reshaped how societies address environmental challenges and pursue sustainable development. Research papers touching on the impact of AI focus on AI applications on environment conservation rather than the environmental impact of AI.²⁹¹²

The India AI Governance Guidelines may redirect with focus by embedding sustainability under a pillar and proposing institutional bodies such as the AI Governance Group and the AI Safety Institute.²⁹¹³ However, the proposed Secretariat and environmental-impact metrics have yet to be implemented.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

A policy brief on India’s position on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) notes the country’s support for “flexible, voluntary commitments that enshrine human accountability and compliance with [international humanitarian law]

²⁹¹⁰ Ibid, p. 5

²⁹¹¹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

²⁹¹² IndiaAI, *Analyzing the Impact of AI on India’s Sustainable Development* (Jul. 2, 2024), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/analyzing-the-impact-of-ai-on-india-s-sustainable-development>

²⁹¹³ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), *AI and Climate Action in India: A Strategic Perspective in 2025* (Jan. 2025), <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/ai-and-climate-action-in-india-a-strategic-perspective-in-2025>

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norms in military AI.”²⁹¹⁴ India has participated in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and has asserted the CCW as the appropriate forum for discussions on LAWS.²⁹¹⁵ At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, India was one of 5 states that voted against²⁹¹⁶ resolution L.56²⁹¹⁷ on autonomous weapons systems, which was supported by 164 states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

The Indian Army has been steadily embracing emerging and disruptive technologies to transform itself from a manpower-intensive to a technology-enabled force to meet future security challenges.²⁹¹⁸ India’s Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has been involved in the R&D of Direct Energy Weapons, gun-mounted remotely operated vehicles, nuclear weapons (Agni-V), and swarm-based self-healing minefields. The indigenous R&D of Robots for armed forces was a crucial part of lethal autonomous weapons systems under the program of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Make in India.”²⁹¹⁹ Recent collaborations, particularly with the U.S. and other strategic allies, are also enhancing India’s AI defense ecosystem, focusing on autonomous weaponry and battlefield data integration. These initiatives illustrate India’s commitment to becoming a significant player in South Asia’s autonomous weapons landscape, though the ethical challenges surrounding these technologies continue to be an area of debate.²⁹²⁰

²⁹¹⁴ Meghna Pradhan, *India and the Global LAWS Debates*, Issue Brief, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (May 22, 2025), <https://www.idsa.in/publisher/issuebrief/india-and-the-global-laws-debates>

²⁹¹⁵ Ministry of External Affairs, *Statement by Ambassador Anupam Ray at the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Mar. 6, 2023), <https://eoi.gov.in/eoisearch/MyPrint.php?17714?001/0002>

²⁹¹⁶ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

²⁹¹⁷ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

²⁹¹⁸ Sumit Kumar Singh, *Indian Army Employing Autonomous Weapon Systems* (Jan. 16, 2021), <https://www.southasiamonitor.org/india/indian-army-employing-autonomous-weapon-systems>

²⁹¹⁹ Make in India, *Defence Manufacturing* (2018), <https://makeinindiadefence.gov.in>

²⁹²⁰ Vivek N.D., *AI and Indian Defense: Enhancing National Security through Innovation* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://thediplomat.com/2024/10/ai-and-indian-defense-enhancing-national-security-through-innovation/>

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AI Literacy

India's policy landscape in 2025 marks an increasingly systematic national focus on AI literacy, moving beyond earlier fragmented digital-skills initiatives and localized consultations toward structured and benchmarked programming. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched the AI for Skills and Capacity Building program to embed AI ethics, technical capability, and policy awareness into higher-education curricula nationwide.²⁹²¹ The IndiaAI–Meta Centre for Generative AI, established at IIT Jodhpur, developed open-source learning modules and educator resources to enhance both technical proficiency and civic understanding of AI's broader societal impact.²⁹²² Five regional hubs extended this programming beyond metropolitan centers, offering training for teachers, government officials, and community leaders in under-represented regions.

Human Rights

India was among the original 48 countries that voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Freedom House classified India as “Partly Free” with a score of 63/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report.²⁹²³ The ratings for political rights and civil liberties have steadily declined in recent years because of harassment of journalists, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other government critics. Digital surveillance accounts for the decline as well.

Internet shutdowns remain a significant concern, with frequent use by both state and national governments under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, particularly in response to protests and sensitive events. These suspensions, often justified as maintaining public order, have led to allegations of misuse, with instances cited where shutdowns were imposed to prevent activities like exam cheating. This has prompted criticism from digital rights groups like the Internet Freedom Foundation, who argue that shutdowns should adhere more closely to strict guidelines and safeguards under the law.²⁹²⁴

²⁹²¹ Press Information Bureau (PIB), *Government of India Expands AI-Driven Skilling* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2113095>

²⁹²² Economic Times, *Meta Teams Up with IndiaAI to Advance Open-Source AI Innovation* (Mar. 2025), <https://economictimes.com/news/india/meta-teams-up-with-indiaai-to-advance-open-source-ai-innovation-rd-skill-development/articleshow/114598971.cms>

²⁹²³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: India* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/india/freedom-world/2025>

²⁹²⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: India* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/india/freedom-net/2024>

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Quad Group

In September 2021, the Quad Group, India, United States, Australia, and Japan, released the “quad principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance and Use,” centered on a commitment to shared democratic values and respect for universal human rights. The principles identified are: 1) Support of universal values, such as freedom of expression, privacy, autonomy, agency, and dignity of individuals; 2) Building trust, integrity and resilience; and 3) Fostering healthy competition and international collaboration to advance the frontier of science and technology.²⁹²⁵

India and the United States launched the US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) to foster closer industrial cooperation in strategic and defense technologies, notably in the areas of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and 5G.²⁹²⁶ iCET deepened the US-India relationship as leaders committed to a shared vision of fostering an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem, based on mutual trust and confidence. India’s collaboration with the United States in the Indo-Pacific for “development, stability, and prosperity” through major initiatives including artificial intelligence continues as part of the Quad.²⁹²⁷ By collaborating on cutting-edge research and innovations in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, communications, and sensing through this Quad AI-ENGAGE effort, researchers collaborating across the diverse environments in Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S. can help transform agricultural approaches to empower farmers everywhere to increase yield and resilience.²⁹²⁸

BRICS

At the 2023 BRICS Summit, India, China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa accepted Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as new

²⁹²⁵ Biden White House Archives, *Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use* (Sept. 24, 2021), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/quad-principles-on-technology-design-development-governance-and-use/>

²⁹²⁶ Biden White Archives, FACT SHEET: United States and India Elevate Strategic Partnership with the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) (Jan. 31, 2023), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/31/fact-sheet-united-states-and-india-elevate-strategic-partnership-with-the-initiative-on-critical-and-emerging-technology-icet/>

²⁹²⁷ Biden White House Archives, *Joint Statement for the United States and India, Quad Leaders’ Summit Fact Sheet* (May 20, 2023), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/20/quad-leaders-summit-fact-sheet/>

²⁹²⁸ US National Science Foundation, *NSF and Quad Partners Launch AI-ENGAGE to Encourage Collaboration on Emerging Technologies and Agriculture* (Sept. 27, 2024), <https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-quad-partners-launch-ai-engage-encourage-collaboration>

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BRICS members.²⁹²⁹ Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that “BRICS countries have agreed to launch the AI Study Group of the BRICS Institute of Future Networks at an early date.”²⁹³⁰ During its 16th Summit in October 2024, the leaders adopted the Kazan Declaration and welcomed its new members attending their first Summit. The declaration seeks to strengthen multilateralism for just global development and security. India’s PM called upon BRICS to proactively push for global governance reforms. Recalling the Voice of Global South Summits hosted by India during its G-20 Presidency, he stressed that the group must give priority to the concerns of the Global South.²⁹³¹

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, India participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.²⁹³² India thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.” India also participated in the AI Seoul Summit, the second AI Safety Summit co-hosted by the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. The AI Seoul Summit reinforced international commitment to safe AI development and added ‘innovation’ and ‘inclusivity’ to its agenda.²⁹³³

India attended the third AI Safety Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit, in Paris.²⁹³⁴ Ahead of the Summit, India Co-Chaired a working group on AI

²⁹²⁹ Taarifa Rwanda, *Ethiopia Officially Confirmed as BRICS Member* (Jan. 8, 2024), <https://furtherafrica.com/2024/01/08/ethiopia-officially-confirmed-as-brics-member/>

²⁹³⁰ BRICS Institute of Future Networks (BIFN), *Artificial Intelligence SG* (Sept. 12, 2023), https://www.bifn.org/study_groups/ai_sg.html

²⁹³¹ Ministry of External Affairs, *Kazan Declaration: Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security* (Oct 23, 2024), https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/38450/Kazan_Declaration_Strengthening_Multilateralism_For_Just_Global_Development_And_Security

²⁹³² UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

²⁹³³ Centre for Strategic & International Studies, *The AI Seoul Summit* (May 23, 2024), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/ai-seoul-summit>

²⁹³⁴ République Française, *AI Action Summit* (Feb. 6–11, 2025), https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/17/786758b38da7b4c16f26dc56e51884b3346684a_a.pdf

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governance with France. The working group mapped AI governance fields as well as technical needs to provide guidance for further action, especially within the UN.²⁹³⁵ The map reiterated common principles for trustworthy AI, aligned with those in the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, as the key to addressing AI governance. Other conclusions emanate from these principles on a global scale, including linguistic and cultural diversity, market structure, and access; “enablers for progress” such as public infrastructure and capacity-building; and the need to anticipate the social consequences of AI developments, such as their impact on the future of work.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As a G20 member, India endorsed the G20 AI Principles at the 2019 G20 Leaders’ Summit in Japan. India held the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. The 43 Heads of Delegations, the largest ever in G20, participated in the final New Delhi Summit in September 2023.²⁹³⁶ India stated that the “G20 Presidency would be a watershed moment in her history as it seeks to play an important role by finding pragmatic global solutions for the wellbeing of all, and in doing so, manifest the true spirit of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ or the ‘World is One Family.’”²⁹³⁷

The New Dehli Summit led G20 leaders to expressly “reaffirm [their] commitment to G20 AI Principles (2019).” In the New Dehli Declaration G20 leaders also asserted, “It is our endeavour to leverage AI for the public good by solving challenges in a responsible, inclusive and human-centric manner, while protecting people’s rights and safety. To ensure responsible AI development, deployment and use, the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, and data protection must be addressed. To unlock the full potential of AI, equitably share its benefits and mitigate risks, we will work together to promote international cooperation and further discussions on international governance for AI.”²⁹³⁸

²⁹³⁵ Élysée, *Co-Chairs’ Statement on International Artificial Intelligence Governance* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/co-chairs-statement-on-international-artificial-intelligence-governance>

²⁹³⁶ Ministry of External Affairs, *G-20 and India’s Presidency* (Dec. 9, 2022), <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1882356>

²⁹³⁷ Government of India, *About G20 Presidency* (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://static.mygov.in/archive/g20/index.html>

²⁹³⁸ G20, *G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration*, CAIDP (Sept. 2023), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8475329463/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf?t=1708386182>

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A 2023 OECD study acknowledged that India is providing guidance for developers and operators on how to implement the principles.²⁹³⁹ India took further strides in AI policy and governance by hosting the Global IndiaAI Summit in July 2024, bringing together AI experts and industry leaders to discuss responsible AI use and development. Key themes included AI accessibility, infrastructure readiness, and safe, ethical AI applications across sectors.²⁹⁴⁰ India's AI Governance Guidelines introduced in 2025 align with OECD/G20 AI principles.²⁹⁴¹

India is a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric development and use of AI.²⁹⁴² The GPAI New Delhi Declaration in 2024 announced an integrated partnership with OECD, where members of both organizations would participate on equal footing in a “collaborative endeavor to harness the potential of human0centric, safe, secure, and trustworthy AI for the good of all.”²⁹⁴³

Council of Europe AI Treaty

India has not signed the Council of Europe's AI Framework Convention, the first legally binding international treaty on artificial intelligence.²⁹⁴⁴ The Convention's emphasis on human rights, democracy, and rule of law provides important benchmarks for evaluating India's evolving AI policies. However, India will be able to accede to the treaty only after it enters into force.²⁹⁴⁵

²⁹³⁹ Lucia Russo and Noah Oder, *How Countries Are Implementing the OECD Principles for Trustworthy AI* (Oct. 31, 2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/national-policies-2>

²⁹⁴⁰ IndiaAI, *Global IndiaAI Summit* (Jul. 2024), <https://indiaai.gov.in/globalindiaaisummit/about-global-indiaai-summit>

²⁹⁴¹ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), *India AI Governance Guidelines 2025* (Nov. 2025), <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/nov/doc2025115685601.pdf>

²⁹⁴² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

²⁹⁴³ Global Partnership on AI, *2024 GPAI New Delhi Declaration* (Jul. 3–4, 2024), <https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2025/01/gpai-new-delhi-declaration-2024.pdf>

²⁹⁴⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

²⁹⁴⁵ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law*, Article 31 (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://rm.coe.int/1680afae3c>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

India has been a member of UNESCO since its inception in 1946 and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics. UNESCO's 2022 report on the State of the Education in India urged the country to implement ethical AI in the education system as India is one of the biggest contributors to AI development.²⁹⁴⁶

IndiaAI, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), launched the CyberGuard AI Hackathon in October 2024 as part of its mission to democratize AI, promote India's AI leadership, and ensure ethical AI use.

India completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report,²⁹⁴⁷ a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation.²⁹⁴⁸ UNESCO and MeitY conducted five consultations through the first half of 2025 to prepare the RAM to guide India's roadmap for AI ethics. The final consultation centered three key takeaways: Ethics must be built into AI development to ensure safety, fairness, and inclusivity; India should tailor global best practices to the local context; and upskilling as non-negotiable to prepare India's workforce.²⁹⁴⁹ The report was published in early 2026.²⁹⁵⁰

Evaluation

India has reaffirmed its endorsement of both the G20 AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, embedding their values of fairness, transparency, and accountability in emerging domestic frameworks such as the AI Governance Guidelines and recently enacted Digital Personal Data Protection Act. The consultations in 2025 to complete the UNESCO RAM represent further progress toward implementing these international frameworks.

Declines in human rights protection in India and the non-committal position of India on the regulation or prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons raise

²⁹⁴⁶ UNESCO, *State of the Education Report for India, 2022: Artificial Intelligence in Education; Here, There, and Everywhere*, UNESCO Digital Library (2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382661.locale=en>

²⁹⁴⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

²⁹⁴⁸ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, General Conference, 42nd session (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387369>

²⁹⁴⁹ UNESCO, *Ethics in Action: India Continues Its Journey towards Ethical AI with the Final RAM Consultation in New Delhi* (Jun. 11, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ethics-action-india-continues-its-journey-towards-ethical-ai-final-ram-consultation-new-delhi>

²⁹⁵⁰ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report: India* (2026), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000397347>

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significant concerns in view of the expanded use of the Aadhaar system among others. India's overall position remains transitional: demonstrating strong normative commitment to ethical AI domestically and internationally while being constrained by institutional and legislative gaps in implementation."

Indonesia

In 2025, Indonesia drafted a National AI Roadmap and Ethics Guidelines for public consultation pending harmonization and presidential decree. The constitutional court also ruled that AI-generated images breach the honesty of elections.

National AI Strategy

Indonesia published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (*STRANAS KA*) in August 2020.²⁹⁵¹ *STRANAS KA* focused on advancing the Indonesian economy through leadership in AI,²⁹⁵² intended to implement the development strategy known as Vision Indonesia 2024 and complementing Making Indonesia 4.0, a government-sponsored program to promote the automation of the Indonesian society.²⁹⁵³ The strategy identifies four key focus areas: (1) Ethics and Policy, (2) Talent Development, (3) Infrastructure and Data, and (4) Industrial Research and Innovation. In the focus area of Ethics and Policy, the goals include implementing data sharing ethics, establishing a Data Ethics Board, and strengthening laws to crack down on the abuse of technology and the misuse of data privacy.

The Center for Digital Society (CfDS) UGM, in collaboration with Google and KORIKA, took action by opening a platform for discussions on artificial intelligence and developing the capacity of digital talent in December 2023.²⁹⁵⁴ The Minister of Communication and Informatics (*Menteri Komunikasi dan Informatika*)

²⁹⁵¹ KORIKA, *Indonesia National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, 2020–2045 [Strategi Nasional Kecerdasan Artifisial Indonesia Tahun 2020–2045, STRANAS KA]*, <https://korika.id/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/stranas-ka-2045.pdf>; Made Anthony Iswara, *Indonesia Sets Sights on Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, The Jakarta Post (Aug. 14, 2020), www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/08/13/indonesia-sets-sights-on-artificial-intelligence-in-new-national-strategy.html

²⁹⁵² Made Anthony Iswara, *Indonesia Sets Sights on Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, The Jakarta Post (Aug. 14, 2020), www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/08/13/indonesia-sets-sights-on-artificial-intelligence-in-new-national-strategy.html

²⁹⁵³ Ministry of Industry, *Making Indonesia 4.0: Indonesia's Strategy to Enter the 4th Generation of Industry Revolution* (Apr. 4, 2018), https://bsn.go.id/uploads/download/making_indonesia_4.0_-_kementerian_perindustrian.pdf; OECD STIP Compass, *Making Indonesia 4.0* (2018), <https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2025%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F200002862>

²⁹⁵⁴ Center for Digital Society, *CfDS & KORIKA–Google*, <https://digitalsociety.id/collaborate/cfds-korika-google/>

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issued a Circular Letter with guidelines for AI ethics in the same month.²⁹⁵⁵ The Circular Letter included principles aligned with human rights and transparency as well as responsibilities such as ensuring the use of artificial intelligence improves innovation and problem-solving and protecting the public, specifically by preventing racism and protecting humanity from automatic decisions.

Indonesia built on this progress in 2025 with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (*Kementerian Komunikasi dan Digital*, KomDigi; previous Ministry of Communication and Informatics, KomInfo) release of National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap White Paper and Concept of Artificial Intelligence Guidelines.²⁹⁵⁶ The documents will serve as the basis for regulatory/policy strategies and to strengthen the AI ethics policy in the 2023 Circular Letter.

Pancasila Values

The National Strategy states that Indonesian AI policy should be based on Pancasila values, the foundation of the Indonesian government.²⁹⁵⁷ Pancasila is a philosophical theory comprising five principles—Belief in the One True God, A fair-minded and civilized humanity, Unity of Indonesia, Democracy (from the people) led by Wisdom of consultation [of the] representatives [of the people], and (Social justice for every person in Indonesia. The AI Strategy sets out the importance of establishing public trust through transparency, social and ecological welfare, robustness and technical safety, diversity, justice, and non-discrimination, amongst others. The Strategy emphasizes the importance of AI being reliable, safe, open, and accountable. Synergy between stakeholders is also mentioned to ensure that the policy is relevant and helpful.

²⁹⁵⁵ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Circular Letter of the Minister of Communication and Informatics Number 9 of 2023 Concerning Artificial Intelligence Ethics [Surat Edaran Komunikasi dan Informatika Nomor 9 Tahun 2023 Tentang Etika Kecerdasan Artifisial]* (Dec. 9, 2023),

https://jdih.komdigi.go.id/produk_hukum/view/id/883/t/surat+edaran+menteri+komunikasi+dan+informatika+nomor+9+tahun+2023

²⁹⁵⁶ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap White Paper and the Draft Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guidelines [Konsultasi Publik Buku Putih Peta Jalan Kecerdasan Artifisial Nasional dan Konsep Pedoman Etika Kecerdasan Artifisial]* (Aug. 8, 2025),

<https://www.komdigi.go.id/berita/pengumuman/detail/konsultasi-publik-buku-putih-peta-jalan-kecerdasan-artifisial-nasional-dan-konsep-pedoman-etika-kecerdasan-artifisial>

²⁹⁵⁷ KORIKA, *Indonesia National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, 2020–2045 [Strategi Nasional Kecerdasan Artifisial Indonesia Tahun 2020–2045, STRANAS KA]*, <https://korika.id/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/stranas-ka-2045.pdf>

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Public Participation

The Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), since transformed into the National Research and Innovation Agency (*Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional*, BRIN) coordinated the development of the National AI Strategy with help from a “wide variety of public and private sector organizations” who “contributed to the plan including government ministries, universities, industry associations, and national telecom providers.”²⁹⁵⁸ The Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) held a public discussion titled Preparing Responsible and Trustworthy AI Regulation for Indonesia in July 2024, where recommendations were presented to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.²⁹⁵⁹

The Jakarta Smart City initiative also encouraged community participation and government responsiveness through social media, public figures, and a public reporting system. Further, the “management of community complaints was conducted with effective coordination between the Jakarta Smart City team and various government departments.”²⁹⁶⁰ In August 2023, the Ministry of Communication and Information began the third phase in the implementation of the PDP Law by releasing a Draft Government Regulation on Personal Data Protection (RPP PDP) as a derivative regulation from the 2022 PDP Law, requesting public input.²⁹⁶¹ Deputy Minister Nezar Patria highlighted the evolving dynamics of personal data protection in light of technological advancements, underscoring the critical role of public involvement in refining the RPP PDP.

The Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi) opened public consultation on the National AI Roadmap White Paper and draft Ethics Guidelines.²⁹⁶² The white paper was developed by a 443-member task force with

²⁹⁵⁸ Carrington Malin, *Indonesia National AI Strategy Published This Month* (Aug. 16, 2020), <https://www.carringtonmalin.com/2020/08/16/indonesia-national-ai-strategy-set-in-motion-this-month/>

²⁹⁵⁹ Modern Diplomacy, *The Urgency of AI Regulation for Developing Countries: Insights from Indonesia* (Jun. 26, 2024), <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/06/30/the-urgency-of-ai-regulation-for-developing-countries-insights-from-indonesia/>

²⁹⁶⁰ 1 World Connected, *Jakarta Smart City* (Sept. 1, 2020), https://1worldconnected.org/project/asia_egov_jakartasmartcityindonesia/

²⁹⁶¹ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Press Release No.*

256/HM/KOMINFO/08/2023 Concerning the Drafting of Implementing Regulations, KomInfo Opens Public Participation through the PDP.ID Page [Siaran Pers No.

256/HM/KOMINFO/08/2023 Tentang Susun Aturan Pelaksana, KomInfo uka Partisipasi Publik lewat Laman PDP.ID] (Aug. 31, 2023), <https://www.komdigi.go.id/berita/siaran-pers/detail/siaran-pers-no-256-hm-kominfo-08-2023-tentang-susun-aturan-pelaksana-kominfo-buka-partisipasi-publik-lewat-laman-pdp-id>

²⁹⁶² ANTARA News, *Indonesia Seeks Public Input on AI Roadmap and Ethics Rules* (Aug. 9, 2025), <https://en.antaranews.com/news/372345/indonesia-seeks-public-input-on-ai-roadmap-and-ethics-rules>

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representatives from government, industry, academia, and civil society. In its call for comments the Ministry states that “Through this mechanism, the government seeks to present regulations that are grounded not only in technical and economic considerations, but also in ethical values, culture, and the broader public interest.” The white paper seeks to address implementation gaps, but is pending issuance as a presidential regulation, which would give it legal force.²⁹⁶³ This engagement follows the government plan for “industry, academics, NGOs, and the wider community to contribute to the development of policies that will optimize the benefits of AI while mitigating the risks of utilizing AI technology.”²⁹⁶⁴

Data Protection

Indonesia’s Personal Data Protection Law (PDP Law) came into force in 2022.²⁹⁶⁵ The law references the EU GDPR and enshrines the Data Subject’s right to object to automatic profiling activities. PDP Law exempts the financial services sector and imposes stricter requirements on broad record-keeping obligations and unique provisions on facial recognition technology and special categories of data (e.g., children’s data, personal financial data).²⁹⁶⁶

The PDP Law provides for the establishment of a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to “implement the PDP Law and report to the Indonesian President, which will create the institution within the Executive branch of the government. The Indonesian DPA will have four key functions: (i) policy, strategy, and guidance formulation; (ii) supervision of the implementation of the PDP Law; (iii) administrative law enforcement against violations; and (iv) facilitating out-of-court dispute resolution.”²⁹⁶⁷ However, no Data Protection Authority has been named as of 2025.

²⁹⁶³ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Komdigi Holds Public Consultation on White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Roadmap and Ethical Guidelines [Komdigi Gelar Konsultasi Publik Buku Putih Peta Jalan dan Pedoman Etika Kecerdasan Artifisial]* (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://djed.komdigi.go.id/news/komdigi-gelar-konsultasi-publik-buku-putih-peta-jalan-dan-pedoman-etika-kecerdasan-artifisial>

²⁹⁶⁴ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Deputy Ministers Nezar Urges Industry to Formulate Appropriate AI Regulations [Wamen Nezar Ajak Industri Rumuskan Regulasi AI Yang Tepat]*, Press Release No. 24/HM-KKD/01/2025 (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.komdigi.go.id/berita/siaran-pers/detail/wamen-nezar-ajak-industri-rumuskan-regulasi-ai-yang-tepat>

²⁹⁶⁵ Database Peraturan, Law (UU) Number 27 of 2022 Concerning Personal Data Protection (Oct. 17, 2022), <https://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Details/229798/uu-no-27-tahun-2022>

²⁹⁶⁶ Hunter Dorwart, et al., *Indonesia Personal Data Protection Bill: Overview, Takeaways, and Context*, Future of Privacy Forum (Oct. 19, 2022), <https://fpf.org/blog/indonesias-personal-data-protection-bill-overview-key-takeaways-and-context/>

²⁹⁶⁷ Ibid

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The Indonesian data protection regime comprises several other laws such as the Law regarding Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT Law) and its implementing regulations.²⁹⁶⁸

Indonesia has no data protection authority to represent the country on the Global Privacy Assembly.²⁹⁶⁹

Algorithmic Transparency

Indonesia's PDP Law provides data subjects with the right to opt out of profiling and automated decision making.²⁹⁷⁰ The 2023 Ministry of Communications and Informatics (KomInfo) Circular Letter instructs business actors and electronic system organizers to "provide information related to the development of Artificial-Intelligence-based technology to prevent negative impacts and losses from the resulting technology on users." This requirement and others tied to data privacy and transparency provide a basic transparency but do not yet rise to the level of providing a base for redress or correction.

AI Oversight

As part of the Personal Data Protection Law (PDP Law), Indonesia is to create a Data Protection Authority (DPA); however, the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi) remains responsible for overseeing data protection regulation in the meantime. In June 2025, the Ministry of Communication and Digital (Komdigi) explained that work on the implementing regulations for the PDP Law is still ongoing, both regarding the establishment of a PDP supervisory body and the more detailed technical rules for implementation.²⁹⁷¹ However, certain sectors have their own authorities to ensure compliance with the regulatory regime. For example, the Indonesian Financial Services Authority (FSA) has the authority to act as the regulator of data privacy in the capital markets sector and for banks' customer data privacy issues.²⁹⁷²

²⁹⁶⁸ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World: Indonesia* (Nov. 2020), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/?t=law&c=ID>

²⁹⁶⁹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

²⁹⁷⁰ Hunter Dorwart, et al., *Indonesia Personal Data Protection Bill: Overview, Takeaways, and Context*, Future of Privacy Forum (Oct. 19, 2022), <https://fpf.org/blog/indonesias-personal-data-protection-bill-overview-key-takeaways-and-context/>

²⁹⁷¹ ANTARA News, *The Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs Explains the Progress of Derivative Regulations for the PDP Law* [Kemkomdigi jelaskan progres aturan turunan UU PDP] (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/4882329/kemkomdigi-jelaskan-progres-aturan-turunan-uu-pdp>

²⁹⁷² DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World: Indonesia* (Nov. 2020), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/?t=law&c=ID>

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The National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia, Komnas HAM aims to “improve the protection and enforcement of human rights in order to develop the whole Indonesian human person and the ability to participate in various fields of life.”²⁹⁷³ Komnas HAM is an independent institution established in 1993 by Presidential Decree. The Law Number 39 of 1999 provided for its “existence, purpose, function, membership, principles, completeness, duties and authority.” While the 1999 law does not explicitly mention AI technologies, Komnas HAM's broad mandate enables it to address human rights issues arising from AI deployment. In recent years, Komnas HAM has engaged in discussions and initiatives concerning the human rights implications of AI, reflecting its commitment to adapting its oversight to emerging technological challenges. Komnas HAM carries out studies, research, counseling, monitoring, and mediation of human rights.²⁹⁷⁴ Komnas HAM has also the authority to conduct investigations into human rights violations and supervise regional and central governmental policies.

AI Ethics and Data Business Requirement

Pursuant to the Ministry of Communications and Informatics (KomInfo) Regulation, any company having a line of business developing artificial intelligence-based programs must establish and implement an internal policy on Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Data.²⁹⁷⁵ This regulation requires companies to align their internal policies with Indonesia's National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence 2020–2045 and ethical guidelines set forth by KomInfo. These policies emphasize transparency, accountability, and compliance with international standards like the UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics. The Minister of Communication and Informatics Circular letter No. 9 offers further guidance on ethical values and principles for business actors, public electronic system operators, and private electronic system operators involved in AI-based programming.²⁹⁷⁶

²⁹⁷³ Ibid

²⁹⁷⁴ Komnas HAM, *About the National Commission on Human Rights* (2026),

<https://www.komnasham.go.id/tentang-komnas-ham>

²⁹⁷⁵ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Ministry of Communication and Informatics Regulation No. 5 of 2021 on Business Activity and Product Standards* (Mar. 2021), https://jdih.kominfo.go.id/produk_hukum/unduhTerjemahan/id/768/t/peraturan+menteri+komunikas+i+dan+informatika+nomor+5+tahun+2021; Ayman Falak Medina, *Indonesia's Omnibus Law: Risk Based Business Licensing*, ASEAN Briefing (Apr. 29, 2021), <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesias-omnibus-law-risk-based-business-licensing/>

²⁹⁷⁶ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Circular Letter of the Minister of Communication and Informatics Number 9 of 2023 Concerning Artificial Intelligence Ethics* [Surat Edaran Menteri Komunikasi dan Informatika Nomor 9 Tahun 2023 Tentang Etika Kecerdasan Artifisial] (Dec. 9, 2023),

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Deputy Minister of KomInfo Nezar Patrias suggested industries implement five strategic steps to respond to artificial intelligence (AI) developments: 1) implement responsible and strategic leadership, 2) collaborate between sectors, 3) build and embed ethical AI frameworks, 4) integrate tools and methods to detect problems as part of continual review, and 5) ensure that the use of AI will not replace the capacity and role of humans.²⁹⁷⁷ Building on the National AI Strategy 2020–2045 and the recently amended Electronic Information and Transactions Law (EIT Law), these regulations will provide specific mandates for businesses to enforce internal policies on AI ethics. The regulations will also introduce a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance, taking cues from the UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment Methodology.²⁹⁷⁸

Smart Cities

In a bid to solve Jakarta's traffic gridlocks, flooding, and waste management, the city has turned to AI. The Indonesian government launched the Jakarta Smart City (JSC) initiative.²⁹⁷⁹ Built on six pillars, the program uses AI to tackle the city's governance, people, living, mobility, economy, and environmental issues. The Smart City initiative encourages public comment to promote transparency of the local government's work and better public services.

There are currently 98 smart cities and 416 smart districts planned under Indonesia's 100 Smart Cities Plan. In 2019, President Widodo announced a new capital on the island of Borneo, to replace Jakarta. It is planned to be a smart city that will "rely heavily on sustainable smart city systems, cleantech and infrastructure run by emerging technologies such as 5G, AI and IoT (Internet of Things)." ²⁹⁸⁰

Indonesia began addressing gaps in the legal framework and monitoring mechanisms in the development of smart cities by exploring legislative frameworks for smart city governance and independent monitoring. Telkom Indonesia partnered

https://jdih.komdigi.go.id/produk_hukum/view/id/883/t/surat+edaran+menteri+komunikasi+dan+informatika+nomor+9+tahun+2023

²⁹⁷⁷ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Press Release No.*

188/HM/KOMINFO/03/2024 (Mar. 7, 2024), <https://www.komdigi.go.id/berita/siaran-pers/detail/siaran-pers-no-188-hm-kominfo-03-2024-tentang-wamen-nezar-patria-dorong-industri-terapkan-lima-langkah-strategis-adopsi-ai>

²⁹⁷⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO and KOMINFO Completed AI Readiness Assessment: Is Indonesia Ready for AI?* (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-kominfo-completed-ai-readiness-assessment-indonesia-ready-ai>

²⁹⁷⁹ Techwire Asia, *AI to be a US\$366b Industry in Indonesia by 2030* (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://techwireasia.com/2020/10/ai-to-be-a-us366b-industry-in-indonesia-by-2030/>

²⁹⁸⁰ Forbes, *As Jakarta Sinks, A New Futuristic Capital City Will Be Built on Borneo* (Jan. 20, 2020), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimdobson/2020/01/20/as-jakarta-sinks-a-new-futuristic-capital-city-will-be-built-on-borneo/>

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with NEC to deploy AI-driven smart city solutions focusing on public safety, energy efficiency, and infrastructure management. This collaboration marks a key step toward establishing a resilient and scalable model for future smart cities across the country.

Despite these advancements, Indonesia's smart city projects struggle to balance environmental sustainability and technological growth. The development of Nusantara and other initiatives has drawn criticism over deforestation and biodiversity loss.²⁹⁸¹ Addressing these concerns will require a careful approach to urban expansion while preserving natural resources.

In December 2023, European defense technology company Thales and the Indonesian new capital city authority have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) “for strategic cooperation” regarding a smart city in Nusantara. The MOU says they “will strengthen the cooperation between the two parties in the development of smart city concepts, including digital identity, traffic management of unmanned aircraft systems, cybersecurity and data centers.”²⁹⁸²

AI in Public Administration

Many Indonesian national and regional government-related entities recognize the adoption of AI in their policies as well as solutions. The Indonesian Ministry of Health in its 2021–2024 Digital Transformation Strategy in the Health Sector recognizes the use of AI in its plan to enable big data analytics in medical sectors. The strategy is now supported by ministerial regulation that provides legal ground for the strategy's implementation. The digital strategy includes the integration of AI-powered diagnostic tools aimed at improving patient outcomes in rural areas. The Digital Health Transformation Strategy (DHTS) 2025–2029 focused on integrating health data systems, developing health service applications, and fostering a robust health technology ecosystem.²⁹⁸³ The SATUSEHAT platform, which consolidates various health service applications into a single system to enable seamless data exchange among healthcare providers, marks progress implementing the strategy to improve patient care while streamlining administrative processes.

The Indonesian Train Agency/Kereta Api Indonesia, a state-owned enterprise, has rolled out a facial recognition system to support passenger verification

²⁹⁸¹ NEC, *NEC Collaborates on Smart City Solutions in Indonesia* (Mar. 20, 2024), https://id.nec.com/en_ID/press/PR/20240320112406_12961.html

²⁹⁸² Nana Shibata and Mailys Pene-Lassus, *Thales Aims for Smart City Development in Indonesia's New Capital* (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Thales-aims-for-smart-city-development-in-Indonesia-s-new-capital>

²⁹⁸³ Setiaji and Naorimasa Shimomura, *Unlocking a Lifeline for Indonesia's Health System*, Opinion, originally published in Jakarta Post, UNDP (Nov. 28, 2024), <https://www.undp.org/indonesia/blog/unlocking-lifeline-indonesias-health-system>

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system. Kereta Api Indonesia (KAI) has also partnered with Telkom Indonesia to implement a predictive maintenance system across its rail network. This system uses AI-powered sensors and machine learning models to analyze real-time data on train operations, enabling proactive identification of faults and reducing service disruptions.

EdTech and Children Tracking

According to a 2022 Human Rights Watch report, several EdTech apps—including Rumah Belajar, Quipper, Ruangguru, and Kelas Pintar—collect children’s advertising IDs, tagging and identifying their devices for advertising purposes during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹⁸⁴ Kelas Pintar collected children’s International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers and granted access to children’s contact data to third-party companies. Rumah Belajar, a government-built platform, disclosed in its privacy policy that it collects and uses students’ data for behavioral advertising, and has shared children’s data with AdTech companies. Additionally, Rumah Belajar, Ruangguru, and Sekolah.mu collected precise location data, tracking children’s whereabouts. Ruangguru and Sekolah.mu collected Wi-Fi SSID revealing names of connected Wi-Fi routers. Third-party SDKs were embedded in Kelas Pintar, Quipper, Ruangguru, Rumah Belajar, Sekolah.mu, and Zenius enabled continuous tracking of children’s activities.

Environmental Impact of AI

KomInfo’s Circular Letter on Artificial Intelligence Ethics, emphasizes that the implementation of Artificial Intelligence should carefully consider the impact on humans, the environment, and other living things, to achieve sustainability and social welfare.²⁹⁸⁵ However, official regulation to enforce protections for people and the planet have yet to be developed. The National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap White Paper released for consultation in 2025 represents a step toward official policy.²⁹⁸⁶

²⁹⁸⁴ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments#6693>

²⁹⁸⁵ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Circular Letter of the Minister of Communication and Information Technology Number 9 of 2023 Concerning the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 19, 2023), https://jdih.komdigi.go.id/produk_hukum/view/id/883/t/surat+edaran+menteri+komunikasi+dan+informatika+nomor+9+tahun+2023

²⁹⁸⁶ Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi), *Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap White Paper and the Draft Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guidelines [Konsultasi Publik Buku Putih Peta Jalan Kecerdasan Artifisial Nasional dan Konsep Pedoman Etika Kecerdasan Artifisial]* (Aug. 8, 2025),

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Indonesia maintains a consistent, cautious stance on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), emphasizing the necessity of meaningful human control (MHC) over the use of force. Indonesia has consistently reiterated support for the urgent negotiation of a legally binding instrument with prohibitions and regulations on LAWS at the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2024.²⁹⁸⁷ Indonesia's statement urged precaution in the use of AI in nuclear command, control, and communications systems. The statement stressed the need to uphold international law across the lifecycle of AI technologies broadly and maintained "the essential role of the human element in ensuring accountability and responsibility at all levels, be it at the state, corporate, or individual levels, in the design, development, and use of AI in the military domain."

Indonesia also participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Indonesia, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.²⁹⁸⁸

Domestically, the TNI considers AI an "unavoidable" necessity for defense modernization but is proceeding with high caution regarding lethal applications.²⁹⁸⁹ The Ministry of Defense decided in December 2024 to cautiously adopt AI in the Armed Forces' main weapon systems for 2025 while citing concerns over the unreliability of AI-powered systems in achieving accurate target acquisition and avoiding civilian casualties. The TNI Commander has indicated a push to modernize war doctrine to integrate AI-based drone technology (e.g., swarm drones), while stressing that the ultimate execution of lethal missions must remain under human command and control.²⁹⁹⁰

<https://www.komdigi.go.id/berita/pengumuman/detail/konsultasi-publik-buku-putih-peta-jalan-kecerdasan-artifisial-nasional-dan-konsep-pedoman-etika-kecerdasan-artifisial>

²⁹⁸⁷ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Indonesia's Response to the United Nations Secretary-General's Request for Views in Relation to UNGA Resolution 79/239 on "Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and Its Implications for International Peace and Security"* (Apr. 11, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Eightieth_session_\(2025\)/79-239-Indonesia-en.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Eightieth_session_(2025)/79-239-Indonesia-en.pdf)

²⁹⁸⁸ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb.16, 2023) Press Release, <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

²⁹⁸⁹ ANTARA News, *Indonesia Cautiously Adopts AI in Defense by 2025* (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://en.antaranews.com/news/338622/indonesia-to-cautiously-adopt-ai-in-defense-by-2025>

²⁹⁹⁰ Tempo, *Indonesian National Armed Forces Commander Agus Subiyanto Says He Will Change War Doctrine to AI Drones, Here's What He Means* [Panglima TNI Agus Subiyanto Sebut Akan

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AI Literacy

Public consultations as Indonesia conducted UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) identified low public knowledge of AI risks such as the potential to reinforce bias and discrimination and a digital talent gap.²⁹⁹¹ Capacity-building was a key recommendation. In response, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education developed coding and AI curriculum for the 2025–2026 school year aligned with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs efforts on digital literacy.²⁹⁹² The curriculum, which is currently optional, focuses on addressing the talent gap, specifically in competition with India. Still, Minister Abdul Mu'ti centered responsible and ethical use with his statement that “Mastering technology is essential, even necessary. But its use must be directed toward positive and meaningful activities for the benefit of society.”

Human Rights

Indonesia has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to Freedom House, Indonesia is “Partly Free,” with a total score of 56/100.²⁹⁹³ Freedom House reports that “Indonesia has made impressive democratic gains since the fall of an authoritarian regime in 1998, enjoying significant political and media pluralism and undergoing multiple, peaceful transfers of power. Significant challenges persist, including systemic corruption, discrimination and violence against minority groups, conflict in Papua, and the politicized use of defamation and blasphemy laws.”²⁹⁹⁴

The Indonesian Constitutional Court prohibited the use of AI-generated images in elections to uphold the honesty principle following a 2025 constitutional complaint.²⁹⁹⁵ The complaint argued that AI was used to manipulate and generate

Ubah Doktrin Perang Jadi Drone AI (Feb 1, 2025), <https://www.tempo.co/politik/panglima-tni-agus-subiyanto-sebut-akan-ubah-doktrin-perang-jadi-drone-ai-ini-maksudnya-1201334>

²⁹⁹¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO and KOMINFO Completed AI Readiness Assessment: Is Indonesia Ready for AI?* (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-kominfo-completed-ai-readiness-assessment-indonesia-ready-ai>

²⁹⁹² Defara Dhanya, *Curriculum on Coding and AI to be Published Soon, Says Education Minister* Tempo English (May 7, 2025), <https://en.tempo.co/read/2004724/curriculum-on-coding-and-ai-to-be-published-soon-says-education-minister>

²⁹⁹³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Indonesia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/indonesia/freedom-world/2025>

²⁹⁹⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Indonesia* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/indonesia/freedom-world/2024>

²⁹⁹⁵ Abdurrachman Satrio, *Banning AI for Political Campaigns: The Cultural Traces in the Indonesian Constitutional Court Decisions*, *Verfassungsblog* (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://verfassungsblog.de/banning-ai-for-political-campaigns-indonesia/>

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misleading images in the electoral context, undermining the rule of law and the right to information as a voter.²⁹⁹⁶

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Indonesia participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.²⁹⁹⁷ Indonesia thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

Indonesia participated in the AI Action Summit in Paris. During the summit, Indonesia, along with 57 other countries, signed the “Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet,” emphasizing principles such as accessibility, transparency, and international cooperation in AI development.²⁹⁹⁸

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Indonesia is a member of the G20 and endorsed the G20 AI Principles, which draw from the OECD AI Principles.²⁹⁹⁹ The Indonesia National AI Strategy addresses several OECD AI principles.³⁰⁰⁰

Indonesia hosted the G20 in 2022, following the Italian presidency in 2021, and preceding the Indian presidency in 2023. The 17th G20 Heads of State and

²⁹⁹⁶ Mahkamah Konstitusi, *Putusan Nomor 166/PUU-XXI/2023* (Jan 02, 2025), https://www.mkri.id/public/content/persidangan/putusan/putusan_mkri_11343_1735801113.pdf

²⁹⁹⁷ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

²⁹⁹⁸ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*, AI Action Summit (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

²⁹⁹⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

³⁰⁰⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Policies in Indonesia: Indonesia’s National AI Strategy* (Dec. 9, 2021), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/national-ai-strategy-4627>

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Government Summit took place at the end of 2022 in Bali.³⁰⁰¹ The Leaders' Declaration noted the importance of enhancing digital policies "to create an enabling, inclusive, open, fair and non-discriminatory digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies, allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive, and protects and empowers consumers, while addressing the challenges, related to digital divides, privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and online safety."³⁰⁰²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Council of Europe established the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law following a years-long negotiation involving all Council Member States, Observers, and special observers.³⁰⁰³ Indonesia has not yet signed the treaty³⁰⁰⁴ and will be eligible to accede only after this first legally binding treaty on artificial intelligence and human rights enters into force.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member of UNESCO, Indonesia along with 192 other member states, adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021, the first global standard on the ethics of artificial intelligence.³⁰⁰⁵

Indonesia completed the UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), the first Southeast Asian country to do so.³⁰⁰⁶ The report aims to shape Indonesia's AI policy and regulatory framework. The exercise attracted more than 500 participants from Aceh to Bali, resulting an inclusive dialogue among

³⁰⁰¹ G20 Indonesia 2022, *G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, Chair's Summary, The Bali Package*, pp. 448-449, G20 Research Group, University of Toronto (Sept. 1, 2022), <https://g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>

³⁰⁰² Biden White House Archives, *G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration* (2022), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/16/g20-bali-leaders-declaration/>

³⁰⁰³ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

³⁰⁰⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Dec. 30, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

³⁰⁰⁵ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 8, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

³⁰⁰⁶ UNESCO, *UNESCO and KOMINFO Completed AI Readiness Assessment: Is Indonesia Ready for AI?* (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-kominfo-completed-ai-readiness-assessment-indonesia-ready-ai>

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government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. The report highlights key policy recommendations that can mitigate these challenges. The recommendations include the creation of a National AI Agency for coherent governance, comprehensive regulations in line with global standards, and capacity building initiatives to ensure access to AI resources equitably, especially beyond urban centers.

The Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs (KomDigi) advanced UNESCO implementation—especially in the areas of international cooperation, human rights, and democratic values—through a Joint AI Policy Dialogue Country Report in partnership with the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.³⁰⁰⁷ The report identified six priority areas for policy development that KomDigi will use to frame concrete, nationally aligned AI policy recommendations.

Evaluation

Indonesia has endorsed the G20 AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, developed a national AI strategy, and became the first Southeast Asian country to complete the UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment. These developments provide a foundation for formulating inclusive and ethical AI policy and regulations.

KomInfo's Circular Letter on ethical guidelines was pivotal in emphasizing the ethics of AI and its impact on humans, the environment, and living beings. The government plans to introduce more comprehensive AI regulations, including the creation of a supervisory authority and efforts to promote AI ethics within the private sector—both key steps toward ensuring trustworthy AI. Completion of the RAM led to progress on developing these national regulations and related policies and regulations to prepare citizens for the integration of AI technology. In parallel, Indonesia is exploring legislative frameworks for smart city governance and independent oversight.

³⁰⁰⁷ ANTARA News, *Indonesia, UK Launch Dialogue Report Guiding AI Policy-Making* (Jul. 29, 2025), <https://en.antaranews.com/news/369413/indonesia-uk-launch-dialogue-report-guiding-ai-policy-making>

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Iran

In 2025, Iran launched a nationwide free AI education initiative and established the National Artificial Intelligence Organization (NAIO) to guide AI governance. Iran furthered testing on AI-guided missiles and drones while limiting participation in efforts in the UN toward a treaty regulating lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).

National AI Strategy

Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR) adopted the National AI Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NAID) in 2024.³⁰⁰⁸ The NAID describes its development as a significant step toward advancing the components of an "Islamic-Iranian modern civilization," enhancing the quality of governance, and strengthening scientific and research foundations in support of national progress and regional and global engagement. The document frames artificial intelligence as a strategic technology for economic competitiveness, governance modernization, and national security.

The NAID sets out policy directions for developing responsible and value-based AI aligned with constitutional principles and Islamic ethics.³⁰⁰⁹ It emphasizes protection of human dignity, justice, privacy, and national sovereignty, and calls for preventing unlawful profiling and social harm. The NAID calls for the prevention of the misuse of AI for domination and highlights the need to strengthen human relationships and avoid social isolation in the development of AI.

Seven strategic objectives are identified in the NAID:

- development of specialized AI human capital,
- expansion of legal, data, network, and computing infrastructure;
- growth in scientific output and regional research leadership;
- promotion of innovation with economic impact;
- strengthening economic competitiveness;
- international cooperation with priority for aligned countries;
- use of AI to enhance governance, social justice, and national security.

The NAID calls for legal rules addressing liability and accountability of autonomous systems, standards for AI system safety, reform of intellectual property rules for AI-generated outputs, and creation of sandboxes.³⁰¹⁰ It also identifies

³⁰⁰⁸ Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, *National AI Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran* (Jun. 18, 2024), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1811432>

³⁰⁰⁹ Ibid

³⁰¹⁰ Ibid

priority sectors for deployment, including education, healthcare, government services, defense and security, industry and energy, agriculture, Persian language technologies, judicial services, and media governance.

The NAID establishes a National AI Steering Council responsible for directing and overseeing implementation and provides for the creation of a National AI Organization (NAIO) as an independent body. The NAIO formed the presidency of Ebrahim Raisi³⁰¹¹ and was tasked with organizing and developing the national AI ecosystem and serving as the secretariat of the National AI Steering Council. The administration that took over after Raisi's death, however, did not support the establishment of an independent AI organization.³⁰¹² The Cabinet subsequently suspended the NAIO and transferred AI coordination functions to the Task Force for the Development of AI Technology and Applications (AI Task Force), which operates under the Office of the President.³⁰¹³

The AI Task Force³⁰¹⁴ is chaired by the President or the First Vice President and includes the Vice President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy; the Ministers of Science, Education, Communications and Information Technology, Industry, Defense, Health, and Intelligence; the Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; the Head of the Planning and Budget Organization; the Head of the Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization; the Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR); the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace; the Head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund; and two AI specialists selected from academia or industry.

The 2022 Strategic Document on Cyberspace, adopted by the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, designates the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology to

³⁰¹¹ Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, *Dr. Mohammad Mokhber: Supporting Artificial Intelligence Is Not Only the Government's Responsibility; It Is a Priority for the Entire Governance System* (Jul. 10, 2024), <https://dolat.ir/detail/450575>

³⁰¹² Shargh Daily, *Establishment of the Artificial Intelligence Organization "Temporarily" Set Aside* [تشکیل سازمان هوش مصنوعی «فعلاً» کنار گذاشته شد] (May 14, 2025), <https://www.sharghdaily.com/%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4-%D9%81%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B1%DB%8C-298/1007598-%D8%AA%D8%B4%DA%A9%DB%8C%D9%84-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C-%D9%81%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7-%DA%A9%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B1-%DA%AF%D8%B0%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%87-%D8%B4%D8%AF>

³⁰¹³ Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, *Formation of the "Task Force for the Development of AI Technology and Applications" Approved in Cabinet Meeting* (May 14, 2025), <https://dolat.ir/detail/463155>

³⁰¹⁴ Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran, *Resolution on the Establishment of the "Task Force for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technology and Applications"* (May 14, 2025), <https://qavanin.ir/Law/TreeText/?IDS=14681655539689138489>

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develop the governance framework for the deployment of emerging digital technologies, including AI.³⁰¹⁵ The cyberspace strategy document places responsibility for national data governance and smart government design with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

AI Legislation

The first legislative measure addressing AI in Iran was adopted in June 2024 through the Seventh Five-Year Development Plan Law (2024–2027).³⁰¹⁶ The provision requires the Government to take the necessary legal measures to implement a National AI Development Program to support of “the development of a transformative, trustworthy, and sustainable AI ecosystem, and for the purpose of establishing frameworks and mechanisms for multi actors interaction, providing technical, social, ethical, and legal infrastructure, and promoting awareness of the functions of artificial intelligence in various fields and its potential risks.” The AI Task Force responded by preparing a draft of the National AI Development plan in August 2025.³⁰¹⁷ The draft was released for public consultation.³⁰¹⁸

³⁰¹⁵ Supreme Council of Cyberspace, *Strategic Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cyberspace* (Sept. 18, 2022), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1751605>

³⁰¹⁶ Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, *Seventh Five-Year Development Plan Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2024–2028)*, Article 65(c) (Jul. 8, 2024), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1809128>

³⁰¹⁷ Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting News Agency (IRIB), *Review of the Details of the 15 National AI Division-of-Labor Areas for the Operationalization of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 16, 2025),

<https://www.iribnews.ir/fa/news/5543757/%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%B1%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A6%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%AA-%DB%B1%DB%B5-%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%B5%D9%84-%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B3%DB%8C%D9%85-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%AF%DB%8C%E2%80%8C%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B2%DB%8C-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B1%DB%8C>

³⁰¹⁸ Mehr News Agency, *Call for Expert Consultation on the “National Artificial Intelligence Development Program”* (Aug. 25, 2025),

<https://www.mehrnews.com/news/6570200/%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%87-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C-%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%87%DB%8C%D8%AF>

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In October 2024, Parliament introduced a National AI Bill.³⁰¹⁹ The bill focused on strengthening national AI capacity, including development of foundational models, infrastructure expansion, and reducing technological dependency. The AI Bill did not provide detailed safeguards on fundamental rights, accountability, transparency, data protection, or public participation. The bill states that it was introduced in line with the National AI Document and proposed institutional arrangements that overlapped with structures previously established by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR). The bill envisaged the creation of a National AI Organization and a National AI Steering Council under presidential control and oversight, not as independent bodies.

During parliamentary consideration, the SCCR requested withdrawal of the bill on the grounds of inconsistency and institutional duplication.³⁰²⁰ Parliament did not remove the bill from its agenda and approved the relevant provisions.³⁰²¹ Bills adopted by Parliament must be vetted by the Guardian Council. At the time of writing, no final approval or publication of the National AI Bill in the Official Gazette has been reported.

Public Participation

Iran does not have an institutionalized mechanism for public participation in law-making or policy development. Draft laws and policies are typically prepared within government bodies or parliamentary committees without a formal process for public consultation or comment before adoption. Bills are reviewed in parliamentary committees and plenary sessions, where experts may occasionally be invited to

³⁰¹⁹ Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center, *National Artificial Intelligence Bill* (Oct. 20, 2024), https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/show/1822546

³⁰²⁰ Khabar Online, *Unusual Request by the Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution to Ghalibaf Regarding the National AI Development Bill* (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/2128766/%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D8%AC%DB%8C%D8%A8-%D8%AF%D8%A8%DB%8C%D8%B1-%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%87%D9%86%DA%AF%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%DB%8C%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87>

³⁰²¹ Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting News Agency (IRIB), *Powers of the National Artificial Intelligence Organization Were Determined* (Oct. 26, 2025), <https://www.iribnews.ir/fa/news/5607514/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%DB%8C%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C-%D8%AA%D8%B9%DB%8C%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%B4%D8%AF>

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provide input. However, this ad hoc consultation does not constitute a formal or transparent mechanism for public or stakeholder participation. The government purports to support public inclusion in AI policy frameworks. However, evidence of this participation outside government institutions is difficult to access from abroad.

The Strategic Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cyberspace refers to stakeholder participation in cyber governance as one the values.³⁰²² Also, prior to its final adoption, the draft National AI Document was made publicly available, and a call for input was issued inviting experts to submit comments and proposed revisions through the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution's (SCCR) online consultation platform.³⁰²³ However, the NAID was adopted through SCCR internal procedures, with no reference to public calls for comment, engagement with civil society, or publication of draft texts for review, indicating a top-down adoption process.³⁰²⁴

A public call for comments on the draft National AI Development Program was announced in August 2025 following a review by the Specialized Committee of the government AI Task Force. The call invited experts and stakeholders to submit their views. The announcement was reported by several news agencies. However, as of November 2025, no public update has been released regarding the outcome of this consultation process.³⁰²⁵

³⁰²² Supreme Council of Cyberspace, *Strategic Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cyberspace* (Sept. 18, 2022), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1751605>

³⁰²³ Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), *Experts Invited to Participate in Finalizing the National AI Document* (Jan. 8, 2024),

<https://www.irna.ir/news/85347746/%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%86%D8%AE%D8%A8%DA%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C%DB%8C-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B2%DB%8C-%D9%BE%DB%8C%D8%B4-%D9%86%D9%88%DB%8C%D8%B3-%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%AF-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C>

³⁰²⁴ ³⁰²⁴ Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, *National AI Document of the Islamic Republic of Iran* (Jun. 18, 2024), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1811432>

³⁰²⁵ Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA), *Call for Comments on the Draft "National AI Development Program"* (Aug. 25, 2025),

<https://www.isna.ir/news/1404060301100/%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AF%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AA-%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%88%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%87-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B4-%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%DB%8C>

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Data Protection

Iran has not yet adopted a comprehensive personal data protection law. A draft personal data bill prepared in 2018–2019 under the Ministry of Communications was not submitted to the parliament.³⁰²⁶ A subsequent parliamentary proposal introduced in 2020–2021 was set aside following the change in administration. In 2024, official sources indicated that the government was preparing a Personal Data Protection and Preservation Bill. As of November 2025, the draft text had not been finalized for submission to Parliament or made public.³⁰²⁷ The legal framework for privacy derives from a combination of other laws and regulations dealing with data protection alongside additional issues. Such legislation includes the Law on Publication and Access to Data 2009,³⁰²⁸ the Electronic Commerce Law 2004,³⁰²⁹ and the Cybercrime Law 2009.³⁰³⁰

Executive Guidelines for Improving the Protection of User Privacy³⁰³¹ adopted by the Supreme Council of Cyberspace (SCC) in 2024 established, for the first time in a unified instrument, a set of user privacy protections applicable to private and public online platforms and digital service providers operating in Iran. The Guidelines set out obligations relating to transparency, consent, data minimization, confidentiality, deletion rights, and enforcement. The guidelines form the first part of a broader Document on Policies and Obligations about Data Protection.

The Guidelines³⁰³² require that users be informed of the methods and purposes of data collection and that consent be obtained. Users must be notified whether data is collected directly or through other systems. The purpose of processing must be specified, and any new use of personal data requires renewed consent. Users must also be informed which data elements are mandatory and which

³⁰²⁶ Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center, *Personal Data Protection and Safeguarding Bill Unveiled* (Jul. 28, 2018), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/news/show/1067376>

³⁰²⁷ Islamic Republic of Iran Government, *Approval of the Personal Data Protection Bill by the Government's Legal Commission* (May 4, 2024), <https://dolat.ir/detail/447326>

³⁰²⁸ Islamic Consultative Assembly, *Law on Dissemination of and Free Access to Information* (Feb. 24, 2009), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/780303>

³⁰²⁹ Iran Ministry of Commerce, *Electronic Commerce Law 2010*, World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO Lex) (Oct. 17, 2023), <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/ir/ir008en.pdf>

³⁰³⁰ International Labour Organization, *Law No. 71063 on Computer Crimes*, Database of National Labour, Social Security and Related Human Rights Legislation (May 26, 2009), https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/r/natlex/fe/details?p3_isn=91715

³⁰³¹ Supreme Council of Cyberspace, *Executive Instruction on Improving the Protection of Users' Privacy and the Collection, Processing, and Storage of User Data in Online Platforms* (Jan. 27, 2024), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1797869>

³⁰³² Ibid

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are optional. Data collection, processing, and storage must be limited to what is necessary for the performance of legal duties or legitimate business purposes and must remain proportionate to the purpose communicated to, and accepted by, the user. Data enabling the identification or tracking of individuals must be encrypted to support confidentiality and security. Users also have a right to deletion. Requests for deletion, including the closure of accounts and removal of associated records, must be implemented without delay.

Despite these protections, Article 667 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,³⁰³³ traffic data and user data mandates that, once deleted from platforms, data must be transferred to offline data support bases separate from public communication networks for six months before they are deleted. Enforcement measures include the non-renewal of licenses for service providers and platforms that fail to comply. In cases where non-compliance results in a violation of privacy, civil and criminal liability may attach to responsible entities. The implementation timeline establishes a two-month period for compliance with rules governing new data collection; a three-month period for bringing previously collected data into conformity with transparency, consent, and minimization requirements; and a one-month period to integrate identity verification mechanisms of the Civil Registration Organization to prevent redundant collection of identity data, subject to the operationalization of the System for Reliable Identity in the Country's Cyberspace.

The Iranian Communications Regulatory Authority has access to a web application known as SIAM, which allows for the remote manipulation of cellular connections. This application is part of Iran's data restriction. SIAM is a computerized system that operates in the background of Iranian cellular networks, giving SIAM operators a wide range of options for remotely executing commands to modify, interrupt, and monitor customers' phone use. These tools may reveal the data links in a crawl, decrypt phone calls, trace the movements of people or large groups, and generate complete metadata summaries of who spoke to whom and when.³⁰³⁴

In 2024, Article 75 of the Seventh Development Plan Law³⁰³⁵ established a Lifestyle Monitoring System to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in coordination with the Statistical Center of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. The system is intended to collect statistical data on a continuous basis to support processing and analysis in the study of lifestyle trends and identification of socio-cultural developments. Government agencies, public

³⁰³³ Ameneh Dehshiri, *Iran's Cyber Policymakers Respond to Data Breaches with Inadequate Guidelines* (Feb. 26, 2024), <https://filter.watch/english/2024/02/26/irans-cyber-policymakers/>

³⁰³⁴ The Intercept, *Hacked Documents: How Iran Can Track and Control Protesters' Phones* (Oct. 28, 2022), <https://theintercept.com/2022/10/28/iran-protests-phone-surveillance/>

³⁰³⁵ Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, *Seventh Five-Year Development Plan Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2024–2028)*, Article 75 (Jul. 8, 2024), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1809128>

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service providers, and private entities, including digital platforms handling user data, are required to transmit relevant data to the System on an ongoing basis. The Law does not include specific provisions concerning the protection of personal data within this framework.

Iran has no representation with the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).³⁰³⁶ Iran has endorsed no GPA resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

The government of Iran has not adopted legislation that mandates algorithmic transparency. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report in 2025 observed expanded use of AI-based facial recognition for Hijab Law enforcement with no transparency about accuracy or bias mitigation. Citizens lack mechanisms to appeal AI-generated decisions.³⁰³⁷

Freedom of Internet and Digital Rights

Over the past decade and a half, Iran has gradually institutionalized a state-managed model of internet governance through legislation, regulatory bodies, and infrastructure development.

Following the disputed 2009 presidential election and the Green Movement protests, authorities expanded online filtering and strengthened centralized oversight of digital content. The Computer Crimes Act (2009)³⁰³⁸ established the Committee for Determining Instances of Criminal Content, whose decisions became binding on internet service providers. Filtering was implemented through domain blocking, IP blocking, and keyword-based restrictions, targeting social media platforms, messaging applications, news outlets, and political content.

In parallel, The Fifth Development Plan (2011–2015) provided the legal basis for establishing the National Information Network (NIN), a domestically managed internet infrastructure project.³⁰³⁹ Mandated under Article 46 of the Plan and further

³⁰³⁶ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

³⁰³⁷ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Iran: Government Continues Systematic Repression and Escalates Surveillance to Crush Dissent in the Aftermath of Protests, UN Fact-Finding Mission Says* (Mar. 14, 2025), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/03/iran-government-continues-systematic-repression-and-escalates-surveillance>

³⁰³⁸ Islamic Consultative Assembly, *Computer Crimes Law* (Jun. 5, 2009),

<https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/135717>

³⁰³⁹ Islamic Consultative Assembly, *Law for the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran 2011–2016* (Jan. 5, 2011),

<https://vcmdrp.tums.ac.ir/uploads/284/2024/Apr/17/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%20%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87%20%D9%BE%D9%86%D8%A>

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specified in the Supreme Council of Cyberspace's 2017 Explanation of the Requirements of the NIN³⁰⁴⁰ and 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Architecture of the NIN" (NIN Architecture Plan), the framework was defined as a nationally controlled system for routing and hosting internet traffic.³⁰⁴¹

Official documents describe the NIN as consisting of three layers: infrastructure (including domestic routing systems, data centers, and state-controlled international gateways), services (such as search engines, messaging platforms, cloud services, and e-government applications), and content (locally hosted digital media and digital services). Within this structure, filtering and traffic management operate alongside localization policies. By routing traffic through centralized gateways and promoting domestically hosted alternatives, authorities can restrict access to international platforms while maintaining internal services. Pricing policies further differentiate between domestic and international traffic, making access to global services more costly than use of platforms hosted within the NIN.

The 2020 NIN Architecture Plan set a target of allocating 70 percent of traffic to domestic services and 30 percent to international traffic, and called for charging two to three times higher tariffs for access to the global network compared to domestic NIN services. In December 2023, fixed and mobile internet tariffs increased by 34%, with officials stating that the increase applied only to international traffic.³⁰⁴²

In November 2019, during nationwide protests, authorities imposed a ten-days nationwide internet shutdown.³⁰⁴³ International connectivity was largely suspended, while many domestic banking and government services operating within the NIN remained accessible. At the time, officials stated that the blackout

[C%20%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%20%D9%BE%D9%86%D8%AC%D9%85%20%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%87_3.pdf](https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1033103)

³⁰⁴⁰ Supreme Council of Cyberspace, *Document on the Requirements of the National Information Network* (Dec. 10, 2016), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1033103>

³⁰⁴¹ Supreme Council of Cyberspace, *Macro Plan and Architecture of the National Information Network* (Oct. 7, 2020), <https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/law/show/1623988>

³⁰⁴² Khabaronline, *Internet Tariffs Increased by 34% with Approval of the Ministry of Communications* (Dec. 28, 2023),

<https://www.khabaronline.ir/photo/1853996/%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%82%D8%AA-%DA%A9%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B2%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B4-%DB%B3%DB%B4-%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%81%D9%87-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AA>

³⁰⁴³ ARTICLE 19, *Iran: Tightening the Net 2020, After Blood and Shutdowns* (Sept. 2020), <https://www.article19.org/ttn-iran-november-shutdown/>

demonstrated the operational capacity of the NIN and served as a test of its functionality under crisis conditions.³⁰⁴⁴

After the protests that began in September 2022, widely known as the Women, Life, Freedom movement, additional access restrictions were imposed. Instagram and WhatsApp were blocked, mobile data disruptions were reported in multiple provinces, and bandwidth management measures were applied during periods of unrest.³⁰⁴⁵

Despite these restrictions, Iranian internet users continued to bypass controls through VPNs and other circumvention technologies, sustaining access to blocked platforms. In response, restricting access to these tools became part of broader efforts to limit connectivity to the global internet.³⁰⁴⁶ Beyond technical blocking of VPN protocols and related IP ranges, the Supreme Council of Cyberspace adopted a resolution on February 19, 2024, prohibiting the use of VPNs and introducing a formal regulatory basis for restricting circumvention tools.

Policy discussions have also included a tiered internet system,³⁰⁴⁷ granting selected groups, such as academics and officials, access to international websites, while restricting the general population to domestic platforms within NIN.³⁰⁴⁸ This

³⁰⁴⁴ Khabaronline, *Azari Jahromi Explains the National Information Network and the Internet Shutdown* (Nov. 23, 2019),

<https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1323957/%D9%81%DB%8C%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B6%DB%8C%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A2%D8%B0%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%85%DB%8C-%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%B4%D8%A8%DA%A9%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88-%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%B9-%DB%8C%DA%A9-%D9%87%D9%81%D8%AA%D9%87-%D8%A7%DB%8C>

³⁰⁴⁵ Euronews, *Iran Maintains Block on WhatsApp and Instagram* (Feb. 1, 2023),

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/02/01/iran-maintains-block-on-whatsapp-and-instagram>

³⁰⁴⁶ Ameneh Dehshiri, *The VPN Epidemic in Iran: A Digital Plague Amid Global Isolation*, Stimson Center, Middle East Perspectives Project (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.stimson.org/2024/the-vpn-epidemic-in-iran-a-digital-plague-amid-global-isolation/>

³⁰⁴⁷ Narges Keshavarznia, *Tiered Internet: A Case Study in Selective Access and Digital Inequality*, Filter Watch (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://filter.watch/english/2025/08/01/investigative-report-july-2025-tiering-internet/>

³⁰⁴⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Iran, Key Developments, June 1, 2023–May 31, 2024* (Jun. 1, 2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/iran/freedom-net/2024>; Filter Watch, *An Internet for the Few: Iran's Digital Segregation Plans Edge Closer to Reality* (Apr. 19, 2023), <https://filter.watch/english/2023/04/19/an-internet-for-the-few-irans-digital-segregation-plans-edge-closer-to-reality/>; Richard Stone, *Iran's Researchers Increasingly Isolated as Government Prepares to Wall Off Internet*, Science (Sept. 11, 2023), <https://www.science.org/content/article/iran-s-researchers-increasingly-isolated-government-prepares-wall-internet>

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government-controlled network is designed to isolate Iranians from global information and confine them to the tightly monitored NIN.³⁰⁴⁹

Authorities implemented the Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI), which is run by the ICT Ministry, to control internet traffic flowing in and out of the country.³⁰⁵⁰ While the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a security force, previously held a majority stake in the Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI), the IRGC withdrew from the telecommunications sector in October 2018, selling its shares in TCI and the Mobile Telecommunication Company of Iran (MCI). However, TCI's dominance over Iran's internet infrastructure still facilitates extensive monitoring of online activities.³⁰⁵¹

U.S. sanctions reinstated and expanded in 2018 have had indirect effects on internet access in Iran.³⁰⁵² Compliance risks associated with primary and secondary sanctions have led many technology companies to limit services to Iranian users,³⁰⁵³ contributing to reduced access to international digital tools and greater reliance on domestic infrastructure, including the NIN.

To mitigate sanctions-related constraints, the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued General License D-1 (2014)³⁰⁵⁴ and D-2 (2022),³⁰⁵⁵ authorizing the provision of certain personal communications tools and services to Iran, including messaging apps, VPNs, satellite internet hardware, and related cloud services, without a specific license. However, compliance risks and financial restrictions continue to limit practical access to these tools.³⁰⁵⁶

³⁰⁴⁹ Ameneh Dehshiri, *Iran's National Internet: The Government's Incentive and Punitive Policy*, BBC Persian (Mar. 1, 2024), <https://www.bbc.com/persian/articles/c72g06w7k3no>

³⁰⁵⁰ US Library of Congress, *Telecommunication Company of Iran* (Oct. 7, 2019), <https://www.loc.gov/item/lcwaN0016047/?locl=blogint>

³⁰⁵¹ CBC News, *Iranian Government's Digital Control Tactics Are a Sophisticated Form of Repression, Says Researcher* (Feb. 20, 2023), <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/spark/iranian-government-s-digital-control-tactics-are-a-sophisticated-form-of-repression-says-researcher-1.6743923>

³⁰⁵² U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), *Iran Sanctions*, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/sanctions-programs-and-country-information/iran-sanctions>

³⁰⁵³ Maziar Motamedi, *Locked Out: Why Is Amazon Blocking Iranians from Its Services?*, Al Jazeera (Oct. 2, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2019/10/2/locked-out-why-is-amazon-blocking-iranians-from-its-services>

³⁰⁵⁴ U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), *Publication of Iran General License D-1 and Related Frequently Asked Questions* (Feb. 7, 2014), https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20140207_33

³⁰⁵⁵ U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), *Issuance of Iran General License D-2 and Related Frequently Asked Questions* (Sept. 23, 2022), <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20220923>

³⁰⁵⁶ Internet Governance Project, *Caught in the Crossfire: The Impact of Sanctions on Iranian Internet Users* (2024), <https://www.internetgovernance.org/2024/10/22/caught-in-the-crossfire-the-impact-of-sanctions-on-iranian-internet-users/>

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Digital ID (National Smart Card)

Iran implemented digital IDs as part of the e-government program.³⁰⁵⁷ The Unique Identification is a real-time digital authentication solution developed by the Iranian start-up UID to enhance security and efficiency in identity verification through AI-based identity authentication, liveness detection, and offline password-less digital ID storage.³⁰⁵⁸ Integration of the digital ID platform stems from an agreement Iran's Law Enforcement Forces signed with the firm.³⁰⁵⁹ The digital ID platform obtains 5 to 15-second selfie videos that then run through an ID liveness detection algorithm to verify user identity against an original image registered with Iran's Civil Registration Organization. The system is expected to connect with national security and internet access programs such as the NIN, embedding surveillance into daily life.

Iran's Executive Council of Information Technology built a digital platform as part of its ongoing e-government initiatives.³⁰⁶⁰ The platform plays a central role in accessing public services, including e-government and e-health, effectively making digital identification mandatory for all citizens engaging with government services. After pilots with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Council announced the addition of the Ministry of Cooperatives Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, the Iranian Health Insurance Organization, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, and the Central Insurance of Iran to the platform for the next phase of the digital government.

Facial Recognition

Iran has increasingly incorporated biometric tools, surveillance technologies, and facial recognition into the law enforcement system for border control and citizen

³⁰⁵⁷ Biometric Update, *Iran Unveils New e-Government Components as Digital ID Importance Grows* (Mar. 26, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202103/iran-unveils-new-e-government-components-as-digital-id-importance-grows>

³⁰⁵⁸ Biometric Update, *APIs for IDV Key to Digital Transformation in Pakistan and Iran* (Aug. 22, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202408/apis-for-idv-key-to-digital-transformation-in-pakistan-and-iran>

³⁰⁵⁹ Biometric Update, *UID to Supply Biometric Digital ID App to Iran's National Police* (2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202102/uid-to-supply-biometric-digital-id-app-to-irans-national-police>; <https://www.ilna.news/بخش-فن-آوری-1036837/158-امضای-تفاهم-نامه-همکاری-بین-پلیس-شرکت-یوآیدی>

³⁰⁶⁰ Javad Jarrahi, *Iran Unveils New E-Government Components as Digital ID Importance Grows*, Biometric Update (Mar. 26, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202103/iran-unveils-new-e-government-components-as-digital-id-importance-grows>

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surveillance.³⁰⁶¹ Iran's banking sector is adopting biometric methods and requires customers to provide their smart identity for many banking transactions. Iranian officials have also announced plans that would require citizens to verify their identity using the smart identity card to access the internet.³⁰⁶²

The Chief Commander of the Iranian Police stated that individuals breaching hijab rules had been identified using advanced technological systems and referred to judicial authorities.³⁰⁶³ Public evidence does not confirm the large-scale deployment of AI-based facial recognition; past enforcement practices suggest reliance on CCTV, license plate recognition, and manual review.³⁰⁶⁴ Reports indicate that since around 2015, authorities have supported the domestic development and procurement of facial recognition and image-processing tools, though the extent of operational deployment remains unclear.³⁰⁶⁵

According to the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its March 2025 report, authorities used aerial drones in April 2024 in Tehran and southern Iran to monitor hijab compliance in public spaces. The report also states that facial recognition software was reportedly installed at the entrance of Amirkabir University to monitor women students. Earlier, in April 2023, the Chief Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces announced the expanded use of "smart technologies" to address alleged hijab violations.³⁰⁶⁶ The 2023 draft "Hijab and Chastity" bill likewise emphasized the creation and strengthening of intelligent identification systems using fixed and mobile cameras and artificial intelligence.³⁰⁶⁷ The proposed legislation consolidated and intensified hijab enforcement by introducing higher fines, extended prison terms, and restrictions on employment and education for violations. Although the bill was adopted by Parliament, it was not

³⁰⁶¹ ICAO Regional Seminar, *Iranian ePassport and Border Management Technical Report* (2016), <https://www.icao.int/Meetings/icaotrip-Iran-2016/Documents/Presentations/D2%20S4%20EBRAHIMI.pdf>

³⁰⁶² Identity Review, *Iran Begins Integrating Facial Recognition for Better Border Protection* (Mar. 19, 2021), <https://identityreview.com/iran-begins-integrating-facial-recognition-for-better-border-protection/>

³⁰⁶³ Hamshahri Online, *Sardar Radan's Final Warning to Women Without Hijabs* (Apr. 8, 2023), <https://www.hamshahrionline.ir/news/752644/>

³⁰⁶⁴ Filterwatch, *Surveillance and Secrecy: Examining Iran's Claims on the Use of Facial Recognition for Social Control* (Mar. 28, 2023), <https://filter.watch/english/2023/03/28/surveillance-and-secrecy-examining-irans-claims-on-the-use-of-facial-recognition-for-social-control/>

³⁰⁶⁵ Filterwatch, *Internet Oppressors: A Look at the Office of Iran's Attorney General and Its Contractors* (Sept. 14, 2023), <https://filter.watch/english/2023/09/14/internet-oppressors-a-look-at-the-office-of-irans-attorney-general-and-its-contractors/>

³⁰⁶⁶ UN Human Rights Council, *Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran Report A/HRC/58/63* (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/58/63>

³⁰⁶⁷ Islamic Consultative Assembly, *Bill on Supporting the Culture of Chastity and Hijab* (Jun. 13, 2023), https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/legal_draft/show/1776707

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promulgated. In May 2025, the Supreme National Security Council directed that the law be suspended, and it has not entered into force.³⁰⁶⁸

EdTech and Children Tracking

Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Iran, for children's education during the pandemic in 2022. Based on technical and policy analysis of the Shad App, owned and provided by Iran, Human Rights Watch found that the government endorsement of this online learning platform put at risk and directly violated children's rights. The app provided access to education for 50% teachers and 25% students. The enrollment was lower in less developed regions of Iran.³⁰⁶⁹

The report states that "Teachers in Iran told Human Rights Watch that the government compelled those in public schools to use Shad, an app built by Iran's Education Ministry for online learning during Covid-19. One teacher said: "The principal called and said that if I do not install the Shad app, I would be recorded as absent. The authorities do not accept teaching in Telegram and WhatsApp. Students have also been told that if you are not in this app, your score will not be approved and will not be sent to the [school]." In October 2021, the Iranian government reported more than 18 million active users of Shad. Technical analysis of Shad's code by Human Rights Watch found that the app can collect children's precise location data, the time of their current location, the child's last known location, their Wi-Fi SSID, IP address, the child's contacts, and any saved photos of their contacts.

Environmental Impact of AI

Iranian authorities increasingly promoted artificial intelligence as a tool for environmental protection, particularly in drought monitoring, air-pollution forecasting, and natural-hazard prediction.³⁰⁷⁰ The Department of Environment (DoE) announced the use of AI-powered systems for dust-storm early warnings and industrial-pollution monitoring. However, Iran has not adopted any national framework addressing the environmental footprint of AI systems themselves, including the energy use of data centers, the carbon impact of high-performance computing, or electronic-waste management for AI hardware. As of late 2025, no

³⁰⁶⁸ BBC Persian, *Supreme National Security Council Orders Suspension of the Promulgation of the Hijab Law* (May 25, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/persian/articles/cx2x92g4jq1o>

³⁰⁶⁹ UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report* (2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385723>

³⁰⁷⁰ Tehran Times, *AI Can Help Preserve Natural Resources: Official* (Nov. 24, 2023), <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/491743/AI-can-help-preserve-natural-resources-official>

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environmental audits or sustainability assessments of large-scale AI infrastructure or the National Artificial Intelligence Organization (NAIO) have been made public.³⁰⁷¹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The Iranian military is interested in the development of AI and Autonomous Weapon systems in the pursuit of force-multiplying asymmetric warfare capabilities. At the Human Rights Council in May 2013, Iran expressed interest in opening multilateral talks on lethal autonomous weapons systems. However, Iran has not commented on the concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force or supported proposals to negotiate a new international ban treaty. Iran is not a party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) but attended CCW meetings on killer robots in 2016 and 2018–2019.³⁰⁷²

Iran was one of eight states that abstained from voting³⁰⁷³ on resolution L.56.³⁰⁷⁴ on autonomous weapons systems during the 78th UN General Assembly in 2023. Iran did not respond to the Note Verbale in February 2024 to find a common definition of “lethal autonomous weapons” and to discuss the concepts of human control, meaningful human control, appropriate human judgment, and human involvement.³⁰⁷⁵

The Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) stated in July 2022 that the country achieved the AI technology required to direct drones and ballistic missiles while under sanction.³⁰⁷⁶ Shortly after this interview, another IRGC commander verified that “Iran has inflicted a decisive blow on the enemy and changed the region’s balance with the strategy of active resistance” through the collaboration of universities and military departments on AI

³⁰⁷¹ Government of Iran Department of Environment, *DoE Unveils AI-Powered System for Forecasting Dust Storms and Monitoring Industrial Pollution* (Jan. 20, 2024), <https://www.doe.ir/portal/home/?news/31597>

³⁰⁷² Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

³⁰⁷³ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

³⁰⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

³⁰⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Systems Report of the Secretary General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/access.nsf/get?OpenAgent&DS=A/79/88&Lang=E>

³⁰⁷⁶ Iran Press News Agency, *Iran Achieves Ballistic Missile Guidance Tech under Sanctions* (Jul. 28, 2022), <https://iranpress.com/content/62680/iran-achieves-ballistic-missile-guidance-tech-under-sanctions>.

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technology.³⁰⁷⁷ The IRGC also tested AI-guided missiles launched from drones during naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman in 2025,³⁰⁷⁸ despite US State Department efforts to hinder Iranian missile procurement.³⁰⁷⁹ The US argued that there is “horrific impact of Iran’s provision of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to designated terrorist organizations and militant proxies that directly threaten the security of Israel and our Gulf partners.” The US provided evidence of components and debris from lethal Iranian-made drones recovered from Ukraine and other locations.³⁰⁸⁰

AI Literacy

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, launched the Iran Digital initiative, a nationwide AI literacy and capacity-building program aimed at two million students and 200,000 teachers. The curriculum integrates AI ethics, digital citizenship, and gamified learning modules. The program launched in early 2025 marks Iran’s first structured national effort to promote AI awareness aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.³⁰⁸¹

Human Rights

Iran has supported the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since 1948.³⁰⁸² Still, the country imposes broad restrictions on expression and privacy. The 2025 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report confirmed intensified AI-driven surveillance and ongoing rights concerns.”³⁰⁸³

³⁰⁷⁷ Iran Press News Agency, *Iran Defeated Enemy with Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 7, 2022), <https://iranpress.com/content/66234/iran-defeated-enemy-with-artificial-intelligence>.

³⁰⁷⁸ Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), *IRGC Fires AI-Guided Missiles from Drones on Final Day of Naval Drill* (Jan. 25, 2025), <https://en.irna.ir/news/85730279/>

³⁰⁷⁹ Secretary of State Blinken, *The United States’ Commitment to Countering Iranian Weapons Development and Proliferation* (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://2021-2025.state.gov/the-united-states-commitment-to-countering-iranian-weapons-development-and-proliferation/>

³⁰⁸⁰ Voice of America Editorials, *Iran Is Proliferating Lethal Drones* (Oct. 17, 2023), <https://editorials.voa.gov/a/iran-is-proliferating-lethal-drones/7314438.html>

³⁰⁸¹ Center for Innovation and Science and Technology Cooperation (CISTC), *Iran Launches Free AI Education Program for 2mn Students and 200k Teachers* (Aug. 10, 2025), <https://cistc.ir/en/6025/iran-launches-free-ai-education-program-for-2mn-students-and-200k-teachers/>

³⁰⁸² United Nations, *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* (1948), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

³⁰⁸³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Iran: Government Continues Systematic Repression and Escalates Surveillance to Crush Dissent in the Aftermath of Protests, UN Fact-Finding Mission Says* (Mar. 14, 2025),

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Freedom House classified Iran as “Not Free” with a rating of 11/100 in 2025.³⁰⁸⁴ Among the key developments explaining Iran’s score, Freedom House highlighted the violent crackdown to the protests in more than 100 cities beginning in September 2022 “following the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman who had been arrested and beaten by the so-called morality police in Tehran for allegedly not wearing her hijab properly.” Nearly 500 people had been confirmed dead by year’s end, and an estimated 14,000 people were arrested, including those who voiced support for the movement.³⁰⁸⁵ The protests and crackdown marked escalation of already limited political and civil rights.³⁰⁸⁶

According to a 2023 Human Rights Watch report, internet freedom remains highly restricted and State-aligned cyber operations spread disinformation and manipulated the online space. Iran and its judicial system have shown little inclination to curb or confront serious human rights violations perpetrated by Iranian security agencies. The country’s security and intelligence apparatus, in partnership with Iran’s judiciary, harshly crack down on any form of dissent, including through excessive and lethal force against protesters.³⁰⁸⁷

The Iranian authorities’ suppression of protests is the latest in a cycle of attacks against people who are voicing concerns. The cycle of attacks started between December 2017 and January 2018.³⁰⁸⁸ According to Press TV, in an open letter that was signed by 227 of Iran’s 290 members of Parliament, the MPs ask for demonstrators to be taught a “good lesson” as a means of discouraging such individuals who challenge the authority of the Iranian government.³⁰⁸⁹

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/03/iran-government-continues-systematic-repression-and-escalates-surveillance>

³⁰⁸⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Iran* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/iran/freedom-world/2025>

³⁰⁸⁵ Amnesty International, *Iran: Urgent International Action Needed to Stop Mass Killings of Baluchi Protesters* (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6193/2022/en/>

³⁰⁸⁶ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Iran:*

Government Continues Systematic Repression and Escalates Surveillance to Crush Dissent in the Aftermath of Protests, UN Fact-Finding Mission Says (Mar. 14, 2025),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/03/iran-government-continues-systematic-repression-and-escalates-surveillance>

³⁰⁸⁷ Human Rights Watch, *Iran Report 2023*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/iran>

³⁰⁸⁸ Amnesty International, *Iran: More than 760,000 People around the World Calling for UN Investigative Mechanism on Iran* (Nov. 3, 2022),

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/11/iran-more-than-760000-people-around-the-world-calling-for-un-investigative-mechanism-on-iran/>

³⁰⁸⁹ CNN, *Iranian Lawmakers Demand ‘No Leniency’ for Protesters as Mass Demonstrations Continue* (Nov. 8, 2022), <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/06/middleeast/iran-lawmakers-judiciary-letter-protests-intl-hnk/index.html>

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OECD / G20 Principles

Iran has neither endorsed the OECD AI Principles,³⁰⁹⁰ nor implemented norms and standards for AI aligned with the OECD AI Principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Iran is neither a member nor an observer of the Council of Europe and therefore ineligible to sign the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.³⁰⁹¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Iran is one of signatories to the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, which aims to deliver the advantages of technology while reducing associated human rights risks.³⁰⁹² Iran's free AI education initiative marks progress on the Education policy action to implement the Recommendation.³⁰⁹³ Iran has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).³⁰⁹⁴

Evaluation

Iran has adopted the National AI Document as its primary AI policy framework. The document refers to value-based principles such as human dignity, justice, privacy, and national sovereignty. However, it lacks clear mechanisms for transparency, independent oversight, and public accountability. Parliament has also initiated legislative efforts to establish a legal framework for AI through the introduction of a national AI bill. Institutional arrangements remain unstable, however, as coordination of AI policy has shifted among different government bodies.

³⁰⁹⁰ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendations of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

³⁰⁹¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225 (Nov. 25, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

³⁰⁹² UN News, 193 Countries Adopt First-Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

³⁰⁹³ Center for Innovation and Science and Technology Cooperation (CISTC), Iran Launches Free AI Education Program for 2mn. Students and 200k Teachers (Aug. 10, 2025), <https://cistc.ir/en/6025/iran-launches-free-ai-education-program-for-2mn-students-and-200k-teachers/>; UNESCO, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation, <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

³⁰⁹⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, Global Hub (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Although official policy documents recognize principles related to the protection of personal data and privacy, Iran has not enacted a comprehensive data protection law. At the same time, the government is expanding biometric identification, facial recognition, and national monitoring systems. Iran is also engaged in the race for developing lethal autonomous weapons while not participating in international efforts to regulate their use.

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Ireland

In 2025, Ireland named the national competent authorities and single point of contact charged with enforcing and overseeing the EU AI Act. Ireland's Data Protection Commission fined and reprimanded the Department of Public Service for unlawful use of facial recognition in public cards after concluding a nearly 4-year investigation.

National AI Strategy

Ireland's national enterprise strategy, the Economic Recovery Plan and Enterprise 2025 Renewed, set out Ireland's ambition to be at the frontier of disruptive technologies, including AI. In 2019, Ireland published the Future Jobs Ireland Plan, which included a commitment to develop Ireland's national AI strategy and create a Top Team on Standards for AI to focus on increasing Ireland's AI development and assisting AI enterprises.³⁰⁹⁵ Ireland's Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment (DETE), since 2025 known as the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment,³⁰⁹⁶ published the national AI strategy AI—Here for Good in 2021.³⁰⁹⁷ The DETE released a Refresh to the National AI Strategy in 2024.³⁰⁹⁸ The Refresh reflects the substantial advancements in AI technology and regulation since the original strategy released in 2021, including the rise of generative AI and the EU AI Act.

The updated strategy furthers the aim to “ensure a responsible, rights-respecting and inclusive approach to developing, applying and adopting AI.”³⁰⁹⁹ The strategy is part of the vision to make Ireland an international leader in “using AI to the benefit of our population” and recognizes transparency and accountability as necessary principles to achieve this vision. Since the launch of the initial strategy, Ireland focused building an ecosystem for “low-risk adoption of trustworthy AI by businesses,” including strong governance. The strategy asserts “The proportionate,

³⁰⁹⁵ Government of Ireland, *Future Jobs Ireland 2019: Preparing Now for Tomorrow's Economy* (Mar. 2019), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Future-Jobs-Ireland-2019.pdf>

³⁰⁹⁶ Office of the Attorney General Irish Statute Book, *S.I. No. 172/2025 - Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2025* (May 9, 2025), <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2025/si/172/made/en/print>

³⁰⁹⁷ Department of the Taoiseach Press Release, *Taoiseach and Minister Troy launch Government Roadmap for AI in Ireland* (July 8, 2021), <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f4895-taoiseach-and-minister-troy-launch-government-roadmap-for-ai-in-ireland/>

³⁰⁹⁸ Government of Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. *National AI Strategy Refresh 2024* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/national-ai-strategy-refresh-2024.pdf>

³⁰⁹⁹ Ibid, p. 7

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risk-based approach taken in the EU AI Act is the right one, and it will protect individuals' safety and fundamental rights while promoting innovation." Actions to achieve the strategy cross three main areas:³¹⁰⁰

- Building public trust in AI through the AI Advisory Council, implementation of EU AI Act, and participation in international AI governance forums;
- Leveraging AI for economic and societal benefit, which includes supporting business in adopting AI and assisting AI startups as well as using trustworthy AI in the public sector
- Enablers for AI, including "embedding AI and digital skills across the education and skills infrastructure and developing high-level AI skills."

The refreshed strategy builds from a 2023 development report providing details on implementation of tasks under each of the strands in the 2021 strategy as either "complete" or "in progress."³¹⁰¹ The report offers an overview of upcoming planned actions for continued implementation. Strands 1 and 2 of AI—Here for Good are aimed at "building public trust in AI." Strand 1 seeks to build public trust in AI through public awareness programs and research and grants to develop AI applications for societal good and sustainability, including health and climate change. Strand 2 addresses the need for a "robust governance framework to safeguard against [AI] risks and underpin public trust in AI." It establishes three pillars that Ireland will use to ensure a strong AI governance framework: 1) "an agile and appropriate framework," 2) "active promotion of ethics guidance and frameworks," and 3) "a robust system of standards and certification."

In July 2023, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, as part of the National Strategy, issued its Artificial Intelligence (AI) Standards & Assurance Roadmap. The Roadmap is based on the work of the Top Team on Standards for AI and input from experts from across the Irish AI community, including academia; business, information technology industry, SMEs, and legal experts. It is expected that this Roadmap will support the standardization of the development and use of AI in the country.³¹⁰²

Ireland's Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment (DETE) (now Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment)³¹⁰³ spearheads Ireland's national AI policy. The policy charges strategic actions to various Irish agencies,

³¹⁰⁰ Ibid, pp. 8–9

³¹⁰¹ Government of Ireland, *AI—Here for Good Progress Report on the National AI Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/progress-report-national-ai-strategy.html>

³¹⁰² National Standards Authority of Ireland, *AI Standards & Assurance Roadmap* (Jul. 2023), https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/general/NSAI_AI_report_digital_links.pdf

³¹⁰³ Office of the Attorney General Irish Statute Book, *S.I. No. 172/2025—Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2025* (May 9, 2025), <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2025/si/172/made/en/print>

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including the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Justice, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth. It has also established the Top Team on Standards for AI to develop certification schemes and codes of conduct to address AI at different stages of development.

The government announced plans to update the National Digital and AI Strategy in 2025 and held public consultations on the same.³¹⁰⁴ The updated strategy integrates AI to the digital strategy in line with the EU Digital Decade and digital Compass and accelerate the integration of AI into public service delivery. The update will reflect insights from the annual reports on implementation of the original strategy.³¹⁰⁵

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Ireland shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).³¹⁰⁶ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The DSA also bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs and targeted advertising to minors based on profiling.

In the 2023 implementation report of the national digital Strategy,³¹⁰⁷ Ireland announced the creation of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) as the competent authority for registration and compliance of data intermediation services. The Department of the Taoiseach also announced the establishment of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) as the competent body for assisting public sector bodies which opt to share “protected data.”³¹⁰⁸ These agencies form part of the government's attempt to comply with the 2024 Digital Services Bill adopted in line with the EU Digital Services Act that came into force in February

³¹⁰⁴ Department of the Taoiseach, *Updated National Digital Strategy* (May 30, 2025), <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-taoiseach/press-releases/updated-national-digital-strategy-2025/>

³¹⁰⁵ Department of the Taoiseach, *Harnessing Digital—The Digital Ireland Framework* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-taoiseach/publications/harnessing-digital-the-digital-ireland-framework/>

³¹⁰⁶ *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

³¹⁰⁷ Department of the Taoiseach, *Harnessing Digital—The Digital Ireland Framework* (Feb. 1, 2022), <https://assets.gov.ie/214584/fa3161da-aa9d-4b11-b160-9cac3a6f6148.pdf>

³¹⁰⁸ Department of the Taoiseach, *Harnessing Digital, The Digital Ireland Framework, 2023 Progress Report*, p. 11 (Jan. 2024), <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e967d-publication-of-harnessing-digital-2023-progress-report/>

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2024.³¹⁰⁹ These developments are expected to align Ireland’s data privacy regulations with international standards and show the country’s commitment to “enforcing digital regulation seriously”, although it is not clear at the moment how these two agencies will work together and with the pre-existing Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC).³¹¹⁰

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Ireland is bound by the EU AI Act.³¹¹¹ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI. Ireland became one of the first EU countries to appoint national authorities responsible for enforcing the new EU AI Act in September 2025.³¹¹² The country appointed 15 government bodies as national competent authorities to oversee AI safety and fairness in their respect sectors, working together with a single contact point in the government. The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence published in early 2026 clarifies that the AI Office of Ireland, *Oifig Intleachta Shaorga na hÉireann*, will serve as the single point of contact and coordinate AI rules and encourage safe AI use.³¹¹³

Public Participation

To receive engagement and input in the development of its National AI Strategy, Ireland held a public consultation process from October 16 to November 7, 2019, which was open to all stakeholders and interested parties. This consultation aimed to “better understand the views of the public on the opportunities, enablers

³¹⁰⁹ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *Minister Calleary Welcomes Passage of Digital Services Bill* (Feb. 8, 2024), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/news-and-events/department-news/2024/february/080224.html>

³¹¹⁰ Department of the Taoiseach, *Harnessing Digital, The Digital Ireland Framework, 2023 Progress Report*, p. 11 (Jan. 2024), <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e967d-publication-of-harnessing-digital-2023-progress-report/>

³¹¹¹ European Parliament, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonized rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act)* (Jul. 12, 2024), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

³¹¹² Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *Ireland Leads the Way in EU AI Regulation* (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/news-and-events/department-news/2025/september/20250916.html>

³¹¹³ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026* (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/legislation/general-scheme-of-the-regulation-of-artificial-intelligence-bill-2026.html>

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and challenges for AI in Ireland and to gather views on key areas and issues that should be addressed by the strategy.”³¹¹⁴

Strand 1 of AI—Here for Good, AI and Society, asserts that Ireland “must also prioritize measures to raise awareness about AI.” To that end, Ireland plans to appoint an “AI ambassador to promote awareness among the public and businesses of the potential that AI offers.” This AI ambassador is expected to engage with the public, lead a “national conversation around the role of AI” with an emphasis on “an ethical and compliant approach,” and champion AI as a positive force for Ireland. Ireland published a call for Expression of Interest for the AI Ambassador position on October 26, 2021, and applications were due November 12, 2021.³¹¹⁵ In May 2022, Dr. Patricia Scanlon was appointed to serve as Ireland’s first AI Ambassador. During the drafting phase of the new digital strategy, Harnessing Digital—The Digital Ireland Framework, no public consultation announcement occurred, removing the public’s ability to offer feedback.

Ireland planned to convene a Youth Assembly on AI to discuss young people’s views of AI’s “benefits, risks and impacts on different groups in society.” University College Cork (UCC) currently hosts The Elements of AI, a massive open online course (MOOC) made available to all EU member states. Ireland plans to use Elements of AI, which is freely available, “to deliver AI education to at least 1% of the population. As part of the Ireland’s AI—Here for Good, young Irish people were asked for their thoughts on AI and its potential applications. The inaugural National Youth Assembly on Artificial Intelligence was held at Trinity College Dublin on October 12, 2022, with 43 young people aged 13 to 23.”³¹¹⁶

In June 2024, Ireland’s Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment requested public opinion on the national approach to the EU AI Act’s implementation,³¹¹⁷ receiving input from citizens, researchers, and companies.³¹¹⁸ The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Artificial Intelligence held hearings on Artificial

³¹¹⁴ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *National AI Strategy for Ireland: Public Consultation Report* (2020), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Consultations/Consultations-files/AI-Strategy-Public-Consultation-Report.pdf>

³¹¹⁵ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *Call for Expression of Interest: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ambassador* (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/call-for-expression-of-interest-artificial-intelligence-ai-ambassador.html>

³¹¹⁶ ADAPT, *ADAPT Joins the National Youth Assembly on Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2, 2022), <https://www.adaptcentre.ie/news-and-events/adapt-joins-the-national-youth-assembly-on-artificial-intelligence/>

³¹¹⁷ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *Public Consultation on National Implementation of EU Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (AI Act)* (May 21, 2024), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/consultations/public-consultation-on-eu-ai-act.html>

³¹¹⁸ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *Minister Calleary Urges Public and Businesses to Have Their Say on AI* (Jun. 3, 2024), <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/7eae6-minister-calleary-urges-public-and-businesses-to-have-their-say-on-ai/>

Intelligence and the State, providing the opportunity for further dialogue on AI governance.³¹¹⁹

Data Protection

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)³¹²⁰ is directly applicable in Ireland and to Irish people. The GDPR aims to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.”³¹²¹ Personal data use by law enforcement authorities is regulated by the EU’s Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED),³¹²² which protects citizens’ fundamental right to data protection whenever personal data is used by criminal law enforcement authorities for law enforcement purposes.³¹²³ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.³¹²⁴

The 2018 Irish Data Protection Act³¹²⁵ supplements the GDPR and implements the LED in Irish law. The Data Protection Act designated the Data Protection Commission (*An Coimisiún um Chosaint Sonraí*, DPC) as Ireland's national independent supervisory authority responsible for upholding the data protection rights of individuals. The DPC is charged with monitoring the application of the GDPR, including its transparency and automated decision-making provisions, and other Irish and EU regulatory frameworks and directives.

³¹¹⁹ Oireachtas, *Joint Committee on Artificial Intelligence Debate: Artificial Intelligence and the State* (Oct. 21, 2025),

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/joint_committee_on_artificial_intelligence/2025-10-21/2/

³¹²⁰ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

³¹²¹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

³¹²² Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=CELEX:32016L0680>

³¹²³ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

³¹²⁴ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

³¹²⁵ Irish Statute Book, *Data Protection Act 2018* (Jan. 20, 2026),

https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/isbc/2018_7.html

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The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Ireland is also a member of the Council of Europe and has signed but not yet ratified³¹²⁶ the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.³¹²⁷

The Irish DPA is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002. Although the DPA endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,³¹²⁸ it did not co-sponsor the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,³¹²⁹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology³¹³⁰ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.³¹³¹

AI Oversight

Ireland’s DPC has faced criticism from members of the European Parliament for failing to enforce the GDPR by choosing to bring a legal proceeding in the *Schrems II* case instead of deciding on its own, issuing only one GDPR sanction out of thousands of complaints, and failing to reach a draft decision on any case referred to Ireland in 2018. The European Parliament passed a resolution in 2021 expressing concern with the slow pace of the Irish DPC and calling for faster investigations to

³¹²⁶ Council of Europe, *Data Protection* (Nov. 2, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/ireland>

³¹²⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 26, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list;?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

³¹²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³¹²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³¹³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

³¹³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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show EU citizens that “data protection is an enforceable right.”³¹³² The European Parliament then supported a call for the European Commission to open an infringement procedure against the DPC.³¹³³ A Commission defended the Irish Data Protection Commissioner by stating that “there is no proof that the DPC didn’t follow the Irish data protection rules or that the cooperation mechanism wasn’t employed correctly.”³¹³⁴ Complex cases, especially those involving disputed issues such as WhatsApp, may take a long time. As a result, the European Commission refused to comment on or initiate infringement proceedings against a DPA for its views on a particular subject.

In December 2022, the EDPB overturned a previous draft decision by the DPC that took the view that Meta’s bypass of the GDPR was legal and the EDPB requested changes in a DPC decision on WhatsApp, as well as further investigations into the core violations of WhatsApp. The following month, the DPC adapted its limited decision, but refused to investigate other matters, as ordered by the EDPB. According to noyb, “the DPC threatens to bring a lawsuit against its European partners.”³¹³⁵

In September 2023, after an *ex officio* investigation started in 2021, the DPC concluded that TikTok failed to secure compliance regarding user policies for children as required by the GDPR.³¹³⁶

The DPC launched its 2023 Annual Report³¹³⁷ in May 2024, highlighting 19 final decisions that resulted in administrative fines totaling €1.55 billion.

In March 2023, the DPC announced its participation in the European Data Protection Board’s 2024 Coordinated Enforcement Framework (CEF), in accordance with Article 15 of the GDPR. In a fact-finding exercise, the DPC will send questionnaires to 30 data controllers in the public and private sectors to gather

³¹³² European Parliament, *Resolution on the Commission Evaluation Report on the Implementation of GDPR Two Years after Its Application* (Mar. 25, 2021),

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0111_EN.html

³¹³³ European Parliament, *Resolution on the Ruling of the CJEU of ‘Schrems II’* (May 20, 2021),

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0256_EN.pdf

³¹³⁴ Hunton Privacy Blog, *European Commission Defends Irish Data Protection Commissioner* (Jan. 13, 2022), <https://www.huntonprivacypblog.com/2022/01/13/european-commission-defends-irish-data-protection-commissioner/>

³¹³⁵ noyb, *Just € 5,5 Million on WhatsApp. DPC Finally Gives the Finger to EDPB* (Jan. 19, 2023), <https://noyb.eu/en/just-eu-55-million-whatsapp-dpc-finally-gives-finger-edpb>

³¹³⁶ Data Protection Commission, *Irish Data Protection Commission Announces €345 Million Fine of TikTok* (Sept. 2023), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/DPC-announces-345-million-euro-fine-of-TikTok>

³¹³⁷ Ireland Data Protection Commission, *Data Protection Annual Report 2023* (May 29, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/2024-08/DPC-EN-AR-2023-Final-AC.pdf>

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insights into how organizations apply the Right of Access Guidelines on data subject rights³¹³⁸ for an EU-wide report.³¹³⁹

In September 2024, the DPC announced a Cross-Border statutory inquiry into Google Ireland Limited (Google) under Section 110 of the Data Protection Act 2018, about whether Google has complied with any obligations that it may have had to undertake an assessment prior to engaging in the processing of the personal data of EU/EEA data subjects associated with the development Pathways Language Model 2 (PaLM 2), its foundational AI model.³¹⁴⁰

In September 2024, the DPC fined Meta €91 million following an inquiry launched in April 2019 after Meta Platforms Ireland Limited (MPIL) notified the DPC that it had inadvertently stored passwords of social media users in ‘plaintext’ on its internal systems, without cryptographic protection or encryption.³¹⁴¹

The DPC announced its final decision to levy administrative fines totaling €310 million on LinkedIn in October 2024 after an inquiry that examined the site’s processing of personal data for the purposes of behavioral analysis and targeted advertising of users who have created LinkedIn profiles (members). With concerns related to the lawfulness, fairness and transparency of this processing, the decision includes a reprimand and an order for LinkedIn to bring its processing into compliance.³¹⁴²

Algorithmic Transparency

Although it has not yet ratified the Protocol amending the Convention 108 which provides for algorithmic transparency, Ireland is subject to the GDPR. Irish people have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.³¹⁴³

³¹³⁸ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 01/2022 on Data Subject Rights—Right of Access* (Mar. 28, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/edpb_guidelines_202201_data_subject_rights_access_v2_en.pdf

³¹³⁹ Ireland Data Protection Commission, *Launch of Coordinated Enforcement Action on the Right of Access* (Mar. 19, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/launch-coordinated-enforcement-action-right-access>

³¹⁴⁰ Data Protection Commission, *Data Protection Commission Launches Inquiry into Google AI Model* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/data-protection-commission-launches-inquiry-google-ai-model>

³¹⁴¹ Ireland, Data Protection Commission, *Irish Data Protection Commission fines Meta Ireland €91 million* (Sept. 27, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/DPC-announces-91-million-fine-of-Meta>

³¹⁴² Ireland, Data Protection Commission, *Irish Data Protection Commission Fines LinkedIn Ireland €310 Million* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/irish-data-protection-commission-fines-linkedin-ireland-eu310-million>

³¹⁴³ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR

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The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems³¹⁴⁴ specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability and effective remedies. The Recommendation provides that “Contestation should include an opportunity to be heard, a thorough review of the decision and the possibility to obtain a non-automated decision. This right may not be waived, and should be affordable and easily enforceable before, during and after deployment, including through the provision of easily accessible contact points and hotlines.”³¹⁴⁵

Although Ireland has not created its own AI ethical guidelines, its National AI Strategy incorporates the seven requirements of the EU High-Level Expert Group (EU HLEG) on AI’s Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI. UCC’s Insight Centre currently hosts an online version of EU HLEG’s Assessment List for Trustworthy AI, as an accessible checklist for adhering to the seven requirements of the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI. The Top Team on Standards for AI is tasked with developing codes of conduct that address explainability and transparency.

Transparency is an important part of Ireland’s national AI strategy. Ireland views transparency as an essential component of accountability and trust in AI. Strand 1 of AI—Here for Good states that “AI must be developed and used with trust, transparency and accountability” and that Ireland is committed to ensuring that AI systems are “trustworthy, fair and inclusive.”

Transparency remains an important part of Ireland’s Harnessing Digital - The Digital Ireland Framework by continuing the implementation of Ireland’s Data Sharing and Governance Act, which is designed to protect citizen’s privacy by establishing a prescriptive framework in legislation for governance, oversight, and transparency of data processing within the Public Service. In July 2024, the Data Protection Commission issued guidance, centered on the right to be informed (transparency) of Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR³¹⁴⁶, for organizations employing AI systems, highlighting risks of personal data processing by AI, including Large Language Models (LLMs), in compliance with GDPR.³¹⁴⁷

³¹⁴⁴ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

³¹⁴⁵ Ibid

³¹⁴⁶ Data Protection Commission, *The Right To Be Informed (Transparency) (Article 13 & 14 GDPR)* <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/individuals/know-your-rights/right-be-informed-transparency-article-13-14-gdpr>

³¹⁴⁷ Data Protection Commission, *AI, Large Language Models and Data Protection* (Jul. 18, 2024), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/blogs/AI-LLMs-and-Data-Protection>

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Public Services Card Facial Recognition Controversy

In March 2013, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), Ireland's national social security office, implemented facial image matching software to minimize fraud and errors of the Public Services Card's (PSC) social security applicant identity verification. The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), an independent non-profit in Ireland, has criticized the PSC for collecting and storing more data than necessary, increasing the risk of a security breach through its collection of sensitive biometric data, forcing economically vulnerable people to exchange their private data for access to services to which they are legally entitled, and contradicting Ireland's position on privacy at the EU.³¹⁴⁸ DEASP has not published their facial image matching software's accuracy and while continuing to use the software despite being under investigation by the Irish Data Protection Commissioner since October 2017. Human Rights Watch has documented reports of eligible applicants being denied social security support due to documentation requirements or objections to the PSC for privacy reasons.³¹⁴⁹

In June 2023, the ICCL released a copy of a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) conducted in 2021 on the upgrade of facial matching software for the PSC.³¹⁵⁰ The document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Request. The assessment revealed significant issues with the use of FRT by the DEASP, including lack of valid legal foundation under the GDPR for the creation and use of a biometric database; lack of transparency about what data was collected and how it was used; and lack of adequate guardrails for the retention of sensitive personal data.³¹⁵¹ It appears that this DPIA report is not publicly available on the DEASP website.

An ICCL press release in June 2023³¹⁵² found that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) of a facial matching software upgrade for the Public Services Card (PSC) in 2021 failed to identify any legal basis under Article 9 GDPR for the

³¹⁴⁸ Irish Council for Civil Liberties, *The Public Services Card*, <https://www.iccl.ie/2019/the-public-services-card-contd/>

³¹⁴⁹ Human Rights Watch, *Q&A: How the EU's Flawed Artificial Intelligence Regulation Endangers the Social Safety Net* (Nov. 10, 2021),

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2021/11/202111hrw_eu_ai_regulation_qa_0.pdf

³¹⁵⁰ ICCL, *Assessment of PSC Facial Recognition Software Reveals Department of Social Protection Has Known Its Biometric Processing Arising from the PSC Is Illegal* (Jun. 9, 2023),

<https://www.iccl.ie/press-release/psc-facial-recognition-software-dpia/>

³¹⁵¹ Department of Social Protection, *Upgraded Facial Matching Software Data Protection Impact Assessment* (Jul. 12, 2021), <https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/DPIA-facial-matching-software-upgrade-FINAL-redacted.pdf>

³¹⁵² Irish Council for Civil Liberties, *Assessment of PSC Facial Recognition Software Reveals Department of Social Protection Has Known Its Biometric Processing Arising from the PSC Is Illegal* (Jun. 9, 2023), <https://www.iccl.ie/press-release/psc-facial-recognition-software-dpia/>

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creation of a biometric photo and template database of 3.2 million cardholders. This DPIA reveals for the first time that the Department of Social Protection has known that its biometric processing of personal data arising from the PSC project is illegal and reported that cardholders were not directly informed about the biometric processing during face-to-face interviews for the same. Olga Cronin, Surveillance and Human Rights Policy Officer, ICCL, says: “The Department has been building a national biometric database without a relevant legal basis and without transparency. It continues to collect people’s biometric information in exchange for services they are legally entitled to. This must stop. This processing is unnecessary, disproportionate, and presents a risk to people’s fundamental rights.”

The DPC concluded the investigation into the use of facial matching technology by the Department of Social Protection in June 2025, after nearly 4 years. The DPC found the Department infringed on the GDPR and issued a reprimand, administrative fines totaling €550,000, and an order requiring the Department to cease processing of biometric data under the program without a valid lawful basis.

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Facial Recognition in Law Enforcement

A proposal to equip the Garda with police facial recognition technology (FRT) to enhance their surveillance powers was made by the Minister of Justice in May of 2022.³¹⁵⁴ In conjunction with AI and other surveillance capabilities, this FRT system aims to enable the fast identification of criminals from CCTV footage.

Police FRT is used as a method of widespread monitoring to track and identify individuals without the need for reasonable suspicion. FRT’s widespread use runs the risk of damaging effects by altering how people interact in public and online settings. While public safety and national security concerns take precedence over individual privacy, the intrusions caused by police FRT surveillance are excessive and unjustified.

In January 2024, the International Justice Clinic (IJC) submitted comments³¹⁵⁵ on Ireland’s General Scheme of the Garda Síochána (Recording

³¹⁵³ Data Protection Commission, *DPC Announces Conclusion of Investigation into Use of Facial Matching Technology in Connection with the Public Services Card by the Department of Social Protection* (Jun 12, 2025), <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/press-releases/dpc-announces-conclusion-investigation-use-facial-matching-technology-connection-public-services>

³¹⁵⁴ Conor Gallagher, *Garda to Use Facial Recognition Technology*, Irish Times (May 25, 2022), <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/garda-to-use-facial-recognition-technology-1.4887298>

³¹⁵⁵ International Justice Clinic, *IJC Comments on Bill Granting Police the Authority to Use Facial Recognition Technology in Ireland* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://ijclinic.law.uci.edu/2024/01/19/ijc-comments-on-bill-granting-police-the-authority-to-use-facial-recognition-technology-in-ireland/>

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Devices) (Amendment) Bill 2023 to the Joint Committee on Justice at the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament). “The Bill grants the Garda Síochána (Irish police) the power to use facial recognition technology on any past images or video that they have legally accessed for (1) crime investigation and prevention and (2) national security, so long as it is not used on live feeds. This facial recognition technology is a powerful tool that automatically extracts unique identifiers from individuals’ faces recorded by data and matches them with identifiers on a watch list.”

According to the IJC, “post” or retrospective use of facial recognition technology equally causes a formidable impact on fundamental human rights as “live” identification. When facial recognition technology is used on data recorded in a publicly accessible place, “it causes people to experience fear that they might be identified in the future [...] especially in the case of the indefinite retention and use of images or video for facial identification.” Post use still has the potential to limit people’s ability to freely participate in a public protest or move in a publicly accessible place.

In February 2024, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice published its pre- legislative scrutiny report on the Draft General Scheme of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Bill 2023³¹⁵⁶, following concerns raised by the Data Protection Commission, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Digital Rights Ireland, the Law Society of Ireland, amongst others. The report highlights deficiencies in the general scheme of the bill, emphasizes the rationale for introducing FRT should be published; and calls on An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice to urgently clarify how FRT is intended to be used and what imagery and reference databases are intended to be used.³¹⁵⁷

Over-policing is already an issue in communities with marginalized groups, and this technology has the potential to exacerbate the problem through racial and minority ethnic profiling and the disruption of people's lives. The Garda's use of technologies such as CCTV, ANPR, drones, and body worn cameras are already being scrutinized.³¹⁵⁸

³¹⁵⁶ Tithe an Oireachtais Houses of the Oireachtas, *Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023* (last updated 5 Dec. 2023), <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2022/79/>

³¹⁵⁷ Tithe an Oireachtais Houses of the Oireachtas, Joint Committee on Justice, *Report on Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Bill 2023* (Feb. 13, 2023),

https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_justice/reports/2024/2-024-02-27_report-on-pre-legislative-scrutiny-of-the-general-scheme-of-the-garda-siochana-recording-devices-amendment-bill-2023_en.pdf

³¹⁵⁸ Irish Times, *Data Protection Commissioner raises CCTV concerns with Garda* (Nov. 16, 2017), <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/data-protection-commissioner-raises-cctv-concerns-with-garda-1.3293400>

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Environmental Impact of AI

Ireland is actively addressing the environmental impact of artificial intelligence (AI) through a combination of national strategies, regulatory frameworks, and industry initiatives. The National AI Strategy, *AI—Here for Good*, specifically emphasizes AI for Societal Good and Sustainability, including applications for environmental and climate action. Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019 highlights AI's role in managing energy use and balancing the grid. However, sustainable development is essential, given AI's own energy demands. Ireland encourages data centers to adopt circular economy principles, aligning with EU Ecodesign Regulation standards to minimize environmental impact.³¹⁵⁹ In a report to the Government, Ireland's AI Advisory Council recommended the establishment of an "AI Energy Council" to ensure necessary measures are taken to rapidly develop clean energy capacity, while transitioning from fossil fuels and winning public trust. The Council noted that the public should be reassured that data centers will never be allowed to "blackout" homes, and that the goal is to minimise "blacking out" data centers.³¹⁶⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Ireland is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and has been an active participant in CCW discussions related to lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). According to Human Rights Watch, Ireland has expressed interest in multilateral talks on LAWS in the UN since at least 2013 and has participated in every CCW meeting on LAWS between 2014 and 2019.³¹⁶¹ In 2019, Ireland joined the other High Contracting Parties to the CCW to adopt 11 guiding principles for addressing challenges to international humanitarian law posed by LAWS.³¹⁶² Ireland also joined eight other CCW parties in finding that the 11 guiding principles were a "useful and valuable starting point" and calling for the development of a "normative and operational

³¹⁵⁹ Government of Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment, *National AI Strategy AI—Here for Good* (Jul. 8, 2021), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/national-ai-strategy.html>

³¹⁶⁰ Ireland's AI Advisory Council, *Helping to Shape Ireland's AI Future* (Feb 21, 2025), <https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/ai-advisory-council-recommendations-helping-to-shape-irelands-ai-future.pdf>

³¹⁶¹ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

³¹⁶² Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, *Final Report* (Dec. 13, 2019), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3856241?ln=en>

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framework” for ensuring human control of LAWS.³¹⁶³ Ireland also participated in the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023) in the Netherlands. Ireland agreed to the joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain³¹⁶⁴ and endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.³¹⁶⁵

Ireland has consistently contributed to discussions on LAWS in the United States. In 2022, Ireland joined 69 other countries on a joint statement urging the international community to address the risks and challenges of autonomous weapons by “adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints” to uphold International Law, “including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”³¹⁶⁶

Ireland’s contribution³¹⁶⁷ to the UN Secretary-General report³¹⁶⁸ resulting from 2023 resolution³¹⁶⁹ highlights a series of risks requiring urgent and comprehensive multilateral action and moves to action by offering definitions of terms for an agreement and identifying functional characteristics of LAW that “pose legal, humanitarian and ethical concerns.”³¹⁷⁰ Ireland reiterated that “AWS that

³¹⁶³ Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, and New Zealand, *Joint Commentary on Guiding Principles A, B, C and D* (Sept. 1, 2020), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GGE20200901-Austria-Belgium-Brazil-Chile-Ireland-Germany-Luxembourg-Mexico-and-New-Zealand.pdf>

³¹⁶⁴ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the military domain*, (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

³¹⁶⁵ U.S. Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

³¹⁶⁶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

³¹⁶⁷ United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Ireland National Submission UNGA Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)* (May 24, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session \(2024\)/78-241-Ireland-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session (2024)/78-241-Ireland-EN.pdf)

³¹⁶⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Lethal autonomous weapons systems Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session \(2024\)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session (2024)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf)

³¹⁶⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2023 78/241 Lethal autonomous weapons systems* (Dec. 28, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

³¹⁷⁰ United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Ireland National Submission UNGA Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)*, p. 2 (May 24, 2024), <https://docs->

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cannot be used in accordance with IHL [...] are *de facto* already prohibited under international law. However, new rules, and guidelines are needed to clarify how IHL applies to AWS.”³¹⁷¹ Later in 2024, on endorsing draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,³¹⁷² Ireland’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference of Disarmament, expressed concern over the widespread use of explosive weapons and stressed that “any use of military force must comply with international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.”³¹⁷³

Ireland delivered a statement to the First Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly calling for urgent progress on a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems.³¹⁷⁴ Ireland agreed with other States that the “rolling text” of the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) provides a sufficient basis to fulfil its mandate and proceed to negotiations on an instrument on autonomous weapons systems.

AI Literacy

Ireland’s National AI Strategy includes education and skills development as a critical component of a people-centered, trustworthy, and ethical AI ecosystem.³¹⁷⁵ Initiatives such as the AI in Education project³¹⁷⁶ and the GenAI Policy Framework³¹⁷⁷

[library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Ireland-EN.pdf](https://library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Ireland-EN.pdf)

³¹⁷¹ Ibid, p. 3

³¹⁷² United Nations General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/resolutions/L77.pdf>

³¹⁷³ Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, *Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons at the First Committee of the General Assembly* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://www.ireland.ie/en/un/newyork/news-and-speeches/speeches-archive/thematic-debate-on-conventional-weapons-at-the-first-committee-of-the-general-assembly/>

³¹⁷⁴ Ireland at 80th UN General Assembly, *First Committee Statement on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction* (Oct 22, 2025), <https://www.ireland.ie/en/un/newyork/news-and-speeches/speeches-archive/first-committee-statement-on-other-weapons-of-mass-destruction/>

³¹⁷⁵ Government of Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *AI—Here for Good Progress Report on the National AI Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/progress-report-national-ai-strategy-ai-here-for-good.pdf>

³¹⁷⁶ Oide, Department of Education of Ireland, *AI to Support Learning and Teach in the RE Classroom* (Sept. 2023), <https://oide.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AI-to-Support-Learning-and-Teaching-in-the-RE-Classroom.pdf>

³¹⁷⁷ Higher Education Authority and National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, *Generative AI in Higher Education Teaching & Learning: National Policy Framework* (Dec. 2025), <https://hub.teachingandlearning.ie/genai/policy-framework/>

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by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning reflect this commitment.³¹⁷⁸ The National Forum also includes resources and guidelines for teachers and learners, including open courses that align with national professional development requirements. Yet, as noted by the Ombudsman for Children’s Office,³¹⁷⁹ implementation remains fragmented. AI literacy is largely embedded within broader digital-skills policies, and no standardized national curriculum ensures that all citizens, especially children and vulnerable groups, acquire the competencies to navigate algorithmic systems.

Human Rights

According to Freedom House, Ireland is “free,” with high scores for political rights and civil liberties (97/100).³¹⁸⁰ The report highlights the stability of Ireland’s democracy but notes discrimination against nomadic Irish Travellers, immigrants, and asylum seekers.

Ireland has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratified seven of the nine core international human rights instruments,³¹⁸¹ along with the European Convention on Human Rights.³¹⁸² Strand 1 of Ireland’s national AI strategy commits to “making human rights and ethical principles a key focus” of its national AI strategy, although it largely focuses on AI R&D that can improve access and inclusion, such as AI tools that help people with impaired hearing through real-time live captioning.

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers reminded Member States that their commitment to “ensuring the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to everyone within their jurisdiction” required that “member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms which are universal,

³¹⁷⁸ Higher Education Authority and National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, *Artificial Intelligence in Irish Higher Education* (2025), <https://hub.teachingandlearning.ie/genai/>

³¹⁷⁹ Ombudsman for Children’s Office, *AI Policy Spotlight Report* (Sept. 1, 2025), <https://www.oco.ie/app/uploads/2025/09/OCO-AI-Policy-Spotlight-report.pdf>

³¹⁸⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Ireland* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ireland/freedom-world/2025>

³¹⁸¹ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for Ireland*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=83&Lang=EN

³¹⁸² Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, *Your Rights*, <https://www.ihrec.ie/your-rights/>

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indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”³¹⁸³

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Ireland participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.³¹⁸⁴ Ireland thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Ireland is a member of the OECD and endorsed the OECD AI Principles in May 2019. Ireland is also a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), joining as part of the national AI strategy to establish an “agile and appropriate” AI governance and regulatory environment.³¹⁸⁵

According to its National AI Strategy, Ireland’s AI policies are “underpinned by [Ireland’s] engagement” with AI policy processes at the EU, UN, and OECD. Ireland’s Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform issued Guidelines for the Responsible Use of AI in the Public Service,³¹⁸⁶ setting out practical steps for human oversight, risk management, and accountability. These guidelines demonstrate continued implementation of the OECD AI Principles in Ireland’s public sector.

³¹⁸³ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

³¹⁸⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

³¹⁸⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

³¹⁸⁶ Government of Ireland, *Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Service* (May 8 2025), <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-public-expenditure-infrastructure-public-service-reform-and-digitalisation/publications/guidelines-for-the-responsible-use-of-ai-in-the-public-service/>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Ireland contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. The European Union signed on behalf of the 27 member states when the treaty opened for signature on September 5, 2024.³¹⁸⁷ Ireland has not taken individual action on the treaty, however.³¹⁸⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Ireland is among the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.³¹⁸⁹ In its National AI Strategy, issued a few months before the UNESCO Recommendation, Ireland already explicitly acknowledges the UNESCO Recommendation which is a positive sign that it will take the necessary measures to implement it. However, Ireland's Progress Report on implementation of the National AI Strategy³¹⁹⁰ confirms the endorsement but provides no details on the implementation of the UNESCO recommendations on the Ethics of AI. Ireland has not begun the process of completing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).³¹⁹¹

Evaluation

Ireland has endorsed the OECD AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics. Ireland has also established and actively updated a national AI strategy to address trust and transparency issues and improve AI competitiveness.³¹⁹² Issues concerning the positions adopted by the Irish data

³¹⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

³¹⁸⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 22, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

³¹⁸⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

³¹⁹⁰ Government of Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, *AI—Here for Good Progress Report on the National AI Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/progress-report-national-ai-strategy.html>

³¹⁹¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

³¹⁹² Government of Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. *National AI Strategy Refresh 2024* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6df28-national-ai-strategy-refresh-2024/>

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protection authority, in contradiction with those of other national data protection authorities in the EU or the European Data Protection Board have largely been resolved. As the European home of many large tech companies, Ireland has the opportunity to model implementation of the GDPR and EU AI Act. Ratifying Convention 108+ is one way to demonstrate a commitment to upholding common principles. The recent facial recognition amendment, which included a list of situations where police could use FRT including for offenses such as rioting and violent disorder, adds to the list of concerns. The EU AI Act does not cover the use of AI for national security purposes.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission has issued guidelines centered on the right to be informed under the GDPR and demanded comprehensive safeguards in the deployment of facial recognition technology. Moreover, the DPC has been holding technology companies accountable for their compliance with the GDPR. Ireland is introducing additional measures to align with the EU AI Act, including establishing an AI Advisory Council and designating national public authorities to provide independent oversight.

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Israel

In 2025, Israel released a new AI Program with plans to promote AI literacy and capacity-building as well as guidance for AI policies and oversight.

National AI Strategy

On 18 December 2023, Israel launched the National AI Program 2024,³¹⁹³ part of a multi-year program to tackle “the challenge of developing a long-term AI strategy in a fast-evolving world. The Program sets a clear path for the future while maintaining flexibility in the face of rapid technological and regulatory shifts.”³¹⁹⁴ with a three-fold emphasis on 1) developing a cohesive, holistic, long-term, government strategy for sustained growth in AI; 2) fostering an enabling pro-innovation environment to promote AI adoption within the private and public sectors; and 3) enhancing the facilities and resources available for research and development activities. The program explicitly refers to a risk-based approach to AI regulation that “should be contextualized, weighing potential risks and benefits within specific use cases, compatible with the OECD Trustworthy AI Principles.”³¹⁹⁵

The 2024 AI Program focuses on responsible AI innovation, which is human-centric, non-discriminatory, reliable, safe, accountable, and transparent.³¹⁹⁶ Sector-specific regulation is encouraged along with a risk-based approach and multi-stakeholder consultation. The 2025 program stresses establishing AI regulatory frameworks is one of the key actions under the program as part of the objective to promote “responsible innovation.”³¹⁹⁷

Israel realized the first of the national regulatory frameworks in 2023 through coordination between the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology and the Office of Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs (Economic Law Department) under the Ministry of Justice.³¹⁹⁸ Like the National AI Program, the AI Regulation and Ethics adopts the OECD AI Principles. The regulation recommends a risk-based,

³¹⁹³ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *Israel AI National Program 2024* (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/most-news/20231218/he/Israel%20National%20AI%20Program%202024.pdf>

³¹⁹⁴ Ibid, p. 4

³¹⁹⁵ Ibid, p. 9

³¹⁹⁶ Ibid, p. 8

³¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology, *National Program for Artificial Intelligence: Program and Snapshot*, p. 6 (Apr. 2025), <https://innovationisrael.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AI-National-Program-en-14.5.25.pdf>

³¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology and the Office of Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, *Israel's Policy on Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Ethics* (Dec. 17, 2023), https://www.gov.il/en/departments/policies/ai_2023

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sectoral approach using “soft” regulatory tools and consistent with “existing regulatory approach of leading countries and international organizations.”³¹⁹⁹ The policy also aims to foster private-public cooperation.

An AI Policy Coordination Center serving as an “expert-based inter-agency body” will advise sectoral leaders and government; promote horizontal implementation; facilitate discussions across government, industry academia, and civil society; and lead representation in international organizations.³²⁰⁰ The Center will establish consultation forums to facilitate ongoing discussions and knowledge-sharing among various stakeholders, including industry, academia, civil society organizations,³²⁰¹ and the government. The Center is tasked with broad responsibilities but does not have decision-making authority. Operating as a centralized governmental hub for AI regulation, it lacks significant enforcement powers.³²⁰²

Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office also established and named a National Artificial Intelligence Directorate³²⁰³ to position Israel as a global leader in AI by formulating and implementing a national AI strategy and serving as a central hub for promoting innovation, regulation, infrastructure, and research, while strengthening Israel’s international standing. Personally initiated and led by the Prime Minister, the Directorate will provide professional guidance to government ministries and auxiliary units on regulatory matters, oversee the development of advanced AI infrastructure, including energy and research complexes, and sovereign supercomputing capabilities, and coordinate international cooperation in the AI field.

Public Participation

The initial release of the draft regulatory and ethics policy in October 2022 was followed by a phase of consultation with an explicit request for public comment.³²⁰⁴

³¹⁹⁹ Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology, *Responsible Innovation: Israel’s Policy on Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Ethics*, p. 3 (Dec. 2023), https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/policy/ai_2023/en/Israels%20AI%20Policy%202023.pdf

³²⁰⁰ Ibid, p. 9

³²⁰¹ The Jerusalem Post, Israel establishes national expert forum to guide AI policy and regulation (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-821307>

³²⁰² IAPP, *Proactive caution: Israel’s Approach to AI Regulation* (Jan. 10, 2024), <https://iapp.org/news/a/proactive-caution-israels-approach-to-ai-regulation/>

³²⁰³ Prime Minister’s Office, *Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Erez Askal Appointed Director of the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Directorate within the PMO* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/spoke-ai121025>

³²⁰⁴ Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology, *For the First Time in Israel: The Principles of the Policy for the Responsible Development of the Field of Artificial Intelligence Were Published for Public Comment* (Nov. 17, 2022), <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/most-news20221117>

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The policy draft also called for the establishment, within the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, of a forum for public participation to discuss the development of AI regulations and oversight. Following this call for public participation, the Israeli Democracy Institute provided comments, covered by the media,³²⁰⁵ on the government's plan to regulate AI.³²⁰⁶ The Israeli Democracy Institute argued that the suggested AI soft regulation, self-regulation, and ethical principles are insufficient. Instead, the government should design enforceable laws that clearly define "red lines" to avoid Israel becoming the backyard of AI-related experiments. The Israeli Democracy Institute also advocated for an approach that includes human right protection and risk-based frameworks and is embedded in a combination of horizontal and sector-specific regulations.

The second phase of the National AI Program³²⁰⁷ includes focus areas such as AI Integration in the Public Sector and Local Authorities, Preserving Israel's Leadership in AI Research, Expanding Human Capital in the Industry, Access to Data and Information, and Encouraging Transformative High-Tech Ventures. Moreover, in September 2024, the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology issued a public call to form a national expert forum on artificial intelligence.³²⁰⁸ The Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology completed the establishment of the National Expert Forum on AI in February 2025.³²⁰⁹

The 2025 National Program for Artificial Intelligence moves public participation in AI policy beyond one-off consultations into more structured, ongoing engagement.³²¹⁰ The Program mandates a permanent regulators' coordination forum and a public multi-stakeholder consultation forum (industry, academia, civil society)

³²⁰⁵ Sagi Cohen, "It's not enough, we need legislation": Experts against the Guidelines for the Development of Ethical Artificial Intelligence, TheMarker (Dec. 29, 2022), <https://www.themarker.com/technation/2022-12-29/ty-article/.premium/00000185-5d4f-d68b-a7ef-7def7b680000>

³²⁰⁶ Israeli Democracy Institute, *The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in Israel Requires Red Lines to Prevent Violation of Fundamental Rights* (Dec. 2022), <https://www.idi.org.il/knesset-committees/46881>

³²⁰⁷ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *Israel AI National Program 2024* (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/most-news20231218/he/Israel%20National%20AI%20Program%202024.pdf>

³²⁰⁸ Jerusalem Post, *Israel Establishes National Expert Forum to Guide AI Policy and Regulation* (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-821307>

³²⁰⁹ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *The Experts Who Will Lead Israel into the Future: The Expert Forum for National Preparations for Artificial Intelligence Has Been Established* [המומחים שיציעו את ישראל, לעתיד: הוקם פורום המומחים להיערכות לאומית לבינה מלאכותית] (Feb., 2025), <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/most-news202500602>

³²¹⁰ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *National Program for Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 2025), <https://innovationisrael.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AI-National-Program-en-14.5.25.pdf>

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under the Governmental Knowledge and Coordination Center. The Program also deepens expert participation through the national AI expert forum and a scientific advisory committee, along with explicitly linking public preparedness to broad AI literacy initiatives.

The government invited written comments from stakeholders and the general public on a draft Guide to Risk Management and Responsible Use of AI Tools in the Public Sector,³²¹¹ during two months in summer 2025.³²¹² In parallel, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology through the SynerGAI initiative convened open events and conferences and thematic meetings (e.g., on AI and mental health), designed to bring regulators, experts, industry and civil society into the same room.³²¹³

Data Protection

Complementary laws govern data protection in Israel: legal texts and guidelines: (1) the 1992 Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty according to which the right for privacy is a constitutional right;³²¹⁴ (2) the 1981 Privacy Protection Law (PPL)³²¹⁵ and subsequent regulations,³²¹⁶ such as Israel's 2017 Data Security

³²¹¹ National Digital Agency, *Guide to Risk Management and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in the Public Sector Public Consultation Draft* (Jun. 3, 2025), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/ai-guide/en/Responsible%20AI%20Guide%20-%20public%20consultation%20draft.pdf>

³²¹² National Digital Agency, *Setting the Standard: Israel Unveils First-Ever Responsible AI Guide for the Public Sector* (Jun. 3, 2025), <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/ai-guide>

³²¹³ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *Regulators and Government Ministries Forum for the Field of Artificial Intelligence [פורום רגולטורים ומשרדי ממשלה לתחום הבינה המלאכותית]* (May 2025), <https://govextra.gov.il/most-main/ecoscience-new/home/%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9D-%D7%A8%D7%92%D7%95%D7%9C%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%93%D7%99-%D7%9E%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%94-%D7%9C%D7%AA%D7%97%D7%95%D7%9D-%D7%94%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%94-%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%9B%D7%95%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%AA/>

³²¹⁴ The Knesset, *Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty* (Mar. 17, 1992), <https://m.knesset.gov.il/EN/activity/documents/BasicLawsPDF/BasicLawLiberty.pdf>

³²¹⁵ The Knesset, *Protection of Privacy Law, 5741–1981* (unofficial translation), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/legalinfo/legislation/en/ProtectionofPrivacyLaw57411981unofficialtranslatio.pdf>

³²¹⁶ IAPP, *Protection of Privacy Regulations (Data Security) 2017* [Unofficial translation] (2017), https://iapp.org/media/pdf/resource_center/IS-PROTECTION-OF-PRIVACY-REGULATIONS.pdf

Regulation;³²¹⁷ and (3) the guidelines of the Israeli Privacy Protection Authority.³²¹⁸ Chapter 1 of the PPL covers privacy generally, while Chapter 2 concerns data in storage and sets out various registration, purpose-limitation, transparency and security requirements, as well as individual rights of access and rectification.³²¹⁹ Other Chapters address procedural and enforcement matters as well as the disclosure or sharing of information by public bodies and liabilities for the publication of privacy-infringing material in newspapers.

In 2011, The European Commission determined that Israel satisfied the “adequacy requirement” according to the European Directive 95/46. In 2024, the European Commission decided to extend its adequacy decision as it concluded that “Israel continues to provide an adequate level of protection for personal data transferred from the EU.”³²²⁰ The Israeli Ministry of Justice proposed updates of the PPL, due to the major gap between GDPR and Israeli Law. In 2021, the Israeli Ministry of Justice announced approval of updates to the Privacy Protection Law. The amendments include significant new administrative enforcement powers for the Privacy Protection Authority, including the authority to impose financial sanctions, updating technological and social definitions, and reducing the bureaucratic burden on organizations' obligation to register databases.³²²¹

In January 2022, the Israeli government introduced a substantial amendment to the PPL, Bill No. 14, aimed to align the PPL with the EU GDPR at least in part.³²²² The Israeli Parliament approved the Amendment No. 13 (previously known as Amendment no. 14), which is the most comprehensive amendment to the law since 1996. The amendment came into effect in August 2025. The amendment introduces for the first time the mandatory appointment of Data Protection Officers, significantly expands the PPA's powers, establishes various tools for effective

³²¹⁷ Assaf Harel, *5 Takeaways from the Israeli Privacy Protection Regulations*, IAPP (Aug. 5, 2019), <https://iapp.org/news/a/five-takeaways-on-the-first-anniversary-of-the-israeli-privacy-protection-regulations/>

³²¹⁸ Privacy Protection Authority (PPA), *The Privacy Protection Authority Guidelines* (Feb. 9, 2021), https://www.gov.il/en/pages/guidelines_ppa

³²¹⁹ Privacy Protection Authority, *Legislation* (Oct. 3, 2017) (unofficial translation), <https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/legalInfo/legislation>

³²²⁰ European Commission, *Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the first review of the functioning of the adequacy decisions adopted pursuant to Article 25(6) of Directive 95/46/EC* (Jan. 15, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024DC0007>

³²²¹ IAPP, *Israel Pushes Forward Privacy Law Amendments* (Nov. 8, 2021), <https://web.archive.org/web/20220120144307/https://iapp.org/news/a/israel-pushes-forward-privacy-law-amendments/>

³²²² For criticism, see Dan Or-Hof, *A Turning Point for Privacy Laws in Israel*, IAPP (Jan. 26, 2022), <https://iapp.org/news/a/a-turning-point-for-privacy-laws-in-israel/>

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enforcement of the PPL, and allows courts to award statutory damages without proof of damage up to an amount of NIS 10,000.³²²³

Israel's Privacy Protection Authority (PPA) is the primary regulator for matters relating to privacy and data security.³²²⁴ The PPA sits within the Israeli Ministry of Justice and is headed by the Registrar of Databases. The PPA regulates and enforces data protection across all sectors, private and public, according to the provisions of the Privacy Protection Law.

In July 2022,³²²⁵ the PPA presented their interpretation of section 11 of the PPL which enshrines the right to information. The PPA's interpretation covers AI-based decision-making systems. In August 2022,³²²⁶ the PPA covered telemedicine (or 'telehealth') services, including AI-based diagnostic services. In August 2022, the PPA issued a detailed report³²²⁷ about DeepFake technologies and privacy. According to the PPA, "unauthorized distribution of an image or video forged using the Deepfake technology—which displays degrading or demeaning content relating to a person's private life and could be perceived in public as authentic - constitutes a violation of the Privacy Protection Act."

The PPA has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2009. The PPA has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,³²²⁸ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI

³²²³ IAPP, *Charting Its Own Path—The New Reform in Israeli Data Protection Laws* (Aug. 5, 2024), <https://iapp.org/news/a/charting-its-own-path-the-new-reform-in-israeli-data-protection-laws>

³²²⁴ Privacy Protection Authority, *About the Privacy Protection Authority* (Jul. 24, 2018), https://www.gov.il/en/departments/the_privacy_protection_authority

³²²⁵ Privacy Protection Authority, *Obligation to Notify as Part of Collection and Use of Personal Information* [Hebrew] (Jul. 31, 2022), https://www.gov.il/he/departments/news/duty_to_notify

³²²⁶ Privacy Protection Authority, *Protection of Patient Privacy in the Provision of Remote Medical Services* (Aug. 2, 2022),

https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/remote_medical_services/he/remote_medical_services_doc.pdf

³²²⁷ Privacy Protection Authority, *Privacy and Data Security in Deepfake Technologies* (Aug. 28, 2022), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/reports/31-01-23/en/Deepfake-31.pdf>

³²²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

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Accountability,³²²⁹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.³²³⁰ However, it co-sponsored the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.³²³¹

Algorithmic Transparency

In its 2022 interpretation of section 11 of the PPL on the right to information, the PPA clarified that this provision applies to AI-based systems.

The topic of algorithmic transparency had already been raised by the Knesset's Research and Information Center's June 2018 research document that was prepared for the first discussion on the government's readiness for artificial intelligence that month.³²³² Since then, algorithmic transparency has regularly been mentioned in policy documents and debates. Algorithmic transparency is also mentioned in the draft policy and regulatory policy.

The PPA's draft directive, Application of Privacy Protection Law Provisions to Artificial Intelligence Systems, published April 30, 2025, introduces requirements for organizations using AI to disclose when users interact with AI systems and to explain what data is processed and how, identifying processing purposes, specifying data recipients, and stating retention periods for user data.³²³³

AI and Medical Data

In 2018, Israel's Prime Minister announced the establishment of a \$300 million initiative to make Israel's large pool of de-identified clinical data available to researchers, entrepreneurs, and medical institutions to develop new treatments and personalized medicine among other goals. "With all records in a common format, AI systems – using machine learning algorithms – will be able to parse the data, seeking

³²²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³²³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

³²³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³²³² Knesset's Research and Information Center, *Information about "Artificial Intelligence"* (Jun. 2018), https://fs.knesset.gov.il/globaldocs/MMM/eb0bf048-de5c-e811-80e1-00155d0a9876/2_eb0bf048-de5c-e811-80e1-00155d0a9876_11_10863.pdf

³²³³ Israel Privacy Protection Authority, *Draft Privacy Protection Authority Directive: Application of Privacy Protection Law Provisions to Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Apr. 28, 2025), https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/rfp/ai_reg/he/ai%20regu_draft.pdf

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correlations in conditions and treatments to discern which treatments are likely to be most effective” said the Director of the Israel Ministry of Health.³²³⁴

The initiative currently includes the “Mosaic” (*Psifas*) project, a personalized medicine health project, for creating a national information infrastructure for health research in the field of genetics and medical information. Another project is Timna, a national platform for conducting big data research in health data, intended to serve the research community in the health system, academia and Israeli industry.³²³⁵

In April 2023, the Medical Technologies, Information and Research Division and the Digital Health Division at the Ministry of Health, published guiding principles for the development of machine learning based technologies.³²³⁶ These ten guiding principles are intended to facilitate the development and utilization of safe, efficient, and high-quality medical devices incorporating artificial intelligence and machine learning. The principles place particular emphasis on addressing challenges unique to machine learning, including bias prevention, overfitting prevention, transparency, data reliability, privacy, and information security.

A proposed Medical Information Mobilization Law will give people more control and will allow them to mobilize medical data to health organizations of their choice in a clear and easy way to ensure therapeutic continuity, better diagnosis, and personalized treatment.³²³⁷

The Ministry of Health published and called for review of Key Principles for Evaluating AI-Driven Interventional Trials following the launch of the Central Committee for Clinical Trials using Digital Medical Devices (CDT).³²³⁸ The document presents a comprehensive set of questions for analyzing requests for interventional clinical trials using AI-based tools, with the aim of creating a comprehensive and efficient working tool to assist the Helsinki committees (the Israeli equivalent of IRBs) in the discussion and approval process of requests for clinical trials using these advanced technologies.

³²³⁴ Moshe Bar Siman Tov, *How Israel Turned Decades of Medical Data into Digital Health Gold*, Forbes (Mar. 26, 2019), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/startupnationcentral/2019/03/26/how-israel-turned-decades-of-medical-data-into-digital-health-gold/?sh=1b576d873ee4>

³²³⁵ Ministry of Health, *Project Timna*, <https://govextra.gov.il/ministry-of-health/big-data-research/home/>

³²³⁶ Ministry of Health, *Guiding Principles for the Development of Machine Learning Based Technologies* [עקרונות מנחים לפיתוח טכנולוגיות מבוססות למידת מכונה] (May 3, 2024) <https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/General/digital-medical-technology-gmlp-1>

³²³⁷ Ministry of Health, *The Medical Information Mobilization Law Passes Today in the Health Committee Ahead of the Second and Third Readings in the Knesset* (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/12072024-03>

³²³⁸ Ministry of Health, Pharmacy Division, Clinical Trials Department of MTHIIR Directorate, *Call for Review of the Principles Document for Clinical Trials Using Artificial Intelligence-Based Algorithms* [מסמך עקרונות לניסויים קליניים באלגוריתמים מבוססי בינה מלאכותית] (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/ct-19112024>

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COVID-19 Tracking Controversy

Beginning with emergency measures taken in March 2020, the Israeli police used mobile-phone location data and AI techniques to attempt to determine whether those in quarantine were indeed staying in quarantine. A month after the tracking was authorized, the parliamentary committee in charge of overseeing the practice halted the mobile phone tracking. The Committee argued that the harm done to privacy outweighed the benefits of the tracking.³²³⁹

Israel then turned to Shin Bet, the Israeli Security Agency, to monitor the general population and track potential Covid patients and their contacts.³²⁴⁰ This action was criticized by human rights activists³²⁴¹, as well as medical associations³²⁴².

On 26 April 2020, Israel's Supreme Court banned the intelligence agency from tracing the phone location of those who may be infected with Covid-19, until new laws are passed.³²⁴³ “The state's choice to use its preventative security service for monitoring those who wish it no harm, without their consent, raises great difficulties and a suitable alternative [...] must be found,” the court said.³²⁴⁴ The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, one of the groups which brought the court challenge, welcomed the decision, saying: “Israel must not be the sole democracy which operates its secret security service to monitor its citizens, even in the fight against the coronavirus.”³²⁴⁵ In July, Israel’s parliament voted to allow the country’s Internal Security agency to track the contact relations of Israeli cell phone users for

³²³⁹ Knesset News, *Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Suspends Bill Allowing Police to Surveil Civilian Phones to Enforce Quarantine Orders* (Apr. 23, 2020), <https://main.knesset.gov.il/EN/News/PressReleases/Pages/press23420b.aspx>

³²⁴⁰ Jonathan Lis, *Israel Extends Security Service Tracking of Coronavirus Cases for Three More Weeks* (May 27, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israel-extends-security-service-tracking-of-coronavirus-cases-for-three-more-weeks-1.8875700>

³²⁴¹ Tehilla Shwartz Altshuler, *Israel Went Too Far with the Digital Fight against Corona*, Ace (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.ice.co.il/opinions/news/article/778683>

³²⁴² Refaella Goichman, *Doctors: Shin Bet Surveillance Harms the Fight against Corona*, The Marker (Mar. 25, 2020), <https://www.themarker.com/technation/2020-03-25/ty-article/0000017f-e2f5-d568-ad7f-f3fff0010000>

³²⁴³ BBC News, *Coronavirus: Israeli Court Bans Lawless Contact Tracing* (Apr. 27, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-52439145>

³²⁴⁴ Cardoza Law School, Versa, *Ben Meir v. Prime Minister*, H CJ 2109/20 (Apr. 26, 2020), <https://versa.cardozo.yu.edu/opinions/ben-meir-v-prime-minister-0>

³²⁴⁵ Lubell, Maayan, *Israel's Top Court Says Government Must Legislate COVID-19 Phone-Tracking*, Reuters (Apr. 26, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-israel-monitoring-idUSKCN2280RN>

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the rest of the year amid a resurgence in new cases.³²⁴⁶ Human rights organizations renewed their objections.³²⁴⁷

In August 2020 it was revealed that only four percent of those sent for isolation by the intelligence system were actually sick.³²⁴⁸ In a September 2020 opinion, the PPA also objected to the use of the Israeli Internal Security Service location tracking tool.³²⁴⁹ The PPA said that the measure cannot be justified, and that use would adversely impact the public's trust in public authorities. The PPA also questioned the effectiveness of the location tracking tool. In January 2021, the government received an automatic extension to the expired law to continue tracking - due to the elections at that time. In March 2021, the Supreme Court clarified that the Knesset is not in charge of supervising the tracking tool or limiting its use. In the same month, elections were also held. The same month, a week after the elections to the 24th Knesset and before its inauguration, the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee refused to continue using the tracking tool.³²⁵⁰

Social Ranking

Following a proposal to use scoring technologies for Israelis who may be infected with COVID-19, in April 2020, the PPA also published a review on the use of technologies for the social ranking of citizens to achieve social and governmental goals, and the impact of this on the right to privacy.³²⁵¹ The April 2020 review indicated that social ranking systems have increased in an era of Big Data and are present in Israel in forms such as the credit data rating system or a potential future AI-based system aimed to rate an individual's likelihood of contracting COVID-19. Specifically, the review outlined that such a system, which would process location,

³²⁴⁶ Reuters, *Israel Approves Cellphone Tracking of COVID-19 Carriers for Rest of Year* (Jul. 20, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-israel-surveillance/israel-approves-cellphone-tracking-of-covid-19-carriers-for-rest-of-year-idUSKCN24L2PJ>

³²⁴⁷ Privacy International, *Israel's Coronavirus Surveillance Is an Example for Others—Of What Not to Do* (Jul. 21, 2020), <https://privacyinternational.org/long-read/3747/israels-coronavirus-surveillance-example-others-what-not-do>

³²⁴⁸ Idan Binyamin, *A Quarter of the Corona Isolates Located by the Shin Bet Were Released After It Became Clear That the Location Was Wrong*, Shakuf (Aug. 17, 2020), https://shakuf.co.il/16926?_ga=2.32710839.840163551.1625568613-850313679.1619600231

³²⁴⁹ Pearl Cohen, *Israel: Privacy Protection Authority Objects to Shabak-Run Location Tracking for Coronavirus Epidemiological Investigations* (Sep. 1, 2020), <https://www.pearlcohen.com/israel-privacy-protection-authority-objects-to-shabak-run-location-tracking-for-coronavirus-epidemiological-investigations/>

³²⁵⁰ Idan Binyamin, *Without our noticing: The use of the Shin Bet tool was finally stopped*, Shakuf (Jul. 8, 2021), <https://shakuf.co.il/22303>

³²⁵¹ Privacy Protection Authority, *Social rating in the light of the right to privacy: background review regarding the use of social rating systems* (Apr. 22, 2020), https://www.gov.il/he/departments/publications/reports/social_ranking

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medical, and personal data, would constitute a serious violation of the privacy of citizens and should be avoided as far as possible and, where it cannot be avoided, it must be compliant with data protection law.

Facial Recognition

Facial recognition in Israel is implemented in border control and Israel has a biometric database of face photos and fingerprints of citizens and residents, as well as foreigners accessing Israel. A biometric database was enacted in law in 2009.³²⁵² The law provides the basis for the Israeli national ID-Card. The database includes biometric face-photos and voluntarily supplied fingerprints. According to the biometric database law, the information can be used for severe crime enforcement and for state security tasks. In May 2020, the Israeli State Comptroller reported that the data of about 4.5 million Israeli drivers' licenses, including facial pictures, are not sufficiently protected from misuse or outside hacking. Various public reports have documented Israel's use of facial recognition in Gaza, including the Israeli security forces' extensive gathering of Palestinian biometric data without consent and using facial recognition to build a large database for mass surveillance. The facial recognition program, which is run by Israel's military intelligence unit, including the cyber-intelligence division Unit 8200, relies on technology from Corsight, a private Israeli company that also uses Google Photos to pick faces out of crowds and grainy drone footage.³²⁵³

Still, Israel's military has invested tens of millions of dollars to upgrade West Bank checkpoints with AnyVision facial recognition technology to verify Palestinian workers' identities and ease their entry into Israel. The new system, which began rolling out late 2018, drew criticism about the role the controversial technology plays in Israel's military control over Palestinians.³²⁵⁴

Microsoft, which was part of a group that had invested \$74 million in AnyVision, hired a team of lawyers to audit the Israeli firm and determine whether AnyVision's technology applications complied with Microsoft's ethical principles against using facial recognition for mass surveillance. In March 2020, Microsoft said

³²⁵² Wikipedia, *Biometric Database Law*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biometric_Database_Law

³²⁵³ The Jerusalem Post, *4.5 million citizens' details insufficiently protected, comptroller says* (May 4, 2020), <https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/45-million-citizens-details-insufficiently-protected-comptroller-says-626847>

³²⁵⁴ Daniel Estrin, *Face Recognition Lets Palestinians Cross Israeli Checkposts Fast, But Raises Concerns* (Aug. 22, 2019), <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/22/752765606/face-recognition-lets-palestinians-cross-israeli-checkposts-fast-but-raises-conc>

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it was pulling investments from AnyVision although the outcomes of the audit did not substantiate claims that the startup's technology was used unethically.³²⁵⁵

In 2021, the Washington Post released further information on the program.³²⁵⁶ The initiative involves a smartphone technology called Blue Wolf that captures photos of Palestinians' faces and matches them to an image database. The phone app flashes in different colors to alert soldiers if a person is to be detained, arrested or left alone. To create the database, in 2020 soldiers photographed Palestinians, including children and the elderly. The total number of people photographed is unclear. The Israeli military has also installed face-scanning cameras in the divided city of Hebron to assist soldiers at checkpoints to identify Palestinians before they present their ID cards. A wider network of closed-circuit television cameras provides real-time monitoring of the population and can sometimes see into private homes.

A new security tool was also under development: body cameras with facial recognition technology to enable police to scan crowds and detect suspects in real time, even if their faces are obscured.³²⁵⁷ In April 2022, the then minister of justice Gideon Sa'ar opposed the police initiative to operate facial recognition cameras in public spaces.³²⁵⁸ In February 2023, the issues of using a biometric photo system were removed from the draft law, which regards the police and the "Special Photographic Systems."³²⁵⁹

Israel's cabinet approved of Operation Gideon's Chariots, a plan that includes the use of facial recognition technology to screen Palestinians before moving them to a designated zone with food and supplies, in May 2025, as the country expanded the military offensive in Gaza.³²⁶⁰

³²⁵⁵ Matt O'Brien, *Microsoft Divests from Israeli Facial-Recognition Startup* (Mar. 28, 2020), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/microsoft-divests-from-israeli-facial-recognition-startup/>

³²⁵⁶ Washington Post, *Israel Escalates Surveillance of Palestinians with Facial Recognition Program in West Bank* (Nov. 27, 2021), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israel-palestinians-surveillance-facial-recognition/2021/11/05/3787bf42-26b2-11ec-8739-5cb6aba30a30_story.html

³²⁵⁷ France24, *Israeli Firm Develops Body Cams with Facial Recognition* (Jan. 23, 2022), <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220123-israeli-firm-develops-body-cams-with-facial-recognition>

³²⁵⁸ Tal Shahaf, *The Minister of Justice delayed the draft law that would allow the police to perform facial recognition of citizens in the public space*, Tech12 (Apr. 10, 2022), https://www.tech12.co.il/index-technology_first/Article-9ea17fa02f31081026.htm

³²⁵⁹ Prime Minister's Office, *Draft Law to Amend the Police Ordinance (No.) (Special Photographic Systems)*, 2022 (Feb. 19, 2020) <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec138-2023>

³²⁶⁰ NPR, *Israel Plans New Control of Food and Supplies in Gaza* (May 5, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/05/nx-s1-5386511/israel-gaza-food-supplies-hamas-palestinians>

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AI and Warfare

According to New York Times, Israel used an AI-equipped, remotely operated gun to kill an Iranian nuclear scientist.³²⁶¹ The Israeli system used AI to correct for more than a second and a half of input delay, allowing the system's operator to fire the gun at a moving target while stationed more than 1,000 miles away.

In a statement released by the Israel Defense Forces on November 2, 2023, the unit revealed its deployment of an AI target-creation platform called Habsora (the Gospel) in the Gaza-Israel conflict.³²⁶² The system leverages AI to generate targets at a fast pace using an algorithm that extracts intelligence data from a wide range of sources, and proposes target recommendations to researchers, which are presumably approved by human authorities.

On December 10, 2023, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, sent a legal correspondence³²⁶³ to the Chief Military Prosecutor requesting an assessment of the system and its utilization of AI in determining attack targets, while evaluating its compliance with both Israeli and international legal obligations. The association also sought clarification on potential biases that could result in erroneous targeting, posing risks to innocent civilians. In addition to the legal correspondence, the association filed a freedom of information request regarding the use of the system.³²⁶⁴ The freedom of information request is a right emanating from the Freedom of Information Law of 1998, which grants Israeli citizens, residents, and registered corporations, the legal right to access government agency records, except those exempted by law.

The request aimed to unveil all pertinent information about the Habsora system that could be shared with the public. The association sought documents outlining the ethical rules governing the system's usage, as well as information regarding the associated operational procedures. Questions regarding the predictive capabilities of the algorithm and the level of accuracy achieved by the system were

³²⁶¹ New York Times, *The Scientist and the A.I.-Assisted, Remote-Control Killing Machine* (Sep. 23, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/18/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-fakhrizadeh-assassination-israel.html>

³²⁶² Israel Defense Forces, *The War Diary, A Glimpse into the IDF's Target Factory That Operates around the Clock* (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://www.idf.il/144833>

³²⁶³ Association for Civil Rights in Israel, *Examining the Use of "The Gospel" System, Used to Propose Targets for Military Attacks* (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.english.acri.org.il/post/examining-the-use-of-the-hasbara-system-used-to-propose-targets-for-military-attacks>

³²⁶⁴ Association for Civil Rights in Israel, *Examining the use of "The Gospel" System, Used to Propose Targets for Military Attacks* (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.english.acri.org.il/post/examining-the-use-of-the-hasbara-system-used-to-propose-targets-for-military-attacks>

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also raised. Further inquiries involved obtaining information on the system's transparency to operators, protocols for handling system failures, the extent of human oversight available to operators, and the traceability of system operations. The association further requested details on how the system's activity could be explained to affected parties and sought information about any external audits conducted on the system and the decisions made based on these audits. According to news reports by the Guardian, Israel's bombing campaign in Gaza has used an AI-powered database system called Lavender to identify up to 37,000 potential targets based on their apparent links to Hamas.³²⁶⁵

The UN published the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories in September 2024. The report raised concerns about the reliance on the artificial intelligence-assisted targeting that accelerates decision-making to such an extent that soldiers authorize strikes in a matter of seconds. The accelerated decision-making results in an indiscriminate loss of life, which violates international humanitarian law.³²⁶⁶

The Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD) announced in 2025 the establishment of the AI and Autonomy Administration, which aims to centralize and advance AI and autonomous capabilities within the country's defense establishment.³²⁶⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

Israel's National AI Program provides a clear direction for promoting sustainability. The section under responsible innovation highlights the government's strategy for promoting growth, sustainable development, and Israeli leadership in innovation. It further promotes the public sector use of AI to unlock the potential of AI technologies, highlighting societal benefits such as bridging equality divides, improving health, education, mobility and employment, and enhancing environmental sustainability.³²⁶⁸ In addition, Israel participated and adopted the UN

³²⁶⁵ Guardian, "The Machine Did It Coldly": Israel Used AI to Identify 37,000 Hamas Targets (Apr. 3, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/03/israel-gaza-ai-database-hamas-airstrikes>

³²⁶⁶ United Nations, *A/79/363: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories* (Sept. 20, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a79363-report-special-committee-investigate-israeli-practices-affecting>

³²⁶⁷ Ministry of Defense, *Israel MOD Establishes AI and Autonomy Administration* (Jan. 2025), <https://mod.gov.il/en/press-releases/press-room/israel-mod-establishes-ai-and-autonomy-administration>

³²⁶⁸ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *Israel AI National Program 2024* (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/most-news20231218/he/Israel%20National%20AI%20Program%202024.pdf>

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General Assembly Resolution on ‘Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development,’ which, among others, promotes the access to and design, development, deployment, and use of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental.³²⁶⁹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Israel is a High Contracting Party to the UN’s Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) protocol. Israel has presented objections to the distinctions accorded to lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the CCW and the accompanying calls for prohibition. Israel is known to be at the forefront of developing lethal autonomous weapons, including both the Iron Dome defense system³²⁷⁰ and the Harop suicide drone.³²⁷¹

The Israeli mission to the GGE on LAWS of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons clarified Israel’s position in August 2019.³²⁷² In August 2020, Israel expressed further views on the Eleven Guiding Principles Adopted by the Group of Government Experts concerning lethal autonomous weapons systems. Israel’s view is that “the law of armed conflict, or international humanitarian law (IHL), applies to the potential development and use of emerging technologies in the area of LAWS; that human judgment will always be an integral part of any process regarding emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, and will be applied during their life-cycle; and that humans will always be responsible for the use of LAWS.” Moreover, in Israel’s view, “besides the potential risks that may be associated with LAWS, there are also operational advantages to the use of LAWS as well as clear advantages from the humanitarian perspective.”³²⁷³

³²⁶⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development* (Mar. 11, 2024), <http://www.undocs.org/A/78/L.49>

³²⁷⁰ Yaniv Kubovich, *Israel Deploys Iron Dome Amid Islamic Jihad Leader's Assassination Anniversary*, Haaretz (Nov. 11, 2020), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/israel-iron-dome-gaza-islamic-jihad-leader-s-assassination-hamas-1.9303330>

³²⁷¹ The Week India, *Why Indian Army is eyeing a mini ‘suicide drone’ from Israel* (Jul. 14, 2020), <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/07/14/why-indian-army-is-eyeing-a-mini-suicide-drone-from-israel.html>

³²⁷² GGE of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of CCW Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, *Draft Report of the 2019 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Aug. 21, 2019) (Annex IV) https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CCW_GGE.1_2019_3_E.pdf

³²⁷³ Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN, *Israel Considerations on the Operationalization of the Eleven Guiding Principles Adopted by the Group of Governmental Experts* (Aug. 31, 2020), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200831-Israel.pdf>

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Israel abstained from voting on a resolution on LAWS in 2023 that called on the Secretary-General to collect stakeholders' views in a report.³²⁷⁴ Israel's contribution to the Secretary-General's Report³²⁷⁵ reiterated the view that existing international law and international humanitarian law (IHL) "provides a sufficient legal framework for any future use of lethal autonomous weapons systems in the context of armed conflicts." Still, the contribution warns against conflating rules of IHL with other "legal or practical aspects." As an example, the statement notes "there is no requirement under international law that refers to human control in the context of using weapons. Human control is not an end in and of itself, but rather, it may be a relevant concept in the implementation of various obligations under international humanitarian law in different circumstances."³²⁷⁶

Israel was among the nations at the Paris AI Action Summit in February 2025 that abstained from endorsing the Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-Enabled Weapons.³²⁷⁷

AI Literacy

Israel's 2025 National Program for Artificial Intelligence identifies AI literacy and capacity-building as core enablers of both democratic input and effective oversight.³²⁷⁸ Two main avenues of action include "monitoring of government ministries' preparation for AI impacts" and "promoting public literacy and responsible use of AI." The Program mandates large-scale public-facing literacy efforts, including an "AI for Every Child" extracurricular course offered nationwide, AI-focused extracurricular tracks for under-served communities, teaching training, and free online AI-literacy courses for adults via Campus IL. The Program also plans for capacity-building for public entities charged with AI oversight. For example, the Governmental Knowledge and Coordination Center for AI is tasked with training and advising regulators, running a permanent regulators' forum and a public multi-

³²⁷⁴ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *First Committee Approves New Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, as Speaker Warns 'An Algorithm Must Not Be in Full Control of Decisions Involving Killing,'* 78th General Assembly, First Committee (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gadis3731.doc.htm>

³²⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary General*, p. 62 (Jul. 1, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf)

³²⁷⁶ Ibid, pp. 62–63

³²⁷⁷ Elysée, *Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-Enabled Weapons* (Feb 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/paris-declaration-on-maintaining-human-control-in-ai-enabled-weapon-systems>

³²⁷⁸ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *National Program for Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 73–79 (Apr. 2025), <https://innovationisrael.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AI-National-Program-en-14.5.25.pdf>

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stakeholder consultation forum, and supporting ministries in mapping AI use, risks, and legal implications.

These institutional measures are complemented in 2025 by the government's Guide to Risk Management and Responsible Use of AI Tools in the Public Sector, published as a public-consultation draft and explicitly framed as a practical training and governance tool for ministries and regulators seeking to deploy AI in a trustworthy way.³²⁷⁹

Human Rights

Israel is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions and ranks as “Free” with a score of 73/100 in the Freedom House 2025 Freedom in the World Report.³²⁸⁰ The ranking reflects the nation's institutions adhering to a respect for political rights and civil liberties. This score represents a decline compared to the country's 2024 and 2023 scores. Freedom House explained the decline from 2024 in part “because access to large areas of the country had been restricted since late 2023 due to cross-border shelling and other security concerns, and many civilians remained displaced from their homes.”

Freedom House ranks the Gaza Strip and West Bank separately from Israel. The 2025 Freedom in the World report classifies Gaza as “Not Free” with a score of 2/100³²⁸¹ and the West Bank as “Not Free” with a score of 22/100.³²⁸²

The OECD AI Incidents Monitor classified the Israeli Military's development of a ChatGPT-like surveillance AI to analyze intercepted Palestinian communications as an AI Hazard in 2025 and stated that the use of such a system could lead to violations of human rights or a breach of obligations under applicable law intended to protect fundamental rights.³²⁸³

³²⁷⁹ Israel's National Digital Agency, *Setting the Standard: Israel Unveils First-Ever Responsible AI Guide for the Public Sector* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/ai-guide>

³²⁸⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Israel* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/israel/freedom-world/2025>

³²⁸¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Gaza Strip* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/gaza-strip/freedom-world/2025>

³²⁸² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: West Bank* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/west-bank/freedom-world/2025>

³²⁸³ OECD AI Incidents Monitor, *Israeli Military Develops ChatGPT-Like Surveillance AI* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/incidents/2025-03-06-5b58>

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AI Safety Summit

Israel participated in the first AI Safety Summit in 2023 and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.³²⁸⁴ Israel thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.” Israel did not participate at the AI Seoul Summit, which was held in May 2024.³²⁸⁵ Israel did participate in the Paris AI Action Summit in February 2025. Israel abstained from endorsing the Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-Enabled Weapons³²⁸⁶ and the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.³²⁸⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Israel has endorsed the OECD AI Principles. Israeli Government Decision 212³²⁸⁸ from August 2021 instructs lawmakers to consider, among other things, the OECD principles as part of the promotion of the national policy in the field of AI. Israel’s National AI Program references a risk-based approach to AI regulation compatible with the OECD Trustworthy Principles, weighing potential risks and benefits within specific use cases.³²⁸⁹ The policy on AI regulation and ethics, which

³²⁸⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

³²⁸⁵ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, and Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders’ Session: AI Seoul Summit* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-by-participants-attending-the-leaders-session-ai-seoul-summit-21-may-2024>

³²⁸⁶ Élysée, *Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI-Enabled Weapons* (Feb 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/paris-declaration-on-maintaining-human-control-in-ai-enabled-weapon-systems>

³²⁸⁷ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

³²⁸⁸ Office of the Prime Minister, *Decision 212* (Aug. 2021), https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/dec212_2021

³²⁸⁹ Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, *National Program for Artificial Intelligence*, (Apr. 2025) <https://innovationisrael.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AI-National-Program-en-14.5.25.pdf>

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outlines common policy principles and practical recommendations to address challenges and foster responsible AI innovation, suggests adopting a common set of ethical AI principles based on the OECD AI Principles.³²⁹⁰

Israel joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in 2021.³²⁹¹ All GPAI Members reached a consensus in July 2024 to sign the New Delhi Ministerial Declaration formalizing an integrated partnership with the OECD to advance human-centric, safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.³²⁹²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Israel contributed to the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.³²⁹³ Israel signed the Framework Convention when it opened on September 5, 2024.³²⁹⁴ Israel has not ratified the treaty. Signatories commit, once the treaty is enforced, to ensuring that activities throughout the AI lifecycle comply with fundamental principles, including human dignity, equality, respect for privacy, transparency, accountability, reliability, and safe innovation.³²⁹⁵

³²⁹⁰ Ministry of Science and Technology and the Office of Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, *Israel's Policy on Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Ethics* (Dec. 17, 2023), https://www.gov.il/en/departments/policies/ai_2023

³²⁹¹ AI-Monitor, *Israel Joins International Artificial Intelligence Group: Israel Was Added Today to the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Joining 19 an Alliance of Technologically Advanced Democratic Countries* (Nov. 11, 2021), <https://www.ai-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/israel-joins-international-artificial-intelligence-group#ixzz7K2VqCY5k>

³²⁹² Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, *Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) – 2024 Mid-Yar Ministerial Declaration-New Delhi* (Jul. 10, 2024), https://www.gov.il/he/pages/gpai_mid_2024_new_delhi

³²⁹³ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

³²⁹⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 30, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

³²⁹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Series, No. 225, *Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://rm.coe.int/1680afae3c>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Israel is not a member of UNESCO and did not endorse the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI.³²⁹⁶ Israel has not taken affirmative action to implement the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).³²⁹⁷

Evaluation

Israel benefits from a well-established legal regime for data protection but has thus far adopted a different approach to its AI policy, privileging soft regulation and self-regulation. While Israel has long been a leader in AI research and development, the government is still slowly developing AI oversight. The use of an AI-based tracking system for sensitive medical conditions by the internal security agency is of concern. Also troubling is the use of facial recognition technology without clear legal basis. Israel's reluctance to endorse limits on lethal autonomous weapons is particularly problematic in view of the Gaza-Israel conflict. Of critical concern has been the widespread use of AI to identify individuals suspected of being associated with Hamas via the Lavender and Where's Daddy systems. Both systems are used in conjunction to identify targets for surveillance to ultimately mark them for bombing upon returning to the surveilled location.³²⁹⁸ Red lines and safeguards with respect to the use of AI in warfare are urgently needed.

³²⁹⁶ UNESCO, *Member States and Country Profiles*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

³²⁹⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

³²⁹⁸ Lieber Institute, *Military Use of Biometrics Series – Israel's Use of AI-DSS and Facial Recognition Technology: The Erosion of Civilian Protection in Gaza* (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://lieber.westpoint.edu/israels-use-ai-dss-facial-recognition-technology-erosion-civilian-protection-gaza/>

Italy

In 2025, Italy enacted a national regulatory framework for AI, becoming the first European nation to take this step to implement the EU AI Act. Italy's Data Protection Authority also furthered enforcement actions against AI companies including OpenAI and Replika to provide more robust protections for children.

National AI Strategy

Italy began developing a national AI strategy in 2019 with an expert group under the Italian Ministry of Economic Development (MISE).³²⁹⁹ The final Proposals resulted from a public consultation³³⁰⁰ and a background paper providing initial guiding principles and policy recommendations.³³⁰¹ The Italian government then issued a national AI strategy, the Strategic Programme on Artificial Intelligence 2022–2024,³³⁰² jointly developed by the MISE, the Ministry of Education, University and Research, and the Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition. The Strategic Programme argues that “Italy should position itself as the defender of AI for good, so not as an end in itself, but as desirable to the extent that it can contribute to the well-being of human beings and to sustainable development in economic, social, and environmental context” and centers Italian contributions to defining a European AI strategy and a “new relationship between human beings and machines, whereby technology increases human capabilities and becomes a key instrument in drafting a new social contract, oriented towards sustainable development.”³³⁰³

The Strategic Programme recognizes that the Italian AI ecosystem has vast potential not fully exploited. The current Italian context and international position call for a national AI strategy characterised by the need to build on the positive

³²⁹⁹ Ministry of Economic Development, *Proposal for a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy [Proposte per una strategia nazionale per l'intelligenza artificiale]* (Jul. 2020), https://www.mise.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/Proposte_per_una_Strategia_italiana_AI.pdf

³³⁰⁰ Ministry of Economic Development, *National Artificial Intelligence (Draft for Consultation) [Strategia Nazionale per l'Intelligenza Artificiale (Bozza per la consultazione)]* (Jul. 2019), <https://www.mise.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/Strategia-Nazionale-Intelligenza-Artificiale-Bozza-Consultazione.pdf>

³³⁰¹ Ministry of Economic Development, *Proposte per una strategia italiana per l'intelligenza artificiale. Gruppo di Esperti MISE sull'intelligenza artificiale* (Jul. 2019), <https://www.mise.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/Proposte-per-una-strategia-italiana-2019.pdf>

³³⁰² Italian Government, jointly developed by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, the Ministry of Economic Development, and the Minister of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition, *Strategic Programme on Artificial Intelligence 2022–2024* (2021), <https://assets.innovazione.gov.it/1637777513-strategic-program-aiweb.pdf>

³³⁰³ Ibid, p. 8

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elements of its ecosystem while focusing on reforms and investments on specific areas of weakness. To that end, the Strategic Programme identifies 5 guiding principles: “Italy’s AI is a European AI; Italy will be a global research and innovation hub for AI; Italy’s AI will be human centred, trustworthy and sustainable; Italian companies will become leaders of AI based research, development and innovation; Italy’s public administrations will govern with AI and will govern AI.”³³⁰⁴

The Agency for Digital Italy (*Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale*, AgiD) and the Department for Digital Transformation of the Council of Ministers updated the Strategic Programme with the Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence for 2024–2026.³³⁰⁵ The strategy was drafted by a committee of fourteen experts and “reflects the government's commitment to creating an environment in which AI can develop in a safe, ethical and inclusive manner, maximizing benefits and minimizing potential adverse effects.”

The Italian government progressed toward achieving the strategy by approving the first national framework implementing the EU AI Act to regulate the development, adoption, and governance of AI systems.³³⁰⁶ The law aims to promote the opportunities of AI to enhance citizens’ quality of life by promoting transparent, safe, and responsible AI use in a human-centric framework while supervising potential economic, social, and fundamental rights impacts. The law builds on general principles rooted in fundamental rights, such as explainability, fairness, accuracy, non-discrimination, and data protection.

Digital Italy 2026

As part of the Next Generation EU, the European Union’s landmark instrument for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, Italy’s Department for Digital Transformation introduced a digital strategy that aims to meet the digital objectives and initiatives identified in its National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR).³³⁰⁷ Digital Italy 2026 identifies several priority investment areas, including Data and interoperability; Digital services and digital citizenship; Digitization of public administrations; and Basic digital competency. Digital Italy 2026 is

³³⁰⁴ Ibid

³³⁰⁵ Agenzia per l’Italia Digitale, *The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2026* (Jul. 2024), https://www.agid.gov.it/sites/agid/files/2024-07/Italian_strategy_for_artificial_intelligence_2024-2026.pdf

³³⁰⁶ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]*, Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

³³⁰⁷ Ministro per l’Innovazione Tecnologica e la Transizione Digitale (MITD), *Italia Digitale 2026: Risultati 2021–2022 e Azioni Per 2023–2026* (2022), <https://assets.innovazione.gov.it/1665677773-italia-digitale-2026.pdf>

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complemented by an Operational Plan that details its lines of action and provides key targets for 2025.³³⁰⁸

Digital Italy 2026 comprises three-year goals with deadlines for each investment area and reform axis. These largely adhere to the European Commission's 2030 Digital Compass.³³⁰⁹ By 2026, Italy aims to have:

- 70% of the population using digital ID
- 75% of the population achieving basic digital competency
- 75% of public services operating on the cloud
- 80% of essential public services available online
- 100% of families having broadband access.

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Italy shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).³³¹⁰ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The DSA bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs and targeted advertising to minors based on profiling.

Signatories also commit to the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation,³³¹¹ which counts as a mitigation measure under the DSA. The Code of Practice requires companies to act in several domains, such as demonetizing the dissemination of disinformation; ensuring the transparency of political advertising; empowering users; enhancing the cooperation with fact-checkers; and providing researchers with better access to data.

³³⁰⁸ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *Strategy for Technological Innovation and Digitization for [Strategia per l'innovazione tecnologica e la digitalizzazione del Paese 2025]* (2022), <https://docs.italia.it/italia/mid/piano-nazionale-innovazione-2025-docs/it/stabile/index.html>

³³⁰⁹ European Commission, *Europe's Digital Decade: Digital Targets for 2030* (2022), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/europes-digital-decade>

³³¹⁰ European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

³³¹¹ European Commission, *The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation*, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

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EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Italy is bound by the EU AI Act.³³¹² The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

Italy's AI law is the first in Europe to implement the EU AI Act. The law formalizes enforcement by designating the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN) and the Agency for Digital Italy (AGID) as the competent national authorities for the monitoring and inspection of the AI systems and their compliance with the new law.³³¹³ The AGID manages notifications and promotes safe use cases for citizens and businesses within a framework of stable interinstitutional coordination.

Public Participation

The Proposals for a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence drafted by the MISE AI Expert Group in July 2020 followed a 2019 consultation on an initial set of proposals.³³¹⁴ The Expert Group comprised ten representatives of enterprises operating in the field of AI, ten representatives of research centers / think tanks or academia, and ten representatives of the labor market, professions, consumers, and civil society.³³¹⁵

A 2020 survey of Italian consumers by BEUC, the European Consumer organization, found substantial public concern about the deployment of AI.³³¹⁶ More than half of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that current regulation is adequate to efficiently regulate AI. Over 70% of respondents in Italy “strongly

³³¹² European Parliament, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (2024)*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1689>

³³¹³ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]* (Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025), *Official Gazette of the Italian Republic*, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

³³¹⁴ Italian Ministry of Economic Development, *Strategia Nazionale per l'Intelligenza Artificiale (Bozza per la consultazione)* (Jul. 2019), <https://www.mise.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/Strategia-Nazionale-Intelligenza-Artificiale-Bozza-Consultazione.pdf>

³³¹⁵ Ibid, pp. 14–15

³³¹⁶ BEUC, *Artificial Intelligence: What Consumers Say: Finding and Policy Recommendations of a Multi-Country Survey on AI* (2020), https://www.beuc.eu/publications/beuc-x-2020-078_artificial_intelligence_what_consumers_say_report.pdf

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agreed that users should be able to say ‘no’ to automated decision-making.” More than half “(strongly) agreed that companies use AI to manipulate consumer decisions.”

The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence for 2024–2026 stems from an Artificial Intelligence for Italy event held in Rome on March 12, 2024, opened to representatives of public administrations, companies in the ICT and innovation sector, as well as to academia and research.³³¹⁷ The Agency for Digital Italy (AGID) initiated a public consultation on draft guidelines for adopting AI in public administration. The consultation process represents a significant opportunity for stakeholder engagement in shaping Italy's approach to responsible AI implementation in government services.³³¹⁸

As part of the Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government (2024–2026),³³¹⁹ the Italian government opened a public consultation to involve civil society organizations, public administrations and citizens in the definition of the Recommendations for Open Government on the use of AI, to improve equity and accessibility. The consultation is taking place through workshops and meetings as well as on the platform ParteciPa. The year-long process aims “to promote public discussion and greater awareness on the potential biases and discriminations of AI.”³³²⁰

Data Protection

Since Italy is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)³³²¹ is directly applicable in Italy and to Italians. The aim of the GDPR is to

³³¹⁷ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale and Dipartimento per la Trasformazione digitale, *L'intelligenza artificiale per l'Italia* (Jun. 2024), <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2024/03/06/lintelligenza-artificiale-litalia>

³³¹⁸ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *Artificial Intelligence: The First Guidelines for the PA Are under Consultation [Intelligenza Artificiale: In consultazione le prime Linee Guida per la PA]* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/notizie/intelligenza-artificiale-in-consultazione-le-linee-guida-pa>

³³¹⁹ Italian Open Government, *Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government (2024–2026)* (Jul. 2024), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Italy_Action-Plan_2024-2026_June_EN.pdf

³³²⁰ ParteciPa, *Risks and Opportunities of AI to Improve Equity and Accessibility [Rischi e opportunità dell'IA per migliorare equità e accessibilità: Percorso di co-creazione delle Raccomandazioni IA]* (May 6, 2025–May 30, 2026), <https://partecipa.gov.it/processes/raccomandazioni-IA>

³³²¹ European Parliament, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

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“strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.”³³²²

Italy’s adaptation to the GDPR is implemented through the Italian Data Protection Code, updated in 2021.³³²³ The decree amends the Personal Data Protection Code to align more closely with GDPR principles, specifically authorizing public administrations and publicly controlled companies to process personal data for tasks in the public interest or within public powers. The updates to the Personal Data Protection Code also named the Italian Data Protection Authority (DPA), or *Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali*, as the supervisory authority for the GDPR. The DPA is an independent administrative authority with direct sanctioning powers as well as extended enforcement capabilities.³³²⁴

Italy transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)³³²⁵ in 2018,³³²⁶ thereby protecting “citizens’ fundamental right to data protection whenever personal data is used by criminal law enforcement authorities for law enforcement purposes.”³³²⁷ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.³³²⁸

³³²² European Commission, *Data Protection in the EU*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

³³²³ Registro Pubblico delle Opposizioni (Public Opt-Out Registry), *Personal Data Protection Code, Decreto Legge n. 139, Amendments to the Personal Data Protection Code* (Oct. 8, 2021), https://registrodelleopposizioni.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ITALIAN_PERSONAL_DATA_PROTECTION_CODE.pdf

³³²⁴ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Home*, https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/garante-privacy-en/home_en

³³²⁵ European Union, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/oj/eng>

³³²⁶ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Attuazione della direttiva UE 2016/680 del Parlamento Europeo e del Consiglio, del 27.4.2016, relativa alla protezione delle persone fisiche con riguardo al trattamento dei dati personali da parte delle autorità competenti ai fini di prevenzione, indagine, accertamento e perseguimento di reati o esecuzione di sanzioni penali, nonché alla libera circolazione di tali dati e che abroga la decisione quadro 2008/977/GAI del Consiglio* (May 24, 2018), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2018/05/24/18G00080/sg>

³³²⁷ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

³³²⁸ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

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Italy is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.³³²⁹

The DPA issued guidance on preventing unauthorized web scraping, emphasizing the privacy risks and compliance with GDPR. The Guidance issued in 2024 advises organizations to implement measures like restricted access and technological protections to safeguard personal data.³³³⁰

Italy has actively participated in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) negotiations, adopting the following resolutions: the Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence (2018),³³³¹ the Resolution on AI Accountability (2020),³³³² the Resolution on Generative AI (2023), and the Resolution on Artificial Intelligence and Employment (2023).³³³³ However, Italy did not endorse the Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology (2020).³³³⁴ This reflects ongoing efforts to ensure that ethical guidelines and accountability mechanisms are established across various AI domains.

Algorithmic Transparency

Italy is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Italians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the

³³²⁹ Council of Europe, *Convention 108+* (May 18, 2018) [h https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol](https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol)

³³³⁰ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Web scraping and generative artificial intelligence: information note and possible countermeasures [Web scraping ed intelligenza artificiale generativa: nota informativa e possibili azioni di contrasto]* (May 30, 2024), <https://www.gpdp.it/documents/10160/0/Web+scraping+ed+intelligenza+artificiale+generativa+-+nota+informativa+e+possibili+azioni+di+contrasto.pdf/40b4600c-80f5-a3ce-a74e-604a8e88e601?version=4.0>

³³³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³³³² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³³³³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³³³⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

factors and logic of an algorithm.³³³⁵ The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers stresses that these include transparency levels proportionate to the risk of the systems or decisions and meaningful contestation.³³³⁶

As for the public sector, in its 2018 White Paper on Artificial Intelligence at the service of citizens,³³³⁷ the Agency for Digital Italy (AGID) stressed the necessity for the functioning of AI systems to abide by criteria of transparency and openness. “Transparency is a fundamental prerequisite to avoid discrimination and solve the problem of informational asymmetry, thus guaranteeing for citizens the right to understand public decisions.”³³³⁸

Italy’s AI Law also establishes specific protection for minors through a dual-tier consent framework. Children under fourteen require parental consent for AI-related data processing, whilst those aged fourteen to eighteen may provide their own consent, provided information is accessible and comprehensible. Italy now combines EU-level contestation/explanation rights with domestic statutory transparency/traceability duties.³³³⁹

In May 2021, the Italian Court of Cassation released its judgment in *Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali v. Associazione Mevaluate Onlu*,³³⁴⁰ concerning the Italian DPA’s 2016 order to Mevaluate Italia s.r.l. to suspend the implementation of its online Artificial Intelligence system capable of analyzing documents voluntarily uploaded by users to provide reputational ratings. The Court of Cassation quashed the previous ruling of the Court of Rome, which had ruled in favor of the lawfulness of the system as data subjects had provided their consent. The Court of

³³³⁵ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

³³³⁶ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

³³³⁷ Agenzia per l’Italia Digitale, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Citizens* (Apr. 19, 2018), <https://www.agid.gov.it/en/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2018/04/19/english-version-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-service-citizen-its-now-online>

³³³⁸ Ibid, p. 41

³³³⁹ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]* (Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025), *Official Gazette of the Italian Republic*, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

³³⁴⁰ Data Guidance, *Italy: Court of Cassation Rules that Algorithm Must Be Transparent for Consent to be Valid* (May 25, 2021), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/italy-court-cassation-rules-algorithm-must-be>; for the judgment (in Italian), see <http://www.italgiure.giustizia.it/xway/application/nif/clean/hc.dll?verbo=attach&db=snciv&id=/20210525/snciv@s10@a2021@n14381@tO.clean.pdf>

Cassation found that the lack of transparency regarding Mevaluate's algorithms invalidates such consent, thus violating Article 8 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the GDPR and a series of articles of Legislative Decree No. 196 of 2003. It was further found that consent can only be valid if the data subject is appropriately informed about the purposes of processing and freely and specifically expresses their consent to the same. Consent cannot be considered as informed if the logic involved in the algorithm remains unknown to the data subjects, as it was the case in Mevaluate reputational ranking system.

AI Oversight

Italian courts and DPA have enforced data protection and fundamental rights related to AI tools to date. Italy's AI Law approved in September 2025 designated the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN) and the Agency for Digital Italy (AGID) as the competent national authorities.³³⁴¹

In January 2021, an Italian court determined that an algorithm that evaluates employee performance violates labor law.³³⁴² The case concerned the ranking algorithm of the food delivery service Deliveroo. The judge ruled that the algorithm unfairly assessed absent workers, noting that it failed to take account of permissible reasons for absence. The court ordered the company to pay a fine and legal costs and to post the judgment.³³⁴³ The DPA issued a 2.6 million Euros penalty to the on-demand delivery company Foodinho³³⁴⁴ because of irregularities concerning the algorithm used by the company to rate drivers' performance. The DPA found that the controller had not adequately informed employees about how the system worked and did not guarantee the accuracy and correctness of the results of the algorithms used to evaluate drivers.³³⁴⁵ One of the issues of concern was the risk of discrimination

³³⁴¹ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Provisions and Delegations to the Government on Artificial Intelligence [Disposizioni e deleghe al Governo in materia di intelligenza artificiale]* (Law No. 132 of 23 September 2025), *Official Gazette of the Italian Republic*, no. 223 (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2025/09/25/25G00143/sg>

³³⁴² Forbes, *Deliveroo Rating Algorithm Was Unfair To Riders*, *Italian Court Rules* (Jan. 5, 2021), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonathankeane/2021/01/05/italian-court-finds-deliveroo-rating-algorithm-was-unfair-to-riders/?sh=34eb0a9e22a1>

³³⁴³ Tribunale Orinario di Bologna, *Nella causa iscritta al n. r.g. 2949/2019 contro Deliveroo Italia SRI* (Dec. 31, 2020), <http://www.bollettinoadapt.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Ordinanza-Bologna.pdf>

³³⁴⁴ IAPP, *Italian DPA Fines Food Delivery App 2.6M Euros for GDPR Violations* (Jul. 6, 2021), <https://iapp.org/news/b/italian-dpa-fines-food-delivery-app-3m-euros-for-gdpr-violations>

³³⁴⁵ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Ordinanza ingiunzione nei confronti di Foodinho s.r.l.* (June 10, 2021), <https://www.gdpd.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9675440>

arising from the algorithmic system, aligning with the decision of the Court of Cassation case discussed above.

The DPA also banned remote surveillance of customer care employees for lack of respect of essential safeguards enshrined in the GDPR.³³⁴⁶ The case originated from a complaint by an employee of a public transports operator concerning the processing of personal data related to the company's call center operators by way of the inbound calls management system. Investigations showed employees had been inadequately informed about the processing.³³⁴⁷ The DPA fined the company EUR 30,000, noting the company's cooperation in the fact-finding activities and discontinuing the processing following the on-site inspection.

Since 2023, the Italian DPA has imposed limitations and bans on AI companies because of violations to transparency and children protections of personal data. The DPA imposed a provisional limitation on the processing of Italian users' data by the US-based company that developed and operates the Replika app because of "factual risks to children" such as replies that are inappropriate to their age and the lack of an age verification mechanism."³³⁴⁸ A temporary ban on OpenAI's ChatGPT followed due to similar concerns over privacy violations and age-verification processes. The DPA also cited a data breach and required OpenAI to provide additional information, with potential fines looming. Access to OpenAI's platforms, including ChatGPT, was restored in April 2023, following guarantees of more transparency and rights for European users and non-users.³³⁴⁹

In March 2024, the Italian DPA initiated an investigation into OpenAI's model Sora due to concerns over the processing of personal data in the EU, particularly in Italy. The inquiry demands that OpenAI provide detailed information within 20 days about Sora's training process, the data it processes and collects, the handling of sensitive personal data, and the sources of this data. Additionally, Italy's DPA seeks to understand if and how Sora will be offered in the EU, including the

³³⁴⁶ European Data Protection Board, *Italian SA Bans Remote Surveillance of Customer Care Employees* (Oct. 28, 2021), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2021/italian-sa-bans-remote-surveillance-customer-care-employees_en

³³⁴⁷ Ibid

³³⁴⁸ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Artificial intelligence: Italian SA Clamps Down on 'Replika' Chatbot. Too Many Risks to Children and Emotionally Vulnerable Individuals* (Feb. 2, 2023), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9852506>; see also, Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Provvedimento del 2 febbraio 2023* (English version), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9852214>

³³⁴⁹ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *ChatGPT: Italian DPA Notifies Breaches of Privacy Law to OpenAI* (Jan. 29, 2024), <https://gdpd.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9978020#english>

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methods for informing users and non-users about data processing procedures and the legal bases for the processing.³³⁵⁰

The DPA launched an inquiry into the Chinese AI application DeepSeek, requesting details on data collection, processing, storage, and legal compliance. DeepSeek was given 20 days to respond. Following the investigation, DeepSeek was blocked from Apple and Google Play stores in Italy due to concerns over improper data handling and privacy violations.³³⁵¹

Facial Recognition

According to Privacy International, the municipality of Como, Italy, purchased a facial recognition system “with little transparency and despite the lack of a clear legal framework.”³³⁵² Privacy International reported that Como “embraced a narrative of technological innovation pushed by Huawei” within the broader concept of smart city and innovation tech, but after the intervention of the Italian Data Protection Authority (DPA), the municipality was obliged to suspend the system. The DPA determined that there was no legal basis to collect facial images. Subsequent reporting by Wired indicated that the municipality had changed vendors and that the system installed most recently failed to work as proposed.³³⁵³

The Italian National Police intended to use a facial recognition system, called SARI Real-Time which would allow for real-time identification of migrants on boats upon their landing on Italian ports. The SARI Real-Time system, originally purchased to be employed during protests and public events, was discontinued following a decision by the DPA, who ruled in April 2021 that the system could open the doors to unjustified mass surveillance and that there was no legal basis to deploy

³³⁵⁰ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Artificial intelligence: The Italian Data Protection Authority Opens an Investigation into OpenAI's 'Sora'—OpenAI Asked to Provide Information on the Algorithm that Creates Short Videos from Text Instructions* (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://gdpd.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9991867>

³³⁵¹ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Press Release—Artificial Intelligence: The Privacy Guarantor Blocks DeepSeek [Comunicato Stampa—Intelligenza artificiale : Il Garante privacy blocca DeepSeek]* (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/10097450>

³³⁵² Privacy International, *How Facial Recognition Is Spreading in Italy: The Case of Como* (Sept. 17, 2020), <https://privacyinternational.org/case-study/4166/how-facial-recognition-spreading-italy-case-como>

³³⁵³ Laura Carrer, *The Municipality of Como has Discovered that His Facial Recognition System Is Not What He Had Bought: The Testing of the Video Surveillance System with Facial Recognition Revealed Inconsistencies and Discrepancies with the Tender Specifications [Il Comune di Como ha scoperto che il suo sistema di riconoscimento facciale non è quello che aveva comprato]* (Sept. 28, 2020), <https://www.wired.it/attualita/tech/2020/09/28/como-riconoscimento-facciale-collaudo/>

it.³³⁵⁴ The DPA “in line with the stance taken by the Council of Europe” considered “that the use of facial recognition for the purposes of preventing and suppressing crime is highly problematic.”³³⁵⁵

In December 2021, the Italian parliament introduced a moratorium on video surveillance systems that use facial recognition technologies. This law introduces a temporary ban for private entities as well as public authorities to use these systems in public places or places accessible to the public.³³⁵⁶ The moratorium, originally set to last until December 31, 2023, has been updated to reflect evolving legislative developments surrounding facial recognition technologies.

According to EDRI, this is an important development, yet the moratorium contains major exceptions: “it only covers video surveillance systems with facial recognition, it doesn’t take into account systems such as those developed by Clearview AI.” The “moratorium allows the police to use such systems subject to a case-by-case approval by the DPA and it exempts judicial authorities and public prosecutors from any control.”³³⁵⁷ EDRI also remarked that “[u]ntil now, the Italian DPA had stopped the use of real-time facial recognition systems and remote biometric identification systems by the police and municipalities because Italy lacked a legal basis for the processing of biometric data by law enforcement authorities. Now this moratorium provides a legal basis and risks normalising the use of these technologies during police activities in the field of public security and for investigation and crime prosecution activities.”³³⁵⁸

In March 2022, the DPA issued a 20 million euro fine on Clearview AI,³³⁵⁹ a private firm that offers an identity matching service for law enforcement, reportedly

³³⁵⁴ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Facial Recognition: The SARI Real Time System Is Not Compliant with Privacy Laws* (Apr. 16, 2021),

<https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9575842>; Laura Carrer and Riccardo Coluccini, Hermes Center for Transparency and Digital Human Rights, *Technologies for Border Surveillance and Control in Italy. Identification, Facial Recognition, and European Union Funding* (Sept. 2, 2022), <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21200979-technologies-for-border-surveillance-and-control-in-italy-identification-facial-recognition-and-european-union-funding?responsive=1&title=1>

³³⁵⁵ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Facial Recognition: The SARI Real Time System Is Not Compliant with Privacy Laws* (Apr. 16, 2021),

<https://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9575842>

³³⁵⁶ European Digital Rights, *Italy Introduces a Moratorium on Video Surveillance Systems That Use Facial Recognition* (Dec. 15, 2021), <https://edri.org/our-work/italy-introduces-a-moratorium-on-video-surveillance-systems-that-use-facial-recognition/>

³³⁵⁷ Ibid

³³⁵⁸ Ibid

³³⁵⁹ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Riconoscimento facciale: il Garante privacy sanziona Clearview per 20 milioni di euro. Vietato l'uso dei dati biometrici e il monitoraggio degli italiani* (2022), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9751323>;

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powered by a database of around 10 billion faces made up by selfies scraped off the internet. The DPA fined Clearview AI “after finding it applied what amounted to biometric monitoring techniques also to individuals in the Italian territory.”³³⁶⁰ Italy issued the fine citing unlawful processing “without an appropriate legal basis” and “infringements of several fundamental principles including transparency—as it failed to adequately inform users—, purpose limitation—as it processed users’ data for purposes other than those for which they had been made available online—, and storage limitation—as it did not set out any data storage period. Thus, Clearview AI is violating data subjects’ freedoms including the protection of privacy and non-discrimination.”³³⁶¹ The DPA also “ordered the company to erase the data relating to individuals in Italy; it banned any further collection and processing of the data through the company’s facial recognition system. Clearview AI was finally ordered by the Italian SA to designate a representative in the EU to be addressed in addition to or instead of the US-based controller in order to facilitate exercise of data subject rights.”³³⁶²

AlgorithmWatch reported in 2020 that Italy was exploring the use of facial recognition in football stadiums.³³⁶³ In December 2022, Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo announced that Italian league officials are working on a system of facial recognition technology to be used inside the stadiums to identify fans responsible for racist chants. According to De Siervo: “We’re still awaiting authorisation from privacy authorities but we should be able to get that with the help of the government.”³³⁶⁴

In March 2024, the DPA issued a warning to Worldcoin, a private firm with a project based on iris scanning to verify the identity of users and linking this treatment to the market of financial instruments, in this specific case the cryptocurrency called “WLD.” The DPA considers that the processing of biometric data based on the consent of the project members doesn’t provide for sufficient information about the risks associated with the processing of such high-risk data. In

see also, European Data Protection Board, *Facial Recognition: Italian SA Fines Clearview AI EUR 20 Million* (Mar. 10, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2022/facial-recognition-italian-sa-fines-clearview-ai-eur-20-million_en

³³⁶⁰ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Facial Recognition: Italian SA Fines Clearview AI Eur 20 million Bans Use of Biometric Data and Monitoring of Italian Data Subjects* (Mar. 9, 2022), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9751323>

³³⁶¹ Ibid

³³⁶² Ibid

³³⁶³ AlgorithmWatch, *In Italy, an Appetite for Face Recognition in Football Stadiums* (Sept. 16, 2020), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/story/italy-stadium-face-recognition/>

³³⁶⁴ All Football, *Serie A to Tackle Racism in Italy with Facial Recognition* (Dec. 17, 2022), <https://m.allfootballapp.com/news/Serie-A/Serie-A-to-tackle-racism-in-Italy-with-facial-recognition/2136489>

addition, the promise to receive free WLD tokens from Worldcoin once the user gives its consent to the processing of biometric data via iris scanning negatively affects the ability to give free consent. Therefore, the DPA deems that it cannot be considered a valid legal basis to collect biometric data according to the requirements under the GDPR.³³⁶⁵

In June 2024, the DPA issued a 120 thousand euro fine on a dealership for violating the personal data of employees through the use of facial recognition systems to control work presence, following up on a complaint issued in 2021.³³⁶⁶ With reference to the processing of biometric data, the DPA reiterated that the use of such data is not allowed because there is no national legal provision that currently provides for the use of biometric data for the recording of attendance. In addition, in an employment relationship, consent cannot be considered as a valid legal basis due to the unbalanced nature of this relationship. Finally, the DPA pointed out that this processing violated also the principle of data minimization, necessity, and proportionality.

AI Literacy

The Italian Government has demonstrated an intention to strengthen the provision of AI competencies at all education levels. At the primary and secondary education level, the government launched the National Plan for the Digital School (PNSD) to update school curricula and promote new skills in digital education and AI-related courses.³³⁶⁷ At higher education levels, the government is encouraging the integration of courses with AI-related themes in bachelors, masters and doctoral programs. The planned budget also aims to support projects among PhDs, researchers, and professors. Literacy campaigns will also be fostered via broadcasting and multimedia. Special attention will be devoted to informing about fake news and issues of cyber security.

The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence for 2024–2026 aims to promote high-quality AI education at all levels. In addition to goals to encourage the widespread development of AI courses at the university level and to train highly skilled researchers at the PhD level, the Strategy aims to develop general AI and digital literacy skills for all Italian citizens by introducing AI at all school levels. The

³³⁶⁵ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Provvedimento del 21 marzo 2024* (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://www.gpdp.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9998877>

³³⁶⁶ Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, *Provvedimento del 6 giugno 2024 [10029500]* (Jun. 6, 2024), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/10029500>

³³⁶⁷ Ministry of Education, *Piano Nazionale Scuola Digitale* (2015), https://www.istruzione.it/scuola_digitale/allegati/Materiali/pnsd-layout-30.10-WEB.pdf

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Strategy also includes specific upskilling and reskilling programs for businesses and the public administration.³³⁶⁸

The Ministry of Education and Merit (*Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito*, MIM) provided Italian schools with guidelines for the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) in schools as part of an August 2025 decree on an AI digital service on the national education platform.³³⁶⁹

EdTech and Children Tracking

The Council of Europe Consultative Committee of the Convention 108 issued Guidelines on Children's Data Protection in an Education Setting in November 2020, also applicable to remote e-learning solutions and services.³³⁷⁰ In May 2022, the WeSchool app, with an estimated 1,000,000 users in Italy, was analyzed as part of a global investigative report conducted by Human Rights Watch on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Italy, for children's education during the pandemic. Human Rights Watch found that Italy's endorsement of this online learning platform put at risk or directly violated children's rights.

EdTech products, such as WeSchool, sent children's data to AdTech companies that specialize in behavioral advertising or whose algorithms determine what children see online. According to Human Rights Watch, in line with child data protection principles as well as corporations' human rights responsibilities outlined in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, EdTech and AdTech companies should not collect and process children's data for advertising.³³⁷¹

In line with the Italian national AI strategy objective to promote digital skills and literacy, the education minister announced that AI-assisted software will be trialed in 15 classrooms across four regions, serving as virtual assistants to enhance the learning experience for students and support teachers in customizing education to

³³⁶⁸ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale and Dipartimento per la Trasformazione Digitale, *The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2026*, p. 29–34 (Jul. 2024), https://www.agid.gov.it/sites/agid/files/2024-07/Italian_strategy_for_artificial_intelligence_2024-2026.pdf

³³⁶⁹ European Commission, *Italy: Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence at Schools* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news/italy-guidelines-use-artificial-intelligence-schools>

³³⁷⁰ Council of Europe Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (Convention 108), *Guidelines on Children's Data Protection in an Education Setting* (Nov. 20, 2020), <https://rm.coe.int/t-pd-2019-6bisrev5-eng-guidelines-education-setting-plenary-clean-2790/1680a07f2b>

³³⁷¹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

meet individual needs. This pilot program aims to improve digital literacy and promote a more informed and responsible citizenry.³³⁷²

Use of AI in Public Administration

In 2018, the Agency for Digital Italy issued a White Paper on Artificial Intelligence at the service of citizens to encourage innovation in the public sector.³³⁷³ The White Paper defines a plan to facilitate the adoption of AI technologies in the Italian Public Administration and improve the quality of public services. The White Paper includes a set of recommendations defining the challenges for developing and implementing AI technologies in the public sector. The White paper defines nine challenges across ethics, technology, skills, data, law, implementation, inequalities, metrics, and transparency.

The Agency for Digital Italy (AGID)'s Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in Public Administration 2024–2026 strengthened the guiding principles for digital transformation and offered detailed guidelines for AI adoption.³³⁷⁴ Developed in collaboration with universities, private sector, and public associations, the plan emphasizes interoperability, accessibility, and the use of open-source software to prevent technological lock-in and reduce costs. The plan sets a target for at least 125 public administrations to adopt open-source software by 2025, promoting efficiency and fostering a community for technological solution-sharing.³³⁷⁵

Moreover, the Italian Presidency's Department for Digital Transformation, under the G7's Digital & Technology Working Group, coordinated the release of the G7 Toolkit for Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector which was developed in partnership with the OECD and UNESCO. This toolkit aims to align AI policies across G7 member countries, promoting ethical standards of transparency, accountability, and social impact in public sector AI applications. It provides practical insights and shares best practices for the use of AI by public administrations,

³³⁷² Reuters, *Italy Tests AI-Assisted Teaching in Schools to Boost IT Skills* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/italy-tests-ai-assisted-teaching-schools-boost-it-skills-2024-09-13/>

³³⁷³ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Citizens* (Apr. 19, 2018), <https://www.agid.gov.it/en/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2018/04/19/english-version-white-paper-artificial-intelligence-service-citizen-its-now-online>

³³⁷⁴ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *AGID Published the 2024–2026 Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in Public Administration* (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://www.agid.gov.it/en/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2024/02/13/published-2024-2026-three-year-plan-information-technology-public-administration>

³³⁷⁵ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in Public Administration [Piano Triennale per l'informatica nella PA]* (2025), <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/piano-triennale>

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while integrating ethical considerations and showcasing G7 trends as a reference for the responsible and secure application of AI in the development of public policies.³³⁷⁶

Environmental Impact of AI

Italy's National AI Strategy for 2024–2026 presents sustainability as one of the goals in the general vision as AI can be “an ally in enhancing the quality of life for individuals and the sustainable management of resources, optimizing the use of energy and raw materials”.³³⁷⁷ As part of the strategic macro-area on research, Italy promotes applied AI research “focusing on contexts of greatest economic and social value for Italy and the greatest impact on citizen welfare”.³³⁷⁸ However, the Strategy does not provide for actionable measures dedicated to sustainability.

Nonetheless, Italy has extended its commitment to sustainable AI beyond national borders through a collaborative initiative with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).³³⁷⁹ Under the leadership of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Italy announced the establishment of an AI Hub for Sustainable Development set to launch in 2025. This hub, part of the broader Mattei Plan, is designed to foster AI-driven growth and innovation in nine African nations by promoting AI applications in critical sectors such as agriculture, health, energy, and education.³³⁸⁰ The project aims to bridge the digital divide, emphasizing inclusive digital ecosystems and sustainable local innovations in line with UNDP's goals for developing countries.

This initiative also highlights Italy's dedication to ethical and responsible AI deployment that supports sustainable economic growth and social equity, particularly in underrepresented regions. Furthermore, the AI Hub rests on three key pillars: data pipelines, green computing infrastructure, and talent development, to ensure that AI benefits are equitably distributed and align with the broader objectives of the SDGs.

³³⁷⁶ OECD, *G7 Toolkit for Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector*, OECD Publishing (Oct. 15, 2024), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/g7-toolkit-for-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector_421c1244-en.html

³³⁷⁷ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale and Dipartimento per la Trasformazione Digitale, *The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2026*, p.8 (Jul. 2024), https://www.agid.gov.it/sites/agid/files/2024-07/Italian_strategy_for_artificial_intelligence_2024-2026.pdf

³³⁷⁸ Ibid, p. 17

³³⁷⁹ UNDP, *AI for Sustainable Development* (May 9, 2024), <https://www.undp.org/digital/blog/ai-sustainable-development>

³³⁸⁰ Vincenzo Del Monaco, Eva Spina, and Keyzom Ngodup Massally, *Italy and UNDP: How the New AI Hub for Sustainable Development Will Strengthen the Foundations for Growth in Africa* Atlantic Council (Sept. 26, 2023), <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/italy-and-undp-how-the-new-ai-hub-for-sustainable-development-will-strengthen-the-foundations-for-growth-in-africa/>

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This international partnership reflects Italy's ambition to lead globally in responsible AI practices.³³⁸¹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Italy has been an active participant in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) meetings on killer robots since 2013. Italy supports a two-track approach in favor of a legally binding solution with a combination of prohibitions and regulations, which would maintain an element of human control while not interfering with the advancement of technology.³³⁸² Italy is contributing to the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area on Lethal Autonomous Weapons (GGE LASWS) mandate to formulate and adopt consensus elements for a future instrument on LAWS by the end of 2026.³³⁸³

At the UN General Assembly in 2019, Italy emphasized that “any existing or future weapon system must be subject to human control, particularly in relation to the ultimate decision to use lethal force.”³³⁸⁴ Italy was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the UN General Assembly declaring their commitment to “upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”³³⁸⁵

³³⁸¹ UNDP, *AI Startup Acceleration Pilot*, <https://www.undp.org/digital/ai/startup-acceleration-pilot>

³³⁸² Laura Varella, *Discussions on Proposals, Reaching Critical Will*, CCW Report, vol. 10, no. 7, p. 3 (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2022/gge/reports/CCWR10.7.pdf>

³³⁸³ Permanent Representative of Italy before the Disarmament Conference of Geneva, *Italy's Participation in the Second 2025 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE Laws)* (Sept. 2, 2025), https://italiarappdisarmo.esteri.it/en/news/dalla_rappresentanza/2025/09/italys-participation-in-the-second-2025-session-of-the-group-of-governmental-experts-on-emerging-technologies-in-the-area-of-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-gge-laws

³³⁸⁴ Government of Italy, *Statement to the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security* (Oct. 14, 2019), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com19/statements/14Oct_Italy.pdf.

³³⁸⁵ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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Italy also voted in favor³³⁸⁶ of the resolution³³⁸⁷ on autonomous weapons systems at the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023 and contributed to the subsequent Secretary-General report.³³⁸⁸

Italy has also participated in international summits on the Responsible application of Artificial Intelligence in the Military domain (REAIM), such as the 2023 summit hosted by the Netherlands.³³⁸⁹ Italy also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued that November.³³⁹⁰ In 2024, Italy endorsed a Blueprint for Action to govern responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military field following the REAIM summit in Korea.³³⁹¹

Human Rights

Italy is a signatory to the major international human rights instruments and generally ranks highly for the defense of human rights.³³⁹² Freedom House rates Italy as “Free” (89/100) for political rights and civil liberties in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.³³⁹³ Freedom House notes that “Civil liberties are generally respected, but concerns about the rights of migrants and LGBT+ people persist. Regional inequalities are long-standing and substantial. Endemic problems of corruption and organized crime pose an enduring challenge to the rule of law and economic growth.”

³³⁸⁶ Stop Killer Robots, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

³³⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L.56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

³³⁸⁸ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Report of the Secretary-General A/79/88* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/88>

³³⁸⁹ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

³³⁹⁰ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

³³⁹¹ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Italy: National Report Regarding UNGA Resolution 79/239 on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and Its Implications for International Peace and Security* (2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Eightieth_session_\(2025\)/79-239-Italy-en.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Eightieth_session_(2025)/79-239-Italy-en.pdf)

³³⁹² Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, *Italy and Human Rights* (2025), https://www.esteri.it/en/politica-estera-e-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo/temi_globali/diritti-umani/litalia_e_i_diritti_umani/

³³⁹³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Italy* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/italy/freedom-world/2025>

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The Rome Call for Ethics in AI

In February 2020, the Italian Government, together with the Pontificia Accademia per la Vita, Microsoft, IBM and FAO signed the Rome Call for Ethics in AI. This initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of the role of ethics in AI and proposes a more human-centric approach to AI.³³⁹⁴ The Call sets out a program of Algorithm Ethics according to the “fundamental principles of good innovation,” including Transparency, Responsibility, Impartiality, Reliability, Security, and Privacy. The Call centers on three areas:

- **Ethics:** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- **Education:** Transforming the world through the innovation of AI means undertaking to build a future for and with younger generations.
- **Rights:** The development of AI in the service of humankind and the planet must be reflected in regulations and principles that protect people – particularly the weak and the underprivileged – and natural environments.

The RenAIssance Foundation was set up to guard and promote the Rome Call for AI Ethics in April 2021.³³⁹⁵ Representatives of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel’s Commission for Interreligious Relations, the Pontifical Academy for Life, and Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, commended a joint declaration on AI Ethics: An Abrahamic Commitment to the Rome Call in 2023.³³⁹⁶ The joint declaration is meant as a companion to the Rome Call “to call upon the world to think and act in the name of brotherhood and peace—even in the field of technology.”

These efforts to promote mutual understanding continued with the multi-faith AI Ethics for Peace event in Hiroshima Japan in 2024. More than 150 participants, including leaders representing eleven world religions, joined together, leading to 16 new signatories to the Rome Call for AI Ethics.³³⁹⁷

³³⁹⁴ Pontificia Accademia per la Vita, *Intelligenza Artificiale* (Feb. 26–28, 2020), <https://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/it/projects/intelligenza-artificiale.html>

³³⁹⁵ RenAIssance Foundation, *Second Anniversary of the Rome Call for AI Ethics* (2022), <https://www.romecall.org/second-anniversary-of-the-rome-call-for-ai-ethics-signed-in-rome-by-microsoft-ibm-fao-on-february-28-2020/>

³³⁹⁶ RenAIssance Foundation, *AI Ethics: An Abrahamic Commitment to the Rome Call* (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://www.romecall.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/AI-Joint-Declaration-5-Jan1-1.pdf>

³³⁹⁷ RenAIssance Foundation, *AI Ethics for Peace: Hiroshima* (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://www.romecall.org/ai-ethics-for-peace-hiroshima-july-10th-2024/>

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In April 2024, Cisco, the multinational digital communications technology company,³³⁹⁸ and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby³³⁹⁹ endorsed the Rome call for ethics.

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Italy participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.³⁴⁰⁰ Italy thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The AI Safety Summit, co-hosted by the United Kingdom and South Korea in May 2024, brought together leaders from 11 countries, including Italy, to discuss and strengthen the global commitment to AI safety, innovation, and inclusivity. During this event, the participating countries issued the Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, and Inclusive AI, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in AI safety, interoperability between governance frameworks, and support for AI safety research. This declaration expanded upon the goals set in the 2023 Bletchley Declaration, advocating for inclusive AI practices to bridge digital divides and safeguard democratic values, while supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.³⁴⁰¹

Italy’s active involvement in the summit reflects its ongoing commitment to ethical and safe AI governance standards within a multilateral framework. Building on the efforts at Bletchley Park and Seoul, the AI Action Summit took place in France

³³⁹⁸ Cisco, Press Release, *Cisco Joins Rome Call as AI Ethics Debate Widens* (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://newsroom.cisco.com/c/r/newsroom/en/us/a/y2024/m04/cisco-joins-rome-call-as-ai-ethics-debate-widens.html>

³³⁹⁹ Vatican News, *Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby Endorses Rome Call for AI Ethics* (May 1, 2024), <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2024-05/archbishop-canterbury-justin-welby-endorses-rome-call-ai-ethics.html>

³⁴⁰⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

³⁴⁰¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Korea, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders’ Session of the AI Seoul Summit* (May 21, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?page=1&seq=321007

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in February 2025.³⁴⁰² Italy signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet, calling for “global reflection integrating inter alia questions of safety, sustainable development, innovation, respect of international laws including humanitarian law and human rights law and the protection of human rights, gender equality, linguistic diversity, protection of consumers and of intellectual property rights.”³⁴⁰³

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Italy endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles.³⁴⁰⁴

In 2021, Italy hosted the G20 summit. Recognizing the “benefits stemming from the responsible use and development of trustworthy human-centered Artificial Intelligence (AI),” the G20 Leaders declared in Rome that they would encourage competition and innovation, “as well as diversity and inclusion.”³⁴⁰⁵ Artificial intelligence figured prominently in the G20 Declaration of the Digital Ministers who met in Trieste, Italy. They stated, “We reaffirm our willingness to implement trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to commit to a human-centered approach, as decided in 2019 under the Japanese G20 Presidency, guided by the G20 AI Principles, drawn from the OECD Recommendations on AI.”³⁴⁰⁶

Italy is also a founding member of the Global Partnership for AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”³⁴⁰⁷

Under the G7 presidency in 2024, Italy worked with the Brazilian G20 Presidency to advance dialogues and actions with AI identified as a common priority

³⁴⁰² French Government (Élysée), *Artificial Intelligence Action Summit* (2025)

<https://www.elysee.fr/en/sommet-pour-l-action-sur-l-ia>

³⁴⁰³ President of France, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.*, (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

³⁴⁰⁴ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

³⁴⁰⁵ CAIDP, *G20 Rome Leaders Advance AI Policy, Elevate Privacy, Gender Equality*, CAIDP Update 2.40 (Oct. 31, 2021), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8352831663/CAIDP-Update-2.40.pdf>

³⁴⁰⁶ G20 Information Centre, *Declaration of G20 Digital Ministers: Leveraging Digitalisation for a Resilient, Strong, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery* (Aug. 5, 2021), <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210805-digital.html>

³⁴⁰⁷ Government of Canada, *Canada Concludes Inaugural Plenary of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence with International Counterparts in Montreal* (Dec. 4, 2020), <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/12/canada-concludes-inaugural-plenary-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-with-international-counterparts-in-montreal.html>

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for sustainable development. The G7 Italian Presidency underscored its global leadership in AI and technology policy, focusing on fostering international cooperation and ensuring AI development adheres to democratic values. Under the scope Digital Development-Growing Together, the Italian G7 Presidency and the G7 countries acknowledged the need to work in partnership with developing countries to strengthen local AI digital ecosystems.³⁴⁰⁸ The Italian Presidency's priorities were also to focus on the impact of AI on jobs and inequality.³⁴⁰⁹ The Italian Presidency's Department for Digital Transformation, under the G7's Digital & Technology Working Group, coordinated the release of the G7 Toolkit for Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector, developed in partnership with the OECD and UNESCO.³⁴¹⁰ The G7 Digital & Tech Working Group also finalized the Reporting Framework for Advanced AI Systems, an essential step toward the promotion, development, and ethical application of AI.³⁴¹¹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Italy contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.³⁴¹² On September 5, 2024, the European Commission signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on behalf of the

³⁴⁰⁸ UNDP, *G7 Consensus Reached on Advancing AI for Sustainable Development* (Mar. 15, 2024), <https://www.undp.org/news/g7-consensus-reached-advancing-ai-sustainable-development>

³⁴⁰⁹ Reuters, *G7 Industry Ministers Agree to Cooperate on AI, Supply Chains, Presidency Says* (Mar. 14, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/g7-agreed-align-rules-ai-italian-presidency-says-2024-03-14/>

³⁴¹⁰ OECD, *G7 Toolkit for Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector*, OECD Publishing (Oct. 15, 2024), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/g7-toolkit-for-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector_421c1244-en.html

³⁴¹¹ Government of Italy, *G7 Digital & Tech Working Group Finalizes Reporting Framework for Advanced AI Systems* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/en/g7-digital-tech-working-group-finalizes-reporting-framework-for-advanced-ai-syste/>

³⁴¹² Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

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European Union and its State Members, including Italy.³⁴¹³ Italy has not yet ratified the Convention or taken action independently.³⁴¹⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Italy is a UNESCO member since 1948. Italy endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics,³⁴¹⁵ the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI. Italy's national AI strategy, international partnerships, and plans align to the UNESCO Recommendation. The Italian National Commission for UNESCO also oversaw the Italian translation of the document "The UNESCO Recommendation on The Ethics of AI: Shaping the Future of Our Societies," published in May 2023 by the German, Dutch and Slovenian National Commissions, with the support of the International Research Centre of Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO.³⁴¹⁶

Italy has neither competed nor announced preparation for the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), which forms one of the core pillars of the implementation of UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.³⁴¹⁷

Evaluation

Italy has endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles and is a founding member of the Global Partnership on AI. The Rome Call for AI Ethics, undertaken by Pope Francis with the support of the Italian government and private companies, sets out a powerful vision for AI that is human-centric and that diminishes social inequality. Italy has underscored these key priorities in the framework of its Presidency of the G7. Italy has also signed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

³⁴¹³ Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe, Press Release, *The European Commission Signs Historic Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights* (Sept. 10, 2024), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/council-europe/european-commission-signs-historic-council-europe-framework-convention-artificial-intelligence-and_en?s=51

³⁴¹⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Dec. 26, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

³⁴¹⁵ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

³⁴¹⁶ UNESCO, *La Commissione Nazionale Italiana per l'UNESCO Pubblica "La Raccomandazione UNESCO sull'etica dell'IA: Modellare il futuro delle nostre società"* (Oct. 23, 2023), <https://www.unesco.it/it/temi-in-evidenza/scienze/la-commissione-nazionale-italiana-per-lunesco-pubblica-la-raccomandazione-unesco-sulle-etiche-dell-ia-modellare-il-futuro-delle-nostre-societa/>

³⁴¹⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Italy is subject to the GDPR and has ratified the modernized Council of Europe Convention 108, providing a high level of protection for personal data and the specific right of algorithmic transparency. The Italian Data Protection Authority has played a leading role in fundamental rights protection against possible encroachments stemming from the design, deployment, or use of AI systems, most recently through investigations concerning OpenAI and DeepSeek.

Alongside the AI Law passed in 2025, the National AI Strategy for 2024–2026 provides for policy objectives in research, public administration, enterprises, and education.³⁴¹⁸ The Strategy is in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on training and AI literacy and advances Italy toward implementation through the strategic measures on education.

³⁴¹⁸ Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale, *The Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2026*, (Jul. 22, 2024), <https://www.agid.gov.it/en/news/the-italian-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence>

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Jamaica

In 2025, Jamaica publicized the National Artificial Intelligence Policy Recommendations, which provides a roadmap for the legal, ethical, and social structures necessary to guide AI development to benefit all Jamaicans. The country also completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report.

National AI Strategy

The Jamaican National AI Task Force formed in 2023³⁴¹⁹ submitted a report to the Cabinet in September 2024 with research-based recommendations for a national AI policy.³⁴²⁰ The Task Force comprises members from private sector entities, civil society, academia, and other experts and aims to establish an evidence-based foundational AI framework; explore AI's role and transformation potential across key sectors such as Education, Business, and Government; addresses ethical challenges posed by AI; and develop strategies for risk mitigation, international positioning, and social impact assessment. The Task Force's public report, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations*³⁴²¹ outlines legal & regulatory framework proposals such as interim guidelines for ethics and data-privacy, the creation of a national AI regulatory authority, and partnerships.

Even before the Task Force report suggested tools, the Jamaican government reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the challenges posed by AI and deepfakes to the democratic process. The Minister for Skills and Digital Transformation reiterated the government's dedication to preserving democracy and transparency. She stated, "Central to the Administration is our commitment to preserving democracy and the democratic process. The government understands the critical importance of maintaining trust and transparency in our electoral system."³⁴²²

There are also several significant policy initiatives worth mentioning. Jamaica's 2009 National Development Plan, Vision 2030, which aims to advance the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, does not address digital policy directly. However, the Vision 2030 the Jamaica Secretariat acknowledges a

³⁴¹⁹ Jamaica Information Service, *Government to Set Up AI Task Force* (Jul. 15, 2023), <https://jis.gov.jm/government-to-set-up-ai-task-force/>

³⁴²⁰ Jamaica Information Service, *Cabinet to Receive Artificial Intelligence Task Force Report* (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://jis.gov.jm/cabinet-to-receive-artificial-intelligence-task-force-report/>

³⁴²¹ National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations* (Sept. 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Policy-Recommendations-Final-1.pdf>

³⁴²² Office of Prime Minister, *Government Taking Steps to Address the Challenges Posed by AI and Deepfakes to Democratic Process* (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/news/government-taking-steps-to-address-the-challenges-posed-by-ai-and-deepfakes-to-democratic-process/>

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role for digital technologies such as AI in the future: “[t]he advancement of technology enablement geared to support adaptation and agility and access to public goods and services for sustainable and inclusive growth. This includes digitalization and equity in access to technology products and services. It also includes the infusion of cultural values and norms that support the application of technology and innovation towards improved productivity, competitiveness, and growth.”³⁴²³

Jamaica’s Broadcasting Commission (BCJ) has been a leader in fostering a human-centered approach to AI in Jamaica and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The BCJ is an “independent statutory agency which falls within the ambit of the Minister with responsibility for Information.” The BCJ mandate is to “provide advice to policy makers in the formulation of policies for the [media] industry” and “conduct research on all areas relating to the electronic media in Jamaica.”³⁴²⁴

At the 2019 Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Cordel Green, the Executive Director of the Broadcasting Commission, stated, “As we seek to understand the new environment and the broad impacts of AI on society, UNESCO’S ROAM principles (Rights, Openness, Accessibility to all, Multi stakeholder participation) are critical. We should resist technological determinism. AI must be designed to promote human well-being, enhance human performance and mitigate harm, [...] we must avoid the worst outcomes of the first industrial revolution which left millions of people behind. We can make AI the rising tide which lifts all ships.” He also mentioned that “the role of the state is to ensure the regulation, support and planning of the sector by developing policies that address the needs of all citizens and do not undermine fundamental rights.”³⁴²⁵

It is to address these issues, and because “Small Island Developing States must protect their own interests,” that “the BCJ has spearheaded the Caribbean AI Initiative, which is a collaborative project with the UNESCO Cluster Office for the

³⁴²³ Peisha Bryan-Lee, Travis Reid, Shannique Perry, Samantha Wilmot, *Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Perspectives on the Future of National Development Planning - Post COVID-19* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.vision2030.gov.jm/blog/perspectives-on-the-future-of-national-development-planning-post-covid-19-november-2021/>

³⁴²⁴ Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, *About Us* (2025), <https://broadcastingcommission.org/bchome/about-us/organisation-overview>

³⁴²⁵ Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, *BCJ Implores Governments Across the Region to Create AI Policies that Protect Small Island Developing States* (Dec. 14, 2019), <https://broadcastingcommission.org/news-reports/news?download=237:bcj-implores-governments-across-the-region-to-create-ai-policies-that-protect-small-island-developing-states>; Cordel Green and Anthony Clayton, *Ethics and AI Innovation*, International Review of Information Ethics, Vol. 29 (Mar. 2021), <https://broadcastingcommission.org/news-reports/news?download=250:ai-ethics-and-innovation>

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Caribbean,³⁴²⁶ supported by UNESCO’s Information For All Programme (IFAP).³⁴²⁷ The Initiative “aims to develop a sub-regional strategy on the ethical, inclusive and humane use of AI in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States.”³⁴²⁸ The first Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap was released in June 2021³⁴²⁹ following a period of stakeholder consultation.³⁴³⁰ UNESCO updated the Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap in 2024 “to reflect the tectonic shift in the global technology landscape.”³⁴³¹ The updated Roadmap³⁴³² consolidates the original six principles—Resiliency, Governance, Transformation, Upskilling, Preservation and Sustainability³⁴³³—into four pillars: 1) the preservation of cultural identity and creativity, 2) governance and transformation, 3) education and upskilling and 4) resilience and sustainability.³⁴³⁴ The update explicitly aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, provides for stronger safeguards against algorithmic bias, and promotes UNESCO’s readiness assessment methodology (RAM), sector-specific action plans, and monitoring mechanisms.

Public Participation

The Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap was the object of a series of stakeholder consultations through the organization of forums and a poll. On February 18–19, 2021, a two-day Artificial Intelligence Forum: Opportunities to Accelerate Human Progress for Sustainable Development in Caribbean Small Islands Developing States³⁴³⁵ collected input from diverse stakeholders regarding AI policy topics. Three additional workshops addressing the AI Policy Roadmap principles were held with

³⁴²⁶ UNESCO, *About UNESCO Kingston*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/fieldoffice/kingston>

³⁴²⁷ Anthony Clayton and Cordel Green, *The BCJ at 35: People Transitioning Digital* (Jun. 2021), <https://broadcastingcommission.org/news-reports/news?download=253:the-bcj-at-35-people-transitioning-digital>

³⁴²⁸ Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Roadmap* (2021), <https://ai4caribbean.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Caribbean-Artificial-Intelligence-Policy-Roadmap.pdf>

³⁴²⁹ *Ibid*

³⁴³⁰ *Ibid*, p. 2

³⁴³¹ UNESCO, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (Dec. 9, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caribbean-artificial-intelligence-policy-roadmap>

³⁴³² UNESCO Office in Kingston, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (2024), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000391996>

³⁴³³ *Ibid*, p. 11

³⁴³⁴ UNESCO, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (Dec. 9, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caribbean-artificial-intelligence-policy-roadmap>

³⁴³⁵ UNESCO, *How Can AI Contribute to Sustainable Development? Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Forum* (Mar. 3, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/how-can-ai-contribute-sustainable-development-caribbean-artificial-intelligence-forum>

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stakeholders from the private sector, academia, civil society and youth³⁴³⁶ and events outreach continued with a focus in Jamaica.³⁴³⁷ UNESCO ran Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap town hall³⁴³⁸ with a Kingston session in April 2025, bringing civil-society actors, educators and grassroots participants into regional policy conversations. These town-halls were advertised and open to participants.

The Jamaican Government is emphasizing bipartisan discussions as a form of public participation as it works to establish a broad consensus on the responsible use of AI, particularly in political contexts.³⁴³⁹

Data Protection

In recognition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Jamaican Parliament amended the Constitution in 2011 to provide for a new Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms that includes right to privacy, including of communication.³⁴⁴⁰ Jamaica has prioritized developing laws similar to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).³⁴⁴¹ The Government of Jamaica passed the Data Protection Act (DPA) in June 2020.³⁴⁴² The DPA applies to both public and private sector organizations. The DPA is built on principles including fairness and lawfulness, purpose limitation, data minimization, accuracy, storage limitation, respect for data subjects' rights. These rights include the right to personal data access; consent to processing; prevent processing, and rights in relation to automated decision-making.³⁴⁴³

The DPA established the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) presiding over a Data Protection Oversight Committee (DPOC) to enforce data privacy rights outlined in the legislation. The OIC is also responsible for advising the

³⁴³⁶ UNESCO, *Pioneering Artificial Intelligence Policy in the Caribbean* (May 20, 2021),

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/pioneering-artificial-intelligence-policy-caribbean>

³⁴³⁷ Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative, *Past Events*, <https://ai4caribbean.com/#events>

³⁴³⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO AI Policy Roadmap—Virtual Stakeholder Sessions* (Apr. 16, 2025),

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-ai-policy-roadmap-virtual-stakeholder-sessions>

³⁴³⁹ Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), *Government Taking Steps to Address the Challenges Posed by AI and Deepfakes to Democratic Process* (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/news/government-taking-steps-to-address-the-challenges-posed-by-ai-and-deepfakes-to-democratic-process/>

³⁴⁴⁰ Jamaica Parliament, *No. 12–2011, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2011*, Chapter III, section 13(3)(j) (Apr. 8, 2011), [https://www.japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/341_The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms \(Constitutional Amendment\) Act, 2011.pdf](https://www.japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/341_The%20Charter%20of%20Fundamental%20Rights%20and%20Freedoms%20(Constitutional%20Amendment)%20Act,%202011.pdf)

³⁴⁴¹ European Commission, *Rules for Business and Organizations*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/rules-business-and-organisations_en

³⁴⁴² Alecia Smith, *Data Protection Bill Passed in the Senate*, Jamaica Information Service (Jun. 13, 2020), <https://jis.gov.jm/data-protection-bill-passed-in-the-senate/>

³⁴⁴³ Jamaica Parliament, *The Data Protection Act* (2020),

[https://japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/article/339/The Data Protection Act, 2020.pdf](https://japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/article/339/The%20Data%20Protection%20Act,%202020.pdf)

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Minister of Science, Energy and Technology on matters related to data protection; disseminating information to the public; and drafting relevant guidelines. The first Information Commissioner was appointed in December 2021, along with the DPOC.

The Minister of Science, Energy and Technology expressed support for the Information Commissioner's progress in May 2022, noting, "the Office has already been making strides in the data privacy and protection arena. The OIC has been leveraging various public awareness strategies to facilitate preliminary consultations regarding the issues and concerns of different interest groups."³⁴⁴⁴ The OIC has launched and fully operationalized their web portal complete with service descriptions, a resource center, and portals for data controllers and other users.³⁴⁴⁵

The Office of the Information Commissioner proclaimed rules and regulations based on the Data Protection Act for AI-driven businesses in March 2024.³⁴⁴⁶ The Data Protection Regulations 2024 outline data protection procedures, including specific identification and authorization requirements for individuals acting on behalf of data subjects, methods for submitting requests to data controllers, guidelines for data protection officers, and protocols for reporting security breaches and ensuring compliance with data protection standards. These regulations also empower individuals with rights to access, correct, and control their personal data, while requiring organizations to handle data responsibly and transparently.

Jamaica's OIC joined the Global Privacy Assembly as an accredited member in 2025.³⁴⁴⁷ The OIC has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence³⁴⁴⁸, the 2020 GPA Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,³⁴⁴⁹ the 2022 GPA Resolution

³⁴⁴⁴ Alecia Smith, *Office of the Information Commissioner being Operationalized*, Jamaica Information Service (May 15, 2022), <https://jis.gov.jm/office-of-the-information-commissioner-being-operationalised/>

³⁴⁴⁵ Office of the Information Commissioner, *What We Do* (2025), <https://oic.gov.jm/page/what-we-do>

³⁴⁴⁶ Office of the Information Commissioner, *Data Protection Act: The Minister's Regulations 2024 (or Data Protection Regulations 2024)* (Mar. 4, 2024), <https://oic.gov.jm/page/data-protection-act-ministers-regulations-2024>

³⁴⁴⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

³⁴⁴⁸ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioner, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁴⁴⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

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on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology³⁴⁵⁰ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.³⁴⁵¹

Algorithmic Transparency

The right to algorithmic transparency is provided by the DPA. One peculiarity is that access to this right is submitted to a “prescribed fee” which might have a deterrent effect even more so for underprivileged individuals.³⁴⁵²

The Data Protection Regulations 2024³⁴⁵³ emphasize the critical importance of algorithmic transparency by granting individuals the right to understand the logic behind automated decisions and to object to processing that significantly affects them. This aligns with global ethical principles by ensuring fairness, accountability, and protection against discrimination. Additionally, the regulations mandate robust safeguards against misuse of personal data, requiring data controllers to provide clear, intelligible explanations of data processing purposes and impacts.

National Identification Systems

In a 2019 landmark decision, Jamaica’s Chief Justice criticized the government’s decision to enforce compulsory registration by all citizens in a new digital ID system with criminal sanctions, call the sanctions “a remarkable choice ‘in a democracy where the exercise of executive power rests upon the consent of the governed.’”³⁴⁵⁴

Jamaica adopted the National Identification Act (NIRA) in December 2018 to establish a National Identification System (NIDS) that “facilitates the enrolment of all citizens of Jamaica and all individuals who are ordinarily resident in Jamaica”

³⁴⁵⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

³⁴⁵¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>.

³⁴⁵² Jamaica Parliament, *The Data Protection Act*, Section 6, Section 8 (2020), [https://japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/article/339/The Data Protection Act, 2020.pdf](https://japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/article/339/The%20Data%20Protection%20Act,%202020.pdf)

³⁴⁵³ Office of the Information Commissioner, *Data Protection Act: The Minister's Regulations 2024 (or Data Protection Regulations 2024)* (Mar. 4, 2024), <https://oic.gov.jm/page/data-protection-act-ministers-regulations-2024>

³⁴⁵⁴ Hopeton S. Dunn, *Artificial Intelligence and “consent of the governed”: Pitfalls in Developing Jamaica’s Digital ID System*, Global Information Society Watch (2019), <https://giswatch.org/node/6176>

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for “the verification of identity information and the authentication of a National Identity Number and National Identity Card.”³⁴⁵⁵

The NIRA was approved despite the strong objection of civil society and parliamentary opposition to the compulsory formal registration of all citizens including specific biometric information. The Act required the capture and storage with a central registering authority of vein patterns, and if needed, footprints, toe prints, palm prints and the blood type of citizens and residents, along with iris scans and fingerprints.

In *Julian J. Robinson v. The Attorney General of Jamaica*, the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica ruled that the NIRA was unconstitutional and nullified it, on the grounds of violating the right to privacy and equality enshrined in the Jamaican Charter of Fundamental Rights. More particularly, “The Court, while giving an extensive interpretation of the right to privacy held the mandatory nature of the Act and the criminal sanctions to be in violation of informational privacy and liberty of the individuals. The disproportionate measures used to enforce the Act, the lack of necessary and a legitimate purpose, and absence of safeguards against misuse of the data collected under the Act were the primary grounds on which the Court declared the Act to be unconstitutional.”³⁴⁵⁶

A new Act, the National Identification and Registration Act of 2020 (NIRA Act), which allows for the voluntary submission of biometric information for participation in the NIDS, was passed in October 2021.³⁴⁵⁷ The Act has attracted criticism from civil society organizations.³⁴⁵⁸ The NIRA Act Regulations were formalized in 2024 and the government issued the first electronic national ID card in 2024.³⁴⁵⁹

Facial Recognition

The Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) introduced facial recognition components to passport production with the objective to protect the identity of the citizen and reduce passport fraud.³⁴⁶⁰ The implementation of facial

³⁴⁵⁵ Global Freedom of Expression, *Robinson v. Attorney General of Jamaica – Case Analysis* (Apr. 12, 2019), <https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/cases/robinson-v-attorney-general>

³⁴⁵⁶ Ibid

³⁴⁵⁷ Office of the Prime Minister, *Government Passes NIDS Bill after 40 Years* (Oct. 15, 2021), <https://opm.gov.jm/news/government-passes-nids-bill-after-40-years/>

³⁴⁵⁸ Erica Hellerstein, *Jamaica is Poised to End Data Privacy* (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://www.codastory.com/authoritarian-tech/jamaica-digital-id/>

³⁴⁵⁹ Jamaica Information Service, *Digital Transformation Being Advanced* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://jis.gov.jm/digital-transformation-being-advanced/>

³⁴⁶⁰ Alecia Smith-Edwards, *PICA to Introduce Facial Recognition*, Jamaica Information Service (Jul. 16, 2015), <https://jis.gov.jm/pica-to-introduce-facial-recognition-system/>

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recognition programs started through immigration kiosks at airports in 2016.³⁴⁶¹ Reportedly, in 2017, PICA “has moved a step closer to protecting the identity of Jamaicans by implementing, for the first time in Jamaica, a facial recognition system akin to the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) currently in use by the police.”³⁴⁶²

In recent years, law enforcement authorities in Jamaica have expressed interest in integrating police surveillance technologies into regular law enforcement practices.³⁴⁶³ This is the case for example of the Jamaican Constabulary Force, Jamaica’s primary domestic law enforcement agency. The agency has announced its procurement of various technologies, including predictive policing, networked camera systems, and DNA databases. A notable development occurred in July 2020, when media reports indicated that the Constabulary Force secretly deployed facial recognition technology to support routine law enforcement investigations.³⁴⁶⁴ At issue was the use of facial recognition in the CCTV surveillance system known as JamaicaEye, a traffic monitoring technology.³⁴⁶⁵ Jamaica’s Security Minister Horace Chang announced in June 2022 that Jamaica invested in more cameras to JamaicaEye as part of efforts to incorporate technology in everyday policing. Chang noted plans to install 300 additional CCTV cameras across the corporate area, adding to the more-than 850 CCTV cameras already installed across main townships.³⁴⁶⁶

Jamaica’s largest life insurance company and pension fund manager has implemented “facial recognition technology that will replace the notarized certificate that [pensioners] had to submit annually as ‘proof of life’ for their pension payments to continue uninterrupted.”³⁴⁶⁷ According to the Financial Gleaner, “[p]ensioners will be required to upload a Government-issued picture ID, along with a short live video

³⁴⁶¹ Justin Lee, *Jamaican Government Agencies Discuss Using Biometrics to Improve Border Security*, Biometric Update (Dec. 1, 2016), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201612/jamaican-government-agencies-discuss-using-biometrics-to-improve-border-security>

³⁴⁶² Karl Angell, *Passport Office Steps Up a Gear*, Jamaica Observer (Jun. 28, 2017), <https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/passport-office-steps-up-a-gear/>

³⁴⁶³ Jamaica Constabulary Force, *Policing through Technology*, <https://jcf.gov.jm/policing-through-technology>

³⁴⁶⁴ Adrian Frater, *A Criminal’s Nightmare – Cops Reaping Successes from Chinese High-Tech Surveillance System in MoBay*, Gleaner (Jul. 13, 2020), <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20200713/criminals-nightmare-cops-reaping-success-chinese-high-tech>

³⁴⁶⁵ Rosheika Grant, *JamaicaEye Assisting Crime Fighting*, Jamaica Information Service (Mar. 1, 2021), <https://jis.gov.jm/features/jamaicaeye-assisting-crime-fighting/>

³⁴⁶⁶ Latonya Linton, *More than 850 Cameras Installed under JamaicaEye*, Jamaica Information Service (Jun. 2, 2022), <https://jis.gov.jm/more-than-850-cameras-installed-under-jamaicaeye/>

³⁴⁶⁷ Biometrics Updates, *Jamaica Adopts Remote Biometric Verification from Orba for Pensioners* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202302/jamaica-adopts-remote-biometric-verification-from-orba-for-pensioners>

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of their face, once a year, which will be verified or validated by the facial recognition technology.”³⁴⁶⁸

Environmental Impact of AI

The Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan integrates sustainability as a guiding principle, emphasizing environmental protection, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience against climate change.³⁴⁶⁹ The plan outlines cross-sectoral strategies to manage the environmental impacts of economic activities, transportation, and land use, while promoting policies that align with global development frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Jamaica has also emphasized sustainability in the context of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by urging governments to create policies for Artificial Intelligence (AI) that prioritize human well-being and equitable development.³⁴⁷⁰ While advocating policies to build AI and cloud infrastructure, including building data centers, Jamaica has acknowledged the challenges posed by the use of AI technologies, including the negative environmental impacts and the high costs of energy use.³⁴⁷¹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Jamaica has consistently supported the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems in international bodies, including as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM),³⁴⁷² and through endorsement of the

³⁴⁶⁸ Gleaner, *Sagicor to Utilise Facial Recognition Tech as Proof of Life for Pensioners*, (Feb. 12, 2023), <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/business/20230212/sagicor-utilise-facial-recognition-tech-proof-life-pensioners>

³⁴⁶⁹ Vision 2030, *Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan, Guiding Principles* <https://www.vision2030.gov.jm/vision-2030-jamaica-guiding-principles/>

³⁴⁷⁰ Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, *BCJ Implores Governments Across the Region to Create AI Policies that Protect Small Island Developing States* (Dec. 14, 2019), <https://broadcastingcommission.org/news-reports/news?download=237:bcj-imploresgovernments-across-the-region-to-create-ai-policies-that-protect-small-islanddeveloping-states>

³⁴⁷¹ Jamaica National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations*, pp. 19-20 (Sept. 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Policy-Recommendations-Final-1.pdf>

³⁴⁷² Automated Decision Research, *Jamaica*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/jamaica/

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Belén Communiqué by Latin American and Caribbean states.³⁴⁷³ Jamaica has attended some of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts meetings on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) since 2014.³⁴⁷⁴

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Jamaica voted in favor³⁴⁷⁵ of resolution L.56³⁴⁷⁶ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

At the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2024, Jamaica voted in favor of Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems along with 160 states in October 2024.³⁴⁷⁷ Draft Resolution L.77 emphasizes “the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability and for States to comply with international law” and expresses concerns about the “negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability.”

AI Literacy

In presenting the proposed 2025 budget to the House,³⁴⁷⁸ Jamaica’s prime minister referred to the ASPIRE program, where People are centered through human capital development. As part of the program, the Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Education to “ensure that AI is prominent in our national training and development

³⁴⁷³ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué*, La Ribera de Belén, Heredia, Costa Rica (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

³⁴⁷⁴ Automated Decision Research, *Jamaica*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/jamaica/

³⁴⁷⁵ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

³⁴⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

³⁴⁷⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

³⁴⁷⁸ Prime Minister, *Budget Debate 2025, Jamaica’s Next Chapter: Accelerating Growth for Your Peace, Productivity & Prosperity* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Budget-Debate-2025.pdf>

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strategy.”³⁴⁷⁹ The Prime Minister stressed the Task Force recommendations³⁴⁸⁰ to integrate AI and coding into school curricula, launch a prompt engineering course for public service workers and students in vocational programs, and train teachers on AI tools. Jamaica’s HEART program,³⁴⁸¹ or Human Employment and Resource Training/National Service Training Agency Trust offers programs on digital literacy and basic computer skills as well as more specialized programs in computer engineering and data operations. The UNESCO Caribbean office collaborated with Jamaica’s Teaching Council to host AI in Education workshops in Kingston and Montego Bay.³⁴⁸² More than 400 educators participated in the workshops “to strengthen teachers’ capacity to integrate AI effectively but also responsibly.”

The Task Force report stresses the significance of capacity building, noting “To ensure that AI benefits society at large, all citizens must be equipped with the necessary digital, media, and information literacy skills to effectively engage with AI.”³⁴⁸³ The report emphasizing critical thinking, creatively “and a questioning mindset” as necessary to “help individuals avoid automation bias and develop informed trust in AI systems.”

Human Rights

Since declaring independence from British colonial rule, Jamaica has been organized under a democratic political system featuring competitive elections, a vibrant civil society, and respect for the rule of law. Freedom House rates Jamaica “Free” in the Freedom in the World 2025 report with a score of 80/100.³⁴⁸⁴ However, Freedom House also notes that “corruption remains a serious problem, and long-standing relationships between officials and organized crime figures are thought to persist. Violent crime is an ongoing concern, as are harassment and violence against LGBT+ people.”

³⁴⁷⁹ Ibid, p. 28

³⁴⁸⁰ National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations*, pp. 17–18 (Sept. 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Policy-Recommendations-Final-1.pdf>

³⁴⁸¹ HEART/NSTA Trust, *Jamaica’s Human Development Agency* (2025), <https://www.heart-nsta.org/about/>

³⁴⁸² UNESCO, *UNESCO Empowers Jamaican Teachers through AI* (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-empowers-jamaicas-teachers-through-ai>

³⁴⁸³ National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations*, p. 9 (Sept. 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Policy-Recommendations-Final-1.pdf>

³⁴⁸⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Jamaica* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/jamaica/freedom-world/2025>

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Jamaica has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights along with most other UN human rights conventions.³⁴⁸⁵

The National AI Task Force's emphasis on the integration of human rights, such as privacy, into its AI policies reinforces Jamaica's commitment to ensuring AI development aligns with democratic principles and international human rights standards.³⁴⁸⁶

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Jamaica has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles³⁴⁸⁷ and is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.³⁴⁸⁸ According to the OECD, Jamaica's DPA aligns the country with the OECD AI Principles as it includes the principles of "transparency, explainability and fairness" in data collection and processing.³⁴⁸⁹

Jamaica is a "member state of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which has adopted the OECD AI Principles as part of its fAIr LAC initiative."³⁴⁹⁰ The OECD acknowledges the work of the Inter-American Development Bank and its "fAIr LAC initiative to promote the responsible and ethical use of AI and improve public services, e.g., education, health, and social protection, in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries."³⁴⁹¹

³⁴⁸⁵ UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, *UN Treaty Body Database: Jamaica* (2026), https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/treaty.aspx

³⁴⁸⁶ Jamaican Information Service, *Cabinet to Receive Artificial Intelligence Task Force Report* (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://jis.gov.jm/cabinet-to-receive-artificial-intelligence-task-force-report>

³⁴⁸⁷ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2025), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

³⁴⁸⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

³⁴⁸⁹ OECD and Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mar. 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

³⁴⁹⁰ Ibid

³⁴⁹¹ OECD, *State of implementation of the OECD AI Principles*, p. 76 (Jun. 2021), <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1cd40c44-en.pdf?expires=1679145707&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=4A7E8011553F4B626AD9EF4C04ACCDE1>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Jamaica has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.³⁴⁹²

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Jamaica endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.³⁴⁹³ Jamaica's Broadcasting Commission played a leading role in the elaboration of the Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap, which was based on a first draft of the UNESCO Recommendation. Jamaica's AI Task Force cited the Roadmap as a "foundation for formulating region-specific strategies that address the socio-economic realities of Caribbean nations"³⁴⁹⁴ in the Policy Recommendation report. The Recommendations center on ethical considerations "of particular relevance" to Jamaica: Limitations of AI systems, Transparency about AI processes, Accountability, Capacity Building, Data Privacy, and Inclusivity and Access.

Jamaica signed the 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence at a summit of Latin American and Caribbean leaders organized with support from UNESCO and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) with the express purpose of implementing the Recommendation.³⁴⁹⁵ The Santiago Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.

Jamaica completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report in 2025.³⁴⁹⁶ UNESCO's report highlights Jamaica's "strong foundation for ethical and responsible AI governance" established through actions such as the Data Protection Act and the "strong political will and a rights'-based approach"

³⁴⁹² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 14, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

³⁴⁹³ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov.1, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

³⁴⁹⁴ National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, *National Artificial Intelligence: Policy Recommendations*, p. 8 (Sept. 2024), <https://opm.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Policy-Recommendations-Final-1.pdf>

³⁴⁹⁵ Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaracion de Santiago "Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe"* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

³⁴⁹⁶ UNESCO, *Jamaica: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000395401>

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reflected by the AI Task Force policy recommendations.³⁴⁹⁷ The Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) is a key tool to support UNESCO Member States in their implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.³⁴⁹⁸ The RAM helps to highlight any institutional and regulatory gaps and enables UNESCO to tailor support for governments to fill those gaps to ensure an ethical AI ecosystem in line with the Recommendation.

Evaluation

Jamaica has played a pioneering role in regional AI policy and has demonstrated a capacity and ability for leadership in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in large part through the efforts of the Broadcasting Commission. As an active member of the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster, Jamaica participated in developing the Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap, which draws inspiration from a first draft of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and reflects regional concerns of Caribbean SIDS regarding the environment, history of colonialism, and maintenance of distinctive Caribbean cultures.

Jamaica has also demonstrated the oversight capacity of its judicial system with its Supreme Court striking down a law that would have implemented state surveillance through a mandatory AI-powered national identification system. Jamaica's National Artificial Intelligence Policy Recommendations offers a roadmap for implementing the ideals in the Caribbean Roadmap and UNESCO Recommendation with the power of an oversight body. Specific short- (1–3 years), mid- (4–6 years) and long-term (7–10 years) objectives in the recommendations show Jamaica's commitment to maintaining the proactivity and speed with which the country has moved forward with the national AI policy framework. Concerns persist, however, over the growing use of facial recognition technology.

³⁴⁹⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Jamaica* (2026),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/jamaica>

³⁴⁹⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

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Japan

In 2025, Japan enacted the AI Act to promote the development and adoption of AI technologies while mitigating the risks and the follow up AI Basic Plan to operationalize the goals of the Act. Japan continued global leadership in AI governance by endorsing the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence early in the year.

National AI Strategy

Under the direction of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan emerged as a global leader in both AI policy and data governance. Abe declared in 2019 that “Artificial Intelligence (AI) must be used solely for humans and humans must be held responsible for its outcome. We will take the lead in establishing human-centered ethical principles for AI.”³⁴⁹⁹

Earlier, in 2016, Prime Minister Abe called for the Japanese government to establish an “Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy Council.”³⁵⁰⁰ The Council set out an Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy and Industrialization Roadmap.³⁵⁰¹ The Roadmap focuses on public-private collaboration along the AI “full pipeline from research and development to social implementation.”

Japan’s AI strategy emphasizes a risk-based, agile, and multi-stakeholder process, rather than a one-size-fits-all obligation or prohibition.³⁵⁰² Priority areas include productivity; health, medical care, and long-term care; mobility; and information security. The roadmap includes three phases: (1) the development and application of AI within various domains, (2) the public use of data and AI across those domains, and (3) the creation of ecosystems that integrate domains together. In August 2018, an action plan specified the objectives and timetable for accomplishment for each initiative under the Strategy.³⁵⁰³

³⁴⁹⁹ Prime Minister of Japan, Speeches and Statements by the Prime Minister, *Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 198th Session of the Diet* (Jan. 28, 2019), https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/201801/_00003.html

³⁵⁰⁰ Prime Minister of Japan, *Council for Science, Technology and Innovation* (Sept. 15, 2016), https://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/actions/201609/15article2.html

³⁵⁰¹ Strategic Council for AI Technology, *Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy* (Mar. 31, 2017), https://ai-japan.s3-ap-northeast-1.amazonaws.com/7116/0377/5269/Artificial_Intelligence_Technology_StrategyMarch2017.pdf

³⁵⁰² Center for Strategic & International Studies, *Japan’s Approach to AI Regulation and Its Impact on the 2023 G7 Presidency* (Feb. 14, 2023), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japans-approach-ai-regulation-and-its-impact-2023-g7-presidency>

³⁵⁰³ Prime Minister’s Office, *Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council Decision, AI Strategy 2019: AI for Everyone: People, Industries, Regions and Governments, Tentative Translation* (Jun. 11, 2019), <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/aistrategy2019en.pdf>

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The government established separate opportunities for the examination of ethical aspects of AI technology, intellectual property rights, personal information protection, and promotion of open data as cross-sectional items.³⁵⁰⁴

Japan updated the AI Strategy in 2019,³⁵⁰⁵ 2021³⁵⁰⁶ and again in 2022.³⁵⁰⁷ The 2022 Strategy defines the purpose “to contribute to the resolution of global issues through the realization of Society 5.0 and to present a comprehensive policy package related to AI for overcoming Japan’s own social issues and improving industrial competitiveness.”³⁵⁰⁸ The Society 5.0 refers to “a human-centered society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space.”³⁵⁰⁹ “Based on the Human-Centered AI Social Principles, it is important to enable diverse human resources to contribute based on a wide range of knowledge, perspectives, ideas, etc., regardless of their diverse backgrounds such as gender, age, political beliefs, and religion.”³⁵¹⁰

The 2022 strategic objectives are: (0) dealing with imminent crises by establishing systems and technological infrastructures to maximize the protection of people's lives and property against pandemics and large-scale disasters; (1) developing and attracting “human resources for the AI era”³⁵¹¹ in a sustainable manner; (2) “Japan should become a top runner in the application of AI in real-world industries and achieve enhanced industrial competitiveness” while contributing to “the promotion of sustainable industries and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovation”³⁵¹² “In addition, it is important to further improve the quality of services, improve the working environment, and ultimately reduce the financial burden by applying AI in the public sector”³⁵¹³ (3) realizing a “sustainable society with diversity”³⁵¹⁴ not only for Japan but also on a

³⁵⁰⁴ Strategic Council for AI Technology, *Artificial Intelligence Technology Strategy* (Mar. 31, 2017), [https://ai-japan.s3-ap-northeast-1.amazonaws.com/7116/0377/5269/Artificial Intelligence Technology StrategyMarch2017.pdf](https://ai-japan.s3-ap-northeast-1.amazonaws.com/7116/0377/5269/Artificial%20Intelligence%20StrategyMarch2017.pdf)

³⁵⁰⁵ Prime Minister’s Office, Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council Decision, *AI Strategy 2019: AI for Everyone: People, Industries, Regions and Governments*, Tentative Translation (Jun 11, 2019), <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/aistratagy2019en.pdf>

³⁵⁰⁶ Cabinet Office, Science and Technology, *Integrated Innovation Strategy 2021* (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/index.html>

³⁵⁰⁷ Cabinet Office, Science and Technology, *AI Strategy 2022* (Apr. 22, 2022), <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/aistratagy2022en.pdf>

³⁵⁰⁸ Ibid, p. 2

³⁵⁰⁹ Cabinet Office, *Society 5.0*, https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society5_0/index.html

³⁵¹⁰ Cabinet Office, Science and Technology, *AI Strategy 2022*, p. 3, <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/aistratagy2022en.pdf>

³⁵¹¹ Ibid, p. 5

³⁵¹² Ibid, p. 6

³⁵¹³ Ibid

³⁵¹⁴ Ibid

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global scale to contribute in the achievement of SDGs; (4) “Japan should take the leadership to build an international network in the AI field for research, education and social infrastructure and accelerate AI research and development, human resources development, and achievement of SDGs”³⁵¹⁵

AI adoption in Japan is based on three pillars: (1) the AI Promotion Act, which sets the strategic direction; (2) the 2024 AI Guidelines for Businesses, which translate principles into practice; and (3) guidance on the interpretation of existing statutes, to address issues raised by generative AI.³⁵¹⁶ During the 19th Council in 2025, the Guideline for Japanese Governments’ Procurements and Utilizations of Generative AI for the sake of Evolution and Innovation of Public Administration was approved to promote secure and safe use of generative AI.³⁵¹⁷ Notably, Japan’s Parliament also approved the Act on the Promotion of Research & Development and the utilization of AI-related technology (AI Act) making it the second major economy in the Asia-Pacific Region to enact comprehensive AI legislation.³⁵¹⁸ Concurrent with the Act being brought into force, the AI Basic Plan was also approved by the Cabinet Office in 2025.³⁵¹⁹

Social Principles of Human-Centric AI

Japan’s 2019 Social Principles of Human-Centric AI³⁵²⁰ were developed by the Council for Social Principles of Human-Centric AI. The Social Principles specify the form of society that Japan should aim for, discuss impacts on society, present a set of AI social principles, and identify issues to consider in AI R&D and social implementation. They call for all relevant stakeholders to cooperate and interact closely.

Three fundamental values underpin the Social Principles of Human-Centric AI: (1) Dignity—A society in which human dignity is respected; (2) Diversity and

³⁵¹⁵ Ibid, p. 7

³⁵¹⁶ International Bar Association, *Japan’s Emerging Framework for Responsible AI: Legislation, Guidelines and Guidance* (Jul. 16, 2025), <https://www.ibanet.org/japan-emerging-framework-ai-legislation-guidelines>

³⁵¹⁷ Digital Agency, *The Guideline for Japanese Governments’ Procurements and Utilizations of Generative AI for the Sake of Evolution and Innovation of Public Administration* (May 27, 2025), <https://www.digital.go.jp/en/news/3579c42d-b11c-4756-b66e-3d3e35175623>

³⁵¹⁸ E-gov, *Act on Promotion of Research and Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence-Related Technologies was adopted by House of Councilors (Act No. 53 of 2025)* (May. 28, 2025), <https://laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/507AC00000000053>

³⁵¹⁹ Cabinet Office, *Artificial Intelligence Basic Plan – “Japan Rebooted” through “Trustworthy AI” – Cabinet Decision* (Dec. 23, 2025), https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/ai_plan/ai_plan.html

³⁵²⁰ Cabinet Secretariat, *Social Principles of Human-Centric AI* (Feb. 15, 2019), <https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/jinkouchinou/pdf/humancentricai.pdf>

Inclusion—A society in which people with diverse backgrounds can pursue their own well-being; and (3) Sustainability—A sustainable society.

The social principles themselves are meant to be implemented across Japanese society, including national and local governments, as well as in multilateral frameworks. They include seven principles for AI:

- Human-Centric—The utilization of AI must not infringe upon the fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution and international standards and AI should be developed, utilized, and implemented in society to expand the abilities of people and allow diverse people to pursue their own well-being;
- Education/Literacy—All stakeholders must have an accurate understanding of AI, knowledge, and ethics permitting appropriate use of AI in society;
- Privacy Protection—AI should not infringe on a person's individual freedom, dignity or equality; AI using personal data should have mechanisms to ensure accuracy and legitimacy, and to allow individuals to be substantially involved in managing the privacy of their personal data, personal data must be protected appropriately according to its degree of importance and sensitivity;
- Ensuring Security—A risk management approach is necessary as it is important to consider the balance between the benefits and risks and endeavor to improve social safety and sustainability as a whole;
- Fair Competition—Maintaining a fair competitive environment to ensure the creation of new businesses and services, maintain sustainable economic growth, and present solutions to social challenges;
- Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency—It is necessary to ensure fairness and transparency in decision-making, appropriate accountability for the results, and trust in the technology so that people who use AI are not subject to undue discrimination related to personal background or unfair treatment in terms of human dignity; and
- Innovation—The government shall proceed with regulation in a manner that reduces impediments to innovation while safeguarding privacy, security and complying with the other principles.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) updated the Governance Guidelines for implementation of AI Principles in 2022³⁵²¹ after inviting experts from consumer protection and standardization. The updated guidelines aim to operationalize the AI principles and facilitate the deployment of AI in national industries.

³⁵²¹ METI, *Governance Guidelines for Implementation of AI Principles – Expert Group on how AI Principles Should be Implemented: AI Governance Guidelines WG* (Jan. 28.2022), https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20220128_2.pdf

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METI and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) integrated and updated the existing guidelines—AI R&D Guidelines, AI Utilization Guidelines, and Governance Guidelines for Implementation of AI Principles—and compiled them into AI Guidelines for Business V 1.0 in 2024.³⁵²² The Guidelines set out ten principles: 1) human centricity 2) transparency 3) fairness 4) accountability 5) security 6) privacy 7) education and literacy, 8) fair competition, 9) innovation, and 10) safety. MIC and METI updated the guidelines again in 2025. Version 1.1 outlines the fundamental concepts necessary for the development, provision, and use of AI.³⁵²³

AI R&D Guidelines

The original AI R&D Guidelines were directed at developers.³⁵²⁴ They include 9 principles related to 1) collaboration; 2) transparency; 3) controllability; 4) safety; 5) security; 6) privacy; 7) ethics (respect human dignity and individual autonomy); 8) user assistance; and 9) accountability.

The Japanese AI R&D Guidelines influenced global AI policies. The Japanese government proposed an international discussion on AI policy at the G-7 ICT Ministers' meeting in 2016 in Kagawa-Takamatsu and presented the Guidelines to the G-7 Leaders meeting in Turin, Italy in 2017.³⁵²⁵ The Japanese AI R&D Guidelines also contributed significantly to the development of the OECD AI Principles, the first global framework for AI Policy. The OECD AI Principles were adopted by 42 countries in May 2019, and then by G-20 Nations at the Leaders' Summit hosted in Osaka, in June 2019. OECD Secretary-General thanked Prime Minister Abe and said that the OECD AI Principles, endorsed by the G-20 nations, are “affirming that the AI we want is centered on people, respects ethical and democratic values, is transparent, safe, and accountable.”

³⁵²² METI, *Call for Public Comments on Draft AI Guidelines for Business to Open* (Jan. 19, 2024), https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0119_001.html; METI, *AI Guidelines for Business Ver. 1.0* (Apr. 19, 2024),

https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20240419_9.pdf

³⁵²³ METI and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *AI Guidelines for Business Ver. 1.1* (Apr. 4, 2025),

https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20241226_1.pdf

³⁵²⁴ The Conference toward AI Network Society, *Draft AI R&D Guidelines for International Discussions* (Jul. 28, 2017), https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000507517.pdf

³⁵²⁵ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting* (Apr. 29, 2016), https://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/about.html

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AI Governance in Japan

Japan enacted the AI Act in September 2025 “to appropriately mitigate various risks inherent to AI and ensure citizens’ safety and trust.”³⁵²⁶ The Act charges the government with creating guidelines and advising companies on how to handle risks related to AI with the goal of advancing AI applications by building public trust. The Act established an AI Strategic Headquarters chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of the Cabinet Ministers and called for the creation of the AI Basic Plan. The AI Basic Plan³⁵²⁷ released in December 2025 lays out the government’s AI policy based on three principles,³⁵²⁸ all aligned to earlier documents: Promoting innovation while mitigating risks, Institutionalizing an agile response through a Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle, and Integrating domestic and international policies to become “a hub of diverse AI innovations.” The plan details specific Government initiatives around four broad policy goals—“Adopt AI,” “Create AI,” “Enhance AI Trustworthiness” by leading governance, and “Collaborate with AI” to transform into an AI society built on human-AI collaboration—to realize the ultimate goal to make Japan “the most AI-friendly country in the world.”

The 2025 AI Act and AI Action Plan continue Japan’s soft-law approach to AI governance. The actions leave open the opportunity for legally binding regulation as needed but continues with the 2021 METI finding that “legally-binding horizontal requirements for AI systems are deemed unnecessary at the moment.”³⁵²⁹ The introduction of general-purpose AI systems and the risks to national security, human rights and democratic process impacted the regulatory approach. The 2023 and 2024 Whitepapers published by Liberal Democratic Party AI Project Team consider introduction of narrow legislation for advanced AI systems with serious risks.³⁵³⁰ Japan has taken some steps towards regulations. The Cabinet Office’s AI Policy

³⁵²⁶ Public Relations Office, *Act on Promotion of Research and Development, and Utilization of Artificial Intelligence-Related Technology Now in Full Effect*, Policy-Related News, Vol. 209 (Nov. 2025), https://www.gov-online.go.jp/hlj/en/november_2025/november_2025-08.html

³⁵²⁷ Cabinet Decision, *Artificial Intelligence Basic Plan: “Japan Rebooted” through “Trustworthy AI”* (Dec. 23, 2025), https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/ai_plan/aipplan_eng_20260116.pdf

³⁵²⁸ Ibid, p. 4

³⁵²⁹ Report from the Expert Group on How AI Principles Should Be Implemented, *AI Governance in Japan Ver. 1.1* (Jul. 9, 2021), https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20210709_8.pdf

³⁵³⁰ LDP Headquarters for the Promotion of Digital Society Project Team on the Evolution and Implementation of AIs, *The AI White Paper Japan’s National Strategy in the New Era of AI* (Apr. 2023), https://www.taira-m.jp/ldp%E2%80%99s%20ai%20whitepaper_etrans_2304.pdf; *AI White Paper 2024 New Strategies in Stage II: Toward the World’s Most AI-Friendly Country* (Apr. 2024), <https://www.taira-m.jp/AI%20White%20Paper%202024.pdf>

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Study Group released its Interim Report outlining a proposal for the future of Japan's AI policy,³⁵³¹ which informed the AI Basic Plan.

In the case of sector-specific regulations, none prohibit the use of AI but rather promote the adoption of AI while requiring businesses to take appropriate measures and disclose information about risks.³⁵³² For example, the Digital Platform Transparency Act imposes requirements on large online malls, app stores, and digital advertising businesses to ensure transparency and fairness in transactions with business users, including the disclosure of key factors determining their search rankings.³⁵³³ The Financial Instruments and Exchange Act³⁵³⁴ requires businesses engaging in algorithmic high-speed trading to register with the government and requires them to establish a risk management system and maintain transaction records.³⁵³⁵

Public Participation

Japan organized a conference with public participation in advance of the 2016 G-7 ICT Ministers' meeting. The conclusions of the conference informed the 2016 Takamatsu Declaration.³⁵³⁶ The G7 ICT Ministers agreed to promote ICT technology R&D for Artificial Intelligence; meet high standards of privacy and data protection; promote accessibility and digital literacy for everyone; and respect cultural and linguistic diversity.

In October 2016, Japan³⁵³⁷ also launched a new public conference on the theme "Toward AI Network Society" with the participation of experts from industry, academia, and citizens to examine the social, economic, ethical, and legal

³⁵³¹ AI Strategic Council / AI Institutional Study Group, *Interim Report (Tentative) (Provisional Translation)* (Feb. 28, 2025), https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stmain/pdf/241227ai_en.pdf

³⁵³² Center for Strategic & International Studies, *Japan's Approach to AI Regulation and Its Impact on the 2023 G7 Presidency* (Feb. 14, 2023), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japans-approach-ai-regulation-and-its-impact-2023-g7-presidency>

³⁵³³ METI, *Digital Platforms* (Dec. 17, 2025), https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/mono_info_service/information_economy/digital_platforms/index.html

³⁵³⁴ Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 25 of 1948), <https://www.fsa.go.jp/common/law/fie01.pdf>

³⁵³⁵ Center for Strategic & International Studies, *Japan's Approach to AI Regulation and Its Impact on the 2023 G7 Presidency* (Feb. 14, 2023), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japans-approach-ai-regulation-and-its-impact-2023-g7-presidency>

³⁵³⁶ G7 Information Center, *Joint Declaration by G7 ICT Ministers (Action Plan on Implementing the Charter)* (Apr. 30, 2016), <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-declaration.html>

³⁵³⁷ Ibid

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implications of AI.³⁵³⁸ The AI Network Society conference formulated the AI R&D Guidelines. In 2019, another meeting of the Toward AI Network Society conference produced the AI Utilization Guidelines, “a commentary on the principles expected to be taken into consideration in the utilization of AI.”³⁵³⁹

The 2022 AI Governance Guidelines were elaborated following public consultation. In 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry issued a call for Public Comments on the AI Governance Guidelines for Implementation of AI Principles Ver. 1.1³⁵⁴⁰ The Governance Guidelines reflect the advice of companies, academics, legal experts, and auditors. The Digital Agency likewise solicited and heard the opinions of a wide range of people on the draft Guidelines for the Procurement and Utilization of Generative AI in public administration in 2025.³⁵⁴¹

The Cabinet Office’s AI Policy Study Group Interim Report,³⁵⁴² which outlines a vision and goal for Japan’s future AI policy landscape, was updated following a period of public participation.³⁵⁴³

Data Protection

The 2003 Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) initially governed data processing in the private sector only.³⁵⁴⁴ As of April 2022, the APPI shall apply to the private sector, national administrative agencies, local governments, national and public hospitals, national and public universities, and national research

³⁵³⁸ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, *The Conference toward AI Network Society—Release of 2020 Report* (Jul. 21, 2020),

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/7/21_1.html

³⁵³⁹ Conference toward AI Network Society, *AI Utilization Guidelines Practical Reference for AI utilization* (August 9, 2019), https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000658284.pdf

³⁵⁴⁰ METI, *Call for Public Comments on "AI Governance Guidelines for Implementation of AI Principles Ver. 1.0" Opens* (Jul. 9, 2021), https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0709_004.html

³⁵⁴¹ Digital Agency, *Opinions Will Be Invited on the (Proposed) Guidelines for the Procurement and Utilization of Generated AI for the Advancement and Renovation of Administration* (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://www.digital.go.jp/en/news/577ff41c-bb8a-450e-8ead-b59d0189924f>

³⁵⁴² AI Strategic Council/AI Institutional Study Group, *Interim Report (Tentative) (Provisional Translation)* (Feb. 28, 2025), https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stmain/pdf/241227ai_en.pdf

³⁵⁴³ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Publication of the Results of the Opinion Solicitation on the Draft Report on Verification of Competition Rules for 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the "Draft Report") and the Final Report* (Sept. 12, 2024),

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2024/9/12_2.html

³⁵⁴⁴ *Act on the Protection of Personal Information* (Act No. 57 of 2003),

<https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/data/APPI.pdf>; Japanese Law Translation, *Act on the*

Protection of Personal Information, Consolidated Text (Apr. 1, 2023),

<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4241/en>

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and development corporations.³⁵⁴⁵ This amendment accompanies the launch of a new Digital Agency in September 2021. The aim is “to accelerate the digitization of local and central government after the COVID 19 pandemic further exposed the necessity of reformation”. The Agency “commits to “Human-friendly digitalization: No one left behind”, underpinned by the vision of “Government as a service” and “Government as a startup”.”³⁵⁴⁶

The 2020 amendments to the APPI bring the law closer to the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).³⁵⁴⁷ The amendments upgrade individuals’ rights, introduce the concept of pseudonymization, reinforce data breach reporting, and increase penalties for offenders. In January 2019, the European Commission adopted an adequacy decision on Japan’s APPI, allowing personal data to flow freely between the two economies.³⁵⁴⁸

Prime Minister Abe put forward the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) in a speech at the World Economic Forum in January 2019.³⁵⁴⁹ Abe said, “We must, on one hand, be able to put our personal data and data embodying intellectual property, national security intelligence, and so on, under careful protection, while on the other hand, we must enable the free flow of medical, industrial, traffic and other most useful, non-personal, anonymous data to see no borders, repeat, no borders.” Abe underscored the importance of privacy protection, explaining that the DFFT regime should be built on “non-personal data.” Abe further emphasized that the appropriate framework for the protection and governance of data according to their sensitivity would allow higher freedom of data flow across

³⁵⁴⁵ Personal Information Protection Commission, Japanese Law Translation, *Outline of the Act on the Arrangement of Related Laws for the Formation of a Digital Society* (May 21, 2022), https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/outline/36/211105155408_905R305.pdf

³⁵⁴⁶ Digital Agency, *Priority Policy Program for Realizing Digital Society* (Jul. 22, 2022), https://www.digital.go.jp/assets/contents/node/basic_page/field_ref_resources/0f321c23-517f-439e-9076-5804f0a24b59/fdefa215/20220722_en_priority_summary_01.pdf

³⁵⁴⁷ Personal Information Protection Commission, of Japan. *Amended Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Tentative Translation)*(Jun. 12, 2020), https://www.ppc.go.jp/files/pdf/overview_amended_act.pdf ; Review of the APPI must be made every three years

³⁵⁴⁸ European Commission, *European Commission Adopts Adequacy Decision on Japan, Creating the World's Largest Area of Safe Data Flows* (Jan. 23, 2019), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_421; Masao Horibe, *The Realization of Mutual Adequacy Recognition Between Japan and the EU and Issues Raised in the Process*, *Global Privacy Law Review*, vol. 1, no. 3 (2020), <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/Global+Privacy+Law+Review/1.3/GPLR2020091>

³⁵⁴⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, *Speech by Prime Minister Abe at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting: Toward a New Era of “Hope-Driven Economy”* (Jan. 23, 2019), https://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ec/page4e_000973.html

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borders. The G20 Leaders adopted the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust at the 2019 Summit,³⁵⁵⁰ and reaffirmed the goal at the 2020 Summit in Riyadh.³⁵⁵¹

Regulatory cooperation for DFFT was also discussed at the Digital Ministers' G7 Digital Track during the G7 Germany 2022 and was a key topic during the G7 Digital Ministers' meeting in Takasaki in April 2023 as well.³⁵⁵²

The G7 2022 Action Plan for Promoting DFFT emphasized the importance of regulatory cooperation. Key topics for discussion include regulatory approaches related to privacy-enhancing technologies and interoperability of data protection frameworks, as well as regulatory cooperation between data protection and privacy authorities on enforcing data protection and related laws and regulations.³⁵⁵³

The third G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities Roundtable took place in Japan in June 2023. Issues such as "the promotion of DFFT, cross-border enforcement cooperation and advanced technologies and privacy protection with the aim of fostering cooperation amongst each other" were addressed.³⁵⁵⁴ Relatedly, in 2025, the PPC presented its Global Strategy as a way for Japan's government to promote "Data Free Flow with Trust" (DFFT).³⁵⁵⁵

The Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC), established in 2016, supervises the implementation of the APPI. PPC members exercise their official authority independently. The PPC also supervises the implementation of the My Number Act, which regulates the use of numeric identifiers for social security and taxation.³⁵⁵⁶

³⁵⁵⁰ The Japan Times, *Full text of the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration* (Jun. 29, 2019), <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/06/29/national/full-text-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration/>

³⁵⁵¹ G20 Riyadh Summit, *Leaders' Declaration* (Nov. 21–22, 2020), <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁵⁵² Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, *Results of G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma* (Apr. 30, 2023), https://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7digital-tech-2023/en/topics/topics_20230430.html

³⁵⁵³ Ibid

³⁵⁵⁴ Personal Information Protection Commission, *The 3rd G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities Roundtable* (2023), https://www.ppc.go.jp/en/aboutus/roles/international/conferences/g7injapan2023_en/; See in particular, G7 Germany, *Roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities: Promoting Data Free Flow with Trust and Knowledge Sharing about the Prospects for International Data Spaces* (Sept. 8, 2022), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G7/Communique-2022.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1

³⁵⁵⁵ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Global Strategy of the Personal Information Protection Commission* (Mar. 26, 2025), https://www.ppc.go.jp/files/pdf/global_strategy_r7.pdf

³⁵⁵⁶ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Act on the Use of Numbers to Identify a Specific Individual in the Administrative Procedure* (May 31, 2013), <https://www.ppc.go.jp/files/pdf/en3.pdf>; <https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/2755>

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The PPC is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2017.³⁵⁵⁷ The PPC endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,³⁵⁵⁸ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,³⁵⁵⁹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology³⁵⁶⁰ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.³⁵⁶¹

Algorithmic Transparency

Japanese law does not contain a general right of algorithmic transparency, and Japan is not a signatory of the Council of Europe's Convention 108+, which contains transparency obligations for processing personal data.³⁵⁶² However, there are specific provisions for certain sectors. For example, for financial services, the Comprehensive Guidelines for Supervision over Major Banks require that the concerned individual be provided with specific explanations of the reasons for the rejection of a request to conclude a loan agreement.³⁵⁶³

In July 2022, the Tokyo District Court ruled in favor of Hanryumura, a Korean-style BBQ restaurant chain operator in an antitrust case brought against Kakaku.com, operator of Tabelog, Japan's largest restaurant review platform. Japanese legal experts have said an antitrust case related to a local restaurant website could change how large internet platforms such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon

³⁵⁵⁷ 39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, *Accreditation resolution* (Sept. 26, 2017), <http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Accreditation-resolution-2017.pdf>

³⁵⁵⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁵⁵⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³⁵⁶⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

³⁵⁶¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³⁵⁶² Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

³⁵⁶³ Official Journal of the European Union, *Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/419 of 23 January 2019 pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the adequate protection of personal data by Japan under the Act on the Protection of Personal Information*, par. 93 (Mar. 19, 2019), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2019/419/oj/eng

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operate in the country, forcing them to reveal the inner workings of their secret algorithms. “There hasn’t been a case in competition law anywhere else in the world where a court has requested a digital platform to disclose its algorithm,” said Kentaro Hirayama, a lawyer specializing in antitrust issues and formerly with Japan Fair Trade Commission, the country’s antitrust regulator. The internet company has appealed against the decision.³⁵⁶⁴

Japan's MIC and METI released an updated version of the AI Guidelines for Business (Version 1.1) in 2025.³⁵⁶⁵ The updated guidelines mandate that business actors implement comprehensive governance policies, actively monitor AI-related risks, and establish disclosure mechanisms to ensure transparency. The guidelines are structured according to three tiers, defining foundational values (human dignity, inclusion, and sustainability) and setting out ten cross-sector principles for responsible AI development and deployment. Version 1.1 strengthens corporate accountability requirements in AI deployment across all sectors.

Facial Recognition

Japan has deployed facial recognition in several sectors, including transportation, banking (ATMs), police, and immigration. Japan used facial recognition technology originally intended for security purposes, along with thermal scans to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus when it hosted the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2021.³⁵⁶⁶ Go Iwashita, the Director of the Security Bureau for Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, said “Throughout the game, four million facial recognition operations had been performed and we received no reports of failure.”³⁵⁶⁷

Osaka Metro Co. has developed automated ticket gates with facial recognition with a view to equipping all metro stations in Osaka by 2024, ahead of

³⁵⁶⁴ Financial Times, *Japanese court ruling poised to make Big Tech open up on algorithms* (Jul. 3, 2022), <https://www.ft.com/content/f360f766-7865-4821-b740-ca0276efec19?syn-25a6b1a6=1>

³⁵⁶⁵ Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *AI Guidelines for Business Ver. 1.1* (Apr. 4, 2025), https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20241226_1.pdf; See also, International Bar Association, *Japan's Emerging Framework for Responsible AI: Legislation, Guidelines and Guidance* (Jul. 16, 2025), <https://www.ibanet.org/japan-emerging-framework-ai-legislation-guidelines>

³⁵⁶⁶ Inside The Games, *Facial Recognition Cameras Could Be Used to Slow COVID-19 Spread at Tokyo 2020* (Oct. 22, 2020), <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/facial-recognition-system-tokyo-2020>

³⁵⁶⁷ HuffPost, *Facial Recognition Performed “4 Million Times”: Behind the Scenes, Ensuring Safety and Security at the Tokyo 2020 Games* (in Japanese) (Nov. 29, 2021), https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/entry/nec-visionary-week-2021_jp_618cdfc8e4b0b1ace9213aff

the 2025 World Expo.³⁵⁶⁸ Likewise, the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is testing facial recognition ticketing on driverless buses in several cities across the country.³⁵⁶⁹

In September 2020, Japan Times reported that Japanese Police Forces have been using facial recognition technology across the nation since March 2020 to locate criminal suspects. Critics warned that the system could transform the country into a surveillance society unless it operates under strict regulations, a senior National Police Agency (NPA) official said “we are using the system only for criminal investigations and within the scope of the law. We discard facial images that are found to be unrelated to cases.”³⁵⁷⁰ The NPA manages and utilizes facial images under rules set by the National Public Safety Commission, a Japanese Cabinet Office commission that guarantees the neutrality of the police system by insulating the force from political pressure and ensuring the maintenance of democratic methods in police administration. The NPA also manages fingerprints and DNA under the Public Safety Commission. The agency’s database currently holds 10 million facial images of criminal suspects.

Japan does not have specific legislation for facial recognition in the government sector. As of September 2020, the Japanese APPI covers the use of facial biometric data gathered from security cameras.³⁵⁷¹ Law enforcement is however exempt from this type of privacy regulation. APPI also allows the use of anonymized facial recognition data beyond the intended purposes if such data is sufficiently protected from being restored to its original form. The Personal Information Protection Commission formed a committee of experts in January 2022 to review and prepare a guideline for the appropriate use of camera images for crime prevention and safety in public spaces.³⁵⁷² The draft guidelines were released for public comment in January 2023. The PPC supports the use of facial recognition cameras in public places for crime prevention or security purposes but recommends that operators increase transparency so as not to cause undue anxiety to those being filmed.

³⁵⁶⁸ The Mainichi, *Osaka Metro to Introduce Facial Recognition Ticket Gates ahead of 2025 Expo* (Dec 11, 2019) <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20191210/p2a/00m/0bu/020000c>

³⁵⁶⁹ NFCW, *Japanese Passengers Test Facial Recognition Ticketing on Driverless Buses* (Sept. 10, 2020), <https://www.nfcw.com/2020/09/10/367826/japanese-passengers-test-facial-recognition-ticketing-on-driverless-buses> ;

³⁵⁷⁰ Biometric Update, *Police in Japan Reveal Use of Facial Biometrics in Criminal Probes* (Sept. 16, 2020), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202009/police-in-japan-reveal-use-of-facial-biometrics-in-criminal-probes>

³⁵⁷¹ Ibid

³⁵⁷² Personal Information Protection Commission, *Report of Expert Review Panel on the Use of Camera Images for Crime Prevention and Safety* [Report in Japanese] (Mar. 2023), https://www.ppc.go.jp/personalinfo/camera_utilize/

Biometric Identification

In 2021, the Digital Agency was tasked to accelerate the digitization of public services, industries, and lifestyle through the My Number System and My Number Card. The My Number System relates primarily to the Social Security and Tax Number System, which provides one unique number to all registered residents. The system centralizes all personal information dispersed across various administrations with the aim to improve the efficiency of public services. The My Number Card can be used as an official identification card as well as a multi-purpose card for a wide range of public services or for various private on-line transactions.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, former Director-General of the Administrative Management Bureau at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Mr. Susumu Kamimura explained in a paper that the “black-box effect” is “more likely the reason AI has not been deployed in the public sector, where transparency and accountability are often more important than efficiency and low-cost.”³⁵⁷³ The paper also raised privacy as a concern, noting that “Japanese people are extremely sensitive to a lack of privacy, and that is the main reason Japan does not have a true national ID system, and its partial substitute—My Number—has not been fully implemented. An AI-powered precise identification of personal features will not be readily tolerated.”³⁵⁷⁴

A survey to study the attitudes toward the My Number Card by Kioicho Strategy Institute demonstrated that, “Among respondents, 59.4% said they have a My Number Card, which roughly corresponds to the 55.7% of Japanese as a whole. [...] By contrast, 18.4% of respondents said that they had no intention of obtaining a card.”³⁵⁷⁵ The Japanese government conducted a campaign to give card holders up to ¥20,000 worth of My Number Points to be used for shopping and other purposes to encourage sign-ups.

In February 2023, the Tokyo Medical Practitioners Association filed a lawsuit against the government with the Tokyo District Court to prevent the replacement of patients’ insurance cards with My Number from April 2023. The suit claims that the Health Insurance Act should be amended before the government can require medical practices to accept My Number.³⁵⁷⁶ As of 2025, the My Number Card system

³⁵⁷³ Susumu Kamimura, *Artificial Intelligence and Lessons from Japan’s Public Sector*, Nihon University Bulletin 60 (2018), p. 11, https://www.publication.law.nihon-u.ac.jp/pdf/bulletin/bulletin_60/each/12.pdf

³⁵⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10

³⁵⁷⁵ Nippon.com, *Only Fraction of Japanese Residents Use My Number ID Card for Health Insurance*, nippon.com (Nov. 7, 2022), <https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-data/h01482/>

³⁵⁷⁶ Alessandro Mascellino, *Doctors in Japan Challenge Govt Mandatory Use of Digital ID for Health Services* (Feb. 23, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202302/doctors-in-japan-challenge-govt-mandatory-use-of-digital-id-for-health-services>

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continues to expand gradually as a key component of Japan's digital government strategy under the Digital Agency. The system remains central to the government's efforts to improve administrative efficiency and expand digital public services, though public adoption continues to progress incrementally. In 2026, the government plans to use the My Number Card as a health insurance credential. While emergency professionals already have access to patient data through the My Number card, the next phase would include nationwide rollout of medical records, secondary use of medical data and digitization of areas such as medical subsidies and maternal-child health services.³⁵⁷⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

Japan announced plans in October 2020 to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and has since accelerated efforts to eliminate emissions.³⁵⁷⁸ The Green Growth Strategy hinges on decarbonizing the production of electricity through renewable energy and hydrogen power and shifting sectors such as transportation to electricity. Through the Strategy, Japan plans to leverage various methods to decrease energy demand and carbon emissions, including taxation as well as innovation.³⁵⁷⁹

Rather than viewing regulation and carbon taxes as hindrances to innovation, Japan's Director of the Environmental Policy Division in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Kawahara Kei sees opportunity: "While increasing Japan's industrial competitiveness, we will make our contribution to the world by spreading Japanese technology overseas."³⁵⁸⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Since 2014, Japan has participated in international talks on lethal autonomous weapons systems. Japan often states that it has "no plans" to acquire such weapons and highlights the need to retain meaningful human control over the use of force. However, Japan does not support the negotiation for a new treaty to address mounting

³⁵⁷⁷ Digital Agency, *New Year's Reflection by MATSUMOTO Hisashi, Minister for Digital Transformation* (Jan. 5, 2026), <https://www.digital.go.jp/en/news/92516179-9e0a-4a0b-8576-d32479dede1c> ; See also Biometric Update.com, *Japan Outlines Next Phase of Digital Transformation in New Year Message* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202601/japan-outlines-next-phase-of-digital-transformation-in-new-year-message>

³⁵⁷⁸ JapanGov, *Japan's Green Growth Strategy Will Accelerate Innovation* (Sept. 16, 2021), https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/2021/09/green_growth_strategy.html

³⁵⁷⁹ Mark Minevich, *Japan's Green IT: A Game Changer in Environmental Sustainability* (Jul. 18, 2023), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markminevich/2023/07/18/japans-green-it-a-game-changer-in-environmental-sustainability/>

³⁵⁸⁰ JapanGov, *Japan's Green Growth Strategy Will Accelerate Innovation* (Sept. 16, 2021), https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/2021/09/green_growth_strategy.html

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concerns over fully autonomous weapons and has yet to join the group of 29 countries calling for a prohibition on such weapons.³⁵⁸¹

In December 2021, Japan and other countries blocked any advancement in U.N. talks toward legally binding measures to ban and regulate the development and use of lethal autonomous weapon systems. The Sixth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons ended in December 2021 in Geneva without progress, failing to reflect eight years of work and leaving countries and nongovernmental organizations that have called for legally binding rules expressing disappointment.³⁵⁸²

At the 77th UN General Assembly First Committee meeting in October 2022, Japan issued a statement, noting that the country “recognizes the meaningful results achieved by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in the discussion on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the past years, as one of the key topics under the CCW. Despite the sensitivity and complexity of this issue, intensive deliberations at the GGE meetings have significantly contributed to fostering bases for common understanding. Japan believes it is beneficial for the High Contracting Parties to continue the discussion on LAWS step-by-step within the CCW framework. Japan also welcomes many proposals submitted to the GGE this year to advance such discussion. Japan will continue to actively contribute to international rulemaking.”³⁵⁸³

Japan was also among the 70 countries that delivered a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 77th UN General Assembly. In this joint statement, States urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”³⁵⁸⁴ In a 2024 statement to UN,

³⁵⁸¹ Human Rights Watch, *Japan: Retain Human Control Over the Use of Force* (Sept. 6, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/06/japan-retain-human-control-over-use-force>

³⁵⁸² Kyodo News, *Japan, U.S. Block Advancement in U.N. Talks on Autonomous Weapons* (Dec. 20, 2021), <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/12/c086de7578e9-japan-us-block-advancement-in-un-talks-on-autonomous-weapons.html>

³⁵⁸³ UN General Assembly, *Statement of Japan at the First Committee of the 77th Session of the General Assembly* (Oct. 2022), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com22/statements/21Oct_Japan.pdf

³⁵⁸⁴ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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Japan supported the view that “the obligations of IHL apply to all weapon systems, including LAWS, that weapon systems must not be used if they are incapable of being used in compliance with IHL [...] Japan recognizes that, in the use of weapon systems, human responsibility cannot be transferred to machines, and we must ensure that they are operated under a responsible chain of human command and control in a manner consistent with the obligations of states under IHL, and that responsibility is clearly attributed.”³⁵⁸⁵

Representatives from Japan³⁵⁸⁶ agreed a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain following the February 2023 Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) in The Hague.³⁵⁸⁷ Japan also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.³⁵⁸⁸ Japan was also involved in the Global Commission on Responsible AI in the Military Domain launched at the 2023 REAIM Summit and concluded its efforts with a report in 2025.³⁵⁸⁹

The Republic of Korea hosted the second REAIM summit in 2024. Japan endorsed the outcome document, the Blueprint for Action,³⁵⁹⁰ which outlines principles for AI governance and emphasizes international law compliance, accountability, and human oversight.³⁵⁹¹

AI Literacy

Japan has advanced AI literacy as part of its digital transformation strategy. In 2024–2025, the Ministry of Education (MEXT) updated school guidelines to

³⁵⁸⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, *Working Paper Submitted by Japan to the United Nations on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapon systems (LAWS)* (May 24, 2024), <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100687671.pdf>

³⁵⁸⁶ Government of the Netherlands, *REAIM 2023 Endorsing Countries and Territories* (Feb. 21, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-endorsing-countries>

³⁵⁸⁷ Government of the Netherlands, *REAIM 2023 Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

³⁵⁸⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

³⁵⁸⁹ The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, *Global Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (GC REAIM)*, <https://hcass.nl/gcreaim/>

³⁵⁹⁰ REAIM24, *Blueprint for Action* (Sept. 11, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/down.do?brd_id=235&seq=375378&data_tp=A&file_seq=9

³⁵⁹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept. 10, 2024), https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=322676

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strengthen students' understanding of AI fundamentals, ethics, and responsible use.³⁵⁹²

To address the 58% of teachers who felt underprepared to teach AI (per a 2022 survey), MEXT launched the AI Education Accelerator Program to train 50,000 educators by 2025 in partnership with firms like SoftBank Robotics.³⁵⁹³ The program offers sustained training focused on integrating AI literacy, ethics, and data protection under the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI). This initiative supports Japan's AI Strategy 2022 goal for all high school graduates to gain basic literacy in mathematics, data science, and AI.³⁵⁹⁴ Classrooms emphasize critical thinking, testing AI outputs, debating ethical issues such as facial recognition, and applying AI tools in projects. Schools are also adopting AI-powered platforms like LEAF, featuring tools such as BookRoll for interactive learning and LogPalette for data visualization to personalize education and support teachers.

Human Rights

Freedom House rates Japan as “Free” with 2025 score of 96/100.³⁵⁹⁵ Political rights and civil liberties in Japan are generally well respected. However, outstanding challenges in the country include ethnic and gender-based discrimination and claims of improperly close relations between the government and the business sector.

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Japan participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.³⁵⁹⁶ Japan thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth,

³⁵⁹² Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), *School Guidelines on AI Education (Summary)* (2024–2025), https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20250422-mxt_shuukyo01-000030823_001.pdf

³⁵⁹³ Nucamp, *The Complete Guide to Using AI in the Education Industry in Japan in 2025* (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.nucamp.co/blog/coding-bootcamp-japan-jpn-education-the-complete-guide-to-using-ai-in-the-education-industry-in-japan-in-2025>; AI Track, *New School Guidelines in Japan Emphasize AI Education* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://theaitrack.com/school-guidelines-in-japan-ai-education/>

³⁵⁹⁴ Government of Japan, *AI Strategy 2022* (Apr. 22, 2022), <https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/ai/aistratagy2022en.pdf>

³⁵⁹⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Japan* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/japan/freedom-world/2025>

³⁵⁹⁶ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister's Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit*, (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.” In line with this global trend, Prime Minister Kishida announced the establishment of the AI Safety Institute (AISI).³⁵⁹⁷ The Integrated Innovation Strategy 2024 announced that the AISI will be established within the Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan (IPA) as a central institution for AI safety and will promote the securing of specialized human resources and the consolidation of technical knowledge.³⁵⁹⁸

Japan continued the commitment to AI safety and international cooperation by participating in the AI Seoul Summit in May 2024, endorsing the Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, and Inclusive AI³⁵⁹⁹ and the Seoul Statement of Intent toward International Cooperation on AI Safety Science.³⁶⁰⁰ In September 2024, AISI published the Guide to Evaluation Perspectives on AI Safety, offering guidance to individuals involved in the development and provision of AI systems with guidance on evaluating AI safety.³⁶⁰¹ AISI also published the National Status Report on AI Safety in Japan 2024, outlining its progress and future objectives in AI safety.³⁶⁰²

In 2025, Japan participated in the third AI Safety Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit, held in Paris, France. The Paris Summit marked a significant shift in focus from safety and risk management to AI adoption and action, with over 1,000

³⁵⁹⁷ METI, *Launch of AI Safety Institute* (Feb. 14, 2024),

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0214_001.html

³⁵⁹⁸ Japan Cabinet Office, *Integrated Innovation Strategy 2024* (Jun. 4, 2024),

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tougosenryaku/2024.html>

³⁵⁹⁹ Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders’ Session on 21 May 2024* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-by-participants-attending-the-leaders-session-ai-seoul-summit-21-may-2024>

³⁶⁰⁰ Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *Seoul Statement of Intent toward International Cooperation on AI Safety Science* (May 21, 2024),

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-statement-of-intent-toward-international-cooperation-on-ai-safety-science-ai-seoul-summit-2024-annex>

³⁶⁰¹ Japan AI Safety Institute, *Guide to Evaluation Perspectives on AI Safety* (Sept. 25, 2024),

https://aisi.go.jp/assets/pdf/ai_safety_eval_v1.01_en.pdf

³⁶⁰² Japan AI Safety Institute, *National Status Report on AI Safety in Japan 2024* (Feb. 5, 2025),

https://aisi.go.jp/assets/pdf/j-aisi_report_2024_en.pdf

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participants from more than 100 countries attending.³⁶⁰³ Japan was among 61 countries and regional blocs that signed the final declaration on inclusive and sustainable artificial intelligence for people and the planet.³⁶⁰⁴

Recently, AISI established a cooperative system (J-AISI partnership) in which relevant government ministries and agencies worked together to promote AI safety.³⁶⁰⁵

G7 Hiroshima Process

In 2023, the G7, led by Prime Minister Kishida, released the G7 Leaders' Statement on the Hiroshima AI Process.³⁶⁰⁶ The G7 leaders emphasized: "We also recognize the need to manage risks and to protect individuals, society, and our shared principles including the rule of law and democratic values, keeping humankind at the center."

The G7 leaders confirmed the need for generative AI governance. Thanks to Japanese diplomacy, by the end of 2023, the G7 leaders reached an agreement on the world's first international framework, known as the G7 Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework. It includes both a set of Guiding Principles applicable to all AI actors throughout the entire AI lifecycle and a Code of Conduct that lists in more detail the actions that AI developers must abide by.³⁶⁰⁷ The Hiroshima process was supported by a report prepared by the OECD geared towards ensuring a common understanding on generative AI.³⁶⁰⁸ In 2024, Japan launched the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group to expand the number of countries and organizations committed to the Framework.³⁶⁰⁹ In 2025, as part of the G7 Hiroshima AI Process, the G7 launched the Hiroshima AI Process (HAIP) Reporting Framework, a voluntary reporting mechanism among organizations developing

³⁶⁰³ Center for Strategic and International Studies, *France's AI Action Summit* (Feb. 2025), <https://www.csis.org/analysis/frances-ai-action-summit>

³⁶⁰⁴ Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 2025), <https://onu.delegfrance.org/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and>

³⁶⁰⁵ Japan AI Safety Institute, *AISI Partnership (J-AISI Partnership)* (Sept. 29, 2025), https://aisi.go.jp/activity/activity_j-aisi_partnership/250929/

³⁶⁰⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, *G7 Leaders' Statement on the Hiroshima AI Process* (Oct 30, 2023), <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100573466.pdf>

³⁶⁰⁷ Ibid

³⁶⁰⁸ OECD, *G7 Hiroshima Process on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): Towards a G7 Common Understanding on Generative AI* (2023), <https://www.oecd.org/publications/g7-hiroshima-process-on-generative-artificial-intelligence-ai-bf3c0c60-en.htm>

³⁶⁰⁹ Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group, *Supporters*, <https://www.soumu.go.jp/hirosimaaiiprocess/en/supporters.html>

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advanced AI systems to encourage transparency and accountability.³⁶¹⁰ This framework builds on the International Guiding Principles and International Code of Conduct established in 2023 and represents a concrete implementation tool for the Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework.

Furthermore, Japan's Prime Minister addressed the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group, committing Japan to contributing to enhancing the voluntary Reporting Framework by "cooperating with international organizations and private businesses to support the improvement of the environment for the development and use of AI in the global community, including developing countries". The Prime Minister also announced the creation of AI legislation that "promotes innovation, addresses risks" to make "Japan the friendliest country in the world for research, development, and deployment of AI".³⁶¹¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Japan endorsed the OECD and the G20 AI Principles and is a member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). Japan was a catalyst for the adoption of the OECD AI Principles at the G20 Ministerial meeting in Tsukuba and the G20 Leaders' Summit in Osaka, Japan, in 2019.³⁶¹² In October 2023, the OECD published a report assessing the global implementation of the OECD AI Principles, mentioning Japan's AI governance activities in two of the five OECD values-based principles and three of the five government recommendations. The report recognizes Japan's active role in promoting responsible AI governance.³⁶¹³ In 2024, GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center has been established as the third Center after Montreal and Paris.³⁶¹⁴

³⁶¹⁰ OECD.AI, *G7 reporting framework – Hiroshima AI Process (HAIP) International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems* (Feb 2025), <https://transparency.oecd.ai>

³⁶¹¹ Prime Minister's Office of Japan, *Video Message by Prime Minister ISHIBA for the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group* (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://japan.kantei.go.jp/103/statement/202503/03message.html>

³⁶¹² CAIDP Update 1.7, *Prime Minister Abe's AI and Data Governance Legacy* (Aug. 30, 2020), <https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/caidp-update-prime-minister-abes-ai-and-data-governance-legacy>

³⁶¹³ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1787/835641c9-en>

³⁶¹⁴ National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, *Establishment of GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://www.nict.go.jp/en/press/2024/07/01-1.html>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Japan contributed as an Observer State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law. Japan signed the Convention in February 2025.³⁶¹⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Japan, along with 192 other States, endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021.

METI has been holding meetings of the Expert Group on how AI principles should be implemented. While compiling its report on the AI Governance in Japan, the Expert Group acknowledged the UNESCO Recommendation as part of the “high-level guidance from AI principles to implementation” while describing “the governance structure in the era of Society 5.0.”³⁶¹⁶ The Japanese Government also supported the launch of a platform in the UNESCO Southern Africa sub-region for the implementation of the Recommendation.³⁶¹⁷

The UNESCO Recommendations call on AI adopters to develop tools to support implementation of the Recommendations at the country level, such as the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM). Japan has not initiated the RAM process.³⁶¹⁸ The UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia published a Call for conducting landscape analyses and comparative studies of AI legal frameworks, policies, and applications in China, Japan, and South Korea.³⁶¹⁹ The project aims to provide Japan with a roadmap detailing steps to be taken at a national level to advance full implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on AI.

³⁶¹⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Signing of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (Feb. 11, 2025), https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00983.html

³⁶¹⁶ METI, *Report from the Expert Group on How AI Principles Should Be Implemented: AI Governance in Japan Ver. 1.1*, p. 9 (July 9, 2021), https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/ai_shakai_jisso/pdf/20210709_8.pdf

³⁶¹⁷ UNESCO Executive Board, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, Item 40 of the provisional agenda, pp. 2–3 (Oct. 7, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

³⁶¹⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

³⁶¹⁹ UNESCO, *Call for Baseline Assessment Research of Artificial Intelligence in China, Japan and South Korea* (Dec. 11, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-baseline-assessment-research-artificial-intelligence-china-japan-and-south-korea>

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Evaluation

Japan is a pioneer in the field of AI policy. Japan hosted the G20 Leaders' meeting in Osaka in 2019 at which time the G20 nations endorsed the OECD AI Principles. The former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promoted the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), a core concept for human-centric AI, that carries forward in the policy recommendations of the OECD, the G20, the G7 and the European Commission. During Japanese Presidency of G7 in 2023 the first international framework on generative AI was adopted. Japan also endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and is taking steps toward its implementation. Japan has also signed the Council of Europe's AI Treaty.

Japan represents a third-way approach to AI policy, positioned between the strict, sanctions-based model of the EU AI Act and the generally more market-led stance of the United States. Japan has long relied on soft law through non-binding guidelines, voluntary cooperation and reputational incentives. The 2024 AI Business Operator Guidelines issued by the METI and the MIC illustrate this, relying on iterative governance as a living document. The AI Promotion Act continues this structure by setting broad principles and duties of cooperation but without explicit penalties. The AI Basic Plan and AI Strategy Headquarters mark progress on further implementation. However, concerns about the unregulated use of facial recognition remain.

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Jordan

In 2025, Jordan trained approximately 9000 public employees on the potential and uses of AI in public administration as part of the implementation of the National AI Strategy.

National AI Strategy

The Government of Jordan, through the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MoDEE), issued the Jordanian Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020³⁶²⁰ to enhance future comprehensive cross-sectoral social and economic development, keep abreast of the steady changes in AI, harness economic benefits, and improve the performance of government sectors. To implement this Policy and manage the outputs, a National Ministerial Committee for Artificial Intelligence formed under a decision by the Council of Ministers. The Committee is headed by the Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, with members from ministries and government institutions working in data-rich sectors such as health, education, finance, energy, clean technology, cyberspace, transportation, justice and community protection. The strategy makes provision for a dedicated AI and regulatory data authority. As of early 2026, the country has no standalone AI regulatory authority but operates through institutional oversight and operational mechanisms, through the Personal Data Protection Council and the Data Protection Unit.³⁶²¹

Jordan's Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Plan of 2023–2027³⁶²² evolved from the previous strategies and policies regulating digital transformation and digital technology. The strategy was developed in collaboration with international partners, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), and the European Union Delegation in Jordan.

The AI Strategy³⁶²³ defines five strategic pillars, including: 1) Capacity-building and developing national skills and expertise in AI; 2) Encouraging scientific

³⁶²⁰ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Jordan Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020* (Dec. 2022), https://modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/ai_final_-_english_version.pdf

³⁶²¹ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Personal Data Protection Council*, https://www.modee.gov.jo/EN/Pages/Personal_Data_Protection_Council

³⁶²² UNIDO, *Jordan presents Its AI Strategy and Implementation Roadmap* (Nov. 17, 2022), <https://www.unido.org/news/jordan-presents-its-ai-strategy-and-implementation-roadmap>

³⁶²³ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Jordan's Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023-2027* (Nov. 17, 2022), https://www.modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/40435648.pdf

research and development related to AI; 3) Enhancing investment and entrepreneurship environment; 4) Supporting a legislative and regulatory environment conducive for the safer adoption of AI technologies; and 5) Applying AI tools to improve the efficiency of government services and the public sector.

As part of the Policy, the Committee prepared a National Charter on AI Ethics.³⁶²⁴ The Charter provides a framework of principles and guidelines related to the accountability of AI operating systems and ensuring their transparency in decision-making and impartiality in data processing and data privacy. The principles include accountability, transparency, impartiality, respect for personal privacy, promotion of human values and other guidelines that promote rule of law, human rights, democratic values and diversity. Additionally, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship has prepared a National AI Code of Ethics in cooperation with the relevant authorities from the government, private and academic sectors, civil society institutions and security authorities.³⁶²⁵

Public Participation

The MoDEE maintains a platform for public consultations and surveys.³⁶²⁶ The landing page for the platform lists consultations from 2019, however. An undated press release³⁶²⁷ announces a consultation on the National Charter on the Ethics of AI with a deadline in March 2022, suggesting some public participation in the formation of national AI policies. The notice instructs those interested to access a draft from the MoDEE website or social media. A similar press release announced a consultation of one month on the AI Strategy and Implementation Plan in 2022,³⁶²⁸ again referring potential participants to a draft available on the MoDEE website and social media.

³⁶²⁴ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *National Charter for Artificial Intelligence Ethics* (Aug. 3, 2022), <https://modee.gov.jo/Ar/NewsDetails/الميثاق الوطني لاخلاقيات الذكاء الاصطناعي>

³⁶²⁵ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *The National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics* [اقالوطن بالخالقيات الذكاء الاصطناعي] (Aug. 3, 2022), https://modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/النسخة النهائية - ميثاق الاخلاقيات - المقررة من الرئاسة 3-8-2022 العربية والانجليزية/0.pdf

³⁶²⁶ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Public Consultations and Surveys*, https://www.modee.gov.jo/En/List/Public_Consultations_and_Surveys

³⁶²⁷ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *MODEE Presents the Draft of the National Charter on the Ethics of (AI) for General Consultation*, https://www.modee.gov.jo/En/NewsDetails/MODEE_presents_the_draft_of_the_national_charter_on_the_ethics_of_AI_for_general_consultation

³⁶²⁸ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *The Ministry of Digital Economy Entrepreneurship Presents the Draft Jordanian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and Its Implementation Plan 2023–2027 for Public Consultation*, https://www.modee.gov.jo/En/NewsDetails/The_ministry_of_digital_economy_Entrepreneurship_presents_the_draft_Jordanian_strategy_for_artificial_intelligence_and_its_implementation_plan_2023_2027_for_public_consultation

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UNIDO reported that the strategy and roadmap was developed “in close consultation with the public, private sector and academia.”³⁶²⁹

The Open Government Partnership 2023 review of Jordan’s action plan³⁶³⁰ for open government identified Jordan’s plans to create a centralized portal to receive citizen input on draft laws and policies as promising. The portal would unite ministries’ individual consultations on social media or in person. The review suggests linking the platform to social media to connect with users and to provide a mechanism to ensure citizens can see their comments taken into account.

Data Protection

The Personal Data Protection Law No. (24) of 2023³⁶³¹ states that every natural person has the right to protect their Data, and processing of such Data shall be permitted only after obtaining the consent of the Data Subject or in cases permitted by law. The Data Subject has the following rights: 1) Awareness and access to the Data held by the Controller and the ability to obtain it; 2) Withdrawal of Consent; 3) Correction, amendment, addition, or update of Data; 4) Limiting Personal Data Processing to a specific scope; 5) Erasure or concealment of Data according to the provisions of this law; 6) Objection to Processing and Profiling if they are unnecessary for the purposes for which the Data was collected, or excessive in relation to those purposes, discriminatory, prejudiced, or in violation of the law; 7) Transfer of a copy of their Data from one controller to another; 8) Being notified of any Data Breach or violation regarding the security and integrity of their Data.

The Personal Data Protection Directorate (PDPD), a regulatory unit under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, is responsible for safeguarding personal data and ensuring the right to privacy.³⁶³² The PDPD ensures compliance with the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law as well as the regulations and instructions issued in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The unit aims to enhance Jordan's position in the field of personal data protection and the development of legislation and policies that support the protection of the digital environment. The Public Service Department of PDPD is responsible for receiving complaints, reports, and inquiries related to privacy and personal data protection, investigating them, and

³⁶²⁹ UNIDO, *Jordan Presents Its AI Strategy and Implementation Roadmap* (Nov. 17, 2022), <https://www.unido.org/news/jordan-presents-its-ai-strategy-and-implementation-roadmap>

³⁶³⁰ Open Government Partnership, *Jordan Action Plan Review 2021–2025* (Jan. 18, 2023), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/jordan-action-plan-review-2021-2025/>

³⁶³¹ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Personal Data Protection Law No. (24) of 2023* (Sep. 17, 2023), https://www.modce.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/pdpl.pdf

³⁶³² Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Personal Data Protection Directorate (PDPD)* (2025), <https://www.modce.gov.jo/EN/Pages/False>

providing responses following transparent, confidential, and high-quality procedures.

The Personal Data Protection Directorate is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly and thus ineligible to sponsor GPA resolutions.³⁶³³

Algorithmic Transparency

Jordan has established components of algorithmic transparency as a legal right through the Personal Data Protection Law.³⁶³⁴ The law provides the right for data subjects to be informed about data processing activities and their purposes but it does not explicitly require data controllers to explain the internal logic of the algorithm. This law is enforceable by criminal and financial penalties, ensuring that transparency is not merely a voluntary ethical guideline.

Under the Article 4(B)(6) of the Law, Jordanian citizens have the right to object to automated processing if it is considered unnecessary, excessive, or discriminatory. This legal right forces a review of the processing, effectively allowing citizens to contest adverse automated decisions, though it does not grant the right to challenge the logic of automated decisions.

The National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics extends these protections and encourages disclosing the foundations and mechanisms of action behind decisions.³⁶³⁵ The code promotes a technical understanding of how decisions are reached, though it remains voluntary.

AI in Public Administration

The Prime Minister's office held a dialogue session titled Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Developing Arab Public Administration in 2026.³⁶³⁶ The session brought together Minister of State for Public Sector Development Badria Al Balbisi, Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Sami Smeirat, and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Samira Zoubi. At the event, the Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship highlighted the government's integrated national project "to raise awareness and

³⁶³³ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2025),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

³⁶³⁴ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Personal Data Protection Law No. 24 of 2023* (Sept. 17, 2023), https://www.modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/pdpl.pdf

³⁶³⁵ The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, *The National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics*, (Aug. 3, 2022), https://modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/-/ميثاق_الاخلاقيات_النسخة_النهائية_-_ميثاق_الاخلاقيات_0.pdf

³⁶³⁶ Jordan News Agency, *Prime Ministry Holds Session on AI Apps in Developing Arab Public Administration* (Jan. 24, 2026),

https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=80617&lang=en&name=en_news

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build capacities in artificial intelligence.” By the end of 2025, the Minister reported, approximately 9000 people would receive training, with the third phase targeting 3000 government employees. The plan aims to build awareness and capacity among 15,000 government employees by the end of 2027.

Environmental Impact of AI

While Jordan has no specific national policy on AI's environmental impact, the AI Strategy lists “environment” as one of 12 priority deployment sectors. Likewise, the National Code of AI Ethics includes a principle on Sustainability and Environment. The Code requires “ensuring that artificial intelligence techniques do not unnecessarily drain energy resources and raise their effectiveness and efficiency, thus reducing their carbon impact on the environment and limiting climate change.”³⁶³⁷

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Jordan is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)³⁶³⁸ and a member of the CCW’s Group of the Non-Aligned Movement³⁶³⁹ and the Arab Group in the United Nations. Both groups support a legally binding international instrument on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). A NAM statement at a 2023 GGE on LAWS stressed “an urgent need to pursue a legally binding instrument under the Convention that will contain prohibitions and regulations for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.”³⁶⁴⁰

AI Literacy

The Jordanian Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Plan (2023–2027) includes AI Literacy under its first objective, which is “building

³⁶³⁷ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, *National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics*, https://modee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/-_النسخة_النهائية_-_مبتااق_الاخلاقيات_0-.pdf المقرة من الرئاسة 2022-8-3 العربية والانجليزية

³⁶³⁸ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

³⁶³⁹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups—CCW* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

³⁶⁴⁰ Non-Aligned Movement, *Statement on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Convention Weapons (CCW) by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva* (Mar. 6, 2023), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2023/gge/statements/6March_NAM.pdf

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capacities and developing Jordanian skills and expertise in the field of artificial intelligence”.³⁶⁴¹ The Strategy positions the development of AI skills and human capacity as a central pillar by focusing on general literacy and operational readiness. It explicitly aims to raise awareness of AI technologies and their ethical use across the public sector and wider community. It also directs the inclusion of AI concepts in school and university curricula to ensure that students gain a basic understanding of what AI is and its societal impacts.

The strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to AI literacy across three pillars:

- Public and Societal Awareness
- Education and Academic Integration of AI topics and digital literacy
- Workforce and Government Upskilling

To prevent labor displacement and ensure economic participation, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship leads upskilling initiatives regarding public sector training and vocational upskilling.³⁶⁴²

Human Rights

Freedom House ranks Jordan as “Partly Free” with a score of 34/100 for political rights and civil liberties in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.³⁶⁴³ Greater representation for political parties in the legislature following electoral reforms that led to more competitive elections led to Jordan’s status change from Not Free to Partly Free. While the elections led to greater representation, the king still dominates politics and governance and the judiciary remains hindered. Freedom of expression and of the press remain limited by laws such as the 2023 Cybercrime Prevention Law and government pressure. Organizations advocating for LGBT+ rights have especially been targeted.

Civil society organizations have denounced the Cybercrime Law of 2023.³⁶⁴⁴ The law expanded the scope of previous Cybercrimes Law and implemented “harsh penalties” for offenses such as spreading fake news, threatening peace, and contempt

³⁶⁴¹ Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *Jordan’s Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Plan (2023–2027)* (Nov. 2022),

https://www.modcee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/40435648.pdf

³⁶⁴² Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, *AI Projects*,

https://modcee.gov.jo/EN/ListDetails/AI_projects/1057/4

³⁶⁴³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Jordan* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/jordan/freedom-world/2025>

³⁶⁴⁴ Jordan Open Source Association, *Full Text in English of the Cybercrime Law of 2023*, Unofficial Translation (Aug. 7, 2023), <https://www.josa.ngo/publications/33>

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for religions. As Amnesty international's report explains,³⁶⁴⁵ these offenses are vaguely defined and have been used to charge individuals criticizing authorities and Jordan's peace deal with Israel on social media. Amnesty's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa lamented, "This sweeping crackdown has stifled the already small space for dissent in Jordan and created an environment of self-censorship."

Jordan supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has ratified or acceded to human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.³⁶⁴⁶

OECD AI Principles / G20 AI Guidelines

Jordan is not a member of the OECD, G20, or Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)³⁶⁴⁷ and has not endorsed the AI Principles.³⁶⁴⁸ Jordan has not submitted national initiatives to the OECD dashboard.³⁶⁴⁹ Despite the lack of direct engagement, Jordan's national AI strategy and initiatives align with principles for sustainable development, human-centeredness, transparency, safety, and accountability.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Jordan is not a member of the council of Europe and did not participate in the drafting of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights,

³⁶⁴⁵ Amnesty International, *Jordan: New Cybercrimes Law Stifling Freedom of Expression One Year On* (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/08/jordan-new-cybercrimes-law-stifling-freedom-of-expression-one-year-on/>

³⁶⁴⁶ UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, *UN Treaty Body Database: Reporting Status for Jordan*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx?CountryCode=JOR&Lang=EN

³⁶⁴⁷ OECD-GPAI, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

³⁶⁴⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

³⁶⁴⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD.AI Policy Navigator* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national>

Democracy, and the Rule of Law.³⁶⁵⁰ Jordan has not signed this first international AI treaty.³⁶⁵¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Jordan is a UNESCO member and thus bound by the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Jordan's Code of AI Ethics cites the UNESCO recommendation as a legal reference, noting the recommendation call "for taking the necessary legislative measures in accordance with the constitutional procedures and administrative structures of each country."³⁶⁵² Jordan's ethical principles and actions align with the international framework. Jordan has not prepared or initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to facilitate implementation of ethical and trustworthy AI.³⁶⁵³

Evaluation

Jordan's AI Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023–2027 and National Code on AI Ethics establish a governance framework that promotes human development and capacity-building as a key factor in developing and using AI for sustainable development. The Code of Ethics explicitly aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation, which Jordan supported as a UNESCO member. The Personal Data Protection Law establishes a right to protection for personal information and to know about automatic processing, refuse processing, and request a review of automated decisions. The Personal Data Protection Directorate established under the law is empowered to receive and investigate complaints.

Structural obstacles limit implementation of the principles and foundation for safe, ethical, and trustworthy AI development in Jordan, however. A lack of independence for the Personal Data Protection Directorate, as for the judiciary, limits Jordanians' rights in practice. The silencing of government critics through the Cybercrimes Law offers an example of this gap between principles and practice. This use of the law raises doubts about plans to implement a more robust government

³⁶⁵⁰ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

³⁶⁵¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list2?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

³⁶⁵² Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, *National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics*, https://mod.ee.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/en/eb_list_page/-/النسخة_النهائية_-_ميثاق_الاخلاقيات 0-0.pdf المقرة من الرئاسة 2022-8-3 العربية والانجليزية

³⁶⁵³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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portal to receive citizen comments on draft laws and policies and threatens the achievement of greater representation in Parliament.

Kazakhstan

In 2025, Kazakhstan passed an AI Law as a legal regime for protecting human rights in AI development and use. The country also introduced a framework for AI in schools to train teachers and students to integrate AI and digital literacy skills and tools responsibly and ethically.

National AI Strategy

In recent years, Kazakhstan has taken an active interest in AI and new technologies to reform the country's economy and extend internal security and policing.³⁶⁵⁴ Kazakhstan has also expressed interest in Russia's AI development.³⁶⁵⁵ The government set out an AI and other smart technologies Agenda in 2017 and adopted the Concept for Artificial Intelligence Development for 2024–2029 in 2024.³⁶⁵⁶ The Concept for Artificial Intelligence Development focuses on six pillars: data, infrastructure, human capital, scientific research, regulatory environment, and acceleration programs.³⁶⁵⁷ The Concept envisions embedding AI across economic sectors and public administration, contributing to GDP growth, and creating high-value AI products and startups.

One of Kazakhstan's primary purposes in embracing AI according to the Agenda is to spark foreign investment to diversify the economy and reduce the country's economic dependence on natural resources. Developing AI is also a means to strengthen social governance and welfare. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced during the 2024 annual state-of-the-nation that Artificial intelligence technologies should be actively integrated into the e-Government platform.”³⁶⁵⁸ The 2017 AI Agenda also envisions AI tools as a means to counter the growing threat of

³⁶⁵⁴ Trend News Agency, *Work is Underway in Kazakhstan to Introduce the Concept of "Data-Driven Government"* (Dec. 4, 2020), <https://www.trend.az/casia/kazakhstan/3345220.html>

³⁶⁵⁵ Tass, *Kazakhstan Interested in Russia's Experience in AI Development* (Dec. 4, 2020), <https://tass.com/world/1231509>

³⁶⁵⁶ Official Information Source of the Prime Minister, *Concept for Artificial Intelligence Development for 2024–2029 Adopted by Government* (Jul. 16, 2024), <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/concept-for-artificial-intelligence-development-for-2024-2029-adopted-by-government-28786>

³⁶⁵⁷ Official Information Source of the Prime Minister, *Kazakhstan's Readiness to Introduce AI into Economic Structures is Assessed as High—Zhaslan Madiyev* (Jul. 16, 2024), <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/kazakhstans-readiness-to-introduce-ai-into-economic-structures-is-assessed-as-high-zhaslan-madiyev-28790>

³⁶⁵⁸ Akorda, *President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's State of the Nation Address "Just Kazakhstan: Law and Order, Economic Growth, Social Optimism"* (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://www.akorda.kz/en/president-kassym-jomart-tokayevs-state-of-the-nation-address-just-kazakhstan-law-and-order-economic-growth-social-optimism-482433>

terrorism and the religious extremism propaganda on the Internet and social networks.³⁶⁵⁹ Prime Minister Askar Mamin sees foreign investment³⁶⁶⁰ and international partners³⁶⁶¹ as essential for Kazakhstan to develop AI tools, given that the country “simply does not have such financial means to develop its own AI technologies.”³⁶⁶²

Kazakhstan has worked actively to implement the AI Concept. The Committee of Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development under the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry began its work leading and coordinating state policy in the fields of artificial intelligence, technology, innovation, and digital assets in 2024.³⁶⁶³ The first national standards in AI approved in 2025 align AI development in Kazakhstan with the international standard, ISO/IEC 5339.³⁶⁶⁴ The new standards cover all key stages of the AI lifecycle, from general concepts and system architecture to risk management and big data analysis, and all types of AI applications, from conversational systems like ChatGPT to industrial and medical solutions.

³⁶⁵⁹ President of Kazakhstan, *The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev's Address to the Nation of Kazakhstan Third Modernization of Kazakhstan: Global Competitiveness* (Jan. 31, 2017), http://www.akorda.kz/en/addresses/addresses_of_president/the-president-of-kazakhstan-nursultan-nazarbayevs-address-to-the-nation-of-kazakhstan-january-31-2017

³⁶⁶⁰ Caspian Policy Center, *Kazakhstan—The Buckle in the Belt and Road Initiative Seeks Investment and Growth* (Jan. 31, 2020), <https://www.caspianpolicy.org/research/articles/kazakhstan-the-buckle-in-the-belt-and-road-initiative-seeks-investment-and-growth-10915>

³⁶⁶¹ EURACTIV, *Kazakhstan Seeks High-Tech, Agricultural Cooperation with China, Says Tokayev during Beijing Business Council Meeting* (Sept. 12, 2019), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-asia/news/kazakhstan-seeks-high-tech-agricultural-cooperation-with-china-says-tokayev-during-beijing-business-council-meeting/>

³⁶⁶² Forbes Kazakhstan, *Is Kazakhstan Ready for a Technology Race? [Готов ли Казахстан к технологической гонке?]* (May 10, 2020), https://forbes.kz/process/intellektualnaya_zadacha_1588745463/

³⁶⁶³ Committee of Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development under the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry, *Regulations of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Положение Комитета искусственного интеллекта и развития инноваций Министерства цифрового развития, инноваций и аэрокосмической промышленности Республики Казахстан]* (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/aidc/documents/details/714099?lang=ru>; AKIpress, *Kazakhstan Creates Artificial intelligence and Innovation Development Committee* (May 6, 2024), https://m.akipress.com/news:772065:Kazakhstan_creates_Artificial_Intelligence_and_Innovation_Development_Committee/

³⁶⁶⁴ Information Agency ALATAU, *Kazakhstan Has Approved National Standards for Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 15, 2025), <https://www.enbekshiqazaq.kz/en/news/390077-kazakhstan-has-approved-national-standards-for-artificial.html>

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Kazakhstan also established two key agencies to guide, govern, and support the development of artificial intelligence in the country. The president announced the establishment of the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development to replace the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace,³⁶⁶⁵ The president led the inaugural session of the Council for the Development of Artificial Intelligence, signaling a clear embrace of AI for long-term national development.³⁶⁶⁶

AI Legislation

Kazakhstan's comprehensive AI law and amendments to existing laws to support AI legislation and development entered into force in January 2026,³⁶⁶⁷ following legislative review through much of 2025.³⁶⁶⁸ The AI Law³⁶⁶⁹ aims to “ensure the development of artificial intelligence and stimulate its implementation in various areas to improve the quality of human life and increase the efficiency of the economy” by providing a legal framework, ensuring transparency and security in the use and results of AI systems, attracting investment, and supporting research. The regulations are based on legality, equality and justice, transparency and clarity, responsibility and control, decision-making that prioritizes a person's well-being and freewill, data protection and privacy, and safety and security. The law further defines rights and obligations of AI system owners and possessors as well as users.

The AI law establishes risk high, medium, and low categories.³⁶⁷⁰ The law also prohibits the use and creation of systems to: intimidate, manipulate, or otherwise distort behavior or limit human agency; cause harm or threaten a person with a vulnerability; classify individuals or groups based on predicted behavior; collect or process personal data in violation of the law; classify individuals based on biometric

³⁶⁶⁵ Kazinform International News Agency, *Kazakhstan Approves Statute for New AI & Digital Development Ministry* (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://qazinform.com/news/kazakhstan-approves-statute-for-new-ai-digital-development-ministry-e05f79>

³⁶⁶⁶ President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev Held the First Meeting of the Council for the Development of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.akorda.kz/en/president-kassym-jomart-tokayev-held-the-first-meeting-of-the-council-for-the-development-of-artificial-intelligence-191541>

³⁶⁶⁷ Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *Order of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 14, 2026 No. 2-r "On measures to implement the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 17, 2025 "On Artificial Intelligence" and "On Amendments and Supplements to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/R26000000002>

³⁶⁶⁸ Institute of Parliamentarism, *Artificial Intelligence in Kazakhstan: Global Trends and Conceptual Foundations of the Draft Law “On Artificial Intelligence”* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://parlaminst-mtqb.qr-pib.kz/en/p/43962>

³⁶⁶⁹ Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *Law No. 230-VIII RKZ: On Artificial Intelligence [Жасанды интеллект туралы]* (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/Z2500000230>

³⁶⁷⁰ Ibid, Art. 17, Legal Regime of Artificial Intelligence Systems

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data “to form conclusions about their race, political views, religious affiliation and any other circumstances (dimension) with the aim of using them for any discrimination”; and revealing emotion without consent.

The Order implementing the AI Law and amendments³⁶⁷¹ charged the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development to develop legislation to align existing laws with the AI Law.

Public Participation

Kazakhstan has yet to develop a systematic process for public consultation in matters of policy. A law on public access to government information was adopted in 2015, but it is “poorly implemented in practice.”³⁶⁷² On transparency, Freedom House states, “The government and legislature offer little transparency on their decision-making processes, budgetary matters, and other operations. The media and civil society do not have a meaningful opportunity to provide independent commentary and input on pending laws and policies.”³⁶⁷³ A 2020 OECD report analyzed the legal and policy framework of more than 200 public councils that gathered civil society in Kazakhstan.³⁶⁷⁴ Recommendations included the implementation of clearer guidelines for public consultation, training, and ensuring a feedback loop of the input from the Councils.

A 2022 Presidential Decree establishing an action plan for legal policy included an action to increase public participation in the process of testing candidates for judges (Action N82) and improvement of legal education and legal propaganda (Action N99).³⁶⁷⁵

Presidential and governmental decrees, as well as other legal documents, are published on the Ministry of Justice official webpage, readily available to the public.

³⁶⁷¹ Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *Order of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 14, 2026 No. 2-r "On measures to implement the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 17, 2025 "On Artificial Intelligence" and "On Amendments and Supplements to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/R2600000002>

³⁶⁷² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Kazakhstan, C. Functioning of Government* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/kazakhstan/freedom-world/2024>

³⁶⁷³ Ibid

³⁶⁷⁴ OECD, *Transparent and Inclusive Stakeholder Participation through Public Councils in Kazakhstan* (Mar. 6, 2020), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/transparent-and-inclusive-stakeholder-participation-through-public-councils-in-kazakhstan_d21f1e98-en.html

³⁶⁷⁵ Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *Decree No. 264 on Approval of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Concept of the Legal Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030* [Постановление Правительства Республики Казахстан от 29 апреля 2022 года № 264 - Об утверждении Плана действий по реализации Концепции правовой политики Республики Казахстан до 2030 года] (Apr. 29, 2022), <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P22000000264>

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The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry oversees these 740 e-government integrated services as part of the Digital Kazakhstan National program.³⁶⁷⁶ Services are available to citizens via the egov.kz portal, mgov mobile app, and front offices of Government for Citizens.

The High Committee for Digital Transformation held a multi-stakeholder meeting on the draft AI, data, and quantum strategies that informed the final May 2025 texts.³⁶⁷⁷ The Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development Committee developed in 2024 can consider appeals of individuals and legal entities.³⁶⁷⁸ However, the scope of public participation is unclear.

Data Protection

Law No. 94-V on Personal Data and its Protection (Personal Data Law)³⁶⁷⁹ of May 21 2013 sets the general regulations for the localization, collection, and processing of personal data.

The country experienced a wave of major data breaches from the databases of the CEC and the Prosecutor General's Office in 2019.³⁶⁸⁰ Soon after, the personal information of 11 million people was published online and could be accessed by anyone through a published database.³⁶⁸¹ These incidents led to the amendment of the existing data protection law, which was revised to mostly align with the GDPR.³⁶⁸²

³⁶⁷⁶ Gov.Kz, *E-government and Public Services*,

<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/maidd/activities/7?lang=en>

³⁶⁷⁷ Astana Times, *Kazakhstan Sets Stage for AI Regulation with New Draft Law* (Jun. 4, 2025),

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/06/kazakhstan-sets-stage-for-ai-regulation-with-new-draft-law/>

³⁶⁷⁸ Gov.Kz, *Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development Committee of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan* [Положение Комитета искусственного интеллекта и развития инноваций Министерства цифрового развития, инноваций и аэрокосмической промышленности Республики Казахстан] (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/aidd/documents/details/714099?lang=ru>

³⁶⁷⁹ Legal Information System of Regulatory Acts, *Law No. 94-V on Personal Data and their Protection* (“Personal Data Law”) (May 21, 2013), <https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/Z1300000094>

³⁶⁸⁰ Catalin Cimpanu, *Extensive Hacking Operation Discovered in Kazakhstan*, ZDNet (Nov. 23, 2019), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/extensive-hacking-operation-discovered-in-kazakhstan/>

³⁶⁸¹ Kursiv Media, *Attackers Have Posted Data of Millions of Kazakhstanis to the Network* [Злоумышленники выложили в сеть данных миллионов казахстанцев] (Jul. 4, 2019), <https://kursiv.kz/news/obschestvo/2019-07/zloumyshlenniki-vylozhili-v-set-dannye-millionov-kazakhstancev>

³⁶⁸² Legal Information System of Regulatory Acts, *Law No. 94-V on Personal Data and Their Protection* (Personal Data Law) (May 21, 2013), <https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/Z1300000094>

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The Amendment Law on the Regulation of Digital Technologies was enacted in 2020.³⁶⁸³ The Amendments entered into force in two phases, first in July 2020, and then in January 2021.³⁶⁸⁴ Court practice regarding non-compliance with personal data protection measures began in 2021–2022.³⁶⁸⁵

The amendments established the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan as the competent authority to enforce the data protection law, created rules for the collection and processing of personal data, and introduced the concept of “personal data safety protection service.” The amendments also clarify informed consent with the requirement that the content and amount of personal data collected strictly correspond to those previously declared and to the legal purposes of their processing. While the GDPR requires “the appropriate data protection training to personnel having permanent or regular access to personal data,” Kazakhstan’s amendments do not require data protection training. Training is important because human error is one of the major causes of data breaches across the world.

Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA). Thus, no national authority has sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,³⁶⁸⁶ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,³⁶⁸⁷ 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,³⁶⁸⁸ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on

³⁶⁸³ *Zakon, Order of the Prime Minister “On Amendments and Supplements to Certain Legislative Acts [...] on the Regulation of Digital Technologies” [кейбір заңнамалық актілеріне цифрлық технологияларды реттеу мәселелері бойынша өзгерістер мен толықтырулар енгізу туралы]* (Dec. 31, 2022), https://prg.kz/document/?doc_id=34230083&pos=6;25

³⁶⁸⁴ Dentons, *Kazakhstan Strengthens Personal Data Protection by Gradually Moving toward GDPR Standards* (Jan. 28, 2021), <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/alerts/2021/january/28/kazakhstan-strengthens-personal-data-protection-by-gradually-moving-toward-gdpr-standards>

³⁶⁸⁵ Dentons, *Kazakhstan Adopts Real Protections of Personal Data* (Apr. 13, 2022), <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2022/april/13/kazakhstan-adopts-real-protections-of-personal-data>

³⁶⁸⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁶⁸⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³⁶⁸⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

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Generative AI.³⁶⁸⁹ The International Financial Center of Astana, Kazakhstan, a special legal regime established by the President with its own civil and commercial laws,³⁶⁹⁰ became a GPA member in 2024.³⁶⁹¹

Algorithmic Transparency

Although Kazakhstan's Personal Data Protection Law has been inspired by the GDPR, it does not include the concept of the "right to not be subject to automated decision-making."³⁶⁹² Kazakhstan's AI Law explicitly requires automatic decisions to align with requirements in the Personal Data Law.³⁶⁹³ The new law could extend these rights to a right to decline to be subject to automated decisions, given this language: a subject of a decision by AI systems "has the right to be informed about the procedure for automated processing and its consequences, about the possibility of objecting to automated processing, as well as about the procedure for protecting his rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests." With greater clarity, these provisions could align with the right to transparency enshrined in the Council of Europe's Modernized Convention for the Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data (Convention 108+)³⁶⁹⁴ and Convention on Artificial Intelligence.³⁶⁹⁵

Facial Recognition and Smart Cities

Facial recognition surveillance technology is becoming increasingly widespread in Kazakhstan. While the government insists that the main goal is to maintain public safety, many activists are worried that this will ultimately create a

³⁶⁸⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³⁶⁹⁰ Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), *Legal Framework*, <https://aifc.kz/legal-framework/>

³⁶⁹¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accreditation Members GPA 2024* (Oct. 2024), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Resolution-on-accreditation-members-GPA-2024.pdf>

³⁶⁹² Data Guidance, *Kazakhstan—Data Protection Overview* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/kazakhstan-data-protection-overview>

³⁶⁹³ Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *Law No. 230-VIII RKZ: On Artificial Intelligence [Жасанды интеллект туралы]*, Art. 7 (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/Z2500000230>

³⁶⁹⁴ Council of Europe, *Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data*, Art. 9, Council of Europe Treaty Series No. 223 (Oct. 10, 2018), <https://rm.coe.int/16808ac918>

³⁶⁹⁵ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

totalitarian surveillance state.³⁶⁹⁶ This concern is even more pregnant that the companies behind these surveillance systems in Kazakhstan are under U.S. sanctions for unethical use of AI technology.

In October 2019, facial recognition systems were first installed on buses.³⁶⁹⁷ Notably, President Tokayev paid a visit and discussed future cooperation with Hikvision,³⁶⁹⁸ a Chinese state-owned surveillance company under U.S. sanctions³⁶⁹⁹ that provided the hardware for Kazakhstan's newly established surveillance system. In the same year, the small city of Akkol was proclaimed the first complete Smart City in Kazakhstan. Akkol is digitally monitored by an AI-based facial recognition surveillance system. Its functions include thermal imaging, searching for a car by number plates, recognizing missing persons, and detecting the presence of weapons in schools, hospitals, and other public places.³⁷⁰⁰ Over 4,000 cameras have blanketed Nur-Sultan, the capital.³⁷⁰¹

In 2020, the authorities announced that Kazakhstan would be spending \$23 million to install facial recognition software in its largest city, Almaty.³⁷⁰² In mid-March 2020, Kazakhstan's government was fighting the novel coronavirus. The Ministries of Health and Internal Affairs ultimately turned to AI technological solutions to confront the coronavirus outbreak. The range of technologies reoriented to enforce quarantine and curfews included traffic cameras, facial recognition technologies, and smartphone apps.³⁷⁰³ The Ministry required the 8,000 or so

³⁶⁹⁶ Eurasianet, *Kazakhstan Embraces Facial Recognition, Civil Society Recoils* (Oct. 17, 2019), <https://eurasianet.org/kazakhstan-embraces-facial-recognition-civil-society-recoils>

³⁶⁹⁷ Radio Free Europe, *The Four Big Issues Central Asia Faced in 2019 (And They're Not Going Away)* (Jan. 2, 2020), <https://www.rferl.org/a/central-asia-2019-challenges-security-china-facial-recognition/30356077.html>

³⁶⁹⁸ Radio Free Europe, "It Even Recognizes People Wearing Masks." Does Kazakhstan Need Hikvision cameras? [Распознает даже людей в масках». Нужны ли Казахстану камеры] (Oct. 10, 2019), <https://rus.azattyq.org/a/kazakhstan-china-surveillance-camera/30210035.html>

³⁶⁹⁹ Bloomberg, *U.S. Blacklists Eight Chinese Tech Companies on Rights Violations* (Oct. 7, 2019), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-07/u-s-blacklists-eight-chinese-companies-including-hikvision-klgvpq77>

³⁷⁰⁰ Tengrinews, *Smart Aqkol Video Surveillance, Security and Comfort. How the Smartest City of Kazakhstan Lives* [Видеонаблюдение, безопасность и комфорт. Как живет самый умный город Казахстана - Smart Aqkol] (Dec. 13, 2019), <https://tengrinews.kz/article/videonablyudenie-bezopasnost-komfort-jivet-samyiy-umnyiy-1353/>

³⁷⁰¹ Informburo, *How the Sergek Project Works* [Как работает проект "Сергек". Репортаж] (Nov. 19, 2018), <https://informburo.kz/stati/kak-rabotaet-proekt-sergek-reportazh-informburokz.html>

³⁷⁰² Fergana, *Alma-Ata Allocated \$23 Million for Cameras with Face Recognition* [На камеры с распознаванием лиц в Алма-Ате выделили \$23 млн] (Feb. 8, 2019), <http://fergana.agency/news/105020/>

³⁷⁰³ The Diplomat, *Technology and Policing a Pandemic in Central Asia* (May 13, 2020), <https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/technology-and-policing-a-pandemic-in-central-asia/>

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Kazakhstani citizens under quarantine to use the SmartAstana tracking app, to allow officials monitoring compliance of isolation mandates.

The government also monitored citizens through facial recognition video surveillance technology to find violators of the quarantine regime in Almaty. By the end of the country's two-month state of emergency, 2,424 people had been charged with violating quarantine in Almaty and 3,347 in Nur-Sultan.³⁷⁰⁴ According to experts, the pandemic exacerbated the existing arbitrary and uneven policing practices as national and municipal authorities' surveillance practices increased without public oversight.³⁷⁰⁵

The country launched a facial recognition system at airports, religious institutions, and underground walkways of Nur-Sultan city in 2022.³⁷⁰⁶ Reports of arrests of protesters based on facial recognition from surveillance cameras and AI-powered recognition technology also continued.³⁷⁰⁷ Kazakhstan and China have strengthened their cooperation in AI, big data, cloud computing, and other high-tech sectors.³⁷⁰⁸

Biometrics

Kazakhstan implemented the use of biometrics in the eGov Mobile app in 2022.³⁷⁰⁹ The system requires a Digital ID video identification. The Chairman of the Board of National Information Technology highlighted this development as an “easier and time-efficient [process] that provides more reliable personal data protection.” The authentication via biometrics applies for 400 public services and e-license services, across over 2.4M citizens, using the airport, train services, banking, mobile services, postal service, and notary public.

³⁷⁰⁴ World Politics Review, *Police States Expand under the Cover of COVID-19* (Jul. 14, 2020), <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28910/across-central-asia-police-states-expand-under-the-cover-of-covid-19>

³⁷⁰⁵ The Diplomat, *Technology and Policing a Pandemic in Central Asia* (May 13, 2020), <https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/technology-and-policing-a-pandemic-in-central-asia/>

³⁷⁰⁶ Kazinform International News Agency, *Facial Recognition System Launched at Kazakhstan's Airports, Religious Institutions* (Jun. 14, 2022), https://www.inform.kz/en/facial-recognition-system-launched-at-kazakhstan-s-airports-religious-institutions_a3944198

³⁷⁰⁷ Laila Adilzhan, *Kazakhstan: Mass Arrests and Surveillance—With Some Help from China*, Bitter Winter (Jan. 1, 2022), <https://bitterwinter.org/kazakhstan-mass-arrests-and-surveillance/>

³⁷⁰⁸ State Council of the People's Republic of China, *China, Central Asian Countries Vow to Build Community with Shared Future* (Jan. 27, 2022), http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202201/27/content_WS61f1f7c6c6d09c94e48a457c.html

³⁷⁰⁹ eGov, *Access to eGov Mobile App Available through the Biometrics* (Jul. 20, 2022), https://egov.kz/cms/en/news/egov_biometrics

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Environmental Impact of AI

Despite the lack of official action, experts at the Connected conference in Kazakhstan's capital Astana³⁷¹⁰ discussed the future of climate change and the role of AI in mitigating or exacerbating it. Kazakhstan has acknowledged the environmental impact of artificial intelligence. Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov highlighted concerns regarding AI's potential strain on the nation's power grid and its environmental implications during the Digital Almaty 2025 forum.³⁷¹¹ He emphasized the need to address various aspects of AI development, including its environmental impact and the load it places on the power system. However, no official policy yet addresses these concerns.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Kazakhstan was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2022. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.³⁷¹² In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”³⁷¹³

In February 2023, Kazakhstan participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Kazakhstan, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use

³⁷¹⁰ Astana Times, *Connected Conference Talks Role of AI on Climate, Data, and Growth* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://astanatimes.com/2024/10/connected-conference-talks-role-of-ai-on-climate-data-and-growth/>

³⁷¹¹ Kazinform International News Agency, *AI Could Put a Major Strain on Power Grid, Warns Kazakh PM* (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://qazinform.com/news/ai-could-put-a-major-strain-on-power-grid-warns-kazakh-pm-81ab67>

³⁷¹² Stop Killer Robots, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly* (2022) <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

³⁷¹³ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf.

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of artificial intelligence in the military domain.³⁷¹⁴ In this joint call, States “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” States also “stress the importance of a holistic, inclusive and comprehensive approach in addressing the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of the use of AI in the military domain and the need for all stakeholders, including states, private sector, civil society and academia, to collaborate and exchange information on responsible AI in the military domain.”

AI Literacy

Kazakhstan established a national framework to govern the use of AI in education for the period 2025–2029.³⁷¹⁵ The was approved via a Joint Order by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry. The framework defines clear ethical and integrity rules, covering legal regulation, personal data protection, and unified standards for academic integrity in all schools and universities.³⁷¹⁶ The framework complements efforts to integrate AI in the curriculum with subjects including Digital Literacy and Informatics as well as training for teachers. This national approach draws on recommendations from UNESCO, OECD, and the European Union.

Beyond education, Kazakhstan’s Generative Nation movement aims to train up to 200,000 citizens annually. The key public initiative is a free, four-week AI People course,³⁷¹⁷ which targets the general population with practical skills, such as using AI tools and mastering prompt engineering for daily and professional life. This dual focus of regulating AI use in academic institutions while equipping the entire population with basic literacy positions Kazakhstan to maximize the benefits of the digital transformation while mitigating associated risks.

³⁷¹⁴ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

³⁷¹⁵ The Astana Times, *Kazakhstan Establishes National Standards for Artificial Intelligence in Education* (Sept. 18 2025), <https://astanatimes.com/2025/09/kazakhstan-establishes-national-standards-for-artificial-intelligence-in-education>

³⁷¹⁶ Official Information Source of the Prime Minister, *President’s Instructions: AI, New Programs, and Quality Standards Being Introduced in Kazakhstan’s Schools* (Aug., 12, 2025), <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/presidents-instructions-ai-new-programs-and-quality-standards-being-introduced-in-kazakhstans-schools-30380>

³⁷¹⁷ Astana Hub, *Kazakhstan Launches Training for the Population on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://astanahub.com/en/article/v-kazakhstane-zapustilos-obuchenie-naseleniia-primeneniuiu-iskusstvennogo-intellekta-v-povsednevnoi-zhizni>

Human Rights

Freedom House rates Kazakhstan is “Not Free” with a score of (23/100) for political rights and civil liberties.³⁷¹⁸ Freedom House reports “Parliamentary and presidential elections are neither free nor fair [...] and authorities have consistently marginalized or imprisoned genuine opposition figures. The dominant media outlets are either in state hands or owned by government-friendly businessmen. Freedoms of speech and assembly remain restricted and subjected to punishment, and corruption is endemic.” Human Rights Watch confirms this assessment, noting a poor track record in ensuring accountability mechanisms against human rights violations.³⁷¹⁹ Kazakhstan rejected recommendations from the UN Human Rights Council³⁷²⁰ to safeguard media freedom and ensure the protection of journalists, bloggers, and other media workers³⁷²¹ during the 2025 Universal Periodic Review.

Kazakhstan is eligible for admission to the Council of Europe (CoE) and has increased cooperation with the body in recent years. A previous agreement was limited to criminal justice. However, the Neighborhood Co-operation Priorities for Kazakhstan 2019–2022 introduced new areas of cooperation, including the fight against economic crime, promoting a common legal space and human rights standards, and assistance in the electoral field. The document was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in April 2019. Kazakhstan participates in the CoE Central Asia Rule of Law Programme, launched in 2020, which has the goal of “Improving the lives of citizens by reinforcing human rights, democracy and rule of law.”³⁷²² Corruption in Kazakhstan remains a serious concern, entrenched in different sectors, institutions, and public and private spheres.³⁷²³

The re-established Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan began to operate on January 1, 2024.³⁷²⁴ Citizens may appeal directly to the court on cases regarding

³⁷¹⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Kazakhstan* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/kazakhstan/freedom-world/2025>

³⁷¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025: Kazakhstan* (Jan. 2025) <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/kazakhstan>

³⁷²⁰ UN Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review—Kazakhstan* (Jan. 23, 2025),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/kz-index>

³⁷²¹ Human Rights Watch, *Kazakhstan: Enact UPR Recommendations, End Rights Violations* (Jul. 1, 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/01/kazakhstan-enact-upr-recommendations-end-rights-violations>

³⁷²² Council of Europe / European Union, *Central Asia Rule of Law Programme*, <https://pip-eu.coe.int/en/web/central-asia>

³⁷²³ Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Council of Europe, *Joint First and Second Evaluation Rounds: Evaluation Report on Kazakhstan* (Mar. 25, 2022), <https://rm.coe.int/joint-first-and-second-evaluation-rounds-evaluation-report-on-kazakhstan/1680a6e276>

³⁷²⁴ Ministry of Justice Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan* (Nov. 05, 2022), <https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/Z2200000153>

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fundamental rights and freedoms in the country. The Constitutional Court received more than 5,300 appeals in 2023.³⁷²⁵

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Kazakhstan has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles. According to the OECD AI Observatory, the Digital Kazakhstan Government Program, a national initiative, addressed the OECD AI principles of inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being; investment in AI R&D; and fostering an ecosystem for AI.³⁷²⁶

The country's major AI research center, the Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence at Nazarbayev University, operates in accordance with the ethical principles aligned to the OECD AI Principles: Societal Well-being, Human-Centered Values, Transparency, Technical Resilience and Robustness, and Accountability.³⁷²⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Kazakhstan has not signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty.³⁷²⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Kazakhstan is a UNESCO member since 1992³⁷²⁹ and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.³⁷³⁰ Kazakhstan contributed actively to the drafting of the UNESCO Recommendation. A country delegation from the Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence of Nazarbayev University (ISSAI) participated in the UNESCO Session on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence held online over two days in 2020. The event gathered feedback and stakeholder

³⁷²⁵ Astana Times, *Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan Receives 5,300 Appeals in 2023* (Jan. 10, 2024), <https://astanatimes.com/2024/01/constitutional-court-of-kazakhstan-receives-5300-appeals-in-2023/>

³⁷²⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, “*Digital Kazakhstan*” Government Programme (Sept. 9, 2022), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/digital-kazakhstan-government-programme-8248>

³⁷²⁷ Nazarbayev University, Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence (ISSAI), *About* (2026), <https://issai.nu.edu.kz/about/>

³⁷²⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 16, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

³⁷²⁹ Astana Times, *Kazakhstan Marks 30th Anniversary of Membership in UNESCO* (Jun. 22, 2022), <https://astanatimes.com/2022/06/kazakhstan-marks-30th-anniversary-of-membership-in-unesco>

³⁷³⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

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contributions for the review of and comment on the draft recommendation. The ISSAI delegation submitted the ISSAI Ethical Principles document as a sample of organizational AI Ethics statements. The Kazakhstani delegation offered observations on explainability, accountability, and responsibility of AI systems, and the need to respect human rights and human dignity.³⁷³¹

Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative met UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences to discuss AI ethics cooperation in 2025.³⁷³² The country is also in preparation to implement the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool for countries to align with the Recommendation. The AI People course³⁷³³ marks progress on implementing the Education and Research policy action under the UNESCO recommendation.³⁷³⁴

Evaluation

Kazakhstan's AI policy landscape has evolved, with the adoption of the Concept for Artificial Intelligence Development for 2024-2029,³⁷³⁵ establishment of a dedicated Committee of Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development,³⁷³⁶ an

³⁷³¹ ISSAI, *UNESCO Hosts Session on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence—ISSAI delegation represents on behalf of Kazakhstan* (Jul. 25, 2020), <https://issai.nu.edu.kz/2020/08/10/unesco-hosts-session-on-the-ethics-of-artificial-intelligence/>

³⁷³² Gov.Kz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, *Kazakhstan and UNESCO Discuss Collaboration on AI Ethics* (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa/press/region-news/details/25302?lang=en>

³⁷³³ Astana Hub, *Kazakhstan Launches Training for the Population on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://astanahub.com/en/article/v-kazakhstane-zapustilos-obuchenie-naseleniia-primeneniuiu-iskusstvennogo-intellekta-v-povsednevnoi-zhizni>

³⁷³⁴ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

³⁷³⁵ Official Information Source of the Prime Minister, *Concept for Artificial Intelligence Development for 2024–2029 Adopted by Government* (Jul. 16, 2024), <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/concept-for-artificial-intelligence-development-for-2024-2029-adopted-by-government-28786>

³⁷³⁶ Committee of Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development, Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry, *Regulations of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Development of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Положение Комитета искусственного интеллекта и развития инноваций Министерства цифрового развития, инноваций и аэрокосмической промышленности Республики Казахстан]* (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/aidc/documents/details/714099?lang=ru>

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AI literacy program for the general public,³⁷³⁷ and AI legislation. The AI Law³⁷³⁸ passed in 2025 lays a foundation for to enshrine human-centric AI principles promoting human rights and democratic values into AI development and use. ISSAI's ethical principles provide a model for aligning AI research and innovation to global frameworks such as the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation. The Personal Data Protection Law has not fully addressed the areas of automated decision-making and algorithmic transparency, and no system exists for regular civic engagement in policymaking.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan has already endorsed smart surveillance systems in various cities, which led to fears that the country would transform into a digital authoritarian regime and a real life-laboratory for foreign companies under US sanctions for unethical use of AI technology.

³⁷³⁷ Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry, *Kazakhstan Has Launched Training for the Population on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life* [*В Казахстане запустилось обучение населения применению искусственного интеллекта в повседневной жизни*] (Sept. 11, 2024),

<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mdai/press/news/details/843712?lang=ru>

³⁷³⁸ Institute of Legislation and Legal Information, *Law No. 230-VIII RKZ: On Artificial Intelligence* [*Жасанды интеллект туралы*] (Nov. 17, 2025), <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/Z2500000230>

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Kenya

In 2025, Kenya launched the National AI Strategy 2025–2030 and expanded AI capacity-building and AI literacy programs for civil servants and students. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner Strategic Plan 2025–2029 includes objectives for strengthening AI privacy compliance.

National AI Strategy

Kenya's Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy (MICDE) launched the National AI Strategy 2025–2030 in March 2025.³⁷³⁹ The National AI Strategy aims to address key issues, including data governance, legal frameworks, and privacy policies. The AI Strategy defines key priorities and objectives aimed at fostering innovation, promoting economic growth, and guiding the responsible integration of AI technologies to support Kenya's broader development goals.³⁷⁴⁰

The Strategy notes citizens' concerns with ensuring that AI is developed and deployed in a way that respects human rights and aligns with Kenyan values³⁷⁴¹ and ethical use.³⁷⁴² Principles that will guide implementation of the AI Strategy include transparency, equity, explainability, accountability in AI systems, privacy protection, fairness, safety, security and respect for human autonomy and decision making.³⁷⁴³ The AI strategy development process was supported through partnerships with organizations like the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UNESCO.³⁷⁴⁴ Part of the FAIR Forward—Artificial Intelligence for All—initiative, the partnership aimed at establishing a framework for the responsible, ethical deployment of AI, aligning with Kenya's broader goals of social inclusion and sustainable development.³⁷⁴⁵

³⁷³⁹ Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, *Kenya National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy 2025–2030* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-03/Kenya%20AI%20Strategy%202025%20-%202030.pdf>

³⁷⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 7

³⁷⁴¹ The Constitution of Kenya 2010, Art. 10, <https://new.kenyalaw.org/legislation/>

³⁷⁴² Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, *Kenya National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy 2025–2030*, p. 20 (Mar. 2025), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-03/Kenya%20AI%20Strategy%202025%20-%202030.pdf>

³⁷⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 63

³⁷⁴⁴ Empower Africa, *Kenya Enters Partnership with GIZ to Develop National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy* (Apr. 14, 2024), <https://empowerafrica.com/kenya-enters-partnership-with-giz-to-develop-national-artificial-intelligence-ai-strategy/>

³⁷⁴⁵ BMZ, FAIR Forward, *German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development* (Feb. 15, 2024), <https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/digital-transformation/digital-public-goods-and-infrastructure/fair-forward-215860>

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The development of the National AI Strategy was crucial to the realization of the Digital Master Plan (DMP) 2022–2032 released by the MICDE.³⁷⁴⁶ Building on earlier master plans and e-Government strategies and policies,³⁷⁴⁷ the DMP provides a blueprint to “create business opportunities, wealth creation, employment and the contribution of ICT to the growth of the economy [...] towards the realization of our goal in transforming lives, better for the citizens.”³⁷⁴⁸ To this end, the DMP identifies four pillars to advance the provision of services to citizens and businesses:

- Digital Infrastructure, which aims to ensure equitable access to national service through national ICT infrastructure
- Digital Government Service, Product and Data Management to improve productivity, efficiency, effectiveness, and governance across sectors through e-Government
- Digital Skills to develop “a digitally skilled workforce and citizenry that is grounded on ethical practices and social cultural values”
- Digital Innovation, Enterprise and Digital Business to help transform innovative ideas into sustainable business and operating models.

The Digital Master Plan aligns with the Smart Africa Alliance goals for the long-term outcomes of digital government, including “job creation and economic growth, sustainable development, cashless economy, citizens participation, transparency, trust, and accountability.”³⁷⁵⁰

As a member of the African Union (AU), Kenya is committed to advancing the formulation and implementation of human-centered AI policies, in alignment with the goals of the AU digital transformation strategy,³⁷⁵¹ the Continental Data

³⁷⁴⁶ Ministry of ICT, Innovation & Youth Affairs, *The Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022–2032* (Apr. 2022), <https://cms.icta.go.ke/sites/default/files/2022-04/Kenya%20Digital%20Masterplan%202022-2032%20Online%20Version.pdf>

³⁷⁴⁷ For example, Republic of Kenya, *Digital Economy Blueprint* (2019), <https://www.ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-09/Kenya-Digital-Economy-2019.pdf>; Kenya Vision 2030, *About Vision 2030* (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://vision2030.go.ke/about-vision-2030/>

³⁷⁴⁸ Ministry of ICT, Innovation & Youth Affairs, *The Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022–2032*, p. 15 (Apr. 2022), <https://cms.icta.go.ke/sites/default/files/2022-04/Kenya%20Digital%20Masterplan%202022-2032%20Online%20Version.pdf>

³⁷⁴⁹ *Ibid.* p. 16

³⁷⁵⁰ *Ibid.* p. 30

³⁷⁵¹ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

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Policy Framework,³⁷⁵² and since 2024, the African AI Continental AI Strategy.³⁷⁵³ The Continental Artificial Intelligence Framework aims to develop governance and ethical frameworks to contain the risks of AI. More specifically, the strategy sets these objectives by 2030: adoption and implementation of ethical AI principles that respect human rights and dignity; adoption and implementation of safety and security in the design, development, and use of AI systems; and implementation of robust AI governance. The AU AI Working Group is endowed with the mission to foster collaboration among African states to “help countries develop AI strategies, identify other regulatory and governance issues, and learn from regional best practices.”³⁷⁵⁴

Kenya furthered international collaboration on AI governance with the launch of the Diplomat's Playbook on AI Governance in 2024.³⁷⁵⁵ The Playbook equips diplomats with tools for global AI policy engagement, focusing on ethical governance, Global South empowerment, and sustainable development solutions. Kenya's endorsement of the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable AI at the Paris AI Action Summit reinforced this alignment with global ethical governance principles.³⁷⁵⁶

Cybercrime, Disinformation, and AI-Generated Content

Kenya has undertaken several initiatives to regulate content in digital spaces to protect against disinformation and hate speech and, according to some civil society organizations, censor criticism of the government. The Media Council's Code of Media Practice updated in 2025 explicitly defines obligations for the use of AI-generated content, such as ensuring the accuracy of information through human editorial review and “refrain artificial intelligence from cloning the likeness, voice, or persona of real individuals without their informed consent.” The code also requires media enterprises to clearly distinguish between editorial and user-generated content

³⁷⁵² African Union, *40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council* (Feb. 2–3, 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/41584-EX.CL.Dec.1143-1167.XL.E.pdf>

³⁷⁵³ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

³⁷⁵⁴ Faustine Ngila, *Kenya, Africa Hurdles in Artificial Intelligence Race*, Business Daily (Jan 7, 2021), <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/corporate/technology/kenya-africa-hurdles-in-artificial-intelligence-race-3249180>

³⁷⁵⁵ Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, *Diplomats Playbook on Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 6, 2024), <https://mfa.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-01/DIPLOMATS%20AI%20PLAYBOOK%20FINAL.pdf>

³⁷⁵⁶ Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*. (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://onu.delegfrance.org/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and>

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and prevent or remove content that “is unlawful; violates human dignity or privacy; and constitutes hate speech.”³⁷⁵⁷

Kenya also enacted amendments to the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act³⁷⁵⁸ in 2025 that expanded regulations on online conduct. Civil-society organizations raised concerns about potential impacts on freedom of expression and privacy,³⁷⁵⁹ largely because of overly broad provisions. While Kenya’s High Court suspended some of the provisions in the original act just before the amendments passed, Human Rights Watch reported concerns that provisions such as those to criminalize phishing through calls or email could be used to criminalize dissenting citizens’ direct communication with elected officials.³⁷⁶⁰

Public Participation

Kenya has made significant strides in establishing a systematic process to engage stakeholders in meaningful participation in policymaking through the public consultation portal of the Communications Authority (CA).³⁷⁶¹ Kenya also hosts conferences and workshops to encourage multistakeholder engagements to define AI strategy and policy. Most documents related to Kenya’s AI policies, such as the National Digital Master Plan 2022–2032, are publicly accessible. However, some earlier documents, such as the Distributed Ledgers Technology and AI Taskforce report, that were previously available on government websites are no longer accessible, perhaps because of a reorganization and renaming of the Ministry of Information Communications and Digital Economy in 2022.

The Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy (MICDE) in partnership with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) has organized a series of stakeholder consultations to gather input from

³⁷⁵⁷ Kenya Law, *The Media Council (Code of Media Practice)*, 2025, Legal Notice 88 of 2025, Part VI (May 14, 2025), https://new.kenyalaw.org/akn/ke/act/ln/2025/88/eng@2025-08-01#att_1_part_VI-USER-GENERATEDCONTENT-USEOFARTIFICIALINTELLIGENCEANDOTHERTECHNOLOGIES

³⁷⁵⁸ Parliament of Kenya, *Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act, 2025* (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-10/Computer%20Misuse%20and%20Cybercrimes%20%28Amendment%29%20Act%2C%202025.pdf>

³⁷⁵⁹ Victor K. *Proposal to Block Websites and Applications Threatens Kenya’s Digital Ecosystem*, KICTANet (Oct. 3, 2024), <https://www.kictanet.or.ke/proposal-to-block-websites-and-applications-threatens-kenyas-digital-ecosystem/>

³⁷⁶⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Kenya: New Cybercrime Amendments Threaten Online Expression* (Nov. 7, 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/07/kenya-new-cybercrime-amendments-threaten-online-expression>

³⁷⁶¹ Communications Authority of Kenya, *Public Consultation*, <https://www.ca.go.ke/open-consultations>

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government, academia, civil society, and industry to develop a National AI Strategy.³⁷⁶² The launch of the National AI Strategy Development Process in Nairobi in April 2024 brought together more than 70 participants from government, academia, industry, and civil society to discuss critical issues such as data governance, legal frameworks, and privacy policies.³⁷⁶³ This discussion stressed the importance of balancing innovation with ethical concerns, focusing on transparency, accountability, and digital rights.³⁷⁶⁴

In a 2023 consultation, the CA invited comments from all stakeholders for the development of the Framework for a Regulatory Sandbox.³⁷⁶⁵ The regulatory sandbox is an alternative regulatory tool that allows CA to access testing in a controlled environment of new and emerging technology products and services and provides relevant information for understanding the evolution of technology.³⁷⁶⁶

Data Protection

Kenya continues to refine its approach to data protection in the context of AI and digital technologies. Kenya enacted the Data Protection Act (DPA) in November 2019,³⁷⁶⁷ establishing protections for personal data and reaffirming the right to privacy. The DPA gives effect to Article 31(c) and (d) of the Constitution,³⁷⁶⁸ which establish the right to privacy, regulate the processing of personal data, provide for data subjects' rights, and create obligations for data controllers and processors. The DPA contains principles of data protection that relate to the fair, transparent processing of personal data (Section 25), the right to erasure and rectification (Section 34, 40), and rights related to automated decision-making (Section 35).³⁷⁶⁹

³⁷⁶² Carolyn Tanui, *Kenya Unveils National Emerging Technologies and AI Strategy Framework*, KICTANet (May 19, 2024), <https://www.kictanet.or.ke/kenya-unveils-national-emerging-technologies-and-ai-strategy-framework/>

³⁷⁶³ TechPoint Africa, *Kenya Explores AI Advancements* (Apr. 10, 2024), <https://techpoint.africa/2024/04/10/kenya-explores-ai-advancements/>

³⁷⁶⁴ UNESCO, *Shaping Kenya's AI Future: UNESCO Contributes to National AI Strategy Formulation* (May 22, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/shaping-kenyas-ai-future-unesco-contributes-national-ai-strategy-formulation>

³⁷⁶⁵ Communications Authority of Kenya, *Public Consultation Framework for Emerging Technologies Regulatory Sandbox* (Jan 2023), <https://www.ca.go.ke/closed-consultation>

³⁷⁶⁶ Communications Authority of Kenya, *Framework for Emerging Technologies Regulatory Sandbox* (Jan 2023), <https://repository.ca.go.ke/server/api/core/bitstreams/b4bc3151-ce12-49df-940d-5fb5ec0c0bce/content>

³⁷⁶⁷ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, *Data Protection Act* (Feb. 2021), https://www.odpc.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/TheDataProtectionAct_No24of2019.pdf

³⁷⁶⁸ The Constitution of Kenya 2010, Art. 31, <https://new.kenyalaw.org/legislation/>

³⁷⁶⁹ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, *Data Protection Act* (Feb. 2021), https://www.odpc.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/TheDataProtectionAct_No24of2019.pdf

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The DPA applies to both government and private entities handling personal data, including the large datasets used for AI training and decision-making.³⁷⁷⁰

Pursuant to the DPA, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) was established in 2020, to oversee the Data Protection Act. The ODPC Strategic Plan 2025–2029 outlines strategic priorities to strengthen data protection, regulatory frameworks, and AI privacy compliance in Kenya.³⁷⁷¹

In 2022, the ODPC became a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).³⁷⁷² Kenya's ODPC has not endorsed the GPA 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection,³⁷⁷³ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of AI,³⁷⁷⁴ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,³⁷⁷⁵ or 2023 Resolution on Generative AI.³⁷⁷⁶ However, the Global Privacy Assembly recognized Kenya's advancements in data protection at the September 2025 meeting, awarding the ODPC four awards for excellence in dispute resolution, enforcement, education, and innovation.³⁷⁷⁷ Additionally, Kenya has been selected to host the 2027 Global Privacy Assembly in Nairobi.

³⁷⁷⁰ KICTANet, *Key Note: AI in Kenya – Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Actions* (Nov. 16, 2023), <https://www.kictanet.or.ke/key-note-ai-in-kenya-opportunities-challenges-and-policy-actions/>

³⁷⁷¹ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, *CS William Kabogo Officially Launches Nyeri Regional Office and Strategic Plan 2025-2029* (Jul. 5, 2025), <https://www.odpc.go.ke/cs-william-kabogo-officially-launches-nyeri-regional-office-and-strategic-plan-2025-2029/>

³⁷⁷² Global Privacy Assembly, *44th Closed Session of the Global Privacy Assembly* (Oct. 27, 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/1.1.-b.-GPA-2022-Accreditation-Resolution.pdf>

³⁷⁷³ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁷⁷⁴ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

³⁷⁷⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

³⁷⁷⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³⁷⁷⁷ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, *Office of the Data Protection Commissioner Recognized with Prestigious Global Awards* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.odpc.go.ke/office-of-the-data-protection-commissioner-recognized-with-prestigious-global-awards/>

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Kenya has not yet signed or ratified³⁷⁷⁸ the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention).³⁷⁷⁹ However, the government has responded to calls to sign and ratify the Convention amid concerns surrounding data localization requirements and cross-border data transfer that would require reciprocity with Malabo signatories.³⁷⁸⁰ The ODPC initiated broad stakeholder consultations on the accession process in 2025.³⁷⁸¹ This move aligns with the National AI Strategy's strong emphasis on data sovereignty and regional data governance harmonization.

Algorithmic Transparency

Kenya has not explicitly established a right to algorithmic transparency in legislation. However, the DPA includes provisions related to algorithmic transparency, such as granting individuals rights over their personal data, including the right to access and correct their data. The DPA also requires the data controller or data processor to notify the data subject in writing that a decision has been taken based solely on automated processing.³⁷⁸² Further, Section 22 requires that a data controller or data processor shall not only “inform a data subject when engaging in processing based on automated individual decision making” but also “provide meaningful information about the logic involved.”³⁷⁸³

³⁷⁷⁸ African Union, *List of Countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Jul. 8, 2024), [https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-<u>AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf</u>)

³⁷⁷⁹ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

³⁷⁸⁰ Malcom Kijirah & Elaine Wangari, *Symposium on the Economic Impacts of Data Localization in Africa*, African International Economic Law Network, Afronomics Law (May 23, 2022), <https://www.afronomicslaw.org/category/analysis/symposium-economic-impacts-data-localisation-africa-data-localisation-kenya>

³⁷⁸¹ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), *Kenya Undertakes Stakeholder Consultations on Accession to the Malabo Convention* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.odpc.go.ke/kenya-undertakes-stakeholder-consultations-on-accession-to-the-malabo-convention/>

³⁷⁸² Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, *Data Protection Act*, Section 35(3) (Feb. 2021), https://www.odpc.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/TheDataProtectionAct_No24of2019.pdf

³⁷⁸³ *Ibid*, Section 22

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AI Oversight

The Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy (MICDE) is primarily responsible for overseeing AI development and policy.³⁷⁸⁴ The Ministry initiatives led to the development of Kenya's National AI Strategy with support from partners like GIZ and UNESCO to guide the ethical adoption and implementation of AI across critical sectors including education, financial services, agriculture, healthcare, and governance.

The National Communications Authority (CA) and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) are also actively involved in the regulation of aspects of AI such as data privacy and security.³⁷⁸⁵ The CA plays a critical role in ensuring that AI-related advancements align with national goals, including infrastructure development and cybersecurity, while protecting digital rights. The ODPC ensures compliance and enforcement of data protection obligations.

The Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Society Bill,³⁷⁸⁶ which was proposed to the Parliament in 2023 and debated in 2024, would introduce a regulatory body, the Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Society, to set standards for AI and robotics development and ensure compliance. However, tech experts testified before the National Assembly ICT Committee that the initiative oversimplifies the complexities of AI roles and imposes impractical requirements, such as mandatory membership for AI professionals.³⁷⁸⁷

AI in Education

Kenya was one of 49 countries subject of a study by Human Rights Watch about the use of government-endorsed or government-built Ed Tech tools for online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁸⁸ The findings show that Kenya Education Cloud, a platform used by the Ministry of Education to deliver online education to primary and secondary students, shared children's data with AdTech

³⁷⁸⁴ Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, *Function of the Ministry* (2024), <https://ict.go.ke/function-ministry>

³⁷⁸⁵ Communications Authority of Kenya, *What We Do* (2023), <https://www.ca.go.ke/what-we-do>

³⁷⁸⁶ DataGuidance, *The Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Society Bill 2023* (2023), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/the_kenya_robotics_and_artificial_intelligence_society_bill_2023.docx.pdf

³⁷⁸⁷ OECD AI Policy Observatory, Incidents Tracker, *Kenya Is Facing Opposition to a New Robotics and AI Bill* (Feb. 9, 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/incidents/67449>; TradingView, *Kenya Faces Backlash over New AI and Robotics Bill* (Feb. 9, 2024), <https://www.tradingview.com/news/cointelegraph:6c6677d44094b:0-kenya-faces-backlash-over-new-ai-and-robotics-bill/>

³⁷⁸⁸ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life?* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

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companies. The platform contained ad trackers that sent data about users to third-party companies to target ads across the internet.³⁷⁸⁹ The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has since published a guidance note that highlights duties for public and private providers in handling data, such as DPIAs, children's rights and transparency notices related to data protection in the education sector.³⁷⁹⁰

The Kenya Ministry of Education planned to implement automated decision-making in admission decisions.³⁷⁹¹ In response to the public outcry, the Ministry explained the factors underlying the model, including the reliance on criteria of merit, equity, choice, category of school, and school capacity. Reports about the outcomes of the model are forthcoming. A previous process of quotas in the Form One selection in Kenya led to complaints by parents who argued discrimination in 2012.³⁷⁹²

Biometrics

Kenya's policies on biometrics are part of its broader efforts to modernize identification systems and enhance security. The country has initiated the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) introduced through changes made to the Registration of Persons Miscellaneous Amendment Bill that entered into force in 2019. The system was intended to create and operate a national population register as a single source of information about Kenyan citizens and foreigners in the country.³⁷⁹³ This system collected biometric data, including fingerprints and facial images, to facilitate access to government services and initiatives such as digital driving licenses and e-passport systems.

The Kenyan government started an upgrade of the medical records system in 2015 in a bid to stop health insurance fraud in Kenya's Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). The NHIF has 6.7M members, serving a population of 48M. The government started the biometric registration of civil servants and security officers

³⁷⁸⁹ Human Rights Watch. *Kenya Education Cloud. Privacy Snapshot* (Jun. 2021), https://features.hrw.org/features/StudentsNotProducts/files/privacy_snapshots/Privacy%20Snapshot%20-%20Kenya%20Kenya%20Education%20Cloud.pdf

³⁷⁹⁰ Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), *Guidance Note for the Education Sector* (Dec 2023), <https://www.odpc.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ODPC-Guidance-Note-for-the-Education-Sector.pdf>

³⁷⁹¹ Frankline Nkonge, *Legal Challenges Facing Algorithmic Decision-Making in Kenya* (Jan. 2024), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380049833_Legal_Challenges_Facing_Algorithmic_Decision-Making_in_Kenya

³⁷⁹² Jayne Ngari, *Parents Cite Bias in Form One Selection* (Jan 18, 2012), <https://nation.africa/kenya/news/parents-cite-bias-in-form-one-selection--796806>

³⁷⁹³ National Integrated Identity Management System, <https://nims.co.ke/>

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to migrate the system to smart cards.³⁷⁹⁴ The government deployed biometric kits to 1,370 hospitals in 2018.

In 2018, the biometric plan included the registration of students into a health insurance plan nationwide and the registration of newborns.³⁷⁹⁵ The infant biometrics plan emerged from the need of the country to ensure that kids of HIV-affected mothers returned to the hospitals for treatment. UC San Diego conducted fundamental research on fingerprinting engineering.

Kenya biometric ID system Huduma Namba went live in 2019 amid allegations of insufficient protections for privacy rights and challenges by digital rights groups. The Kenyan High Court ruled in 2020 that the government must implement comprehensive data protection measures before fully operationalizing the system.³⁷⁹⁶ After the court's decision in 2021, Huduma Bill was sponsored in the National Assembly by the Leader of Majority. However, the Bill has remained in Parliament. The Cabinet Secretary for ICT at the time asserted that the project "ran into trouble because of inadequate sensitization and a lack of trust in the system by a vast majority of citizens."³⁷⁹⁷

Kenya is set to revamp the ID scheme as part of the digitization efforts of the country. The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication, and Digital Economy announced the plans to replace the controversial Huduma Namba with a new digital identity known as the Maisha Namba in February 2024.³⁷⁹⁸ The online identification will have a centralized database that will connect with the National Information Management System (NIIMS). The system will contain a comprehensive set of data held by the government to facilitate access to public services, and also to be linked to the birth-to-death Unique Personal Identifier

³⁷⁹⁴ Chris Burt, *Kenya progressing toward biometric deployment in all hospitals to curb health insurance fraud* (Sept. 11, 2018), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201809/kenya-progressing-toward-biometric-deployment-in-all-hospitals-to-curb-health-insurance-fraud>

³⁷⁹⁵ Chris Burt, *Potential breakthrough in infant biometrics heads for trial in Kenya after ID4Africa appeal* (Jun. 28, 2018), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201806/potential-breakthrough-in-infant-biometrics-heads-for-trial-in-kenya-after-id4africa-appeal>

³⁷⁹⁶ Privacy International, *Kenyan Court Ruling on Huduma Namba Identity System: The Good, the Bad and the Lessons* (Feb. 2020), <https://privacyinternational.org/long-read/3373/kenyan-court-ruling-huduma-namba-identity-system-good-bad-and-lessons>

³⁷⁹⁷ Ayang Macdonald, *Kenya mulls digital ID scheme changes and new uses for controversial Huduma Namba*, Biometric Update (Jan. 16, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/kenya-mulls-digital-id-scheme-changes-and-new-uses-for-controversial-huduma-namba>

³⁷⁹⁸ Chris Burt, *Kenyan government seeks to differentiate new national digital ID from Huduma Namba*, Biometric Update (Feb 24, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202302/kenyan-government-seeks-to-differentiate-new-national-digital-id-from-huduma-namba>

(UPI).³⁷⁹⁹ The plans include the assignment of a number to the newborn that will remain as the identifier at school and as the National Identity number, social security number, and death certificate number.

Despite the legal framework, concerns remain about data security, potential misuse of biometric data, and the inclusivity of the NIIMS system.³⁸⁰⁰ Critics argue that marginalized groups may face barriers in accessing the system, potentially exacerbating existing inequalities.³⁸⁰¹ Most recently, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration also announced the issuance of biometric passports, which were launched in 2022. Citizenship and Residency documents with advanced features of third-generation security will be part of this innovation to the immigration process.

Facial Recognition

Kenya's policies on facial recognition are evolving. Currently there are no laws in Kenya that specifically address the challenges associated with the misuse of facial recognition technology. Nor are there laws aimed at regulating the adoption and use of facial recognition or even traditional CCTV systems more broadly.³⁸⁰² However, existing laws, like the Data Protection Act, have been applied.

The Kenyan National Police Service (NPS) launched facial recognition on major roads and highways through an urban CCTV network in 2018.³⁸⁰³ This system called Integrated Command and Control system (ICCS) relied on CCTV cameras to do Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to detect vehicles involved in crimes as part of the Critical Incident Management suite (CIMS).

The NPS partnered with a Japanese firm to install an upgrade of the ICCS, to “help in fast and accurate identification of suspects.”³⁸⁰⁴ The NPS Plans include using

³⁷⁹⁹ Ayang Macdonald, *Kenya to clear backlog of biometric passports, new 'smart and digital ID' system coming*. *Biometric Update* (Feb. 6, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202302/kenya-to-clear-backlog-of-biometric-passports-new-smart-and-digital-id-system-coming>

³⁸⁰⁰ Bulelani Jili, *Kenya Must Update Its Regulatory Frameworks to Keep Pace with AI*, Tech Policy Press (Oct. 2, 2023), <https://www.techpolicy.press/kenya-must-update-its-regulatory-frameworks-to-keep-pace-with-ai/>

³⁸⁰¹ Identify Review, *Inside the Controversial Huduma Namba, Kenya's Exclusive Digital Identity Scheme* (Feb. 21, 2021), <https://identityreview.com/inside-the-controversial-huduma-namba-kenyas-exclusive-digital-identity-scheme/>

³⁸⁰² Bulelani Jili, *Kenya Must Update its Regulatory Frameworks to Keep Pace with AI*, Tech Policy Press (Oct. 2023), <https://www.techpolicy.press/kenya-must-update-its-regulatory-frameworks-to-keep-pace-with-ai/>

³⁸⁰³ Chris Burt, *Kenyan police launch facial recognition on urban CCTV network*. *Biometric Update* (Sept. 24, 2018), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201809/kenyan-police-launch-facial-recognition-on-urban-cctv-network>

³⁸⁰⁴ Ibid

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the Neo Face as an alternative when law enforcement cannot identify a suspect using fingerprints.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Kenya supports a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons and has voted in favor of UN resolutions toward that end.³⁸⁰⁵ Kenya is part of the African Group and Non-Aligned Movement. Kenya reiterated the position to “act quickly to establish a robust international regulatory framework that would ensure such technological advancements [as AI and LAWS] serve to protect humanity, rather than diminish its values.”³⁸⁰⁶ Kenya is actively shaping operational norms for military AI. Kenya engaged in the 2024 Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAM) summit in Seoul and contributed to the non-binding REAIM “Blueprint for Action.”³⁸⁰⁷ The Blueprint outlines ethical guidelines for AI use in military settings, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and human oversight.³⁸⁰⁸ While not binding, Kenya’s endorsement aligns with its previously stated position supporting international regulation of autonomous weapons.

Environmental Impact of AI

Kenya’s National AI Strategy explicitly embeds sustainability, with the prioritization of enhancing green infrastructure and balancing AI development with environmentally sustainable AI systems.³⁸⁰⁹ Kenya aims to align its AI advancements with sustainability objectives by investing in energy-efficient infrastructure and promoting AI applications that support environmental goals such as precision agriculture. Additionally, sustainable developments can be seen by aligning the

³⁸⁰⁵ Automated Decision Research, *Kenya*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/kenya/

³⁸⁰⁶ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, *Statement by Ambassador Ekitela Lokaale, Permanent Representative during the First Committee-Disarmament & International Security General Debate* (Oct. 14, 2024), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/statements/14Oct_Kenya.pdf

³⁸⁰⁷ Ministry of Defence, *CS Defence Leads Kenya Delegation at REAIM Summit 2024 in Seoul, South Korea* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.mod.go.ke/news/cs-defence-leads-kenya-delegation-at-ream-summit-2024-in-seoul-south-korea>

³⁸⁰⁸ Africa Defense Forum (ADF), *Kenya Plays Lead Role in Creating Blueprint for Military AI Use* (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://adf-magazine.com/2025/08/kenya-plays-lead-role-in-creating-blueprint-for-military-ai-use/>

³⁸⁰⁹ Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy (MICDE), *Kenya Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2030* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-03/Kenya%20AI%20Strategy%202025%20-%202030.pdf>

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Kenya Cloud Policy³⁸¹⁰ with the National AI Strategy. The cloud policy encourages investment in green cloud infrastructure, thus accelerating the adoption of low-carbon AI infrastructure.

AI Literacy

Kenya has made meaningful progress in laying the foundations for AI literacy, though substantial gaps persist. The Digital Skills pillar of the Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022–2032 commits to developing “a digitally skilled workforce that is grounded on ethical practices and socio-cultural values.”³⁸¹¹ The government has also expanded programs to equip learners, public servants, and private-sector actors with AI and data competencies.

The Africa Centre of Competence for Digital and Artificial Intelligence Skilling at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), developed in partnership with the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MICDE), UNDP, and Microsoft,³⁸¹² delivers modular training in AI, data science, cybersecurity and digital skills to public servants across Africa. The program supports ethical and human-centered digital transformation in government. In parallel, the 2025 launch of a flagship Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for civil servants jointly developed by UNESCO, the University of Oxford, and KSG under the DigiKen initiative—Digital Platforms Kenya—demonstrates growing institutional commitment to scaling AI literacy across government.³⁸¹³

Kenya is engaging with programs to embed AI and coding literacy among younger learners, too. The first phase of the UNESCO–CODEMAO Youth Coding Initiative (2022–2024) trained students and teachers in foundational AI and coding tools. The second phase (2025–2030) aims to expand reach to underserved counties.³⁸¹⁴ However, infrastructure and access remain uneven: UNESCO reports that only 17% of Kenya’s rural population has access to reliable internet compared to 44% in urban areas, and that women’s utilization of advanced digital services

³⁸¹⁰ Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy (MICDE), *Kenya Cloud Policy* (Dec. 2024), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2024-12/Kenya%20Cloud%20Policy%20-%202024.pdf>

³⁸¹¹ Republic of Kenya, *Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022–2032* (Apr 2022), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2022-04/Kenya%20Digital%20Masterplan%202022-2032%20Online%20Version.pdf>

³⁸¹² UNDP Africa, *Public Sector Digital Transformation and AI Capacity Building at the Kenya School of Government* (2024–2025), <https://www.undp.org/kenya/africa-center-competence-digital-and-artificial-intelligence-skilling>

³⁸¹³ UNESCO, *DigiKen (Digital Platforms Kenya)* (Sept 8 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/digiken-digital-platforms-kenya>

³⁸¹⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO-CODEMAO “Youth Coding Initiative”* (Apr 29 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-codemaoyouth-coding-initiative>

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stands at 35% versus 54% for men.³⁸¹⁵ Expanding AI literacy must reach underserved groups to ensure inclusive participation in the emerging AI economy. Ensuring that AI literacy programs incorporate ethical, rights-based, and algorithmic-transparency components will further support Kenya's overall governance of AI and align with its broader human-centered AI ambitions.³⁸¹⁶

Human Rights

According to Freedom House, Kenya is “Partly Free” with a score of 51/100 for political rights and civil liberties.³⁸¹⁷ The country's media and civil society sectors are vibrant, even as journalists and human rights defenders remain vulnerable to restrictive laws and intimidation. Concerns exist about the government's interference with the right to privacy of individuals and the frequent use of cybercrime laws to crack down on online critics of the government. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance in 2024 scores Kenya at 60.3/100 for overall governance, and 63.8/100 in Participation Rights & Inclusion, placing the country in position 10 out of 54 countries.³⁸¹⁸

Kenya's Constitution contains the Bill of Rights under Chapter 4 with a catalog of fundamental civil and political rights and socio-economic and cultural rights. These rights include Freedom and security of the person, right to Privacy, Freedom of expression, Freedom of the media, right to access to information, and right to dignity.³⁸¹⁹ Kenya's Human Rights Commission has an oversight mandate on human rights protection and promotion.

Kenya is a signatory to various regional and international human rights treaties and conventions including the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

³⁸¹⁵ UNESCO AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Kenya* (2026),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/kenya>

³⁸¹⁶ Ministry of ICT & Digital Economy, *Kenya National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2030* (Mar 27, 2025), <https://ict.go.ke/sites/default/files/2025-03/Kenya%20AI%20Strategy%202025-%202030.pdf>

³⁸¹⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Kenya* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/kenya/freedom-world/2025>

³⁸¹⁸ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Kenya, 2024, Overall Governance*

(2025), <https://iiag.online/data.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=KE&view=overview&subview=absoluteTrends>

³⁸¹⁹ Kenya Law Reform Commission, *The Constitution of Kenya: Chapter 4, The Bill of Rights* (2023), <https://www.klrc.go.ke/index.php/constitution-of-kenya/110-chapter-four-the-bill-of-rights>

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AI Safety Summit

Kenya participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in 2023.³⁸²⁰ Kenya thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.”

At the second safety summit, the AI Seoul Summit, Kenya and other participants signed a Statement of Intent to cooperate on AI Safety Science. Kenya’s Special Envoy for Technology attended the first International Network of AI Safety Institutes in San Francisco in November 2024.³⁸²¹

Conversations about synthetic content, managing risks, and global governance continued at the third summit, the AI Action Summit in Paris in February 2025. Representatives defined a shift in focus “to develop technical solutions that are open and accessible to all” and reiterated a commitment to “Ensuring the development of trusted, safe and secure AI to benefit of all.”³⁸²²

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Kenya is not a member of the OECD and has not endorsed the OECD AI principles.³⁸²³ Many of Kenya’s initiatives in digital transformation and AI align with OECD AI principles. Research and development center on fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. Kenya’s AI strategies, initiatives, and policies such as AI Use Case in the Public Sector; Blockchain and AI Task Force; Emerging Digital Technologies for Kenya Exploration and Analysis; Kenya’s Digital Economy Blueprint; Kenya’s Digital Economy Strategy; and Kenya’s Digital Literacy Program (Digischool) align with OECD principles such as inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being and capacity-building.³⁸²⁴

³⁸²⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit*, (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

³⁸²¹ Kenya News, *Ambassador Thigo Leads Kenya’s Participation in Historical AI Safety Network Launch in the US* (Nov. 24, 2024), <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/ambassador-thigo-leads-kenyas-participation-in-historic-ai-safety-network-launch-in-the-us/>

³⁸²² France Diplomacy, *AI Action Summit: Ensuring the Development of Trusted, Safe and Secure AI to Benefit of All* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/digital-diplomacy/news/article/ai-action-summit-ensuring-the-development-of-trusted-safe-and-secure-ai-to>

³⁸²³ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/%20OECD-LEGAL-0449>

³⁸²⁴ OECD.AI, *AI Initiatives from Kenya* (2022), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/kenya>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Kenya has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, the first legally binding international treaty on AI.³⁸²⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Kenya is a UNESCO member state since 1964,³⁸²⁶ and was one of the 193 member states that adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in November 2021.³⁸²⁷

According to the UNESCO AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa, Kenya has been active in initiatives to improve participation through improvements in internet access under the Rights, Openness, Accessibility, and Multi-stakeholder participation. The report does not include information about Kenya's progress in strategies, policies, legislations, ethical guidelines, centers of excellence on AI, start-up, and incubation centers.³⁸²⁸

The Government of Kenya has collaborated with UNESCO in organizing and participating in the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence. Kenya hosted the 2024 forum under the theme of Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development in June.³⁸²⁹

Kenya completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in 2024.³⁸³⁰ The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.³⁸³¹ The RAM report commends Kenya's strong legal framework and multistakeholder consultation process in developing the AI and digital economy strategies. The report notes challenges in Kenya's public investment

³⁸²⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

³⁸²⁶ UNESCO, *Member States* (2025), <https://en.unesco.org/countries>

³⁸²⁷ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

³⁸²⁸ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

³⁸²⁹ UNESCO, *The Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence* (2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/earfai>

³⁸³⁰ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, General Conference, 42nd session (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387369>

³⁸³¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

in research and development and disparities in access to digital services across gender and rural-urban divides.³⁸³²

Evaluation

Kenya is stepping up its efforts in establishing a comprehensive framework for digital policies in line with developments in the African Union. Kenya has updated its data protection legal regime, created an independent data protection commission, and progressed on the right to algorithmic transparency. Kenya is yet to adopt a national AI policy that reflects the commitment it took by endorsing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. However, partnerships with organizations like GIZ and UNESCO illustrate a commitment to ethical AI use, particularly through initiatives like FAIR Forward, which focuses on inclusive AI development. Despite this alignment, Kenya's lack of formal endorsement and absence of a dedicated regulatory body for AI limits the full integration of OECD standards or the push for the ratification of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, particularly in algorithmic transparency and accountability. Due to budgetary constraints, Kenya may need to consider whether to expand the mandate of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to also encompass regulation of AI or create an independent AI regulatory body. Serious concerns also exist about practices akin to AI-powered mass surveillance.

³⁸³² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Country Profiles: Kenya* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/kenya>

Kuwait

In 2025, Kuwait mandated AI curriculum for 10th graders and initiated AI and cybersecurity training for public-sector employees. The country's 2025 Freedom House ranking fell significantly following the Amir's dissolution of Parliament and constitutional articles requiring elections.

National AI Strategy

Kuwait's focus on the diversification of its oil-based economy is the basis of the Kuwait Vision 2035 New Kuwait,³⁸³³ the country's National Development Plan requiring investment in R&D propelled by industry, government, and academia. Kuwait released the draft National AI Strategy 2025–2028 in 2024 in line with the Vision 2035. The strategy remains publicly available in draft form with 2025 representing the launch and pilot phase of the strategy.³⁸³⁴

The National AI Strategy 2025–2028 document outlines strategic objectives for the Government to advance toward the AI goals defined under the Vision 2035. The Strategy combines the pillars of the vision with a roadmap for AI, envisioning Kuwait's global positioning, sustainable living, effective public administration, creative human capital, developed infrastructure, sustainable diversified economy, and high-quality healthcare as keys to harnessing AI “for the benefit of its citizens and the nation as a whole.”³⁸³⁵ The National AI Strategy stresses the importance of “transparency, accessibility and user-friendliness” to the objective of transforming public services.³⁸³⁶ The Strategy defines Advancing Responsible AI as the first step in the roadmap, building the development of AI on “Ensuring AI is developed and deployed responsibly within Kuwait is a critical piece of the AI puzzle.” The Government notes policy and regulatory tools to ensure responsible AI governance.³⁸³⁷

Launched in 2017, the New Kuwait Development Plan aims to transform the country into a financial and commercial hub for the region. The plan is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and more particularly the objective of

³⁸³³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Kuwait Vision 2035 “New Kuwait”* (2025), <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/pages/kuwait-vision-2035>

³⁸³⁴ Central Agency for Information Technology, *Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028* (2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁸³⁵ Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), *National AI Strategy 2025–2028*, p. 6 (2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁸³⁶ Ibid, p. 10

³⁸³⁷ Ibid, p. 22

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“consolidating the values of society, preserving its identity, as well as achieving justice, political participation and freedoms.”³⁸³⁸ The seven pillars of the Kuwait Vision 2035 are:³⁸³⁹ (1) public administration (2) economy (3) infrastructure (4) living environment, (5) healthcare, (6) human capital, and (7) global position. The public administration pillar has the objective of “reform[ing] administrative and bureaucratic practices to reinforce transparency, accountability and efficiency in the government.”

In the country’s first National Cyber Security Strategy (2017–2020), the State of Kuwait declares the objective to ensure that the strategy “preserves the fundamental rights, freedom and privacy of individuals and institutions.”³⁸⁴⁰ The strategy aims to create a cybersecurity environment that is safe and secure through the development of legislation that keeps pace with technology and aligns with international standards.³⁸⁴¹

Kuwait’s Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) declared the importance of adopting artificial intelligence³⁸⁴² and cloud computing techniques to achieve the New Kuwait 2035 objectives. Another government entity, the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) has a key role in implementing a roadmap for government in digital transformation and announced the launch of the Massar strategy during the Smart Government Summit in May 2022.³⁸⁴³

Government entities such as CAIT are making concerted efforts to advance the digital transformation roadmap in Kuwait. In November 2022, CAIT hosted the Digital Transformation Kuwait Conference, to discuss digitization in government services and the pathway to the digital economy. The Deputy Director General of CAIT expressed the need for “cooperation between government and private sector to build, an advanced digital economy coupled with a flexible legislative system that

³⁸³⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Kuwait Vision 2035 “New Kuwait”* (2025),

<https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/pages/kuwait-vision-2035>

³⁸³⁹ New Kuwait, *New Kuwait Campaign Launch Event* (Jan. 30, 2017),

http://www.newkuwait.gov.kw/image/NewKuwait_CampaignLaunchEvent.pdf

³⁸⁴⁰ CITRA, *Cyber Security Strategy 2017–2020, First Edition* (2017),

[https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/English Cyber Security Strategy.pdf](https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/English%20Cyber%20Security%20Strategy.pdf)

³⁸⁴¹ Council of Europe, *Kuwait: Cybercrime Policies/Strategies* (2020),

https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/country-wiki-ap/-/asset_publisher/CmDb7M4RGb4Z/content/kuwait/pop_up#

³⁸⁴² CITRA, *Kuwait Confirms the Importance of Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Achieving the Objectives of Vision (New Kuwait 2035)* (Dec. 19, 2018),

<https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?NewsID=55>

³⁸⁴³ The Times, *Kuwait’s CAIT: Speeding Efforts for Smart Gov’t, Digital Transformation*

“Important” (May 31, 2022), <https://timeskuwait.com/news/speeding-efforts-for-smart-govt-digital-transformation/>

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dedicates uniformity to the sector's cybersecurity policies, guidelines and strategies."³⁸⁴⁴

Regional AI Governance

As a member State of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), Kuwait endorsed the Riyadh AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration "aimed at advancing the DCO's commitment to identifying and addressing present, emerging and future humanitarian issues in the field of AI."³⁸⁴⁵ RAICA was launched during the Global AI Summit of 2022³⁸⁴⁶ and established a commitment to developing AI technology that benefits people, communities, and countries.

In October 2023, Attorneys General from member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, including Kuwait, approved a unified guiding document for uses of AI in public prosecution.³⁸⁴⁷ This document is based on ten principles including justice, fairness, transparency, interpretability, security, human values, sustainability, and privacy.³⁸⁴⁸

In 2025, Kuwait's Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things and Saudi Arabia's Artificial Intelligence Governance Association signed a strategic memorandum of understanding³⁸⁴⁹ to share expertise and collaborate on governance standards and research on AI of Things. Kuwait presided over the 5th General Assembly of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) in 2026. The outcome document, Kuwait Declaration on Responsible AI for Global Digital Prosperity,

³⁸⁴⁴ Digital Transformation Kuwait, *Kuwait Digital Transformation Conference Opens Today to Achieve Kuwait 2035 Vision to Transform into a Digital Society and Economy* (Nov. 2, 2022), <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/events-and-conferences/kuwait-digital-transformation-conference-opens-today-to-achieve-kuwait-2035-vision-to-transform-into-a-digital-society-and-economy-vi56h38s>

³⁸⁴⁵ Digital Cooperation Organization, *Riyadh AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration* (Sept. 22, 2022), <https://dco.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Riyadh-AI-Call-for-Action-RAICA-Declaration.pdf>

³⁸⁴⁶ Arab News / Asharq Al-Awsat, *Digital Cooperation Organization Adopts Riyadh AI Declaration* (Sept. 2022), <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3872971/digital-cooperation-organization-adopts-riyadh-ai-declaration>

³⁸⁴⁷ Library of Congress, *FALQs: AI Regulations in the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States*, In Custodia Legis, Law Librarians of Congress (Dec. 18, 2024), <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2024/12/falqs-ai-regulations-in-the-gulf-cooperation-council-member-states-part-two/>

³⁸⁴⁸ Gulf Cooperation Council, *Unified Guiding Document for the Uses of AI in Public Prosecution* (Oct. 15, 2023), <https://gcc-sg.org/ar/MediaCenter/DigitalLibrary/Documents/Law%205.pdf>

³⁸⁴⁹ CAIT, *Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028* (Jul. 24, 2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

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reaffirmed commitments to ethical AI governance, addressing risks of inequality, bias, privacy, and security in AI systems.³⁸⁵⁰

Public Participation

The Kuwait Government's online platform is the channel of communication of the government with the society, providing information about laws and regulations and increasing awareness of information technology.³⁸⁵¹ The platform includes a list of government entities using e-services with channels for consultation. Kuwait is yet to have a mechanism to engage civil society in AI policymaking.

The Kuwait Vision Engagement Program 2035 (برنامج المشاركة لرؤية الكويت) included a mechanism providing an opportunity for the society to provide input in the formulation of the New Kuwait document.³⁸⁵² Individuals, government organizations, private companies, NGOs, or volunteers were able to submit their interest in various roles, such as ambassadors, pledgers, enablers, innovators, spreaders, and entrepreneurs.

The Kuwaiti Government produced the Country Engagement Framework (CEF) as part of the Third Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP-3) within the New Kuwait 2035 Vision. This policy framework, produced in consultation with stakeholders and with the support of the World Bank,³⁸⁵³ reflected the analysis of issues and challenges regarding the seven pillars of Vision 2035.

On the civil society front, the Kuwait Transparency Society, a non-profit organization in Kuwait, participated in drafting the executive regulations of the "Right of Access to Information Law" passed in November 2021.³⁸⁵⁴ The focus group included a team of governmental experts to improve the final format of the regulations in line with international experiences.³⁸⁵⁵ The Society monitors the

³⁸⁵⁰ Digital Cooperation Organization, *DCO Concludes 5th General Assembly with Adoption of the Kuwait Declaration on Responsible AI for Global Digital Prosperity* (Feb. 7, 2026),

<https://dco.org/media/digital-cooperation-organization-concludes-5th-general-assembly-with-adoption-of-the-kuwait-declaration-on-responsible-ai-for-global-digital-prosperity/>

³⁸⁵¹ Kuwait Government Online, *Kuwait Government Directory* (2025),

<https://e.gov.kw/sites/kgenglish/Pages/OtherTopics/KGD.aspx>

³⁸⁵² Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait"* (2025),

<https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/pages/kuwait-vision-2035>

³⁸⁵³ State of Kuwait, *World Bank Country Engagement Framework 2021–2025* (Jan. 2021),

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/06a7eba0bc51a01f8b1e4ba80be0bcd-f-0280012021/original/KuwaitCEF-2021-2025-Final-English.pdf>

³⁸⁵⁴ Kuwait Transparency Society, *Kuwait Lags behind Most GCC States in Gender Equality: KTS Government Sectors Performed Distinctively Well during Pandemic* (Feb 6, 2022),

<http://transparency.org.kw>

³⁸⁵⁵ UNCAC Coalition, *Kuwait Transparency Society* (2025), <https://uncaccoalition.org/kuwait-transparency-society/>

regulations implementation and trains government agencies in implementing the law in line with transparency and anti-corruption standards.

Kuwait has embraced e-government plans, to enhance transparency and decentralization of public services, to minimize the control of government officials on operations.³⁸⁵⁶ This is still work in progress, as reported by the Bertelsmann Foundation country report,³⁸⁵⁷ which by 2024 ranked Kuwait 55 of 137 countries, substantially lower than in previous years, with low scores in “Rule of Law” and “political participation.” The draft National AI Strategy 2025–2028 identifies AI-driven government services as a national project priority, with citizen engagement cited as a key objective of digital transformation.³⁸⁵⁸

Data Protection

Kuwait's Constitution protects the right to privacy. Article 39 reads: “Freedom of postal, telegraphic, and telephone correspondence is maintained, and secrecy is ensured.” Messages may not be monitored unless required by law and only in compliance with established processes.³⁸⁵⁹

Kuwait lacks a dedicated personal data protection legislation and a data protection supervisory entity.³⁸⁶⁰ Two government entities: CITRA and CAIT, are responsible for the regulation and governance respectively, of information technology services in the country. CITRA³⁸⁶¹ is the Communication & Information Regulatory Authority, responsible for regulating, supervising, and monitoring the telecommunication sector of Kuwait and protecting the interest of users.³⁸⁶² CAIT is the Central Agency for Information Technology, responsible for IT governance.³⁸⁶³

³⁸⁵⁶ Naser Almutairi, Ahmad AL-Hussaini and Shebiab Fahad Thuwaini, *The Impact of Adopting E-Government on Reduce Administrative Corruption: Empirical Evidence from Kuwait's Public Sector, Public Authority of Applied Education and Training Collage of Business* (2013), <https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:14973254>

³⁸⁵⁷ BertelsmannStiftung Foundation, *BTI Transformation Index. Kuwait Country Report 2024*, <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/KWT>

³⁸⁵⁸ CAIT, *Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028*, p. 12 (Jul. 24, 2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁸⁵⁹ Kuwait, *Constitution. Art. 39*, https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Kuwait_1992.pdf?lang=en

³⁸⁶⁰ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World, Kuwait* (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=KW>

³⁸⁶¹ CITRA, *Law of CITRA Communication & Info. Technology Regulatory Authority*, <https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/Pages/LawofCITRA.aspx>

³⁸⁶² CITRA, *Regulations and Decisions*, <https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/Pages/regulations.aspx>

³⁸⁶³ CAIT, *Kuwait Government Online (e.gov.kw)*, <https://www.e.gov.kw/sites/kgoenglish/Pages/InfoPages/FAQs.aspx>

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CITRA has made efforts to provide governance and regulation to the technology sector, through Decision No. 42 of 2021 on Data Privacy Protection Regulation (DPPR)³⁸⁶⁴ and the Cybersecurity strategy.³⁸⁶⁵ The DPPR describes data protection obligations on Telecommunication Services Providers and associated industrial sectors in terms of data collection, storage, processing, and transfer.³⁸⁶⁶ Human-centered values and fairness may be inferred from the DPPR mandate to “respect the rights and freedoms of natural and legal persons,”³⁸⁶⁷ setting provisions against the harmful use of personal data by third parties. Penalties are also established in case of violations of these rights.

Kuwait updated the Data Privacy Protection Regulation in 2024.³⁸⁶⁸ CITRA also repealed the Data Classification Policy under Decision No. 34 of 2024, which previously classified data into four distinct levels to provide guidance to entities that process, store, and transfer data.³⁸⁶⁹ The DPPR governs the collection and processing of personal data via Service Providers of Communication and Information Technology Services (CIT Service) in the public and private sectors.³⁸⁷⁰ CIT Services include public telecommunications networks, the operation of a website, smart application, or cloud computing services, by any natural or legal person.

The 2014 Law on Electronic Transactions includes privacy safeguards for privacy and data protection of civil, commercial, and administrative transactions, controlling electronic records, signatures, transactions, messages, and documents relating to these activities, but no specific mention to safeguards on interactions with AI-powered systems.³⁸⁷¹

The Law No. 63 of 2015 related to Combating Information Technology Crimes (Cyber Crime Law) regulates acts performed using an “information network”

³⁸⁶⁴ CITRA, *Data Privacy Protection Regulation*, V1.8,

https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/Data_Privacy_Protection_Regulation.pdf

³⁸⁶⁵ CITRA, *National Cyber Security Strategy for the state of Kuwait, 2017–2020*, (2017),

https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/English_Cyber_Security_Strategy.pdf

³⁸⁶⁶ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World, Kuwait* (Feb. 4, 2025),

<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=KW>

³⁸⁶⁷ CITRA, *Data Privacy Protection Regulation*, V1.8

https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/Data_Privacy_Protection_Regulation.pdf

³⁸⁶⁸ CITRA, *Regulations and Systems, Data Privacy Protection Regulation, Resolution*

2024/26 (Arabic only), <https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/Pages/regulations.aspx>

³⁸⁶⁹ CITRA, *Regulatory Decisions, Cancel Classification Policy, Resolution 2024/34* (Feb. 18,

2024), <https://citra.gov.kw/sites/ar/Pages/DecisionsDetails.aspx?id=2>

³⁸⁷⁰ CITRA, *Data Privacy Protection Regulation*, V1.8

https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/Data_Privacy_Protection_Regulation.pdf

³⁸⁷¹ Kuwait, *Law No. 20 of 2014 Concerning Electronic Transactions*

<https://www.e.gov.kw/sites/kgArabic/Forms/MagazineA.pdf>

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or “information technology.”³⁸⁷² Punishable under this law are hacking computer systems, accessing personal data without authorization, fraud, posting pornography, and engaging in human trafficking over the Internet. Articles 6 and 7 extend bans on print publications to online sharing of information, including online journalism and private use of social media and blogs.³⁸⁷³

The Cyber Crime Law, enforced since 2016, faced criticism for permitting restrictions on Internet-based speech.³⁸⁷⁴ Nothing in the Cybercrime law precludes police from utilizing these criteria to monitor private communications on Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms and mobile phone apps. An analysis by the Council of Europe (CoE) of the Cybercrime Law No 63 and Law No 20 of 2014 on Electronic Transactions found several areas of misalignment with the Budapest Convention.³⁸⁷⁵ This development contrasts with the original objectives of the National Cybersecurity Strategy of 2017-2020 that made “fundamental rights, freedom and privacy of individuals and institutions” a priority.³⁸⁷⁶

In January 2022, the Kuwaiti government announced a Cyber Security Bill to amend Law No. 63 of 2015 and established the National Center of Cybersecurity.³⁸⁷⁷ In a statement to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2022, the Kuwaiti Diplomatic attaché stressed the importance of the Cybersecurity Strategy 2017-2020 to “protect vital national and informational infrastructure and assets.”³⁸⁷⁸

Algorithmic Transparency

Kuwait has not enacted algorithmic transparency in law but the DPPR³⁸⁷⁹ requires providers to ensure transparency throughout collection and data processing. Yet, the DPPR does not include articles addressing automated decision-making,

³⁸⁷² Ministry of Interior, *Cybercrime Law*, <https://www.moi.gov.kw/main/sections/cyber-crime?culture=en>

³⁸⁷³ Human Rights Watch, *Kuwait: Cybercrime Law a Blow to Free Speech* (Jul 22, 2015), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/07/22/kuwait-cybercrime-law-blow-free-speech>

³⁸⁷⁴ Ibid

³⁸⁷⁵ Council of Europe, *Status Regarding Budapest Convention* (2020), <https://rm.coe.int/octocom-legal-profile-kuwait/16809e5372>

³⁸⁷⁶ CITRA, *Cyber Security Strategy 2017–2020* (2017), [https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/English Cyber Security Strategy.pdf](https://citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/English%20Cyber%20Security%20Strategy.pdf)

³⁸⁷⁷ Zawya, *Kuwait Approves Cyber Security Bill* (Jan. 19, 2022), <https://www.zawya.com/en/legal/kuwait-approves-cyber-security-bill-c9dw5oy0>

³⁸⁷⁸ Times Kuwait, *Kuwait to United Nations: Cybersecurity Is Essential Defense against Cybercrime* (Oct. 26, 2022), <https://timeskuwait.com/news/kuwait-to-united-nations-cybersecurity-is-essential-defense-against-cybercrime/>

³⁸⁷⁹ CITRA, *Data Privacy Protection Regulation, Version 1.8*, [https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/Data Privacy Protection Regulation.pdf](https://www.citra.gov.kw/sites/en/LegalReferences/Data%20Privacy%20Protection%20Regulation.pdf)

explainability, or AI-related transparency. The Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028 commits to ensuring the traceability and explainability of AI decisions and establishing mechanisms to detect and mitigate algorithmic bias.³⁸⁸⁰

Biometric Identification

Kuwait's efforts in digital government started in the early 2000s, following the GCC's decision to create electronic ID schemes for residents across the region. Kuwait launched the ID card program and eGovernment services in 2009. By 2012, Kuwait Ministry of Interior set up a biometric system in all land, sea, and airports, to track wanted individuals attempting to enter illegally to the country, and in 2016, launched a new e-passport system to combat forgery in immigration ports.³⁸⁸¹

The Kuwaiti government launched the new Digital ID card in April 2020, entrusting the project's management to the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI).³⁸⁸² The new Civil ID card would become the primary way of verifying the digital identity of all Kuwaiti citizens and residents and replace the physical card. The Civil ID was a crucial component in streamlining administrative operations to support Kuwait's comprehensive digital government project, aimed to change the way citizens and residents receive government services.

The new Civil ID card has a microprocessor that can store massive information, including digital certificates in a secure environment, allowing the use of electronic authentication and digital signatures.³⁸⁸³ ID verification takes place through mobile and QR codes, with the aid of a bot. A feature of the 'credential wallet' hosts driver's licenses, birth certificates, and other documentation. During COVID-19 the Civil ID app was also used for registration of the status and doses of vaccination.³⁸⁸⁴

Effective March 1, 2024, Kuwait's Ministry of Interior made biometric fingerprinting mandatory for all citizens, residents, and GCC nationals aged 18 and above, requiring enrollment in a central biometric database.³⁸⁸⁵ Foreign nationals

³⁸⁸⁰ CAIT, *Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028*, p. 12 (Jul. 24, 2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁸⁸¹ Stephen Mayhew, *Kuwait Launching New e-Passport System by September* (May 12, 2016), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201605/kuwait-launching-new-e-passport-system-by-september>

³⁸⁸² Thales, *Civil ID Card in Kuwait: The Key to Digital Government*, <https://www.thalesgroup.com/en/markets/digital-identity-and-security/government/customer-cases/kuwait>

³⁸⁸³ Ibid

³⁸⁸⁴ Paci, *Civil ID* (2023), <https://hawyti.paci.gov.kw/English/Home.aspx>

³⁸⁸⁵ Fragomen, *Kuwait: Mandatory Biometric Fingerprinting for Citizens, Residents and GCC Nationals* (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.fragomen.com/insights/kuwait-mandatory-biometric-fingerprinting-for-citizens-residents-and-gcc-nationals-forthcoming.html>

who did not comply with the December 30, 2024, deadline faced restrictions including travel bans and suspension of residency, banking, and employment transactions. The Kuwait government is also set to use DNA and biometric information to inform decisions about granting, confirming, or revoking citizenship.³⁸⁸⁶ Ministerial Resolution No. 678 of 2025 establishes the regulatory framework for this process.³⁸⁸⁷

The Ministry of Education (MoE) announced the approval by the Audit Bureau in January 2023 of the implementation of a fingerprint system to track the attendance of teachers and school workers in government schools.³⁸⁸⁸ Earlier, in 2019, the MoE had plans for implementing a fingerprint system for attendance in 900 public schools, to include students and teachers, “without any gender discrimination” to strengthen safety measures.³⁸⁸⁹ The compulsory biometric attendance began in the academic year 2023–2024, and is considered by MoE as a necessary action to “end the case of neglect by some teachers and school administration and preventing tampering with records.”³⁸⁹⁰ In January 2025, the MoE launched a smartphone application to record biometric attendance of employees and students.³⁸⁹¹

Facial Recognition

Facial recognition mechanisms were in the plans of Kuwait Civil Aviation in 2019,³⁸⁹² but were placed “under revision” by Yousef Al-Fouzan, Director General at Kuwait’s Directorate-General for Civil Aviation (DGCA). The system was

³⁸⁸⁶ Chris Burt, *Kuwait Plans Biometrics and DNA Checks to Revoke or Confirm Citizenship*, Biometric Update (Apr. 21, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202504/kuwait-plans-biometrics-and-dna-checks-to-revoke-or-confirm-citizenship>

³⁸⁸⁷ Gulf News, *Kuwait Approves Use of DNA and Biometrics Testing in Citizenship Decisions* (Apr. 20, 2025), <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/kuwait/kuwait-approves-use-of-dna-and-biometrics-testing-in-citizenshipdecisions-1.500099659>

³⁸⁸⁸ Ayang Macdonald, *Kuwait Picks Contractor for Biometric Attendance System in Public Schools*, (Jan. 24, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/kuwait-picks-contractor-for-biometric-attendance-system-in-public-schools>

³⁸⁸⁹ Harish, *Kuwait Makes Biometric Attendance Mandatory in Schools*, *English Archives*, (Apr. 17, 2019), <https://englisharchives.mathrubhumi.com/news/nri/kuwait-makes-biometric-attendance-mandatory-in-schools-1.3733255>

³⁸⁹⁰ Arab Times, *Govt Schools Set to Implement “Fingerprint System” from Sept* (Jan. 22, 2023), https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/govt-schools-set-to-implement-fingerprint-system-from-sept/#google_vignette

³⁸⁹¹ Arab Times Online, *Education Ministry Rolls Out Smartphone Fingerprint Attendance System* (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/education-ministry-rolls-out-smartphone-fingerprint-attendance-system/>

³⁸⁹² Mark Bowen, *Kuwait International Airport to Revise Plans for Facial Recognition Technology*, *Intelligent CIO* (Jul. 4, 2019), <https://www.intelligentcio.com/mc/2019/07/04/kuwait-international-airport-to-revise-plans-for-facial-recognition-technology/>

designed to locate passengers' whereabouts "at all times" to offer "better airport services." As of 2025, facial recognition has been approved and made mandatory for employees at Kuwait's DGCA for the purpose of attendance tracking, marking a shift away from fingerprint authentication formerly used in workforce management.³⁸⁹³

Kuwait's Ministry of Human Resources and Information Technology Sector unveiled smart security patrol vehicles equipped with mobile cameras for facial and license plate recognition, connected directly to the ministry's central database and incorporating AI for real-time image processing and analysis.³⁸⁹⁴

The Ministry of Interior of Kuwait rejected categorically allegations of mass surveillance practices to monitor citizens' accounts on social media in 2020.³⁸⁹⁵ The Minister set up an investigation committee to pursue fake accounts that published leaked recordings of Kuwait's State Security. A study by Amnesty International 11 countries using data tracing apps for COVID-19, including Kuwait, found that the Shlonik app was among "the most alarming tools [...] carrying out live or near-live tracking of users' locations by frequently uploading GPS coordinates to a central server [...] far beyond what is justified in efforts to tackle COVID-19."³⁸⁹⁶ Conversely, a report by Privacy International in 2022, did not find Kuwait to use practices of surveillance in public spaces and use of facial recognition.³⁸⁹⁷

Kuwait began the mandatory collection of biometric data for citizens, residents, and GCC nationals aged 18 and above on March 1, 2024, achieving 98% compliance by November 2024.³⁸⁹⁸ On August 14, 2024, the Civil Service

³⁸⁹³ ID Tech, *Kuwait's Aviation Authority Drops Fingerprint Attendance, Mandates Facial Recognition* (Sep. 19, 2025), <https://idtechwire.com/kuwaits-aviation-authority-drops-fingerprint-attendance-mandates-facial-recognition/>

³⁸⁹⁴ Times Kuwait, *Kuwait's Interior Minister Unveils Smart Security Patrol Equipped with Advanced AI Systems* (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://timeskuwait.com/interior-minister-unveils-smart-security-patrol-equipped-with-advanced-ai-systems/>

³⁸⁹⁵ Samir Salama, *Kuwait Has No Mass Surveillance: Interior Ministry* (Aug. 25, 2020), <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/kuwait/kuwait-has-no-mass-surveillance-interior-ministry-1.73398576>

³⁸⁹⁶ Amnesty International, *Bahrain Kuwait and Norway Contact Tracing Apps among Most Dangerous for Privacy* (Jun. 16, 2020), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/06/bahrain-kuwait-norway-contact-tracing-apps-danger-for-privacy/>

³⁸⁹⁷ Privacy International (PI), *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses. Global Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Dec. 2022), <https://privacyinternational.org/report/5003/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses-global-lessons-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁸ Arab Times Online, *Expats Biometrics Cutoff Nears with Over 470,000 Unregistered* (Nov. 20, 2024), <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/expats-biometrics-cutoff-nears-with-over-470000-unregistered/>

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Commission released Circular No. 9 requiring the use of biometrics to track employee attendance and confirm their location during working hours.³⁸⁹⁹

Following the national biometric registration campaign, Kuwait's General Administration of Customs implemented a multimodal biometric border control system incorporating facial recognition, fingerprint scanning, and iris identification, active at Kuwait International Airport and security centers across the country as of August 2024.³⁹⁰⁰

Smart Cities

The government of Kuwait has announced plans for Smart sustainable cities, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 Vision and the efforts towards the UN SDGs. The cities aim to improve urban efficiency, digital public services, and quality of life for residents.³⁹⁰¹ Kuwait's General Secretariat for the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) and UNDP organized workshops in February 2020 to obtain input from public and private entities and civil society about good practices regarding the creation of eco-cities.³⁹⁰²

Kuwait signed the infrastructure contract in August 2024 for the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project, described as Kuwait's first smart city, covering 64 square kilometers and set to provide approximately 24,508 smart housing units.³⁹⁰³ The Public Authority of Housing and Welfare (PAHW) signed a MoU with China for the development of housing projects as part of a broader long-term strategic partnership.³⁹⁰⁴ As of November 2024, when Kuwait hosted the International

³⁸⁹⁹ Kuwait News Agency KUNA, *Civil Service Council: Faceprint to Prove Employee's Attendance* (Aug. 3, 2024), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3169123&language=en>; Faten Omar, *CSC's Faceprint Attendance Rule Sparks Debate*, Kuwait Times (Aug. 3, 2024), <https://kuwaittimes.com/article/17405/kuwait/other-news/cscs-faceprint-attendance-rule-sparks-debate/>

³⁹⁰⁰ Biometric Update, *Kuwait's Vision 2035 Advancing Digital Identity with Global Partnerships* (Nov. 21, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202411/kuwaits-vision-2035-advancing-digital-identity-with-global-partnerships>

³⁹⁰¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kuwait, *Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait"* (2025), <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/pages/kuwait-vision-2035>; Wilson Center, *The Rise of Gulf Smart Cities* (2025), <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/rise-gulf-smart-cities>

³⁹⁰² UNDP, *Eco-cities towards the Achievement of Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP)* (Jan. 3, 2022), <https://www.undp.org/kuwait/news/eco-cities-towards-achievement-kuwait-national-development-plan-kndp>

³⁹⁰³ Arab Times, *Smart City Project Recognized as "Major Leap" for Kuwait's Future* (Aug. 3, 2024), <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/smart-city-project-recognized-as-major-leap-for-kuwaits-future/>

³⁹⁰⁴ Kuwait News Agency KUNA, *Kuwait Heads towards Rapid Sustainable Urban Development through Ambitious Plans* (Nov. 18, 2024), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=320295>

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Conference on Smart Management and Innovation for Sustainable Cities, PAHW reported six smart development projects in progress, aided by international partners from China and South Korea, as well as Microsoft.³⁹⁰⁵

Environmental Impact of AI

Kuwait's National AI Strategy envisions AI development in line with sustainable development goals. The Strategy identifies Energy as one sector where AI can drive advancements to “drive efficiency, foster innovation, and unlock new opportunities” in line with Kuwait's Vision 2035.³⁹⁰⁶ The Strategy identifies projects in energy to ensure adequate supply while promoting decarbonization.³⁹⁰⁷ However, the strategy does not address the energy or water demands of AI systems. Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund (KIA) joined Microsoft, MGX, BlackRock, and Global Infrastructure Partners in 2025 in a \$30 billion AI infrastructure partnership focused on developing sustainable, energy-efficient data centers.³⁹⁰⁸

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Kuwait has been an active participant of the CCW GGE Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, yet the country has not banned their use.³⁹⁰⁹ Kuwait is one of 126 High-Contracting Parties in the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and endorsed Protocol I (on Certain Conventional Weapons), Amendment II, Protocol III, IV, and V.³⁹¹⁰

0&language=en; <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/gcc/kuwait-heads-towards-rapid-sustainable-urban-development-through-ambitious-plans-m90vzitk>

³⁹⁰⁵ Arab Open University Kuwait, *International Conference on Smart Management and Innovation for Sustainable Cities* (Nov. 19, 2024), [https://www.aou.edu.kw/media/PublishingImages/Lists/Announcements/AllItems/ICSMI Booklet - English.pdf](https://www.aou.edu.kw/media/PublishingImages/Lists/Announcements/AllItems/ICSMI%20Booklet%20-%20English.pdf)

³⁹⁰⁶ Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), *National AI Strategy 2025–2028*, p. 11 (2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁹⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 16

³⁹⁰⁸ Abu Dhabi Media Office, *MGX, BlackRock, Global Infrastructure Partners, and Microsoft Welcome Kuwait Investment Authority to AI Infrastructure Partnership* (Jun. 3, 2025), <https://www.mediaoffice.abudhabi/en/technology/mgx-blackrock-global-infrastructure-partners-and-microsoft-welcome-kuwait-investment-authority-to-ai-infrastructure-partnership/>

³⁹⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots*. (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

³⁹¹⁰ United Nations, *High Contracting Signatories, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

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Kuwait, as part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), expressed its position against lethal autonomous weapons systems during the UN General Assembly of 2015, due to the “moral, humanitarian, and legal challenges for the international community.”³⁹¹¹ The statement, presented during the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems Meeting in Geneva in 2022, calls for the negotiation of a “legally binding international instrument stipulating prohibitions and regulations on lethal autonomous weapons systems.”³⁹¹²

Kuwait participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the Summit, Kuwait, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.³⁹¹³ States in the call “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”

In December 2023, Kuwait voted in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems.³⁹¹⁴ In October 2024, Kuwait voted in favor of UN General Assembly First Committee Draft Resolution L.77,³⁹¹⁵ which addresses the negative consequences of autonomous weapon systems on global security and emphasizes the importance of human control in the use of force and compliance with international law.

AI Literacy

Kuwait's National AI Strategy 2025–2028 identifies digital literacy campaigns to educate the public and workforce development as key enablers of responsible AI adoption, emphasizing ethical awareness alongside technical

³⁹¹¹ Non-Aligned Movement, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects (CCW)*, (Jul. 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WP-NAM.pdf>

³⁹¹² Automated Decision Research, *State Positions, Kuwait*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/kuwait/

³⁹¹³ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

³⁹¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

³⁹¹⁵ UN General Assembly First Committee, *Draft Resolution L.77: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

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skills.³⁹¹⁶ The Ministry of Education announced the inclusion of AI in the 10th grade computer curriculum beginning in the 2025–2026 academic year. The program covers core AI concepts, data literacy, and the ethical and social impact of AI use.³⁹¹⁷ The government also launched the Google Skilling Program to train public-sector employees in AI, cybersecurity, and cloud computing, led by the Minister of Communications, aimed at building capacity for responsible AI use in public service delivery.³⁹¹⁸ In October 2025, Microsoft hosted a national AI Summit in Kuwait to build AI skills across the public and private sectors.³⁹¹⁹

Human Rights

Kuwait is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.³⁹²⁰ Kuwait has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).³⁹²¹ When the ICCPR was first issued, Kuwait expressed reservations and observations³⁹²² about the requirements to protection against discrimination on the basis of religion or sex.

Freedom House downgraded Kuwait's status from "Partially Free" to "Not Free" with an aggregate score of 31/100 in 2025. Kuwait's political rights score fell to 7/40 following the Emir's dissolution of parliament and suspension of elections in 2024.³⁹²³ Amnesty International reported that Kuwait has areas to improve in relation

³⁹¹⁶ CAIT, *Kuwait National AI Strategy 2025–2028*, p. 12 (Jul. 24, 2024), https://cait.gov.kw/media/filer_public/3f/b4/3fb49a45-4a78-4489-8898-b68e2bd260ca/kuwait_national_strategy.pdf

³⁹¹⁷ Kuwait News Agency KUNA, *Ministry of Education Announces Inclusion of Artificial Intelligence in 10th Grade Computer Curriculum for the 2025–2026 Academic Year* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticlePrintPage.aspx?id=3218546&language=en>

³⁹¹⁸ CAIT, *Minister of Communications Omar Saud Al-Amir Launches Google Skilling Program* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://cait.gov.kw/en/media-center/news-events/806/>; Kuwait Times, *CAIT, Google Cloud Launch 2nd Edition of Digital Skills Initiative* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://kuwaittimes.com/article/33613/kuwait/other-news/cait-google-cloud-launch-2ndedition-of-digital-skills-initiative/>

³⁹¹⁹ Microsoft News, *Microsoft Hosts AI Summit in Kuwait to Empower the Country's AI Future* (Oct. 19, 2025), <https://news.microsoft.com/source/emea/2025/10/microsoft-hosts-ai-summit-in-kuwait-to-empower-the-countrys-ai-future/>

³⁹²⁰ OHCHR, *Human Rights by Country: Kuwait* (2026), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/menaregion/pages/kwindex.aspx>

³⁹²¹ UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, *UN Treaty Body Database*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=92&Lang=en

³⁹²² Human Rights Watch, *Kuwait's Reservations to the ICCPR*, <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/kuwait/kuwait-03.htm>

³⁹²³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Kuwait* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/kuwait/freedom-world/2025>

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to protecting the rights of certain groups of non-citizens.³⁹²⁴ Human Rights Watch in 2024 reported that Kuwaiti authorities limit free speech and punish dissidents using sections in the penal code, national security, and cybercrime legislation, notably for remarks published on social media.³⁹²⁵

Kuwait's Diplomatic Attache Jana Al-Dhafiri's speech at the 23rd regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) stressed Kuwait's commitment to human rights in AI. Al-Dhafiri called for "extraordinary measures to bridge digital gaps and foster innovation, including creating a comprehensive global regulatory framework [...] to advance a free, open, and secure digital future centered on human rights."³⁹²⁶

Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perception Index ranks Kuwait in 65th of 180 countries with a score of 46/100, signifying some level of corruption.³⁹²⁷ Kuwait has taken considerable steps in the past five years to fight corruption and establish key foundational policy instruments to improve the government's role in fighting corruption. Accordingly, the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA) was set up as an independent public authority to combat corruption under Law No. 2 of 2016, including the development of the NAZAHA governance framework.

The Government of Kuwait supports and promotes the right of peoples to self-determination (Guideline # 2), as well as international and regional resolutions that uphold this right, on the understanding that it is a "fundamental right that cannot be suppressed by any means or under any circumstances."³⁹²⁸ The European Union and Kuwait held their fifth Human Rights Dialogue in Kuwait City on December 3, 2024, covering topics including labor rights, digital rights, freedom of expression and assembly, and rule of law.³⁹²⁹ Kuwait's Public Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha) formulated the Kuwait Integrity and Anti-Corruption strategy (KIACS)

³⁹²⁴ Amnesty International, *Kuwait: Year to Date Marked by Escalating Repression* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde17/8008/2024/en/>

³⁹²⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Country Chapter Kuwait*, <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/kuwait>

³⁹²⁶ Kuwait News Agency, *Kuwait Asserts Commitment to Human Rights Principles in AI* (Jun. 30, 2024), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3163433&language=en>

³⁹²⁷ Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index 2024: Kuwait* (Feb. 2025), <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/kuwait>

³⁹²⁸ UN, *Right of Peoples to Self-Determination: Sec-Gen Report* (Aug. 15, 2022), <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-178762/>

³⁹²⁹ European Union External Action Service, *Kuwait: 5th Human Rights Dialogue with European Union held in Kuwait City* (Dec. 3, 2024), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/kuwait-5th-human-rights-dialogue-european-union-held-kuwait-city_en

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2024,³⁹³⁰ a comprehensive document that aligns with the new Kuwait Vision 2035. The KIACS has a focus on Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs) 2030 and The United Nations Convention against Corruption, to promote the rule of law and accountability (#5 Assessment and Accountability Obligation).

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Kuwait is not a member of the OECD and did not endorse the OECD AI Principles of 2019³⁹³¹ or the updated principles in 2024.³⁹³² Kuwait has not submitted reports to the OECD AI Policy Observatory in relation to ongoing policies, strategies, or activities associated with AI.³⁹³³

Kuwait is a member of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness created in 2021 to implement reforms to [...] improve [...] governance structures and cooperation.³⁹³⁴ The MENA-OECD Initiative has a focus on welfare, stability, and socio-economic security for all citizens, gender equality, and transparency, but does not address AI specifically.

Aa review of Innovation policies in Kuwait by OECD³⁹³⁵ found that policies to promote science, technology, and innovation were either partially implemented or not implemented at all.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Kuwait has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.³⁹³⁶

³⁹³⁰ Nazaha, Public Authority of Anti-corruption, *Kuwait Strategy for Integrity and Anti-Corruption* (2019), [https://andp.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Kuwait Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy.pdf](https://andp.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Kuwait%20Integrity%20and%20Anti-Corruption%20Strategy.pdf)

³⁹³¹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

³⁹³² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OED AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

³⁹³³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Country Dashboards and Data* (2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/>

³⁹³⁴ OECD, *MENA-OECD Initiative. Governance & Competitiveness Development*, 2021 Ministerial Conference, <https://www.oecd.org/fr/sites/mena/Ministerial-Declaration-2021.pdf>

³⁹³⁵ OECD, *Reviews of Innovation Policy: Kuwait 2021. Section 3.5.1 the Implementation of Kuwait's national development plans*, https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/49ed2679-en/1/3/3/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/49ed2679-en&_csp_=541f929e70ac0c521b6d3dae9c4894f4&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book#section-d1e8574

³⁹³⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 19, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Kuwait is a UNESCO member since 1960³⁹³⁷ and is one of the 193 member states endorsing the Recommendations on the Ethics of AI.³⁹³⁸ Kuwait had a leading position in this process, chairing the UNESCO Intergovernmental committee that approved the AI code of ethics in 2021.³⁹³⁹ The committee included 300 experts, 102 countries, and 49 observers. Ambassador Adam Al Mulla, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to UNESCO highlighted the importance of the UNESCO Recommendation as a negotiated effort to reach a framework of international and national policies “to ensure that Artificial Intelligence benefits society as a whole.”

UNESCO launched the Guidance for Policy Makers in the Gulf States with a forum to discuss AI policy with representatives from Kuwait and other five Arab states in 2021.³⁹⁴⁰ The UNESCO event was a key engagement in the region that aimed to “initiate the conversation on the possibility of developing national policies in AI.” Following this effort, in a 2022 statement, Kuwait University called all university units to activate the UNESCO recommendation in their current and future applications.³⁹⁴¹

Kuwait is an example in the Arab region of engagement in the promotion of the UNESCO Recommendations. Kuwait’s Ambassador Mr. Al Adam Al Mulla was elected Chair of the Group of Friends of the Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in September 2022.³⁹⁴² The Group of Friends of the Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI seeks to set a program that includes: 1) Elaboration of capacity-building tools and methodologies aligned to Policy action 1 for the Ethical Impact Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation; 2) Global Forum on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence; 3) Establishment of the Global Observatory of AI Ethics; 4) Assisting Member States in building strong national institutions for promoting AI ethics; 5) Establishment, facilitation, and management of expert networks, such as the AI Ethics Experts without Borders (AIEB), Global Network of Knowledge Centers on Ethics of AI, Women on Ethical

³⁹³⁷ UNESCO, *Kuwait*, <https://en.unesco.org/countries/kuwait>

³⁹³⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

³⁹³⁹ KUNA, *Kuwait-Chaired UNESCO Committee Approves AI Code of Ethics* (Jun. 25, 2021), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2985239&Language=en>

³⁹⁴⁰ UNESCO, *AI and Education: Guidance for Policy-Makers, Regional Launch for Gulf States* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000376709.locale=en>

³⁹⁴¹ Times Kuwait, *KU calls on all sectors to activate ethics of artificial intelligence* (May 11, 2022), <https://timeskuwait.com/news/ku-calls-on-all-sectors-to-activate-ethics-of-artificial-intelligence/>

³⁹⁴² Twitter Post by Ambassador Adam Al Mulla (Sept. 22, 2022), <https://twitter.com/KuwaitUNESCO/status/1573016924031782912>

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AI Network (W4ethicalAI).³⁹⁴³ Ambassador Al Mulla reiterated the importance of UNESCO's role in enforcing AI ethics at the first high-level convening for AI held in Morocco in June 2024.³⁹⁴⁴

Kuwait has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).³⁹⁴⁵

Evaluation

Kuwait's formulation of the New Kuwait Vision 2035 harnesses efforts to lead in digital transformation. The country is in the early stages of policy formulation to support the adoption of responsible AI, with the draft National AI Strategy 2025–2028 published signaling progress. Practical implementation is yet to be demonstrated. Kuwait's engagement in UNESCO AI ethics processes, including chairing the committee that drafted the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics and presiding over the DCO's adoption of the Kuwait Declaration on Responsible AI for Global Digital Prosperity in February 2026, are positive steps that need to be translated at the national level by the finalization and implementation of the national AI strategy.

Kuwait has a formalized system for public information and consultation, and this could be leveraged to promote participation in trustworthy AI policy formulation, though the May 2024 dissolution of the National Assembly has constrained the scope of public participation in policy formulation. Governance and oversight are areas of opportunity for growth for Kuwait. The modernization of Kuwait's data protection legal regime would also allow to ease concerns over surveillance practices happening in a legal vacuum, including the expanding use of biometric identification systems documented.

³⁹⁴³ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

³⁹⁴⁴ Kuwait News Agency KUNA, *Morocco Launches First High-Level Forum on AI, Kuwait Participates* (Jun. 3, 2024), <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3157847&language=en>; <https://menafn.com/1108291154/Morocco-Launches-First-High-Level-Forum-On-AI-Kuwait-Participates>

³⁹⁴⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

Lithuania

In 2025, Lithuania prepared guidelines and principles on the use of AI in schools and officially launched an AI Regulatory Sandbox. Lithuania also stressed the importance of developing and using AI in line with the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights laws at the UN Security Council High-Level debate.

National AI Strategy

The Ministry of Economy and Innovation released Lithuania's national AI strategy in 2019. The *Lithuanian Artificial Intelligence Strategy: A Vision of the Future* summarizes the key points from a Landscape Report on the status of AI in the country before defining six sections that align with the purpose “to modernize and expand the current AI ecosystem in Lithuania and ensure that the nation is ready for a future with AI.”³⁹⁴⁶ The sections correspond to key actions divided into policy recommendations defined by principles and mechanisms. The six sections are:

1. Ethical and legal core principles for the development and use of AI
2. Lithuania's position in the AI ecosystem
3. Integration of AI systems across all economic sectors
4. Development of skills and competencies
5. Growth of AI Research and Development
6. Approaching data responsibly and efficiently.

The ethical and legal core principles section identifies two components for Trustworthy AI: “1) Ethical purpose—it should respect fundamental rights, applicable regulation and principles and values and 2) it should be technically robust and reliable” to protection against unintentional harm.³⁹⁴⁷ Policy recommendations to realize Trustworthy AI center on four principles implemented through a series of mechanisms. The four policy recommendations center on:

- Developing mechanisms for public feedback to advise the public sector on ethical regulation and implementation, including establishing an AI ethics committee and recognizing AI literacy as a “new civic skill.”³⁹⁴⁸
- Creating and establishing trust in the rules, laws, and norms that govern AI, in part through regional and international cooperation.

³⁹⁴⁶ Ministry of The Economy and Innovation, *Lithuanian Artificial Intelligence Strategy: A Vision for the Future*, p. 4 (Apr. 2019),

[https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG\(1\).pdf](https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG(1).pdf)

³⁹⁴⁷ Ibid, p. 8

³⁹⁴⁸ Ibid, pp. 8–9

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- Encouraging transparency and fairness in AI applications through support for research on minimizing bias, incentives for companies to uphold ethical standards, creation for an interdisciplinary AI center to promote discussions around ethics, and establishment of a “safeguarding mechanism that researchers would develop systems that are transparent and intrinsically capable of explaining the reasons for their results to users.”³⁹⁴⁹
- Encouraging ethics by design by creating a research and educational culture centered on this principle, in part by encouraging discussions on the ethical implications of technology from high school and beyond and developing “mediation capabilities to support vulnerable populations.”³⁹⁵⁰

Lithuania’s AI development activity plan 2023–2026³⁹⁵¹ issued in 2022 sets three main objectives: improve the conditions for the development of the AI ecosystem, increase the use of AI across both public and private sectors and create the necessary conditions for AI innovation.

As part of efforts implementing the national strategy, in 2024 the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania approved the Guidelines for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research.³⁹⁵² The Guidelines focus on how to ensure the ethical use of AI technologies in education and research, addressing general principles and relations with open science, publication ethics, protection of intellectual property rights and consumers. “The guidelines provide information on [...] the integration of aspects of the ethical use of artificial intelligence into other relevant institutional policies governing studies and science”³⁹⁵³ while allowing institutions to define their systems and processing for evaluating and validating AI tools.

The AI strategy aligns with the National Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap approved in March 2024. The Roadmap summarizes the country’s progress in the context of the Digital Decade for Europe and sets out the actions and measures that

³⁹⁴⁹ Ibid, pp. 9–10

³⁹⁵⁰ Ibid, p. 10

³⁹⁵¹ Renata Liubinavičė, and Gabija Žemaitytė, *Lithuanian Action Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies [Lietuvos dirbtinio intelekto technologijų plėtros veiksmų planas 2023–2026]* (Aug. 2022), <http://kurk.lt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DI-pletros-veiksmu-planas.pdf>

³⁹⁵² Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, *Order on the Approval of Guidelines on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://etikostarnyba.lt/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Guidelines-on-the-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-education-and-research.pdf>

³⁹⁵³ Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, *Guidelines on the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research Are Adopted* (May 20, 2024), <https://etikostarnyba.lt/en/guidelines-on-the-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-education-and-research-are-adopted/>

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will contribute to achieving the general objectives and digital targets.³⁹⁵⁴ Lithuania plans to make significant investments in various digitalization-related activities by 2030. The Roadmap for Lithuania consists of 4 chapters: Digital skills and ICT professionals; Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructure; Digital transformation of businesses; and Digitalization of public services. Among the country's priorities, Lithuania is paying particular attention to the education system, with a major overhaul of primary and secondary school curricula to strengthen digital competences.³⁹⁵⁵

Nordic-Baltic Cooperation on AI

As for the international landscape, the Lithuanian minister responsible for digital development signed the 2018 declaration on “AI in the Nordic-Baltic region” establishing a collaborative framework on “developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability.”³⁹⁵⁶

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0³⁹⁵⁷ builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries, and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017–2020. A council of ministers for digitalization (MR-DIGITAL) was established in 2017 with to promote regional development by: (1) Building a common area for cross-border digital services to increase mobility and integration, (2) Establishing a fair data economy for efficient sharing and re-use of data to drive innovation that promotes green economic growth and development, and (3) Promoting “Nordic-Baltic leadership in the EU/EEA and globally in a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies.”³⁹⁵⁸

The ministers for digitalization released another joint statement announcing a focus on digital inclusion, striving to implement measures to make digital services more accessible to all Lithuanian inhabitants and ensuring that those who do not

³⁹⁵⁴ Ministry of Economy and Innovation, *National Digital Decade Roadmap of the Republic of Lithuania* (Mar. 2024), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/media/viesa/saugykla/2024/5/wzspkh-PiZI.pdf>

³⁹⁵⁵ EU Digital Skills and Jobs Platform, *Lithuania—National Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap* (Dec. 26, 2024), <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/lithuania-national-digital-decade-strategic>

³⁹⁵⁶ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

³⁹⁵⁷ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Sept. 29, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ministerial-declaration-digital-north-20>

³⁹⁵⁸ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation*, <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

possess the necessary level of skills get the opportunity to acquire them in November 2021.³⁹⁵⁹

A common statement by the Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization in September 2022 reiterated their commitment to “ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefit from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills” following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. To maintain the trust citizens put in digital services from the public sector, the ministers noted “we need to continue our efforts to make our digital public services human centric and accessible. [...] Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services.”³⁹⁶⁰

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Lithuania shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).³⁹⁶¹ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The Communication Regulatory Authority (*Ryšiu Reguliavimo Tarnyba*, RRT) is an independent national agency to monitor and regulate Lithuania's digital connectivity markets in line with the European Union regulations, serving as the competent authority for the DSA.³⁹⁶² The authority also works on filter tools to mitigate online risks³⁹⁶³ and provide guidelines for being safe online.³⁹⁶⁴

³⁹⁵⁹ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Promoting Digital Inclusion as a Central Part of the Digital Transformation in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

³⁹⁶⁰ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Cooperation on Digital Security in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

³⁹⁶¹ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

³⁹⁶² Communications Regulatory Agency, *About RRT* (Jul. 14, 2023), <https://www.rtt.lt/paslaugos/administraciniu-paslaugu-aprasai/>

³⁹⁶³ European Commission, *Digital Connectivity in Lithuania* (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-connectivity-lithuania>

³⁹⁶⁴ Communications Regulatory Authority, *How to Be Safer on Internet* (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.rtt.lt/en/safer-internet/illegal-and-harmful-content-on-the-internet/how-to-be-safer-on-internet/>

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EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Lithuania is bound by the EU AI Act.³⁹⁶⁵ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

The Ministry of Economy and Innovation submitted a series of amendments to the Lithuanian legislature in 2024 to speed up the development of AI in the country and to fulfill the country's obligations under the EU AI Act.³⁹⁶⁶ Parliament adopted the amendments in early 2025.³⁹⁶⁷ The amendments designate the Innovation Agency as the notifying authority under the Act, charging it to assess the compliance of private entities and research institutions seeking designation as Notified Bodies under the AI Act.³⁹⁶⁸ The amendments designate the Communications Regulatory Authority as the market surveillance authority and single point of contact.³⁹⁶⁹ The authority will oversee the safety and reliability of AI products and systems placed on the market.

The Ministry also launched a pilot artificial intelligence (AI) environment, or AI sandbox in 2024.³⁹⁷⁰ The Innovation Agency's launched the GovTech sandbox within the GovTech Lab Lithuania project as a pilot to scale up safe technology and develop new concepts and strategies within the public sector. Projects have included ITocracy, Constant Reshuffling, Digital protest, Encapsulated, Anti Ping pong, Health focus.³⁹⁷¹ Following Seimas (Parliament) approval of amendments to the Law

³⁹⁶⁵ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act*, P9_TA(2024)0138, (Mar. 13, 2024), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

³⁹⁶⁶ Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, *EIMIN Initiative Accelerates Development of Artificial Intelligence in Lithuania* (Nov. 21, 2024), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/eimin-initiative-accelerates-development-of-artificial-intelligence-in-lithuania/>

³⁹⁶⁷ Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, *Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/sector-activities/digital-policy/artificial-intelligence/>

³⁹⁶⁸ Ministry of Economy and Innovation, *Lithuania Aims to Become the Most Favourable Country for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies* (Jul. 29, 2024), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/lithuania-aims-to-become-the-most-favourable-country-for-the-development-of-artificial-intelligence-technologies>

³⁹⁶⁹ Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, *EIMIN Initiative Accelerates Development of Artificial Intelligence in Lithuania* (Nov. 21, 2024), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/eimin-initiative-accelerates-development-of-artificial-intelligence-in-lithuania/>

³⁹⁷⁰ Ministry of Economy and Innovation, *Lithuania Accelerates Development of Artificial Intelligence by Creating a "Sandbox" to Test the Technology* (Oct. 16, 2024), <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/lithuania-accelerates-development-of-artificial-intelligence-by-creating-a-sandbox-to-test-the-technology/>

³⁹⁷¹ Innovation Agency, *GovTech Sandbox* (2024), <https://govtechlab.lt/govtech-sandbox/>

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on Technology and Innovation in early 2025,³⁹⁷² the Innovation Agency launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulatory Sandbox with the first activities in September 2025.³⁹⁷³ The Sandbox allows real-world testing of AI products before market entry. The first activities of this measure will start in September 2025.

Public Participation

The national strategy was elaborated by the Ministry of Economy in consultation with an advisory group of “expert representatives from the private sector and academia.”³⁹⁷⁴ The national AI strategy highlighted public participation as one of the the principles shaping the Lithuanian AI ethical AI regulation and implementation with a view to promote the transparent and fair use of AI. However, the platform for consultations, e-Citizen (*e-pilietis*) shows no AI-related consultations.³⁹⁷⁵ The platform collects archives of past consultations that include consultation information, a summary of results, and where applicable, a summary of how the results will be used. Such archives exist for the cycle on the regulation of personal data protection in 2018³⁹⁷⁶ and the role of the digital transformation manager in 2023.³⁹⁷⁷

The AI development activity plan 2023–2026³⁹⁷⁸ provides for an action item dedicated to “activities for setting dialogue with the society on questions of ethical

³⁹⁷² Teisės Aktų Registras (Register of Legal Acts), *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Technology and Innovation [Lietuvos Respublikos technologijų ir inovacijų įstatymas]*, Summary (Jan. 1, 2026), <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/en/legalAct/303806a0869411e8af589337bf1eb893/hJIUmKDIJn>

³⁹⁷³ Innovation Agency, *Regulatory Sandbox for Artificial Intelligence (AI) [Reguliacinė dirbtinio intelekto (DI) smėliadėžė]*, <https://inovacijuagentura.lt/paslaugu-sarasas/di-smeliadeze.html?lang=lt>

³⁹⁷⁴ Ministry of the Economy and Innovation, *Lithuania Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Apr. 2019), [https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG\(1\).pdf](https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG(1).pdf)

³⁹⁷⁵ E-Citizen, *Public Consultations, Archives [Viešosios konsultacijos]* (Mar. 1, 2026), <https://epilietis.lrv.lt/lt/viesosios-konsultacijos-sarasas/archyvas/?page=1>

³⁹⁷⁶ E-Citizen, *Consultation Cycle on Legal Regulation of Personal Data Protection [Konsultacijų ciklas dėl asmens duomenų apsaugos teisinio reguliavimo]* (Jul. 14, 2022), <https://epilietis.lrv.lt/lt/viesosios-konsultacijos-sarasas/konsultaciju-ciklas-del-asmens-duomenu-apsaugos-teisinio-reguliavimo/>.

³⁹⁷⁷ E-Citizen, *Regarding the Role of the Digital Transformation Manager Responsible for Shaping the Institution's Internal Digital Agenda Strategy [Dėl už institucijos vidinės skaitmeninės darbotvarkės strategijos formavimą atsakingo skaitmeninės transformacijos vadovo vaidmens]* (Mar. 2, 2023), <https://epilietis.lrv.lt/lt/viesosios-konsultacijos-sarasas/del-uz-institucijos-vidines-skaitmenines-darbotvarkes-strategijos-formavima-atsakingo-skaitmenines-transformacijos-vadovo-vaidmens/>

³⁹⁷⁸ Renata Liubinavičė, and Gabija Žemaitytė, *Lithuanian Action Plan for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies [Lietuvos dirbtinio intelekto technologijų plėtros veiksmų planas 2023–2026]* [Lithuanian only] (Aug. 2022), <http://kurkl.lt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DI-pletros-veiksmu-planas.pdf>

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AI and the social implications of the use of AI systems” (action item 1.5.3.). Yet the action committee in charge of the implementation of the AI development plan is to consult involved parties and NGOs, with the omission of the public at large (action item 1.5.1).

Data Protection

Since Lithuania is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)³⁹⁷⁹ is directly applicable in Lithuania and to Lithuanians. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”³⁹⁸⁰ The GDPR entered into force on May 24, 2016 and applies since May 2018. Lithuania’s Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data was amended in July 2018 to adapt to the requirements of the GDPR.³⁹⁸¹

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data, Processed for the Purposes of Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences, or the Execution of Criminal Penalties, or National Security, or Defence³⁹⁸² transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED). The LED protects data rights when personal data is used for law enforcement purposes, whether that data belongs to victims, witnesses, or suspects. The LED also prohibits of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.³⁹⁸³

³⁹⁷⁹ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

³⁹⁸⁰ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection* (Accessed Mar. 3, 2025), https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

³⁹⁸¹ State Data Protection Inspectorate, *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Legal Protection of Personal Data* (Dec. 1, 2021), <https://vdai.lrv.lt/en/legislation>; Non-Official Translation, https://vdai.lrv.lt/uploads/vdai/documents/files/Republic%20of%20Lithuania%20Law%20on%20legal%20protection%20of%20personal%20data%202018%20Non-Official%20Translation%20001_12_2021.pdf

³⁹⁸² *Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Legal Protection of Personal Data, Processed for the Purposes of Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences, or the Execution of Criminal Penalties, or National Security, or Defence* (Jul. 7, 2018), <https://vdai.lrv.lt/en/legislation>

³⁹⁸³ EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of*

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The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Lithuania is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified³⁹⁸⁴ the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.³⁹⁸⁵

The State Data Protection Inspectorate³⁹⁸⁶ (Inspectorate, or *Valstybinė Dduomenų Apsaugos Inspekcija*, VDAI) is the main national supervisory authority in Lithuania. When data processing relates to journalistic, academic, artistic or literary expression, the Inspector of Journalist Ethics (Inspector)³⁹⁸⁷ has a similar mission to that of the Inspectorate. The Inspector while on duty cooperates with the Inspectorate to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

Amendments to the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data, effective July 1, 2024, allow employers to process employees’ and job applicants’ criminal records under specific conditions, even if not previously provided for in the law.³⁹⁸⁸ Employers must evaluate their legitimate interest and publish a list of positions requiring a clean criminal record, alongside safeguards to protect data subject rights. The State Data Protection Inspectorate issued guidelines to help employers comply, and the European Data Protection Board issued Guidelines on Legitimate Interest in October 2024.³⁹⁸⁹ Additionally, the amendments impose stricter requirements for

criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, Article 11 (1) and (2) (Apr. 27, 2026), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

³⁹⁸⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 4, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

³⁹⁸⁵ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

³⁹⁸⁶ State Data Protection Directorate, *State Data Protection Directorate* (2023), <https://vdai.lrv.lt/en/>

³⁹⁸⁷ Office of the Inspector of Journalistic Ethics, *The Office of the Inspector of Journalistic Ethics* (2023), <https://zeit.lt/en>

³⁹⁸⁸ Liudgardas Maculevičius and Laima Nevarauskaitė, *Legal Changes to the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data of the Republic of Lithuania*, Rödl & Partner (Jul. 2024), <https://www.roedl.lt/en/media-events/legal-changes-law-legal-protection-personal-data-lithuania>

³⁹⁸⁹ European Data Protection Board, *EDPB Adopts Opinion on Processes, Guidelines on Legitimate Interest, Statement on Draft Regulation for GDPR Enforcement, and Work Programme 2024–2025* (Oct. 9, 2024), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2024/edpb-adopts-opinion-processors-guidelines-legitimate-interest-statement-draft_en

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data subjects lodging complaints related to video surveillance, necessitating initial contact with the responsible entity before approaching the State Data Protection Inspectorate. Complaints to the Inspectorate must include proof of this initial contact. Other changes include extending the right to file complaints to non-profit organizations and enabling more efficient complaint handling, such as merging similar cases and extending the limitation period for administrative fines to three years.”

Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002, the State Data Inspectorate has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence;³⁹⁹⁰ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability;³⁹⁹¹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology³⁹⁹² or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.³⁹⁹³

Algorithmic Transparency

Lithuania is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Lithuanians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.³⁹⁹⁴ They also have the right to contest a decision and seek rectification.

The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems³⁹⁹⁵ specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability and effective remedies.

³⁹⁹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

³⁹⁹¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

³⁹⁹² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

³⁹⁹³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

³⁹⁹⁴ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

³⁹⁹⁵ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

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AI Oversight

The State Data Protection Inspectorate (VDAI) issued an interim assessment and recommendations regarding the use of DeepSeek, an AI chatbot developed in China, due to concerns over personal data protection.³⁹⁹⁶ The Inspectorate advised caution when sharing personal or sensitive data with the application, citing transparency concerns about data storage and access by third parties outside the EU. VDAI is working with other European authorities to address these risks and ensure GDPR compliance for AI systems.

Environmental Impact of AI

Lithuania does not have specific legislation addressing the environmental impact of AI. However, the Environmental Impact Assessment Law requires screening and/or assessment for projects having an environmental impact.³⁹⁹⁷ The law does not specify data centers or energy consumption as targets for assessment, leaving a possible loophole in enforcement.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Lithuania was one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”³⁹⁹⁸

³⁹⁹⁶ State Data Protection Inspectorate, *The SDPI Recommends Exercising Caution When Using the DeepSeek App* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://vdai.lrv.lt/en/news/the-sdpi-recommends-exercising-caution-when-using-the-deepseek-app/>

³⁹⁹⁷ Republic of Lithuania, *Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity* (Jun. 23, 2023), <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/d785bc22e07711eeb876b07461d0ecb9?jfwid=11z9pyzh>

³⁹⁹⁸ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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Lithuania voted in favor³⁹⁹⁹ of resolution L.56⁴⁰⁰⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

Lithuania participated in the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons System in Geneva in 2024.⁴⁰⁰¹ After the meeting, Lithuania joined with Australia, Canada, Estonia, Japan, Latvia, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States to submit a working paper suggesting draft articles aimed at regulating the development and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems in compliance with International Humanitarian Law principles.⁴⁰⁰²

Lithuania participated in the REAIM international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the Summit, Lithuania endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain, stressing the “paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁴⁰⁰³ Lithuania also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁴⁰⁰⁴

³⁹⁹⁹ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁴⁰⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56 Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023),

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁴⁰⁰¹ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons* (Mar. 2024), <https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/71623>

⁴⁰⁰² GGE on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (Aug. 26, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2024\)/CCW-GGE.1-2024-WP.10.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2024)/CCW-GGE.1-2024-WP.10.pdf)

⁴⁰⁰³ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁴⁰⁰⁴ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

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Lithuania also participated in the REAIM 2024 Summit in South Korea and endorsed the outcome document, *Blueprint for Action*.⁴⁰⁰⁵ The *Blueprint for Action* lays out action steps for implementing the principles defined in the REAIM 2023 joint call around responsible AI in the military domain and governance of AI in the military domain.

Lithuania's Ministry of National Defense and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group of the Future Committee of the Seimas hosted a conference on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions Now and in the Future of Defense in September 2024.⁴⁰⁰⁶ Rasa Petrauskienė, chairperson of the Working Group of the Seimas Future Committee described the significance of the conference: "Our country is standing at a historical turning point. This conference provides a unique opportunity for Lithuania to become a leading country in the formation of global AI policy in the defense sector. We have a chance not only to follow global trends but also to create them." Minister of National Defense Laurynas Kasčiūnas elaborated on the necessity to consider the implications of AI in defense proactively: "Every day we fight with the aggressor both in the physical and technological fields. AI has huge potential to transform the battlefield, or even decide the winner. Therefore, it is our responsibility, firstly, to understand how these technologies can help us stay one step ahead, and secondly, to ensure that they are used responsibly. This requires cooperation between technology developers, public and private sectors, the military, and public representatives. Only in this way will we be able to create innovative solutions and ensure a safer future for everyone."

AI Literacy

The national AI strategy integrated AI literacy as a new civil skill in 2019.⁴⁰⁰⁷ Lithuania's Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport (*Švietimo, Mokslo ir Sporto Ministerija*) developed principles and guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools in schools, *School in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Principles and Guidelines for Responsible Use*.⁴⁰⁰⁸ The guidance is designed to "help each school

⁴⁰⁰⁵ REAIM 2024, *Blueprint for Action*, DigWatch (Sept. 11, 2024), [https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-reaim-blueprint-for-action#REAIM Blueprint for Action](https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-reaim-blueprint-for-action#REAIM%20Blueprint%20for%20Action)

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Infobalt Lietuva, *Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions in Current and Future Defense Conference [Konferencija Dirbtinio intelekto (DI) sprendimų naudojimas dabar ir ateities gynyboje]* (Sept. 18, 2024), <https://infobalt.lt/2024/09/13/konferencija-dirbtinio-intelektu-di-sprendimu-naudojimas-dabar-ir-ateities-gynyboje/>

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Ministry of The Economy and Innovation, *Lithuanian Artificial Intelligence Strategy: A Vision for the Future*, pp. 8–9 (Apr. 2019), [https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG\(1\).pdf](https://eimin.lrv.lt/uploads/eimin/documents/files/DI_strategija_ENG(1).pdf)

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Švietimo, Mokslo ir Sporto Ministerija, *School in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Principles and Guidelines for Responsible Use [Mokykla Dirbtinio intelekto (DI) Amžiuje: Atsakingo*

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to develop its own rules for the use of AI, although it is not compulsory to do so.”⁴⁰⁰⁹ The guidelines also address permitted AI tools aligned to the risk assessment criteria for the AI Act and specifies “it is forbidden to list an AI tool if it uses emotion recognition, biometric tracking, social ranking, etc., or if the tool is not declared data protection compliant.” Teachers ultimately decide if students may use an AI tool and how; guidelines require students to learn to tag AI-generated content.

Human Rights

Lithuania adopted the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights in 1998. As a member of the European Union and of the Council of Europe, Lithuania is committed to upholding the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. According to the Freedom House 2025 Freedom in the World report, Lithuania is “Free” with a score of 89/100.⁴⁰¹⁰ The report describes Lithuania as a free and “democracy in which political rights and civil liberties are generally respected,” though women; LGBT+ people; and members of Romany, Jewish, Muslim, Russian, and Polish minorities as well as other groups experience discrimination and underrepresentation.

A 2020 Recommendation from the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to Member States reaffirmed that member States “must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”⁴⁰¹¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Lithuania is a member of the OECD and endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁴⁰¹² The main principles of the Lithuanian AI strategy overlap with OECD

Naudojimo Principai ir Gaires] (Jan. 15, 2026),

https://emokykla.lt/upload/media/public/EDTECH/Mokykla%20DI%20amžiuije_bukletas_01-15.pdf

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Švietimo, Mokslo ir Sporto Ministerija, *Guidelines on the Use of AI Have been Developed to Help Each School Set Its Own Rules for Using AI, with Didactics and Methods Being Drawn Up* (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://smsm.lrv.lt/en/news-2/news-1/guidelines-on-the-use-of-ai-have-been-developed-to-help-each-school-set-its-own-rules-for-using-ai-with-didactics-and-methods-being-drawn-up-plUF/>

⁴⁰¹⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Lithuania* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/lithuania/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁰¹¹ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁴⁰¹² OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

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AI principles. Some public sector initiatives and academic sector initiatives can be seen on the OECD AI monitoring platform.⁴⁰¹³ The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a Resolution on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in the Public Sector. The resolution emphasizes the necessity of establishing unified legal guidelines to ensure that AI integration enhances efficiency, transparency, and accountability within public institutions. It also highlights the importance of mitigating risks associated with unregulated AI usage, such as data breaches and inaccuracies. The resolution calls upon the government to implement eleven specific principles governing AI application in public sector operations.⁴⁰¹⁴ These guidelines and the initiative to align with the OECD Principles promoting responsible AI use and seizing the potential benefits of AI systems to promote sustainable, inclusive growth.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Lithuania contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁴⁰¹⁵ The Committee on AI opened the Convention for signature and ratification by any country in the world at a meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania in September 2024.

Lithuania is party to the convention as a member of the European Union but has not signed or ratified the treaty as an independent nation.⁴⁰¹⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Lithuania was among the 193 countries that actively supported UNESCO's efforts in drafting and adopting its Recommendations on AI Ethics.⁴⁰¹⁷ According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuania has been committed to supporting and implementing the UNESCO Recommendation. In

⁴⁰¹³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Lithuania* (2026),

<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/lithuania>

⁴⁰¹⁴ Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas, *In Its Resolution, the Seimas Has Formulated the Principles of Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in the Public Sector*, Press Release (May 9, 2024),

https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=35403&p_k=2&p_t=288543&p_a=1648&p_kade_id=9

⁴⁰¹⁵ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025),

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁰¹⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 4, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁴⁰¹⁷ UNESCO Lietuvos nacionalinė komisija, *Ethics and Philosophy* (2013),

<https://unesco.lt/science/ethics-and-philosophy>

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addition, the advancement and implementation of ethical principles for AI were among the priorities that Lithuania presented to UNESCO for its candidacy to the Executive Board 2021–2025.⁴⁰¹⁸

At the 2025 High-Level Open Debate on Artificial Intelligence in Peace and Security, Lithuania’s delegate reinforced a commitment to ethical AI, stressing that “The rise of AI is also a pressing human rights challenge. If left unchecked, it can deepen inequality, reinforce bias, and harm women, children, and marginalized communities. AI-driven harassment and disinformation targeting activists and journalists is not a future threat—it’s happening now.”⁴⁰¹⁹ The delegate proposed that the Security Council affirm that AI development should align with international law and the UN Charter, reinforce guardrails, and encourage broadened cooperation.

Lithuania has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁴⁰²⁰ a tool designed to enable countries to identify and overcome challenges to addressing the development and governance of AI systems in accordance with the UNESCO Recommendation.⁴⁰²¹

Evaluation

Lithuania has endorsed the OECD AI principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, set a national AI strategy in 2019, and launched an AI Development Action Plan in August 2022. Lithuania has taken the initial steps to implementing the EU AI Act by identifying authorities for AI oversight. The country will need to develop additional measures to supplement the EU AI Act with a national governance framework. The E-Citizen platform offers a great opportunity to acknowledge, facilitate, and expand public participation in the development of a legal framework.

⁴⁰¹⁸ UNESCO, *National Statement of Lithuania*, 41st Session of the General Conference (Nov. 10, 2021), https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2021/11/10112021_am_lithuania_eng_41_v0.pdf

⁴⁰¹⁹ Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations in New York, *Statement by the Republic of Lithuania at the Security Council High-Level Open Debate on Artificial Intelligence and International Peace and Security* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://un.mfa.lt/en/news/26/statement-by-the-republic-of-lithuania-at-the-security-council-high-level-open-debate-on-artificial-intelligence-and-international-peace-and-security:1433>

⁴⁰²⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁴⁰²¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

Luxembourg

In 2025, Luxembourg launched the Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030 initiative as part of efforts to implement the OECD AI Principles. The national data protection authority (CNPD) issued guidance on data protection and AI systems according to the EU AI Act and GDPR, in line with CNPD's expected role as the single point of contact and market surveillance authority under the AI Act.

National AI Strategy

The Luxembourg Strategic Vision for Artificial Intelligence was presented in 2019 by the Prime Minister, who was also Minister for Digitalisation, together with the Minister of Economy. The strategy has 3 objectives for Luxembourg to: 1) be among the most advanced digital societies in the world, especially in the EU; 2) become a data-driven and sustainable economy; and 3) support human-centric AI development.⁴⁰²²

The Strategic Vision is based on a human-centered approach to AI whereby human intelligence should be “in charge” of AI and individuals should be at the center of all services based on AI. Luxembourg commits to the respect of the 2019 Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI formulated by the EU High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence.⁴⁰²³ The Luxembourgian government commits to adopt policies to tackle the difficulties that could be caused by the mainstreaming of AI technologies and underlines that this mainstreaming should be aimed to the improvement of the citizens' daily lives, keeping in mind that AI was not just created by humans, but for humans as well. For this reason, Luxembourg commits to transparent, understandable and trustworthy AI for all the people who live, invest and work in Luxembourg.⁴⁰²⁴

The Strategy also underlines the need for a regulation of the use and management of data respectful of fundamental ethical principles and confidentiality and which allows for reaching the full potential of the use of data in the economic and social domains.⁴⁰²⁵ The Strategy includes key actions to ensure the protection of fundamental rights:

- collaborating with the data protection authority and leveraging its expertise in order to address AI-related questions

⁴⁰²² The Government of Luxembourg, Digital Luxembourg, *Artificial Intelligence: A Strategic Vision for Luxembourg*, p. 5 (May 2019), https://digital-luxembourg.public.lu/sites/default/files/2020-09/AI_EN_0.pdf

⁴⁰²³ Ibid, p. 7

⁴⁰²⁴ Ibid, p. 9

⁴⁰²⁵ Ibid, p. 6

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- creating a consultative committee specialized in technology and ethics to debate the ethical consequences of technologies and advise the government on potential risks and societal impacts. The Committee was effectively created in 2020.
- collaborating with the private sector to develop a proper corporate governance regarding AI,
- working with the Institute of Standardization, Accreditation, Safety and Quality of Products and Services (ILNAS) to actively follow the regulatory processes of products and services in the framework of the ISO system.
- putting in place innovative technologies to reinforce data protection in view of machine learning.⁴⁰²⁶

The Strategy considers how AI can foster investments and strategic partnerships, the efficiency of public services, the need to integrate AI in the context of life-long learning, attraction of talents, education, planning, and how to integrate the efforts of Luxembourg in the context of European integration. The Strategy imagines applications for AI across three spheres in Luxembourg: the private, professional, and public.⁴⁰²⁷

Luxembourg's Strategic Vision for AI has led to the creation of an AI4Gov inter-ministerial committee,⁴⁰²⁸ whose members represent the Ministry for Digitalisation, the Communications and Media Service (SMC), and the Information and Press Service (SIP). The inter-ministerial coordination group, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, set up a governance mechanism to continuously follow up on strategic initiatives that support Luxembourg's AI development. It is tasked with regularly assessing the strategic vision and setting up a framework for future actions. The aim of the AI4Gov Committee is also to encourage ministries and administrations to make use of AI and data science to transform their actions and tasks.⁴⁰²⁹ The open data pledge of the national strategy was implemented in 2016⁴⁰³⁰ and has been expanded since. The Open Data Platform enables accessible sourcing of public-sector data, open to public and private producers and users of data.

The Strategic Vision is part of Digital Luxembourg, a broader policy strategy that aims to coordinate and strengthen Luxembourg's transformation into a solid digital society.⁴⁰³¹ The Ministry of Economy also adopted the report Data-Driven Innovation Strategy for the Development of a Trusted and Sustainable Economy in

⁴⁰²⁶ Ibid, pp. 14-15

⁴⁰²⁷ Ibid, p.10

⁴⁰²⁸ Ministry for Digitalisation, *Strategic Axes: Developing Digital Public Services* (Jun. 5, 2024), <https://mindigital.gouvernement.lu/en/axes.html>

⁴⁰²⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰³⁰ Luxembourg Government, *The Luxembourgish Open Data Platform* (2025), <https://data.public.lu/en/>

⁴⁰³¹ European Commission AI Watch, *Luxembourg AI Strategy Report* (Sept. 1, 2021), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/luxembourg/luxembourg-ai-strategy-report_en

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Luxembourg, which connects with the National AI Strategy's provisions.⁴⁰³² The Innovation Strategy is based on a vision of a Luxembourg data-driven economy, where AI systems, combined with Internet of Things components, systems, and networks, HPC, and Big Data analytics are used "to drive future growth." Ensuring a strong regulatory, intellectual property, investment and financing environment is one of three priorities in the Strategy.

The government of Luxembourg, along with thirteen other EU Member States, published a position paper on innovative and trustworthy AI in October 2020.⁴⁰³³ The paper set out two visions for the EU's development of AI: 1) promoting innovation, while managing risks through a clear framework and 2) establishing trustworthy AI as a competitive advantage. The countries call for a borderless single market for AI in the EU. They state that "The main aim must be to create a common framework where trustworthy and human-centric AI goes hand in hand with innovation, economic growth, and competitiveness to protect our society, maintain our high-quality public service, and benefit our citizens and businesses. This can help the EU to protect and empower its citizens, stimulate innovation and progress in society, and ensure its values are protected."

Recently, Luxembourg launched Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030,⁴⁰³⁴ a comprehensive strategic initiative integrating three interconnected national strategies covering artificial intelligence, data, and quantum technologies. Presented jointly by the Ministry of Digitalisation, Media and Economy, the Luxembourg AI Strategy 2030 listed 30 Actions and explicitly aligns with the OECD AI Principles as foundational guidance for Luxembourg's AI governance framework. The strategy emphasizes practical experimentation to scale responsible AI use across sectors and identifies key implementation measures such as establishing the Luxembourg AI Factory, operating regulatory sandboxes, and maintaining alignment with European values.

⁴⁰³² Luxembourg Government, *The Data-Driven Innovation Strategy for the Development of a Trusted and Sustainable Economy in Luxembourg* (2019), <https://gouvernement.lu/en/publications/rapport-etude-analyse/minist-economie/intelligence-artificielle/data-driven-innovation.html>

⁴⁰³³ Netherlands and PR EU, Brussels, *Non-paper, Innovative and Trustworthy AI: Two Sides of the Same Coin*, Our Ideas, Digital Policy (Oct. 8. 2020), <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/pr-eu-brussels/about-us/our-ideas-for-europe/digital-policy>

⁴⁰³⁴ Government of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg's AI Strategy: Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030* (May 16, 2025), <https://gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/images-documents/actualites/2025/05/16-strategies-ai-donnees-quantum/2024115332-ministere-etat-strategy-ai-en-bat-acc-ua.pdf>

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Luxembourg shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁴⁰³⁵ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms. Its main objective is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation.

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Luxembourg is bound by the EU AI Act.⁴⁰³⁶ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

Luxembourg began revisiting the national AI strategy in 2024 to ensure that AI technologies developed in the country are compatible with GDPR and the EU AI Act.⁴⁰³⁷

Chamber of Deputies speaker Elisabeth Margue submitted a bill to implement the EU AI Act and designate the supervisory and competent authorities to Parliament.⁴⁰³⁸ The bill remains in committee at the Chamber of Deputies.⁴⁰³⁹ The bill proposes the Luxembourg Office of Accreditation and Surveillance (OLAS) as the notifying authority overseeing conformity assessment bodies evaluating general purpose AI systems, the Luxembourg Agency for Medicines and Health Products (ALMPS) to supervise bodies specific to system in healthcare and medical device sectors, and the Luxembourg State Data Protection Commissioner's Office (CGP).

The National Commissioner for Data Protection (CNPd) will serve as the Notified Body charged with performing third-party conformity assessment activities for high-risk systems for law enforcement, immigration, or asylum. The CNPD will also be the default market surveillance authority and primary point of contact,

⁴⁰³⁵ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)*, (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁴⁰³⁶ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (Text with EEA relevance)*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

⁴⁰³⁷ Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), *What Luxembourg intends to do about AI* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.list.lu/en/media/press/what-luxembourg-intends-to-do-about-ai/>

⁴⁰³⁸ Chamber of Deputies, *Bill 8476 [Projet de Loi] [French Only]* (Dec. 23, 2024), <https://wdocs-pub.chd.lu/docs/exped/0151/094/302942.pdf>

⁴⁰³⁹ Chamber of Deputies, *Bill 8476, Draft Law Implementing Certain Provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689* (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.chd.lu/fr/dossier/8476>

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charged with coordinating activities across the sector-specific market surveillance authorities.⁴⁰⁴⁰ The bill also designates supervisory authorities for judiciary and prosecution services, the financial sector, insurance sector, medicine and health, and audiovisual.⁴⁰⁴¹

Public Participation

The National AI Strategy evolved from a project initiated by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and a public consultation on AI policy in 2020. The public consultation was answered by 20,000 randomly selected participants. Top consultation results include:⁴⁰⁴²

- Over 80% of the public thinks that the state needs a data ethics committee
- When asked which sector they trusted most with data and AI, the public sector won with 77% of respondents voicing a high or very high level of trust
- 70% of respondents believe that AI can help them with tasks in their daily lives
- 73% of people use digital tools for public sector tasks (online payments, MyGuichet.lu, etc.). Coming in second was mobility (Google Maps, Waze, etc.)
- More than 70% of respondents are in favor of full-scale, AI-based trials, such as Luxembourg's digital twin project.⁴⁰⁴³

Digital Luxembourg, now known as Innovative Initiatives, supports and powers several initiatives that are open to public participation.⁴⁰⁴⁴ For example, the High Committee for Digital Transformation held a meeting to discuss Luxembourg's national strategies on artificial intelligence, data, and quantum technologies.⁴⁰⁴⁵ The Committee brought together government members, civil society representatives,

⁴⁰⁴⁰ CNPD, *National Implementation of the "AI Act"* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/actualites/national/2024/11/cnpg-ai-act.html>

⁴⁰⁴¹ Arendt, *New Luxembourg Bill Designates National Authorities under the AI Act: The CNPD Takes Centre Stage* (Jan. 9, 2025), <https://www.arendt.com/news-insights/news/new-luxembourg-bill-designates-national-authorities-under-the-ai-act-the-cnpg-takes-centre-stage/>

⁴⁰⁴² Innovative Initiatives Digital Luxembourg, *Results Are In: Here's What the Public Thinks about AI* (2021), <https://innovative-initiatives.public.lu/stories/results-are-heres-what-public-thinks-about-ai>; Nicolas Poussing, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, *Résultats de la consultation publique relative aux opportunités et aux défis de l'Intelligence Artificielle* (Apr. 2021), <https://smc.gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/Rapport-IA6-final.pdf>

⁴⁰⁴³ Research Luxembourg, *Meet Luxembourg Digital Twin* (Jul. 22, 2021), <https://www.researchluxembourg.org/en/meet-luxembourg-digital-twin/>

⁴⁰⁴⁴ Innovative Initiatives Digital Luxembourg, *One Platform, Countless Innovative Initiatives*, <https://innovative-initiatives.public.lu/join-us>

⁴⁰⁴⁵ Ministry of Digitalisation, *National Strategies Relating to Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technologies and Data Are at the Heart of the Third Meeting of the High Committee on Digital Transformation* (Mar. 3, 2025), https://mindigital.gouvernement.lu/en/actualites.gouvernement2024+fr+actualites+toutes_actualites+communiqués+2025+03-mars+03-haut-comite-digi.html

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employers, public research institutions, and experts to promote dialogue and offered a concrete platform for meaningful multi-stakeholder participation. The meeting discussed the draft AI, data, and quantum strategies presented by the responsible ministries which later consolidated into the final strategy documents.

Data Protection

Since Luxembourg is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁴⁰⁴⁶ is directly applicable in Luxembourg and to Luxembourgers.⁴⁰⁴⁷ The Act of August 1, 2018, on the organization of the National Data Protection Commission and the general data protection framework supplements the GDPR.

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Luxembourg transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)⁴⁰⁴⁸ with the Act of August 1, 2018, on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data in criminal and national security matters. The LED protects citizens' right to data protection whenever personal data is used by criminal law enforcement authorities for law enforcement purposes.⁴⁰⁴⁹

The National Data Protection Commission (*Commission Nationale pour la Protection des Données*, CNPD) enforces rights related to both the GDPR and the LED. To ensure better compliance with GDPR, in May 2022, the CNPD adopted the GDPR-CARPA certification mechanism for companies, public entities, and other organizations established in Luxembourg.⁴⁰⁵⁰ The CNPD accredited a first entity, EY

⁴⁰⁴⁶ *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

⁴⁰⁴⁷ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁴⁰⁴⁸ *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁴⁰⁴⁹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁴⁰⁵⁰ European Data Protection Board, *The CNPD Adopts the Certification Mechanism GDPR-CARPA* (Jun. 27, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2022/cnpd-adopts-certification-mechanism-gdpr-carpa_en

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PFS Solutions, in the framework of GDPR-CARPA, in June 2022, giving it the right to issue GDPR certifications.⁴⁰⁵¹

The CNPD launched a regulatory sandbox for AI in May 2024 to serve as a platform for collaboration between government bodies and industry stakeholders. The sandbox encourages the development of responsible AI solutions while safeguarding ethical standards and ensuring compliance with the EU's AI regulations, including data privacy.⁴⁰⁵²

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Luxembourg is also a member of the Council of Europe. The country signed but has not yet ratified⁴⁰⁵³ the Council of Europe’s modernized version of Convention 108 for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data (Convention 108+).⁴⁰⁵⁴ The CNPD released a statement⁴⁰⁵⁵ in 2025 noting that most AI systems prohibited under the EU AI Act for unacceptable risks are also problematic with respect to several principles of the GDPR, including the principle of transparency. If deployed in Luxembourg territory, these systems could give rise to complaints or be subject to investigations under the GDPR.

The CNPD has represented Luxembourg in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2005.⁴⁰⁵⁶ Luxembourg did not endorse the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁰⁵⁷ 2020 Resolution on Accountability

⁴⁰⁵¹ Luxembourg’s National Data Protection Authority website, *The CNPD is the First Data Protection Authority in Europe to Deliver an Accreditation to a GDPR Certification Body* (Oct. 17, 2022), <https://cnpd.public.lu/en/actualites/national/2022/10/premier-agrement-certification.html>

⁴⁰⁵² National Commission for Data Protection, *CNPD Launches AI Sandbox* (Sept. 5 2024), <https://cnpd.public.lu/en/actualites/national/2024/05/lancement-sandkescht.html>

⁴⁰⁵³ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁴⁰⁵⁴ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁴⁰⁵⁵ CNPD, *AI Systems Prohibited under the AI Act: Impact on the Protection of Personal Data [Les systèmes d’IA prohibés selon l’AI Act: Impact sur la protection des données personnelles]* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ia-prohibes.html>

⁴⁰⁵⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴⁰⁵⁷ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018),

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in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁰⁵⁸ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁴⁰⁵⁹ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.⁴⁰⁶⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Although Luxembourg has not yet ratified the Protocol amending Convention 108 (Convention 108+), which reinforces algorithmic transparency,⁴⁰⁶¹ the country adheres to the GDPR and the AI Act, both of which provide important safeguards. Luxembourg does not currently have a standalone national law or regulation on algorithmic transparency firmly established in its legal order. Nonetheless, Draft Bill No. 8476 establishes a national governance and enforcement framework for the EU AI Act.⁴⁰⁶² Individuals in Luxembourg have a general right under the GDPR to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and the underlying factors and logic of algorithms.⁴⁰⁶³

The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems⁴⁰⁶⁴ specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability, and effective remedies.⁴⁰⁶⁵

https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁰⁵⁸ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁴⁰⁵⁹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁴⁰⁶⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴⁰⁶¹ Council of Europe, *Convention 108+ and the GDPR* (Mar. 28, 2019), <https://rm.coe.int/090000168093b851>

⁴⁰⁶² Chamber of Deputies, *Bill 8476, Draft Law Implementing Certain Provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689* (Feb. 20, 2025) (Last updated Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.chd.lu/fr/dossier/8476>

⁴⁰⁶³ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR.

⁴⁰⁶⁴ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁴⁰⁶⁵ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

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The Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) Ethical Bias Leaderboard launched in March 2024 evaluates the performance of AI models across seven biases: Ageism, LGBTIQ+ phobia, Political bias, Racism, Religious bias, Sexism, and Xenophobia posed by AI models.⁴⁰⁶⁶ The Leaderboard provides transparency to users, facilitates their ability to choose LLMs that exhibit lower biases, and increases awareness about the “inherent limitations of AI.” Evaluators emphasized the need for explainability to foster trust and to improve reliability.

The CNPD has also issued national guidance⁴⁰⁶⁷ clarifying that all public and private entities deploying high-risk AI systems must ensure the explainability, legality, and contestability of outputs, in line with both GDPR and the EU AI Act. The formal role as the AI Market Surveillance Authority proposed by Bill 8476⁴⁰⁶⁸ would expand CNPD's mandate to enforce transparency, accountability, and contestability requirements for high-risk AI systems under the EU AI Act. The CNPD will also oversee a national AI regulatory sandbox, enabling companies to test high-risk AI systems in controlled environments while ensuring legal compliance.⁴⁰⁶⁹

Ban on Facial Recognition

Luxembourg is widely noted for its political stance against facial recognition technologies in government use. Minister of Defense François Bausch pledged in October 2019 that no facial recognition systems were implemented during his term in the Defense Department.⁴⁰⁷⁰ Furthermore, Article 43bis of the Law of 18 July 2018 prohibited the use of automatic detection systems, including facial recognition, in their video surveillance systems (VISUPOL).⁴⁰⁷¹ Luxembourg amended the 2018

⁴⁰⁶⁶ Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, *LIST Pioneers AI Regulatory Sandboxes and Launches Ethical Bias Leaderboard* (Sept. 5, 2024), https://www.list.lu/en/news/list-pioneers-ai-regulatory-sandboxes-and-launches-ethical-bias-leaderboard/?no_cache=1&cHash=b5a5c859e1dbacdc920162608e9cbe8c

⁴⁰⁶⁷ CNPD, *AI Systems Prohibited under the AI Act: Impact on the Protection of Personal Data [Les systèmes d'IA prohibés selon l'AI Act: Impact sur la protection des données personnelles]* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ia-prohibes.html>

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Chamber of Deputies, *Bill 8476, Draft Law Implementing Certain Provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689* (Feb. 20, 2025) (Last updated Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.chd.lu/fr/dossier/8476>; CNPD, *National Implementation of the “AI Act”* (Dec. 4, 2024) (Last updated June 5, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/actualites/national/2024/11/cnpg-ai-act.html>

⁴⁰⁶⁹ CNPD, *CNPD Launches AI Sandbox*, (May 21, 2024) <https://cnpd.public.lu/en/actualites/national/2024/05/lancement-sandbox.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Jess Bauldry, *Lux Police Not Using Facial Recognition* (Aug. 22, 2019), https://delano.lu/article/delano_lux-police-not-using-facial-recognition

⁴⁰⁷¹ Journal Officiel, *Consolidated Version: Law of 18 July 2018 on the Grand Duchy Police [Version consolidée: Loi du 18 juillet 2018 sur la Police grand-ducale]* (Mar. 1, 2024), <https://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2018/07/18/a621/consolide/20240301>

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law on facial recognition with Bill No. 8512 in November 2025. The amendment allows policy to set up surveillance zones under specific circumstances and legally recognized the use of VISUPOL, a digital operational platform used by the police.⁴⁰⁷² The CCTV network is overseen by the CNPD and complies with data protection laws, notably the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as Luxembourg's national data protection legislation. It also does not use facial recognition software, in compliance with the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act), which prohibits the untargeted scraping of facial images from the internet or CCTV footage to create or expand facial recognition databases.

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) issued guidelines on the use of facial recognition technologies in the area of law enforcement in May 2022.⁴⁰⁷³ The EDPB Chair said: "Facial recognition technology is intrinsically linked to processing personal data, including biometric data, and poses serious risks to individual rights and freedoms." The EDPB stresses that facial recognition tools should be used only in strict compliance with the Law Enforcement Directive (LED). These technologies may only be used if their application satisfies the strict necessity and proportionality tests, as set out in the European Data Protections: Enforcement Directive and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.⁴⁰⁷⁴

Environmental Impact of AI

AI technologies in Luxembourg are beginning to have a notable impact on the environment, with the country leveraging AI for both environmental protection and sustainability efforts. As AI adoption increases, it is important to address the environmental impact of the technology itself, particularly its energy consumption and carbon footprint.⁴⁰⁷⁵ Luxembourg's 2025 AI Strategy, part of the Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030 initiative, notes that "AI will play a central role in implementing Luxembourg's integrated National Energy and Climate Plan

⁴⁰⁷² Journal Officiel, *Law of 28 November 2025 Amending Article 43 bis of the Amended Law of 18 July 2018 on the Grand-Ducal Police [Loi portant modification de l'article 43bis de la loi modifiée du 18 juillet 2018 sur la Police grand-ducale]* (Nov. 28, 2025), <https://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2025/11/28/a525/jo>

⁴⁰⁷³ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the use of facial recognition technology in the area of law enforcement Version 2.0* (Apr. 26, 2023), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/edpb_guidelines_202304_frtlawenforcement_v2_en.pdf

⁴⁰⁷⁴ European Data Protection Board, *EDPB Adopts Guidelines on Calculation of Fines & Guidelines on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement*, Press release (May 16, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/edpb-adopts-guidelines-calculation-fines-guidelines-use-facial-recognition_en

⁴⁰⁷⁵ RTL Today, *AI Is "Accelerating the Climate Crisis," Expert Warns* (Sept. 18, 2024), <https://today.rtl.lu/news/business-and-tech/a/2231633.html>

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(PNEC).”⁴⁰⁷⁶ The strategy and regulatory frameworks aim to balance the benefits of AI with sustainable development goals, ensuring that AI-driven environmental initiatives align with global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Luxembourg has regularly voiced its position on lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) in the meetings on autonomous weapons systems of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). For example, in 2019, Luxembourg argued that international norms on LAWS could be strengthened and spoke in favor of maintaining “human control” over the use of force.⁴⁰⁷⁷ In September 2021, Luxembourg submitted a joint submission to the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS, indicating that “the ceding of human control, agency, responsibility and intent in decisions on the application of force to algorithms and computer-controlled processes poses fundamental ethical concerns.”⁴⁰⁷⁸ In 2022, Luxembourg together with other delegations submitted a working paper on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS to the Chair of the GGE, acknowledging the responsibility of the GGE to “recognize the urgent need for adequate rules and limits on the development, deployment, and use of autonomous weapon systems to ensure sufficient human involvement and oversight.”⁴⁰⁷⁹ Luxembourg also took part in the 2023 CCW where it was decided “to strengthen the Convention. In the context of the objectives and purpose of the Convention, the Group is to further consider and formulate, by consensus, a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures to address emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Government of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg’s AI Strategy: Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030* (May 16, 2025), <https://gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/images-documents/actualites/2025/05/16-strategies-ai-donnees-quantum/2024115332-ministere-etat-strategy-ai-en-bat-acc-ua.pdf>

⁴⁰⁷⁷ Government of Luxembourg, *Statement to the Convention on Conventional Weapons Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Aug. 20, 2019), https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/index.html?guid=public/61.0500/D438BEC1-48F6-4116-BEE5-1A44BE7EBC19_10h09&position=8786

⁴⁰⁷⁸ Austria, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico and New Zealand, *Submission to the Chair of the CCW GGE on LAWS* (Sept. 2021), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2021/gge/documents/Austria-et-al_sept.pdf

⁴⁰⁷⁹ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Switzerland, and Uruguay, *Working Paper Submitted to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)* (May 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-GGE-LAWS-joint-submission-working-paper-G-23.pdf>

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systems.”⁴⁰⁸⁰ In August 2025, Luxembourg joined a group of European countries at the UN GGE on LAWS recommending implementation of context-appropriate human judgement and control as central to IHL compliance.⁴⁰⁸¹

Luxembourg was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2022. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.⁴⁰⁸² In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁴⁰⁸³

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Luxembourg voted in favor⁴⁰⁸⁴ of resolution L.56⁴⁰⁸⁵ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons

⁴⁰⁸⁰ Government of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg Autonomous Weapons Systems Conference* (Feb. 2, 2023), https://gouvernement.lu/en/actualites/toutes_actualites/communiqués/2023/02-fevrier/02-bausch-law-conference.html; UN, Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons – Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (2024), <https://meetings.unoda.org/ccw-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons-group-of-governmental-experts-on-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-2024>

⁴⁰⁸¹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects* (Aug. 21, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.4.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.4.pdf)

⁴⁰⁸² Ousman Noor, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

⁴⁰⁸³ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴⁰⁸⁴ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁴⁰⁸⁵ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, Resolution L56 (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

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systems. The report should analyze ways to address the challenges and concerns autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.

In February 2023, Luxembourg participated in an international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Luxembourg, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action⁴⁰⁸⁶ stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁴⁰⁸⁷ Luxembourg also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁴⁰⁸⁸

AI Literacy

Luxembourg has undertaken several initiatives to promote AI literacy and capacity building for both public sector entities and the general public. For example, the Ministry of Education has been consulting since 2022 to integrate digital literacy and skills across the educational path.⁴⁰⁸⁹ AI literacy is a key component as Article 4 of the EU AI Act, which mandates AI literacy for providers and deployers of AI systems, came into effect in 2025. In August 2025, the CNPD published official guidance on AI literacy requirements to support organizations in understanding their obligations towards AI systems, upskilling workforce, and penalties for non-compliance.⁴⁰⁹⁰

Luxembourg's AI Strategy 2030 emphasizes AI Literacy directly through Actions 3– 6 with initiatives targeting public sector capacity building, workforce

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb.16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴⁰⁸⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁴⁰⁸⁹ Ministry of National Education, Children, and Youth, *Educational Policy Priorities* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://men.public.lu/en/politique-educative/priorites.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁰ Commission Nationale pour la Protection des Données (CNPD), *How Do Organizations Ensure They Have Control over AI? [Maîtrise de l'IA : Que faut-il savoir sur l'exigence de maîtrise de l'IA?]* (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ria-maitrise-ia.html>

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training, and broader societal AI literacy to ensure citizens can meaningfully understand AI system capabilities and limitations.⁴⁰⁹¹

Human Rights

Luxembourg is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions. In 2025, Luxembourg received a rating of “Free” and score of 97/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report. Freedom House reported that “Luxembourg is a constitutional monarchy with a democratically elected government. Political rights and civil liberties are generally respected.”⁴⁰⁹²

Luxembourg’s emerging AI governance framework, including Bill No. 8476 and recent CNPD publications, commitments to the EU Charter of fundamental Rights and the GDPR by reinforcing the requirement that high-risk AI systems comply with human rights principles.⁴⁰⁹³ A 2020 EU Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems reiterated that States’ commitment to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms requires them to “ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects.”⁴⁰⁹⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Luxembourg is a member of the OECD and endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁴⁰⁹⁵ Luxembourg also supports the OECD AI Principles as a member of the Global Partnership on AI.⁴⁰⁹⁶ Luxembourg does not directly refer to the OECD AI principles in the AI strategy. However, the strategy supports the key principles

⁴⁰⁹¹ Government of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg’s AI Strategy: Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030* (May 16, 2025), <https://gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/images-documents/actualites/2025/05/16-strategies-ai-donnees-quantum/2024115332-ministere-etat-strategy-ai-en-bat-acc-ua.pdf>

⁴⁰⁹² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Luxembourg* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/luxembourg>

⁴⁰⁹³ CNPD, *AI Systems Prohibited Under the AI Act: Impact On The Protection of Personal Data* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ia-prohibes.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁴ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁴⁰⁹⁵ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁴⁰⁹⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

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and suggestions such as human-centered AI, transparency of AI systems, exploring links between ethics and AI, and establishing private and public partnerships. OECD has also noted several examples of implementation of the AI Principles by Luxembourg.⁴⁰⁹⁷ Luxembourg's recent efforts, including the implementation of the EU AI Act and the establishment of a regulatory sandbox, align with OECD recommendations for responsible AI development. Luxembourg centered the OECD AI Principles in the 2025 Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030 initiative, which also details implementation measures including the Luxembourg AI Factory, sectoral AI hubs, rapid EU AI Act implementation, and regulatory sandboxes.⁴⁰⁹⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Luxembourg contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The European Union signed this first legally binding international treaty on AI when it opened for signature on September 5, 2024. While Luxembourg is a member of the EU and the Council of Europe, the country has not independently signed the treaty despite active participations in negotiations.⁴¹⁰⁰ However, Luxembourg's 2025 AI Strategy includes Action 25 to implement the Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and notes participation in the CAI's work on HUDERIA.⁴¹⁰¹

⁴⁰⁹⁷ OECD, *Digital Government Review of Luxembourg : Towards More Digital, Innovative and Inclusive Public Services* (Sept. 28, 2022), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/digital-government-review-of-luxembourg_b623803d-en.html; OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Luxembourg*, <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/ai-a-strategic-vision-for-luxembourg-7943>

⁴⁰⁹⁸ Government of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg's AI Strategy: Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030* (May 16, 2025), <https://gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/images-documents/actualites/2025/05/16-strategies-ai-donnees-quantum/2024115332-ministere-etat-strategy-ai-en-bat-acc-ua.pdf>

⁴⁰⁹⁹ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴¹⁰⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁴¹⁰¹ Government of Luxembourg, *Luxembourg's AI Strategy: Accelerating Digital Sovereignty 2030* (May 16, 2025), <https://gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/images-documents/actualites/2025/05/16-strategies-ai-donnees-quantum/2024115332-ministere-etat-strategy-ai-en-bat-acc-ua.pdf>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Luxembourg endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021.⁴¹⁰² The country has not yet initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to facilitate the UNESCO Recommendation.⁴¹⁰³ However, recent steps such as its bill implementing the EU AI Act and designation of the CNPD as the AI market surveillance authority, and new transparency guidelines issued in 2025 demonstrate alignment with several core UNESCO principles, particularly those related to human rights, governance, and accountability.⁴¹⁰⁴ Additionally, Luxembourg's efforts in promoting AI literacy and implementing the PNEC highlight its efforts to further align with the UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics.

Evaluation

Luxembourg, home to several leading multinational tech firms, was among the early adopters of AI policy frameworks addressing certification and standardization. The country benefits from a robust data protection regime, overseen by the independent CNPD. To be true to its commitment to a human-centered approach to AI and in line with its endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and the EU AI Act, Luxembourg designated the CNPD as the AI market surveillance authority.⁴¹⁰⁵ The introduction of Draft Bill No. 8476 and newly issued CNPD guidelines on prohibited AI practices signal active operational commitment to human-centric AI.⁴¹⁰⁶

These initiatives build on its endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and OECD AI Principles. Luxembourg could further solidify its leadership by ratifying the Convention 108+ and Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence. The longstanding political commitment to not implement facial recognition in law enforcement remains noteworthy. Luxembourg has made significant progress in outlining a unified and inclusive AI strategy and enhanced

⁴¹⁰² UNESCO Digital Library, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁴¹⁰³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁴¹⁰⁴ CNPD, *AI Systems Prohibited under the EU AI Act: Impact on the Protection of Personal Data* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ia-prohibes.html>

⁴¹⁰⁵ CNPD, *National Implementation of the "AI Act": The CNPD Designated as the Competent Authority* (Dec. 4, 2024), <https://cnpd.public.lu/en/actualites/national/2024/11/cnpd-ai-act.html>

⁴¹⁰⁶ CNPD, *AI Systems Prohibited under the EU AI Act: Impact on the Protection of Personal Data* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://cnpd.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/intelligence-artificielle/regulation-ia/ia-prohibes.html>

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public participation. If initiatives such as Bill 8476 are passed as law, there will be formalized institutional arrangements for EU AI Act implementation, thereby placing the country among European frontrunners in balancing AI innovation with fundamental rights protection, data sovereignty, and democratic accountability.

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Malaysia

Malaysia completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in 2025. The launch of the National AI Office (NAIO) in late 2024 consolidated national efforts toward a centralized and coherent approach to AI governance, leading in 2025, to a series of bills adopted to update Malaysia's legal framework to support responsible and ethical AI and a draft National AI Action Plan 2026–2030.

National AI Strategy

The Government of Malaysia launched the National AI Roadmap (AI-Rmap) as part of a broader economic blueprint, the Twelfth Malaysia Plan, 2021–2025 (12 Plan).⁴¹⁰⁷ The 12 Plan outlines ambitions to develop AI governance and data protection to promote ethical and responsible use of technology. To the aim for AI governance and research and development, the AI-Rmap adds building enabling digital infrastructure, fostering AI talents, acculturating AI, and kick-starting a national AI innovation ecosystem.⁴¹⁰⁸ The action plan, through 2025 tasked an implementation unit with creating an AI code of ethics as part of the strategic initiative to institutionalize AI principles for AI implementation.

Efforts to advance AI governance in Malaysia gained momentum through 2025 by building on the AI-Rmap and technology roadmaps launched by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI).⁴¹⁰⁹ The Malaysia Science and Technology Information Center launched the National Guidelines on AI Governance and Ethics, proposing seven principles aligned with international principles, “to guide the development of Trusted and Responsible AI”:⁴¹¹⁰ Fairness; Reliability, Safety, and Control; Privacy and Security; Inclusiveness; Transparency; Accountability; and Pursuit of Human Benefit and Happiness.

⁴¹⁰⁷ Government of Malaysia, *Twelfth Malaysia Plan* (2021), <https://rmke12.epu.gov.my/bm>

⁴¹⁰⁸ Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, *Malaysia National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap 2021–2025 (AI-Rmap)* (Aug. 2022), <https://airmap.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AIR-Map-Playbook-final-s.pdf>

⁴¹⁰⁹ Rex Tan, *Mosti Launches Five Technology Roadmaps to Develop Malaysia's Robotics, Advanced Materials, and AI Industries*, Malay Mail (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.malaymail.com/news/money/2022/08/09/mosti-launches-five-technology-roadmaps-to-develop-malaysias-robotics-advanced-materials-and-ai-industries/21970>; see also the AR R-map, <https://airmap.my/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AIR-Map-Playbook-final-s.pdf>

⁴¹¹⁰ Malaysia Science and Technology Information Centre, *The National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics* (Sept. 2024), <https://mastic.mosti.gov.my/publication/the-national-guidelines-on-ai-governance-ethics/>

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The Ministry of Digital launched the National AI Office (NAIO) in December 2024, as the central authority for advancing the nation's AI agenda overseeing strategic planning, research and development, and regulatory oversight.⁴¹¹¹ NAIO is tasked to produce seven deliverables, including a National AI Action Plan 2026–2027. These deliverables aim to promote ethical and sustainable AI practices, encourage AI implementation across key sectors, provide data for AI development, attract foreign investment and provide national competitiveness, and assess the effects of AI on government operations. NAIO has begun drafting Malaysia's National AI Action Plan 2026–2030.⁴¹¹² As part of the process, MyDIGITAL Corporation—a government agency responsible for digitalization efforts—issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a delivery partner to support NAIO in developing the National AI Action Plan.⁴¹¹³

Other notable AI policy developments include the launch of the Public Sector AI Adaptation Guidelines by the Ministry of Digital to promote responsible and ethical AI adoption in the public sector.⁴¹¹⁴ The guidelines include AI ethics, risk management, roles and responsibilities, and a self-assessment tool. Additionally, the Prime Minister's Department launched the AI Legal Justice Roadmap 2025-2026 to improve efficiency and accessibility of legal services using AI.⁴¹¹⁵ The Roadmap will be implemented by the agencies under the Legal Affairs Division (BHEUU). Malaysia is also taking formal steps to govern AI in healthcare. The Malaysian Medical Council adopted a Guideline on the Ethical Use of AI in Medical Practice,⁴¹¹⁶ and the Medical Device Authority announced Malaysia's first regulatory sandbox for AI-driven medical devices.⁴¹¹⁷

⁴¹¹¹ MYDIGITAL, *Malaysia Launches National AI Office (NAIO)* (Dec. 12, 2024), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/malaysia-launches-national-ai-office-naio/>; National AI Office (NAIO), *About NAIO* (2026), <https://ai.gov.my/about-naio>

⁴¹¹² Ministry of Digital, *National AI Office (NAIO)* (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://ai.gov.my/faq/ai-governance-and-ethics>

⁴¹¹³ MyDIGITAL Corporation, *Request for Proposal (RFP): The Development of the National AI Action Plan 2026-2030*, (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/procurement-notice-request-for-proposal-rfp-the-development-of-the-national-ai-action-plan-2026-2030/>

⁴¹¹⁴ Ministry of Digital, *Launch Ceremony Of The Public Sector Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adaptation Guidelines* (Feb. 27, 2025), [https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Majlis-Peluncuran-Garis-Panduan-Pengadaptasian-Kecerdasan-Buatan-\(AI\)-Sektor-Awam](https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Majlis-Peluncuran-Garis-Panduan-Pengadaptasian-Kecerdasan-Buatan-(AI)-Sektor-Awam)

⁴¹¹⁵ The Legal Affairs Division (BHEUU) of the Prime Minister's Department (JPM), *AI Legal Justice Roadmap 2025-2026*, (May 22, 2025), <https://petari.bheuu.gov.my/ruu-ombudsman-2025-20/>

⁴¹¹⁶ Malaysian Medical Council, *Guideline of the Malaysian Medical Council* (Feb. 2025), <https://mmc.gov.my/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MMC-Guideline-on-The-Ethical-Use-of-Artificial-Intelligence-AI-.pdf>

⁴¹¹⁷ Ministry of Health Malaysia, *Futurise Lead RegTalk 2025: AI Medical Devices in Malaysia - Balancing Innovation and Safety* (Aug. 28, 2025),

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Public Participation

The Malaysian Personal Data Protection Commissioner (PDP Commissioner) held several public consultations in 2025. The first three public consultations collected inputs to develop guidelines on data protection impact assessments,⁴¹¹⁸ data protection by design,⁴¹¹⁹ and automated decision making and profiling.⁴¹²⁰ Subsequently, the PDP Commissioner issued a public consultation paper on proposed amendments to provisions related to data controllers' obligations, as well as the inspection and enforcement powers of the PDP Commissioner in the Personal Data Protection Regulations 2013.⁴¹²¹

As part of its efforts to develop the National AI Action Plan 2030 (2026–2030), NAIIO has organized strategic roundtable sessions on AI Safety & Security, Policy & Regulation, Talent, and Advisory & Industry Engagement.⁴¹²² These events brought together representatives from public and private sectors, academia, regulators, and industry groups. NAIIO has also established specialized Working Groups, bringing together experts from technology, academia, industry, government, and civil society “to shape AI advancements guided by ethical principles, public interest, and long-term sustainability.”⁴¹²³

<https://portal.mda.gov.my/index.php/announcement/1629-futurise-lead-regtalk-2025-ai-medical-devices-in-malaysia-balancing-innovation-and-safety>

⁴¹¹⁸ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 1/2025, Data Protection Impact Guideline* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/JPDP-FSB-200325-DPIA-PCP-ENG-TC.pdf>

⁴¹¹⁹ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 2/2025, Data Protection by Design Guideline* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/public-consultation-paper-no-2-2025-data-protection-by-design-guideline/>

⁴¹²⁰ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 3/2025, Automated Decision Making And Profiling Guideline* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/public-consultation-paper-no-3-2025-automated-decision-making-and-profiling-guideline/>

⁴¹²¹ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 4/2025, Proposed Amendments to the Personal Data Protection Regulations 2013 [P.U.A. 335/2013]* (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/malaysia-and-wef-drive-aseans-next-leap-in-ai-governance-and-industrial-innovation/>

⁴¹²² Ministry of Digital, *Building the Blueprint: NAIIO'S AI Roundtables Drive National AI Strategy Forward* (Aug. 9, 2025), <https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Membina-Hala-Tuju-:-Siri-Perbincangan-NAIO-Pacu-Strategi-Nasional-AI>

⁴¹²³ Ministry of Digital, *National AI Office (NAIO)* (Feb. 14, 2025), https://ai.gov.my/media/news-details/14022025_PRESS_RELEASE_NAIO_ENGAGES_STAKEHOLDERS_TO_SHAPE_MALAYSIA%E2%80%99S_AI_LANDSCAPE.pdf

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Data Protection

Data protection in Malaysia stems from the Personal Data Protection Act of 2010 (PDPA),⁴¹²⁴ which came into force in 2013. The PDPA seeks to safeguard personal data and confer certain rights to users regarding personal data. The PDPA imposes strict requirements on any person who collects or processes personal data (data users) and grants individual rights to data subjects. The PDPA is based on widely accepted personal data protection principles, including informed consent, notice, purpose limitation, security, storage limit, data integrity, access, and correction.⁴¹²⁵

The PDP Commissioner is an agency under the Digital Ministry, created after Parliament passed the Bill relating to the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (PDPA) i.e. Act 709.⁴¹²⁶ “The PDP Commissioner is responsible for regulating the processing of commercial transactions of personal data by organizations (Data Controllers) and protecting the interests of individuals from any misuse of personal data. The PDP Commissioner implements and enforces personal data protection laws, including the formulation of operational policies and procedures.”

The Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2024 introduces significant changes to align with global data protection standards.⁴¹²⁷ The updates set greater emphasis on accountability by mandating the appointment of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) for data controllers and processors, direct legal obligations for data processors, and breach notifications to authorities and affected individuals. The amendments also grant individuals data portability rights, expand the definition of sensitive personal data to include biometric information, and introduce stricter cross-border data transfer requirements. Additionally, penalties for non-compliance are increased in fines up to RM1 million and imprisonment of up to three years.

While the PDPA does not apply to federal and state governments, the Data Sharing Bill 2024 (RUUPD 2024) establishes a framework for data sharing among federal government agencies.⁴¹²⁸ It introduces a National Data Sharing Committee responsible for evaluating requests based on factors such as the nature of the data, its

⁴¹²⁴ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Personal Data Protection Act* (Jun. 2010), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/pdp-act-2010-en/>

⁴¹²⁵ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Principles of Personal Data Protection* (2024), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/principles-of-personal-data-protection/>

⁴¹²⁶ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/ppdp-eng/>

⁴¹²⁷ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2024*, <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/personal-data-protection-amendment-act-2024/>

⁴¹²⁸ Ministry of Digital, *Malaysia Passes Landmark Law That Allows Data Sharing Between Federal Government Agencies* (Dec.19, 2024), <https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Malaysia-Meluluskan-Rang-Undang-Undang-Penting-Yang-Membolehkan-Perkongsian-Data-Antara-Agensi-Kerajaan-Persekutuan>

intended use, handling procedures, and safeguards to ensure privacy and confidentiality. The law mandates that requesting agencies have adequate cybersecurity measures in place before accessing shared data. To uphold accountability, the bill includes penalties for data breaches, with fines of up to RM1 million, imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Additional legislation passed to date include the Personal Data Protection Regulations 2013 (“the 2013 Regulations”); the Personal Data Protection (Class of Data Users) Order 2013 (“the Order”); the Personal Data Protection (Registration of Data User) Regulations 2013 (“Registration Regulation”); the Personal Data Protection (Fees) Regulations 2013; the Personal Data Protection Regulations 2016 (“Compounding of Offences Regulations”); the Personal Data Protection (Class of Data Users) (Amendment) Order 2016 (“the Order Amendment”); the Personal Data Protection (Appeal Tribunal) Regulations 2021;⁴¹²⁹ the Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2024;⁴¹³⁰ and the Data Sharing Bill 2024 (RUUPD 2024).⁴¹³¹

Malaysia’s data protection agency, the Personal Data Protection Commissioner, is not a member of Global Privacy Assembly and has not endorsed the relevant resolutions.⁴¹³²

Algorithmic Transparency

The Personal Data Protection Commissioner’s guidelines on automated decision-making and profiling submitted for public consultation in early 2025 proposed a rights-protecting framework for algorithmic transparency explicitly aligned to and adapted from international standards.⁴¹³³ If legislation based on the PDP Commissioner’s proposed amendments to provisions related to the inspection and enforcement powers of the PDP Commissioner in the Personal Data Protection

⁴¹²⁹ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Personal Data Protection Act 2010 [Act 709]*, <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/pdp-act-2010-en/>

⁴¹³⁰ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2024*, <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/personal-data-protection-amendment-act-2024/>

⁴¹³¹ Ministry of Digital, *Malaysia Passes Landmark Law That Allows Data Sharing between Federal Government Agencies* (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Malaysia-Meluluskan-Rang-Undang-Undang-Penting-Yang-Membolehkan-Perkongsian-Data-Antara-Agensi-Kerajaan-Persekutuan>

⁴¹³² Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴¹³³ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 3/2025, Automated Decision Making and Profiling Guideline* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/public-consultation-paper-no-3-2025-automated-decision-making-and-profiling-guideline/>

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Regulations 2013,⁴¹³⁴ provide adequate accountability, Malaysia will have a legal framework for protecting the right to algorithmic transparency.

As proposed, regulations on automated decisions and profiling would apply only to decisions that are “being made by technological means without human involvement” and “where such decisions may legally or significantly affect an individual.”⁴¹³⁵ The proposal refers collectively to protections as the “ADM Restrictions,” which include the Right to Refuse to a fully-automated decision, the Right to Information on the decision made, and the Right to Human Review. The guidelines further define “meaningful information about the logic” for the decision and provide for contestability and reversal as part of the right to human review.⁴¹³⁶

AI in Healthcare

To combat the spread of COVID-19, the Malaysian government led a multi-agency effort to create the MySejahtera app, which achieved widespread adoption, reaching 24.5 million users—nearly three quarters of the national population—by December 2020.⁴¹³⁷ The collected data is fully owned by the Ministry of Health, and supervised by the National Cyber Security Agency and the National Security Council.

To enhance its COVID-19 efforts, the Malaysian government launched the Hotspot Identification for Dynamic Engagement (HIDE) system, an early warning system to preemptively identify COVID-19 hotspots using predictive technology, big data analytics, and AI.⁴¹³⁸ The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) explored plans to add “artificial intelligence and big data analytics into the

⁴¹³⁴ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No.4/2025, Proposed Amendments to the Personal Data Protection Regulations 2013 [P.U.A. 335/2013]* (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/malaysia-and-wef-drive-aseans-next-leap-in-ai-governance-and-industrial-innovation/>

⁴¹³⁵ Personal Data Protection Commissioner, *Public Consultation Paper No. 3/2025, Automated Decision Making and Profiling Guideline*, pp. 7–9 (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.pdp.gov.my/ppdpv1/en/akta/public-consultation-paper-no-3-2025-automated-decision-making-and-profiling-guideline/>

⁴¹³⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 9–11

⁴¹³⁷ Yahoo News, *Health Ministry Source: MySejahtera Covers 24.5 Million Users with Up to 30,000 Daily Downloads Despite Misconceptions* (Dec. 3, 2020), <https://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/health-ministry-source-mysejahtera-covers-020809774.html>

⁴¹³⁸ Mondaq.com, *Malaysia: COVID-19: Nowhere to HIDE?* (May 24, 2021), <https://www.mondaq.com/government-measures/1071572/covid-19-nowhere-to-hide>

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HIDE system to produce more accurate predictions of coronavirus hotspots based on Bluetooth contact tracing.”⁴¹³⁹ HIDE currently uses MySejahtera check-in data.

Meanwhile, the Malaysia Healthy Ministry is actively exploring AI applications to “enhance diagnostic accuracy, reduce treatment costs, and address gaps in healthcare delivery.”⁴¹⁴⁰ The government plans to deploy a cloud-based digital management system in 100 public health clinics, streamlining operations and reducing patient waiting times.⁴¹⁴¹

Facial Recognition and Biometric Identification

Since launching the Safe City Initiatives in 2004, cities across Malaysia have been installing CCTVs in public areas to monitor crime, traffic surveillance, and flooding.⁴¹⁴² As part of the initiative, the Minister of Federal Territories announced in 2020 their intention to increase up to 5000 cameras in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur and upgrade existing cameras with AI capabilities, facial recognition, and other functions.⁴¹⁴³

In 2018, Auxiliary Force Sdn Bhd, a member of Royal Malaysia Police Cooperative Bhd., became the first Malaysian security force in the country to integrate body-worn cameras with facial recognition technology.⁴¹⁴⁴ In 2019, the state of Penang launched the first public facial recognition to help police combat crime. The system uses AI to identify faces captured by the CCTV network operated by Penang Island City Council, with a plan to have hundreds of new cameras installed at major roads, intersections, and hotspots for criminal activity.⁴¹⁴⁵

⁴¹³⁹ Code Blue, *Government Plans Bluetooth COVID-19 Contact Tracing, Geofencing Self-Quarantine App* (Nov. 2, 2021), <https://codeblue.galencentre.org/2021/11/02/government-plans-bluetooth-covid-19-contact-tracing-geofencing-self-quarantine-app/>

⁴¹⁴⁰ Alita Sharon, *Malaysia: Leveraging AI to Enhance Healthcare* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://opengovasia.com/2025/02/07/malaysia-leverages-ai-to-improve-healthcare/>

⁴¹⁴¹ Alita Sharon, *Malaysia: Cloud-Based Management and AI Enhance Healthcare*, (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://opengovasia.com/2025/02/10/malaysia-cloud-based-management-and-ai-enhance-healthcare/>

⁴¹⁴² Jabatan Pengangkutan Bandar DBKL, *Inisiatif Bandar Selamat, MyGovernment* (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/content/31144>

⁴¹⁴³ Metro News, *UN Safe City Concept Implemented in Malaysia since 2004*, The Star (Jul. 7, 2022), <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2022/07/07/un-safe-city-concept-implemented-in-malaysia-since-2004>

⁴¹⁴⁴ OpenGOVAsia.com, *Auxiliary Force of Malaysian Police Integrates Facial Recognition Technology with Body-Worn Cameras* (Apr. 16, 2018), <https://opengovasia.com/auxiliary-force-of-malaysian-police-integrates-facial-recognition-technology-with-body-worn-cameras/>

⁴¹⁴⁵ Biometric Update, *Malaysian State Launches Facial Recognition to CCTV Network* (Jan 3, 2019), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201901/malaysian-state-launches-facial-recognition-to-cctv-network>

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Businesses have also integrated the use of facial recognition across the nation, including facial recognition “check-ins” at events.⁴¹⁴⁶ The Malaysian Ministry of Transport introduced a public-private facial recognition program in 2019, allowing users to take selfies of themselves as passenger verification in rideshare services.⁴¹⁴⁷

AirAsia, a low-cost carrier, adopts FACES, a facial recognition technology that allows passengers to replace their traditional boarding pass with their face.⁴¹⁴⁸ To use FACES, passengers must enroll in AirAsia FACES via their mobile app, take a selfie video, and scan their travel documents, such as their ID or passport. Before using FACES, passengers must also perform a one-time document verification check at the dedicated FACES counters in the airport.⁴¹⁴⁹

Malaysia’s Immigration Department expanded its biometric passenger screening initiative by increasing the number of autogates at major airports, including Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), to automate immigration clearance.⁴¹⁵⁰ Previously, these gates, which incorporate QR code and facial recognition technology, were available only to Malaysian nationals. This initiative is now set to expand under the Foreign Digital Identity (FDID) system,⁴¹⁵¹ which will track all foreign visitors using biometric data, including fingerprints, iris scans, and facial recognition, to strengthen border control and assign each visitor a unique digital identity. The system will integrate these biometrics into a centralized database, enabling automated verification at entry and exit points and reducing reliance on manual screening. While designed to improve security and prevent fraud, the

⁴¹⁴⁶ The Malaysian Reserve, *Facial Recognition Tech Grows amid Concerns* (Dec. 5, 2019), https://themalaysianreserve.com/2019/12/05/facial-recognition-tech-grows-amid-concerns/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk=__DAhg_QRUGomGzvz0vzL53vheCQUq1lvw25Aloim.rTw-1636370158-0-gaNycGzNCIE

⁴¹⁴⁷ Grab.com, *Grab Partners with Ministry of Transport to Implement Facial Recognition Technology in Malaysia* (Apr. 11, 2019), <https://www.grab.com/my/press/social-impact-safety/grab-mot-facial-recognition-technology/>

⁴¹⁴⁸ Staff, Asian Aviation, *AirAsia Expands Facial Recognition at KL* (Oct. 5, 2022), <https://asianaviation.com/airasia-expands-facial-recognition-at-kl/>

⁴¹⁴⁹ Alexander Wong, *AirAsia FACES Now Integrated with Malaysia Airports’ EZPaz Facial Recognition System*, SoyaCincau (Nov. 6, 2022), <https://soyacincanau.com/2022/10/06/airasia-faces-now-integrated-with-malaysia-airports-ezpaz-facial-recognition-system/>

⁴¹⁵⁰ Tech Wire, *Malaysia to expand airport automation with QR-enabled facial recognition gates*, (Dec. 10, 2024), <https://idtechwire.com/malaysia-to-expand-airport-automation-with-qr-enabled-facial-recognition-gates/>; New Straits Time, *Malaysia to expand QR code system for travellers from 63 countries next year* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2025/03/1183532/malaysia-expand-qr-code-system-travellers-63-countries-next-year>

⁴¹⁵¹ Straits Times, *Malaysia to Roll Out New System to Track Visitors, Including Airline Passenger Information Screening* (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysia-to-roll-out-new-system-to-track-visitors-including-airline-passenger-screening>

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initiative raises policy considerations around privacy, data governance, and oversight, as it involves large-scale collection of sensitive biometric information.

Malaysia launched MyDigital ID as a national digital identification system to streamline online transactions and government service access, while enhancing digital security.⁴¹⁵² The initiative forms part of a broader cybersecurity strategy targeting scams, financial fraud, and identity theft.⁴¹⁵³ MyDigital ID uses facial recognition technology to verify user identity during registration, although authorities have stated that the system does not collect or store biometric data.⁴¹⁵⁴ Given its role as a national identity platform, concerns have been raised regarding government security capabilities and safeguards, with calls for an independent oversight body to enforce rigorous security audit process.⁴¹⁵⁵

AI in Court

Malaysia announced in 2010 its plan to establish an e-judiciary system against the backdrop of a broader initiative to digitalize its government and public services.⁴¹⁵⁶ By 2017, the national judiciary system had been fully digitized and was integrated with other government agencies, including COPS (Royal Malaysia Police), MySikap (Road Transport Department), INSIST (Malaysian Department of Insolvency), MyIdentity (National Registration Department), SMPP (Malaysian Prison Department), iAGC (Attorney General's Chambers of Malaysia), and MyeTaPP (Department of Lands and Mines).

A court in Sabah, Malaysia used AI to help mete out a court sentence as part of a nationwide pilot program aimed at determining the efficiency of AI in sentencing recommendations. This was followed by the release of an official guidance for using AI in judiciary sentencing on the peninsula in 2021, which described a three-phase

⁴¹⁵² MyDigital ID Sdn Bhd, MyDigital ID Reaches 1 Million User Registrations (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.digital-id.my/pdf/press/111024_PRESS_RELEASE_MyDID_1mil_User.pdf; MyDigital ID, <https://www.digital-id.my/en>

⁴¹⁵³ Bernama, *Telcos to Integrate MyDigital ID from tomorrow to boost digital security* (Nov. 30, 2025), <https://mediaselangor.com/en/2025/11/333032>

⁴¹⁵⁴ MyDigital ID Sdn Bhd, MyDigital ID Reaches 1 Million User Registrations (Oct. 11, 2024), https://www.digital-id.my/pdf/press/111024_PRESS_RELEASE_MyDID_1mil_User.pdf

⁴¹⁵⁵ Zarrah Morden, *After yet another major data leak, Analysts See Uphill Task to Sell Malaysians on MyDigital ID*, Malay Mail (Dec. 15, 2023), <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2023/12/15/after-yet-another-major-data-leak-analysts-see-uphill-task-to-sell-malaysians-on-mydigital-id/107588>

⁴¹⁵⁶ Office of the Chief Registrar Federal Court of Malaysia, *Sistem E-Kehakiman Bagi Mahkamah Di Seluruh Negara*, MyGovernment (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/content/31135>

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strategy to expand the use of AI sentencing programs across the entire nation.⁴¹⁵⁷ According to Malaysian authorities, using AI in Malaysia's courts will help make sentencing more consistent and improve the quality of judgment while clearing backlogs more quickly and cost-efficiently. Plans to upgrade industrial courts with AI digital recording systems to produce real-time case transcripts are also underway.⁴¹⁵⁸

However, lawyers and various stakeholder groups have criticized the deployment as premature, citing insufficient understanding of the systems functioning among judges, lawyers, and the public. The use of AI in the courts has also been criticized as unconstitutional and not envisaged under the country's Criminal Procedure Code. Other critics of the AI-sentencing pilot say AI systems risk worsening the bias against minorities and marginalized groups by not giving them a fair trial.⁴¹⁵⁹

Autonomous Vehicles

The Government of Malaysia is leveraging AI as a key technology in developing autonomous or self-driving vehicles.⁴¹⁶⁰

The Ministry of Transport in Malaysia updated the Guidelines for Public Road Trials of Autonomous Vehicles to provide guidance on testing automated vehicles on designated public roads.⁴¹⁶¹ The Guidelines outline operational safety measures and advise consideration of traffic and weather conditions that may affect system performance. Data collected from the trial may be used to develop a national governance framework for AV adoption and application in Malaysia.

⁴¹⁵⁷ V. Anbalagan, *Malaysian Bar Troubled over Judges Using AI for Sentencing*, Free Malaysia Today (Jul. 24, 2021), <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/07/24/malaysian-bar-troubled-over-judges-using-ai-for-sentencing/>

⁴¹⁵⁸ Audrey Dermawan, *Malaysia's Industrial Courts set for AI-powered transcription overhaul* (Mar. 14, 2025), The New Straits Time, <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2025/03/1188437/malaysias-industrial-courts-set-ai-powered-transcription-overhaul>

⁴¹⁵⁹ Danial Martinus, *Malaysia Tests AI Court Sentencing despite Ethical Concerns Raised by Lawyers*, via Mashable SEA (Apr. 13, 2022), <https://sea.mashable.com/tech/20026/malaysia-tests-ai-court-sentencing-despite-ethical-concerns-raised-by-lawyers>

⁴¹⁶⁰ Government of Malaysia, *Capacities for Digital Transformation, Autonomous Car* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/content/30713>

⁴¹⁶¹ Ministry of Transport Malaysia, *Guideline for Public Road Trials of Autonomous Vehicles, Version 5* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.futurise.com.my/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Version-5.0-Section-AB-Autonomous-Vehicles-Guideline.pdf>

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The Digital Ministry is in discussions with the Transport Ministry to draft and introduce legislation for autonomous vehicles and plans to commercialize autonomous buses once the necessary legal framework is in place.⁴¹⁶²

Environmental Impact of AI

Malaysia's policy documents frame AI as a tool to “enable sustainable consumption and production, and to solve environmental issues.”⁴¹⁶³ The National Guidelines on AI Governance and Ethics, however, emphasize the government's alignment with responsible AI, environmental, social, and corporate governance, and sustainable development goals. Recognizing “Sustainability” as a critical element in AI policymaking, the guidelines address the environmental impact of AI technologies by assessing the “energy consumption and carbon footprint associated with AI hardware infrastructure, data centers, and computing resources.”⁴¹⁶⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Malaysia is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons or a member of related regional groups.⁴¹⁶⁵ Malaysia has noted the “urgency of addressing the legal, ethical, moral, humanitarian and technological issues” related to LAWS and called for “sustained dialogue [...] to ensure strict compliance with international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law,” during the UN General Assembly.⁴¹⁶⁶

Malaysia participated in the inaugural Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) in the Netherlands in 2023. At the Summit, Malaysia joined other attending countries on a call for action on the

⁴¹⁶² The Digital Ministry (Gobind Singh Deo), *Malaysia to Draft Law for Autonomous Vehicles* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2025/09/1272285/gobind-malaysia-draft-new-law-autonomous-vehicles>; The Edge, *Transport Ministry to commercialise autonomous buses once guidelines in place-Loke*, <https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/726026>

⁴¹⁶³ Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, *The National 4IR Policy* (Jul. 2021), <https://ekonomi.gov.my/sites/default/files/2021-07/National-4IR-Policy.pdf>

⁴¹⁶⁴ Malaysian Science, Technology Information Centre (MASTIC), *The National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics* (Sept. 2024), <https://mastic.mosti.gov.my/publication/the-national-guidelines-on-ai-governance-ethics/>

⁴¹⁶⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴¹⁶⁶ Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, *Statement by H.E. Mr. Wan Aznainizam Yusri Wan Abdul Rashid, Representative of Malayasia at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons First Committee*, Reaching Critical Will (Oct. 24, 2024), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/statements/24Oct_Malaysia.pdf

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responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain,⁴¹⁶⁷ stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”

Representatives from Malaysia attended the Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems, called Humanity at Crossroads,⁴¹⁶⁸ in 2024 but did not associate itself with the Chair’s Summary.⁴¹⁶⁹ The Chair’s Summary advocates for a two-tier approach, prohibiting “ethically unacceptable” autonomous weapons systems and appropriately regulating others.⁴¹⁷⁰

AI Literacy

Malaysia is providing national AI literacy and training initiatives to equip citizens, civil servants, and policymakers with foundational AI knowledge. These efforts are led by NAIIO, MyDIGITAL Corporation, and the Ministry of Digital.

MyDIGITAL Corporation and Intel Corporation jointly launched “AI untuk Rakyat,” a national program offering online AI literacy courses to citizens.⁴¹⁷¹ The program aims to “create a comprehensive and accessible learning experience for Malaysians of diverse age groups, backgrounds, and geographical locations.” Over one million Malaysians has completed the program as of June 2024.⁴¹⁷² The AI At

⁴¹⁶⁷ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴¹⁶⁸ Federal Ministry, European and International Affairs, Austria, *List of Participating Countries*, 2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems (2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/list-of-participating-countries>

⁴¹⁶⁹ Federal Ministry, European and International Affairs, Austria, *List of Associated States*, 2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems (Oct. 11, 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/list-of-associated-states>

⁴¹⁷⁰ Federal Ministry, European and International Affairs, Austria, *Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems: Chair’s Summary* (Apr. 30, 2024), https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/AWS_2024/Chair_s_Summary.pdf

⁴¹⁷¹ MyDIGITAL Corporation, *One Million Malaysians Successfully Complete “AI Untuk Rakyat” Self-learning Online Programme in Record Time* (Jun. 5, 2024), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/one-million-malaysians-successfully-complete-ai-untuk-rakyat-self-learning-online-programme-in-record-time/>

⁴¹⁷² MyDigital corporation, *One Million Malaysians Successfully Complete ‘AI Untuk Rakyat’ Self-learning Online Programme In Record Time* (Jun. 2024), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/one->

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Work program offers generative-AI training to build AI literacy among public employees.⁴¹⁷³ The Parliament of Malaysia, NAIIO, UNITAR International University's Centre of Leadership, Governance and Democracy, and Microsoft, jointly introduced a two-day AI for Policymakers workshop, providing members of Parliament with training on AI ethics, global best practices, and data-driven policymaking.⁴¹⁷⁴

Human Rights

Malaysia is a member of the United Nations and has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to Freedom House, Malaysia is “partly free” with a score of 53/100.⁴¹⁷⁵ Freedom House notes, “The Barisan Nasional (BN) political coalition ruled Malaysia from independence in 1957 until 2018, maintaining power by manipulating electoral districts, appealing to ethnic nationalism, and suppressing criticism through restrictive speech laws and politicized prosecutions of opposition leaders.” Since the BN lost to an opposition alliance in 2018, political affairs have been characterized by a “more complex pattern of competition and cooperation among multiple coalitions, creating opportunities for reform and modest improvements to civil liberties.”

On transparency, Freedom House noted that “efforts towards enacting a freedom of information act and other reforms stalled after the PN (*Perikatan Nasional*) took power.”⁴¹⁷⁶ Government operations were also not transparently carried out while Parliament was suspended for part of 2021.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Malaysia demonstrates alignment with the OECD AI Principles by establishing the National AI Office (NAIO) to coordinate AI governance according

million-malaysians-successfully-complete-ai-untuk-rakyat-self-learning-online-programme-in-record-time/

⁴¹⁷³ Ministry of Digital, *445,000 Public Officers in Malaysia to Benefit from Generative AI Under the 'AI at Work 2.0' Initiative by the Ministry of Digital and Google Cloud* (Feb. 5, 2025),

[https://ai.gov.my/media/news-](https://ai.gov.my/media/news-details/20240205_Press_Release_445000_Public_Officers_in_Malaysia_to_Benefit_from_Generative_AI_Under_the_AI_at_Work_2_Initiative_by_the_Ministry_of_Digital_and_Google_Cloud.pdf)

[details/20240205_Press_Release_445000_Public_Officers_in_Malaysia_to_Benefit_from_Generative_AI_Under_the_AI_at_Work_2_Initiative_by_the_Ministry_of_Digital_and_Google_Cloud.pdf](https://ai.gov.my/media/news-details/20240205_Press_Release_445000_Public_Officers_in_Malaysia_to_Benefit_from_Generative_AI_Under_the_AI_at_Work_2_Initiative_by_the_Ministry_of_Digital_and_Google_Cloud.pdf)

⁴¹⁷⁴ Ministry of Digital – National AI Office (NAIO), *Harnessing AI for Informed Policymaking and Positive Governance* (Feb. 2025), <https://ai.gov.my/media/news-details/Harnessing-AI-for-Policymakers-240225-final.pdf>

⁴¹⁷⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Malaysia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/malaysia/freedom-world/2025>

⁴¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

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to OECD-recommended frameworks.⁴¹⁷⁷ Although the country has not officially joined the G20 AI Guidelines, it continues to incorporate many of the best practices into its strategic planning.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Malaysia has not endorsed the Council of Europe AI Treaty.⁴¹⁷⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member of UNESCO, Malaysia adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the first global standard on the ethics of artificial intelligence in November 2021.⁴¹⁷⁹ Malaysia has since completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a key tool to support Member States in their implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴¹⁸⁰

Additionally, Malaysia has been actively implementing key principles and policy areas set out in the UNESCO Recommendation. The “AI untuk Rakyat” is a national program offering online AI literacy courses to citizens.⁴¹⁸¹ The National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics explicitly integrates UNESCO’s key ethical pillars—transparency, human oversight, data governance, and fundamental rights—into its AI governance framework.⁴¹⁸² The Public Sector AI Adaptation Guidelines emphasizes inclusive and responsible AI adoption in the government.⁴¹⁸³ NAIIO’s

⁴¹⁷⁷ Malaysia Science and Technology Information Centre, *The National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics* (Sept. 2024), <https://mastic.mosti.gov.my/publication/the-national-guidelines-on-ai-governance-ethics/>

⁴¹⁷⁸ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁴¹⁷⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 6, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁴¹⁸⁰ UNESCO, *Malaysia: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000395618?posInSet=1&queryId=896a039b-385b-4a69-9b75-d472126c18ff>

⁴¹⁸¹ MyDIGITAL Corporation, *One Million Malaysians Successfully Complete “AI Untuk Rakyat” Self-learning Online Programme in Record Time* (Jun. 5, 2024), <https://www.mydigital.gov.my/one-million-malaysians-successfully-complete-ai-untuk-rakyat-self-learning-online-programme-in-record-time/>

⁴¹⁸² Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, *The National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics* (Sept. 2024), <https://mastic.mosti.gov.my/publication/the-national-guidelines-on-ai-governance-ethics/>

⁴¹⁸³ Ministry of Digital, *Launch Ceremony of The Public Sector Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adaptation Guidelines* (Feb. 27, 2025), [https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Majlis-Peluncuran-Garis-Panduan-Pengadaptasian-Kecerdasan-Buatan-\(AI\)-Sektor-Awam](https://www.digital.gov.my/en-GB/siaran/Majlis-Peluncuran-Garis-Panduan-Pengadaptasian-Kecerdasan-Buatan-(AI)-Sektor-Awam)

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public consultations for the forthcoming National AI Act Plan 2026-2030 adopts a multi-stakeholder approach in shaping AI governance.⁴¹⁸⁴

Evaluation

Malaysia has made significant strides in advancing its digital and AI capabilities across both public and private sectors. The NAIIO under the Ministry of Digital serves as a clear and coordinated authority driving AI governance in the country. Integrated within the overall 12 Plan, NAIIO's seven key deliverables—including the AI Technology Action Plan (2026–2030), an AI Adoption Regulatory Framework, and an AI Code of Ethics—establish a de facto national AI framework. The launch of the Public Sector AI Adaptation Guidelines direct this framework for ethical and transparent AI use in government operations, while NAIIO's public consultations for the forthcoming National AI Act Plan 2026–2030 have increased stakeholder engagement and address issues related to algorithmic transparency and data privacy.

Together with launch of the UNESCO RAM report, these measures signal that Malaysia's policy landscape is evolving from a fragmented approach toward a comprehensive national AI framework. However, challenges remain—particularly in ensuring that the rapid digital transformation fully addresses concerns over surveillance, algorithmic transparency, and the protection of individual rights. It remains to be seen whether these initiatives will ultimately translate into a robust, human-centered framework for AI and data protection, as the country continues to undergo political and social reforms.

⁴¹⁸⁴ Ministry of Digital, *Press Release: NAIIO Kicks Off Inaugural Working Group Meeting, Driving Malaysia's AI Leadership* (Feb. 28, 2025)

https://www.digital.gov.my/api/file/file/28022025_PRESS%20RELEASE_NAIO%20KICKS%20OFF%20INAUGURAL%20WORKING%20GROUP%20MEETING%2C%20DRIVING%20MALAYSIA%E2%80%99S%20AI%20LEADERSHIP.pdf

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Malta

In 2025, Malta ran a public consultation on a realigned national AI vision and strategy and furthered efforts at widespread AI capacity-building and education. The country also passed legislation implementing the EU AI Act and formally establishing supervisory authorities.

National AI Strategy

The Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation (PSFS) of Malta released a National AI Strategy⁴¹⁸⁵ and a National AI Ethics Framework in 2019.⁴¹⁸⁶ The strategy aims to make Malta the “Ultimate AI Launchpad” by creating a venue where “local and foreign companies and entrepreneurs can develop, prototype, test and scale AI, and ultimately showcase the value of their innovations across an entire nation primed for adoption.”⁴¹⁸⁷ The National AI Strategy was drafted on the basis of a report delivered by the Malta AI Taskforce,⁴¹⁸⁸ a group of experts entrusted to advise the government on AI matters, and public consultation. Three strategic enablers—Education and workforce; Ethical and legal, and Ecosystem and infrastructure—support the pillars of investment, startups, and public and private adoption.⁴¹⁸⁹ The ethical and legal enabler aims to establish the first national AI certification program for those wishing to create “ethically aligned, transparent and socially responsible AI solutions.”

⁴¹⁸⁵ Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta: The Ultimate AI Launchpad: A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030* (Oct. 2019), https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_The_Ultimate_AI_Launchpad_2030.pdf

⁴¹⁸⁶ Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta: Towards Trustworthy AI: Malta’s Ethical AI Framework* (Oct. 2019), https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_Towards_Ethical_and_Trustworthy_AI.pdf

⁴¹⁸⁷ Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta: The Ultimate AI Launchpad: A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030* (Oct. 2019), https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_The_Ultimate_AI_Launchpad_2030.pdf

⁴¹⁸⁸ MDIA, *Artificial Intelligence: Strategy and Vision for AI in Malta 2030*, *Malta: Towards an AI Strategy* (Mar. 2019), <https://mdia.gov.mt/national-strategies/malta-ai-strategy-and-vision/>

⁴¹⁸⁹ Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta: The Ultimate AI Launchpad: A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030*, p. 19 (Oct. 2019), https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_The_Ultimate_AI_Launchpad_2030.pdf

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The Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA), which oversees the AI strategy, reported “significant progress”⁴¹⁹⁰ marked by “widespread AI use across sectors, increased public awareness, educational initiatives, and improved international rankings.” Given this progress and the shifting technology landscape, the MDIA released a draft of a “realigned strategy” for public consultation in late 2025. The realigned strategy “moves away from a technology-first approach, placing societal well-being and sustainability at its core. Malta’s vision is to create a trusted AI ecosystem that promotes societal well-being, inclusive social and economic progress, and sustainability.” The realigned strategy⁴¹⁹¹ is based on five principles: Diversity, Equality, Fairness, and Anti-Discrimination; Accountability, Responsibility, and Legal Liability; Transparency, Explainability, Human Agency, and Oversight; Safety; and Privacy, Data Protection, and Data Governance.

The realigned strategy centers “cultivating informed public and a skilled workforce” and “strengthening regulatory, policy, security and support structures” as the two key enablers.⁴¹⁹²

In October 2025, Malta formalized the AI governance framework through Legal Notices 226 and 227 implementing the EU AI Act at the national level. Legal Notice 226 designates MDIA as the primary market surveillance Authority for AI systems and the single point of contact for EU AI Act implementation. MDIA’s enforcement powers include assigning administrative penalties up to €350,000 or 1% of worldwide annual turnover.⁴¹⁹³ Legal Notice 227 designates the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC) as both Market Surveillance Authority for high-risk AI systems (including biometric systems for law enforcement, border management, and justice) and as Fundamental Rights Authority. The legal framework establishes mandatory judicial authorization by Magistrate for real-time biometric identification systems and empowers both authorities with complaint mechanisms and enforcement capabilities.⁴¹⁹⁴

Ethical AI Framework and Principles

The National AI Strategy identified four key actions towards trustworthy AI:

⁴¹⁹⁰ MDIA, *National AI Strategy and Vision Realignment*, <https://mdia.gov.mt/national-strategies/malta-ai-strategy-and-vision/2025-strategy-and-vision/>

⁴¹⁹¹ MDIA, *Malta AI: Where Innovation Meets Trust for Well-Being*, *Consultation Document* (2025), <https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2025/11/MALTA-AI-WHERE-INNOVATION-MEETS-TRUST-FOR-WELL-BEING.pdf>

⁴¹⁹² Ibid

⁴¹⁹³ Leġislazzjoni Malta, *Malta Digital Innovation Authority Act (Cap. 591)*, *Artificial Intelligence Regulations*, Legal Notice 226 of 2025 (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/226/eng>

⁴¹⁹⁴ Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC), *AI Regulations Come into Force* (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://idpc.org.mt/news-latest/ai-regulations-come-into-force-idpc-designated-as-a-market-surveillance-authority-for-certain-high-risk-ai-systems-under-annex-iii-of-the-ai-act/>

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- Establish an Ethical AI Framework Towards Trustworthy AI
- Launch the world's first national AI certification framework
- Appoint a Technology Regulation Advisory Committee to advise on legal matters
- Set up a Regulatory Sandbox for AI and a Data Sandbox for AI

The 2019 National AI Strategy foresees a strong ethical AI framework as a supplement to the national legal and regulatory system to ensure that AI development is ethically aligned, transparent, and socially responsible.⁴¹⁹⁵

The Ethical AI Framework that followed the strategy defines four objectives: 1) Build on human-centric approach; 2) Respect for all applicable laws and regulations, human rights and democratic values; 3) Maximize the benefits of AI systems while preventing and minimizing their risks; 4) Align with emerging international standards and norms around AI ethics.⁴¹⁹⁶ The framework sets out four ethical AI principles to achieve Malta's vision for ethical and trustworthy AI: human autonomy; prevent harm; fairness; and explainability.

The framework also recommends the establishment of a National Technology Ethics Committee (NTEC) under the auspices of the MDIA to ensure its monitoring and implementation.⁴¹⁹⁷ However, to date, there is no evidence that the committee has in fact been created.

Malta also developed a national Technology Assessment Recognition Framework as a certification framework, issued by the MDIA.⁴¹⁹⁸ The certification offers valuable recognition in the marketplace that the AI systems of successful applicants have been developed in an ethical, transparent, and socially responsible manner.

As for the AI regulatory sandbox, the MDIA opened a number of competitive calls that resulted in state-of-the-art research and innovative projects. The MDIA Technology Assurance Sandbox has been revamped and in March 2023 another project on conversational AI was onboarded.⁴¹⁹⁹

⁴¹⁹⁵ Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta: The Ultimate AI Launchpad: A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030* (Oct. 2019), https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_The_Ultimate_AI_Launchpad_2030.pdf

⁴¹⁹⁶ MDIA, *Malta Towards Trustworthy AI: Malta's Ethical AI Framework* (Oct. 2019), https://www.mdia.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Malta_Towards_Ethical_and_Trustworthy_AI.pdf; for Public consultation (Aug. 2019), <https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Malta-towards-Trustworthy-AI-Malta-Ethical-AI-Framework.pdf>

⁴¹⁹⁷ Ibid

⁴¹⁹⁸ MDIA, *Technology Assessment Recognition Framework: Building Trust in Innovative Technologies* (2026), <https://mdia.gov.mt/services/technology-assessment-recognition-framework/>

⁴¹⁹⁹ MDIA, *Malta's AI Ecosystem, Built on Adoption and Regulation* (May 2023), <https://mdia.gov.mt/news/maltas-ai-ecosystem-built-on-adoption-and-regulation/>

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Malta shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁴²⁰⁰ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation by requiring online platforms and intermediaries to prevent or remove posts containing illegal goods, services, or content.

Malta is also party to the European Commission Guidelines under the DSA for the mitigation of systemic risks online for elections.⁴²⁰¹

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Malta is bound by the EU AI Act.⁴²⁰² The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation that supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy, and ethical AI.

Malta has three national authorities with AI oversight and reporting duties: the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA),⁴²⁰³ the Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC),⁴²⁰⁴ and the National Accreditation Board.⁴²⁰⁵ The MDIA is the leading market surveillance authority and notifying authority on innovation technologies including AI. The IDPC enforces the GDPR and the national Data Protection Act and serves as the other market surveillance authority. The National Accreditation Board is the other notifying authority. The MDIA is required to assist the IDPC in “safeguarding the data protection rights of data subjects.”

⁴²⁰⁰ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and Amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁴²⁰¹ European Commission, *Guidelines under the DSA for the Mitigation of Systemic Risks Online for Elections* (Mar. 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_1707

⁴²⁰² European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament Legislative Resolution of 13 March 2024 on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and Amending Certain Union Legislative Acts* (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD)), P9_TA(2024)0138 (Mar. 13, 2024), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

⁴²⁰³ Legiżlazzjoni Malta, *Act No. XIX of 2024: Malta Digital Innovation Authority Act (MDIA Act)* (Jun. 14, 2024), <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/591/20240614/eng>

⁴²⁰⁴ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *Our Office*, <https://idpc.org.mt/our-office/>

⁴²⁰⁵ NAB-Malta, *The Accreditation Board*, <https://nabmalta.org.mt/accreditation-board-malta-laboratory-work-quality-assurance-control-improveemnt/>

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The Malta Digital Innovation Authority Act names the MDIA as the competent authority as part of the effort to establish a “national technology assurance framework.”⁴²⁰⁶ Although the MDIA’s initial focus was on distributed ledger technology to regulate and promote blockchain and cryptocurrency technology, in 2020/2021 its mandate broadened to include AI technology.⁴²⁰⁷

Malta formalized these oversight roles through Legal Notices 226 and 227 in 2025.⁴²⁰⁸ Legal Notice 226 officially designates MDIA as the primary Market Surveillance Authority for AI systems and the single point of contact for EU AI Act implementation. The MDIA can administer penalties up to €350,000 or 1% of worldwide annual turnover for non-compliance. Legal Notice 227 designates IDPC as Market Surveillance Authority specifically for high-risk AI systems under Annex III of the EU AI Act, including biometric systems used for law enforcement, border management, and justice, as well as Fundamental Rights Authority for personal data protection.⁴²⁰⁹ The framework establishes that real-time biometric identification systems require prior authorization from a Magistrate, and IDPC must maintain a registry of high-risk AI systems.⁴²¹⁰

Malta has also several independent oversight bodies for human rights, namely: the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Parliamentary Ombudsman. They are competent to oversee the impact of AI policies within their field of competences.

Public Participation

The Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation within the Office of the Prime Minister oversaw public consultations on the initial National AI Strategy document “Malta Towards an AI Strategy: High-Level Document for Public Consultation” in 2019. The AI Taskforce also ran an in-person public consultation workshop to help guide citizens.⁴²¹¹ The Malta AI Task

⁴²⁰⁶ MDIA, *Annual Report 2020* (Jan. 18, 2021), <https://www.mdia.gov.mt/news-events/mdia-annual-report-2020/>

⁴²⁰⁷ Ibid

⁴²⁰⁸ Legiżlazzjoni Malta, *Malta Digital Innovation Authority Act, Artificial Intelligence Regulations*, Legal Notice 226 of 2025 (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/226/eng>

⁴²⁰⁹ Legiżlazzjoni Malta, *Data Protection Act, Artificial Intelligence (Designation of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner for the purposes of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) Regulations*, Legal Notice 227 of 2025 (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/227/eng>

⁴²¹⁰ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *AI Regulations Come into force* (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://idpc.org.mt/news-latest/ai-regulations-come-into-force-idpc-designated-as-a-market-surveillance-authority-for-certain-high-risk-ai-systems-under-annex-iii-of-the-ai-act/>

⁴²¹¹ Malta AI, *Events: Public Consultation Workshop* (Mar. 21, 2019), <https://malta.ai/malta-ai-public-consultation-workshop/>

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Force and Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy, and Innovation released the Malta Ethical AI Framework for Public Consultation.⁴²¹²

MDIA continued the stakeholder-intensive consultation process on the AI strategy realignment from 2023 to 2025. MDIA held individual stakeholder meetings with representatives from private sector AI users and developers, public administration, academia, representative bodies, ministries, political parties, and voluntary organizations. The Authority maintains an open feedback mechanism via email.⁴²¹³ A draft of the realigned strategy was open for comments via the consultation portal for approximately 12 weeks in late 2025–early 2026.⁴²¹⁴

Locating public consultation opportunities among the various government websites is not user friendly. In its annual report however, the MDIA discusses its expanding role with regard to AI.⁴²¹⁵

Data Protection

Since Malta is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁴²¹⁶ is directly applicable in Malta and to Maltese citizens. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”⁴²¹⁷ The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data.

⁴²¹² Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, *Launch of Public Consultation on “Malta towards Trustworthy AI,” Malta Ethical AI Framework Document* (Aug. 9, 2019), <https://www.gov.mt/mt/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2019/August/09/pr191735en.aspx>

⁴²¹³ MDIA, *National AI Strategy and Vision Realignment* (2025), <https://mdia.gov.mt/national-strategies/malta-ai-strategy-and-vision/2025-strategy-and-vision/>

⁴²¹⁴ Government Services and Information, *Realignment of the National AI Strategy*, NL-0040-2025, Public Consultation (2025), <https://www.gov.mt/en/publicconsultation/Pages/2025/NL-0040-2025.aspx>

⁴²¹⁵ MDIA, *Annual Report 2020* (Jan. 18, 2021), <https://www.mdia.gov.mt/news-events/mdia-annual-report-2020/>

⁴²¹⁶ European Parliament and the Council, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and on the Free Movement of Such Data* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

⁴²¹⁷ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

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The Maltese Data Protection Act 2018 (Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta) (DPA) supplements the GDPR and took effect on May 28, 2018.⁴²¹⁸ The Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC)⁴²¹⁹ is the national supervisory authority under the GDPR and the Data Protection Act. The IDPC notes that the GDPR takes legal precedence in cases where the AI systems process personal data and clarifies the office's role as a fundamental rights authority under the AI Act.⁴²²⁰

Malta also transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)⁴²²¹ with Subsidiary Legislation⁴²²² to protect “citizens’ fundamental right to data protection whenever personal data is used by criminal law enforcement authorities for law enforcement purposes.”⁴²²³ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.⁴²²⁴

Malta's implementation of the EU Data Act (Regulation (EU) 2023/2854), effective since September 12, 2025,⁴²²⁵ aims to foster a competitive data market, enable innovation, and improve access to data from connected devices. It grants users rights to data generated by products like smartphones and smart appliances. The MDIA is the designated authority for enforcement, with the IDPC responsible for applications concerning the protection of personal data and the Malta Communications Authority designated in specific other instances.

⁴²¹⁸ Legiżlazzjoni Malta, *Data Protection Act*, Chapter 586 (May 28, 2018), <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/586/eng/pdf>

⁴²¹⁹ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *Our Office* (2026), <https://idpc.org.mt/our-office/>

⁴²²⁰ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://idpc.org.mt/artificial-intelligence/>

⁴²²¹ EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the Purposes of the Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences or the Execution of Criminal Penalties, and on the Free Movement of Such Data, and Repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (LED)* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/2016-05-04>

⁴²²² Malta Legislation, *Subsidiary Legislation 586.08, Data Protection (Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the Purposes of the Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences or the Execution of Criminal Penalties) Regulation* (May 28, 2018), <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/586.8/eng>

⁴²²³ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁴²²⁴ European Parliament, *EUR-Lex, LED Article 11 (1) and (2)* (May 4, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁴²²⁵ MDIA, *The Data Act* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://mdia.gov.mt/services/the-data-act/>

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Malta is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁴²²⁶

Although the IDPC is an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2003,⁴²²⁷ it did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴²²⁸ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁴²²⁹ or the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴²³⁰ However, the IDPC co-sponsored the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁴²³¹

Algorithmic Transparency

Malta is subject to the GDPR and AI Act as a member of the European Union. A 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems⁴²³² specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, contestability, accountability, and effective remedies. Maltese citizens have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm. Malta has signed and

⁴²²⁶ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁴²²⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴²²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴²²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁴²³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴²³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴²³² Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

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ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108+,⁴²³³ which reinforces citizens' rights against automated decisions with adverse effects.

Malta's Ethical AI Framework also covers criteria for guaranteeing algorithmic transparency such as the necessity to establish measures to ensure the traceability of outcomes for decisions made based on the use of an algorithm. Users are also to be made aware in clear and easily understandable language that relevant decisions, content, advice, or outcomes are the result of an algorithmic decision.

Designating IDPC as both Market Surveillance Authority for high-risk AI systems and Fundamental Rights Authority in the legislation implementing the AU AI Act further strengthened Maltese citizens' right to algorithmic transparency.⁴²³⁴ The regulation establishes notification requirements for real-time biometric identification systems, mandates that no adverse legal decision may be taken based solely on automated system outputs, and provides individuals with the right to submit complaints regarding AI Act violations. These provisions enhance the existing GDPR and Convention 108+ frameworks by creating specific enforcement mechanisms and accountability structures for high-risk AI applications.

Smart Surveillance

Malta's Safe City pilot project in Paceville, and later in Marsa, using technology developed by Chinese tech giant Huawei, was criticized as a mass surveillance project. Former Prime Minister Joseph Muscat even referred to the potential network as "eyes in the sky."⁴²³⁵ UN Data Protection Rapporteur Joseph Cannataci expressed doubts about the legal basis on which the project was developed, and EU Commissioner for Justice Vera Jourova also expressed concerns about how the data collected by Huawei would be used. The project was discontinued in January 2023 after the contract expired and the state-owned company tasked with implementing the system was dissolved.⁴²³⁶

Malta deployed new surveillance infrastructure in 2025 while establishing regulatory oversight under the EU AI Act. The government announced a €2 million CCTV network for 24/7 monitoring for crime prevention and intelligence-led

⁴²³³ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

⁴²³⁴ Legiżlazzjoni Malta, *Data Protection Act, Artificial Intelligence Regulations*, Legal Notice 227 of 2025, Regulations 6 and 12 (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/227/eng>

⁴²³⁵ Times of Malta, *Facial Recognition CCTV in Paceville... and then Marsa* (Oct. 22, 2018), <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181022/local/budget-facial-recognition-cctv-in-paceville-and-then-marsa.692306>

⁴²³⁶ Karl Azzopardi, MaltaToday, *Maltese Government Ditches Controversial Huawei "Safe City" CCTV Company* (Jan. 9, 2023), https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/120627/state_ditches_controversial_huawei_cctv

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policing across Paceville and three other localities.⁴²³⁷ The government published no transparency requirements or impact assessments. Malta implemented the EU-mandated Entry/Exit System requiring biometric facial recognition and fingerprints for all non-EU nationals at border controls in October 2025.⁴²³⁸ Malta's IDPC, designated as the Market Surveillance Authority for high-risk AI systems in law enforcement and border management,⁴²³⁹ will oversee the project's compliance with the protections laid out in the AI Act and GDPR.

Environmental Impact of AI

Malta has not published specific policies or guidelines related to the environmental impact of AI systems or technology. Malta's AI policy framework in 2025 references environmental responsibility at the ethical and strategic level but does not enforce technical or binding requirements for AI systems.⁴²⁴⁰ The main official acknowledgment comes from the Malta Declaration 2025 on the Use of AI, which calls for sustainability and minimization of negative environmental impact when deploying AI.⁴²⁴¹ This is not reflected in the text of Malta's core AI regulations; Legal Notice 226 of 2025 contains no mention of environment or sustainability. As of late 2025, there are no published national assessments or regulatory mandates linking AI-specific environmental impact to law or to new data center infrastructure; general environmental laws apply, but there is no AI-targeted provision or measurement.⁴²⁴²

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The Maltese government supports a legally binding instrument on lethal autonomous weapons. Malta has participated in some Convention on Certain

⁴²³⁷ MaltaToday, *CCTV Cameras to be Installed across Paceville* (Apr. 3, 2025), https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/134388/cctv_cameras_to_be_installed_across_paceville

⁴²³⁸ European Commission Representation in Malta, *The EU's Entry/Exit System Progressively Starts Operations on 12 October 2025* (Oct. 11, 2025), https://malta.representation.ec.europa.eu/news/eus-entryexit-system-progressively-starts-operations-12-october-2025-2025-10-12_en

⁴²³⁹ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *AI Regulations come into force* (Oct. 12, 2025), <https://idpc.org.mt/news-latest/ai-regulations-come-into-force-idpc-designated-as-a-market-surveillance-authority-for-certain-high-risk-ai-systems-under-annex-iii-of-the-ai-act/>

⁴²⁴⁰ Commonwealth Lawyers Association, *Malta Declaration 2025 on the Use of AI* (Apr. 9, 2025), <https://www.commonwealthlawyers.com/statement/malta-declaration-2025-on-the-use-of-ai/>

⁴²⁴¹ Artificial Intelligence Regulations, Legal Notice 226 of 2025, Government of Malta (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2025/226/eng>

⁴²⁴² Chambers and Partners, *Artificial Intelligence 2025–Malta* (2025), <https://practiceguides.chambers.com/practice-guides/artificial-intelligence-2025/malta>

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Conventional Weapons (CCW) meetings on autonomous weapons. Malta spoke for the first time at the 2021 CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (GGE on LAWS) meeting, stating the country “remains concerned with the rapid technological advancement especially in AI, where as a result, lethal autonomous weapons systems are today capable of functioning with a lesser degree of human control or none.”⁴²⁴³ Prime Minister Robert Abela reaffirmed Malta's alignment with the UN position on the necessity of human oversight in the deployment of lethal autonomous weapons⁴²⁴⁴ at an EU leaders’ summit in March 2025, stating that Malta has no intention of using European financing to purchase arms or “destructive ammunition.”

In October 2022, Malta was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.⁴²⁴⁵ In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁴²⁴⁶

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Malta co-sponsored and voted in favor of resolution L.56⁴²⁴⁷ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. The report should analyze ways to address the challenges and concerns

⁴²⁴³ Automated Decision Research, *Malta*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/malta

⁴²⁴⁴ Malta Today, *Abela Tells EU Leaders Malta Does Not Want to Invest in Lethal Weapons* (Mar. 6 2025), https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/133945/abela_tells_eu_leaders_malta_does_not_want_to_invest_in_lethal_weapons

⁴²⁴⁵ Stop Killer Robots, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly* (2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

⁴²⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate: Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴²⁴⁷ General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

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autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.

At the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2024, Malta co-sponsored and voted in favor of resolution L.77⁴²⁴⁸ with 160 other countries in favor to 3 against, with 13 abstentions.⁴²⁴⁹ The Resolution highlighted “the importance of addressing the challenges and concerns (about the possible negative consequences and impacts) posed by autonomous weapons systems” from humanitarian, legal, security, technological, and ethical perspectives and mandated the UN Secretary-General to convene open informal consultations in 2025 open to the full participation of all Member States.

Malta participated in the first REAIM international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands. At the end of the Summit, Malta, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain,⁴²⁵⁰ stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” Malta also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁴²⁵¹

AI Literacy

Malta's Digital Education Strategy 2024–2030 incorporates AI literacy into the national school curriculum, with Year 6 students (ages 10–11) introduced to AI concepts and tools including image generation, text-to-speech applications, and AI-assisted searching.⁴²⁵² The strategy also includes AI literacy training for educators. Additionally, the IDPC organized a Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment (FRIA)

⁴²⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution A/C.1/79/L.77* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

⁴²⁴⁹ United Nations, *In Nearly 50 Separate Recorded Votes, First Committee Approves 15 Drafts on Conventional Weapons, Divergent Approaches to Outer Space Security* (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gadis3756.doc.htm>

⁴²⁵⁰ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴²⁵¹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁴²⁵² Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, *Malta Digital Education Strategy 2024-2030* (May 2024), <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/malta-digital-education-strategy-2024-2030>

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workshop in October 2025 to educate professionals on conducting fundamental rights assessments for high-risk AI systems under the EU AI Act.⁴²⁵³

Human Rights

Freedom House ranks Malta as “Free” with a score of 87/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World report. Freedom House explains, “Malta is a parliamentary democracy with regular, competitive elections and periodic rotations of power. New and smaller political parties encounter difficulties in challenging the dominance of the two main parties, and official corruption is a serious problem. While civil liberties are generally respected, mistreatment of migrant workers and asylum seekers remains a concern.”⁴²⁵⁴

Malta is a Member State of the Council of Europe (CoE) and of the United Nations and thus has human rights obligations at the regional and universal levels. Malta must abide by the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and the monitoring of the CoE treaty bodies. Malta’s human rights policies and practices are also monitored by the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights.

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers affirmed that “member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or [minimizing] possible adverse effects.”⁴²⁵⁵

As a UN Member State, Malta is subject to the oversight of various UN human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and thematic special procedures. In February 2025, Malta proposed a new Ombudsman Bill to establish a National Human Rights Institution, which could bolster AI governance by providing independent redress for rights violations and ensuring alignment with EU human rights standards.⁴²⁵⁶

⁴²⁵³ Information and Data Protection Commissioner, *FRIA Workshop* (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://idpc.org.mt/news-latest/idpc-organises-fria-workshop/>

⁴²⁵⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World Report 2025: Malta* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/malta/freedom-world/2025>

⁴²⁵⁵ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=09000016809e1154>

⁴²⁵⁶ Office of the Ombudsman, *The Proposal: The Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman as the National Human Rights Institution for Malta* (Feb. 1, 2025), <https://ombudsman.org.mt/en/news-and-events/the-proposal-the-office-of-the-parliamentary-ombudsman-as-the-national-human-rights-institution-for-malta/>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Malta is not a member of the OECD⁴²⁵⁷ but is recognized by the OECD as adhering to the AI Principles.⁴²⁵⁸ The Maltese National AI Strategy emphasizes that Malta's Ethical AI Framework builds on the OECD AI Principles. The Framework explicitly states that particular attention was given to ensuring alignment with OECD AI Principles.⁴²⁵⁹ The eSkills Malta Foundation merged with the MDIA in 2024 to boost AI literacy in Malta, aligning with the AI literacy requirements of the EU AI Act and supporting the OECD principle of "Building human capacity."⁴²⁶⁰

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Malta contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁴²⁶¹ Malta is party to the treaty as part of the European Union but has not signed the treaty independently.⁴²⁶²

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Malta has been a UNESCO member state since 1965 and is among the 193 Member States that adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. The Ethics guidelines from the first national AI strategy aligns with many UNESCO principles and recommendations. The attention in national strategy documents to preparing citizens for a future with AI, whether in the workforce or their daily lives, aligns with the recommendation's education and awareness focus. Programs initiated by MDIA and in education put the principles to

⁴²⁵⁷ OECD, *Members and Partners*, <https://www.oecd.org/about/members-and-partners/>

⁴²⁵⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁴²⁵⁹ MDIA, *Malta Towards Trustworthy AI: Malta's Ethical AI Framework*, p. 10 (Oct. 2019), [https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta Towards Ethical and Trustworthy AI.pdf](https://mdia.gov.mt/app/uploads/2024/08/Malta_Towards_Ethical_and_Trustworthy_AI.pdf)

⁴²⁶⁰ Malta Digital Innovation Authority, *The eSkills Malta Foundation Will Be Integrated into the Malta Digital Innovation Authority*, Press Release (Dec. 30, 2024), <https://mdia.gov.mt/news/the-eskills-malta-foundation-will-be-integrated-into-the-malta-digital-innovation-authority/>

⁴²⁶¹ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴²⁶² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

action. Malta has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁴²⁶³

Evaluation

Malta has progressed significantly on the goal to become the “ultimate AI launchpad” and reoriented the national AI strategy in 2025 to focus more clearly on building human and structural capacity for trustworthy AI. The country benefits from a comprehensive European and national data protection legal regime and actions to implement the EU AI Act, as with the Malta Digital Innovation Agency Act to enhance the MDIA’s independence and power over innovative technology policies. The MDIA now has power to conduct market surveillance and compliance of products through investigation and enforcement, secure budget for its implementation, and issue and implement programs and schemes such as providing a certificate or mark of assurance or approval to innovative technology. In addition, Malta co-sponsored the GPA Resolution related to AI for the first time. Overall, the development of AI-related policies and the governance structure in Malta show improvement.

⁴²⁶³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Mauritius

In 2025, Mauritius committed to developing a new AI policy framework to integrate outcomes from the UNESCO RAM report. The 2025–2029 Digital Transformation Blueprint laid out this plan and established an AI unit to promote coordination across sectors.

National AI Strategy

Mauritius has progressed from AI readiness assessment to structured policy implementation. Following the completion of the UNESCO Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment (RAM) in October 2024, the Government included findings in the strategy: *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (Digital Transformation Blueprint).⁴²⁶⁴ The Blueprint mandates the formulation of a new national Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the creation of an AI Unit within the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication, and Innovation to drive cross-sectoral integration of AI.

The intended National AI Policy, aligned with the Government Programme 2025–2029, will, according to the Blueprint, promote trustworthy, transparent, accountable, human-centric, and innovation-friendly AI, while positioning Mauritius as a regional hub for ethical AI.⁴²⁶⁵ Planned initiatives included under the Mauritius Budget 2025–2026 include AI regulatory sandboxes, mobile and regional Fab Labs, and AI literacy programs targeting upper-primary students. Also envisaged are public–private partnerships to establish an AI Tech Park supporting startups and R&D in Fintech, Agritech, Edtech, and Climate Action. These measures collectively reflect a national pivot toward responsible, inclusive AI adoption.

Mauritius was one of the first African countries to publish a national AI strategy in 2018.⁴²⁶⁶ The strategy reflected the country’s aim to promote and utilize AI in improving growth, productivity, and quality of life, with recommendations for the achievement of these goals. The original strategy provided a roadmap for the development of AI in the country by identifying sectors and national projects that could leverage AI, capacity-building and skill development, AI ethics, partnerships for emerging technologies, awareness campaigns, and adoption of AI in public services. The national AI strategy will continue many of these efforts aligned with

⁴²⁶⁴ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴²⁶⁵ Ibid, p. 52

⁴²⁶⁶ Government of Mauritius, *Mauritius Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Nov. 2018), https://treasury.govmu.org/Documents/Strategies/Mauritius_AI_Strategy.pdf

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goals to integrate the UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation into national AI policies.⁴²⁶⁷

The Economic Development Board and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development were responsible for piloting the new strategy.⁴²⁶⁸ The AI projects identified for implementation fall in the manufacturing, health, agriculture, and FinTech sectors. Mauritius established an AI Council composed of experts whose primary role is to advise the Government on ways to support the country's AI ecosystem. The Strategy also urged the government to create a regulatory environment for AI that includes a framework on ethics and data protection.

According to the Africa Policy Institute (Afripoli), Mauritius' digital strategy focuses on five waves, one of which is the review of the existing legal frameworks to support AI and robotics developments.⁴²⁶⁹ The UN e-government survey report highlights the efforts of Mauritius to align the Digital Government Transformation Strategy with the Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy and the appointment of a High-Level Digital Government Task Force for oversight and reporting.⁴²⁷⁰ Mauritius' policy efforts align with the country's commitments as a member of the African Union, notably the AU digital transformation strategy⁴²⁷¹ and the Continental Data Policy Framework.⁴²⁷²

Moreover, the government of Mauritius collaborates with the national AI industry, showing support for their initiatives. In particular, the Mauritius Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation promoted the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit, an initiative of the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council (METC).⁴²⁷³

⁴²⁶⁷ Government of Mauritius, *Budget Speech 2024–2025* (Jun. 6, 2024),

https://edbmauritius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Budget_Speech-24-25.pdf

⁴²⁶⁸ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025),

<https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴²⁶⁹ Africa Policy Institute (Afripoli), *AI in Africa: Key Concerns and Policy Considerations for the Future of the Continent* (May 30, 2022), <https://afripoli.org/ai-in-africa-key-concerns-and-policy-considerations-for-the-future-of-the-continent>

⁴²⁷⁰ United Nations, *e-Government Survey 2022* (2022),

[https://desapublications.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/2022-09/Web version E-Government 2022.pdf](https://desapublications.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/2022-09/Web%20version%20E-Government%202022.pdf)

⁴²⁷¹ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)* (May 18, 2020),

<https://au.int/en/documents/20200518/digital-transformation-strategy-africa-2020-2030>

⁴²⁷² African Union, *40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council* (Feb. 2–3, 2022),

<https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/41584-EX.CL.Dec.1143-1167.XL.E.pdf>

⁴²⁷³ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *METX 2024: Mauritius Spotlighted as Premier Destination for Technological Development During AI Summit* (May 8, 2024), <https://www.govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/METX-2024--Mauritius-spotlighted-as-premier-destination-for-technological-development-during-AI-Summit.aspx>

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Public Participation

Mauritius includes a framework for public participation in its laws. The country's Constitution makes it mandatory for the legislature to create avenues for public participation in the law-making process. Accordingly, it provides citizens with the right to participation, freedom of association, and expression.⁴²⁷⁴

The Digital Government Survey of 2018 reported a significant lack of involvement of citizens in national issues and policy discussions.⁴²⁷⁵ Recommendations in the Transformation Strategy included the “provision of digital platforms for integrating citizens and other stakeholder views in government decision-making processes,”⁴²⁷⁶ engagement by Ministries or Government departments with the public, and dissemination of information to inform decision-making, as well as the release of Open Data “as a means to achieve transparency in public sector operations.”⁴²⁷⁷ In response, the government established the Citizen Support Portal.⁴²⁷⁸ The Portal is an e-participation and e-decision-making platform meant to enable government to engage with citizens. The platform is intended to “handle citizen complaints, monitor complaints, and inform citizens on Government policies.”⁴²⁷⁹ The platform is supported by 35 Citizen Advice Bureaus placed across the country to facilitate access to computers or the Internet to citizens who do not have these means.⁴²⁸⁰

The government of Mauritius has, on occasion, proactively consulted with relevant stakeholders in developing its national digital policy. The Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025–2029 commits to an e-Participation platform to enable citizens to engage digitally in consultations, provide policy feedback, and participate in decision-making, thereby institutionalizing public input as AI policy evolves.⁴²⁸¹ While preparing the strategic plan Digital Mauritius 2030, the government has been consulting stakeholders from the public and the private

⁴²⁷⁴ Mauritius National Assembly, *Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius* (May 2018), <https://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/mauritiusassembly/index.php/the-constitution/>

⁴²⁷⁵ Republic of Mauritius, *Digital Government Transformation Strategy 2018–2022* (2018), <https://cib.govmu.org/Documents/Reports/Digital%20Government%20Strategy%202018-2022.pdf>

⁴²⁷⁶ Ibid

⁴²⁷⁷ Ibid

⁴²⁷⁸ Republic of Mauritius, *Citizen Support* (2022), <https://www.csu.mu/index.php>

⁴²⁷⁹ Republic of Mauritius, *Digital Government Transformation Strategy 2018–2022* (2018), <https://cib.govmu.org/Documents/Reports/Digital%20Government%20Strategy%202018-2022.pdf>

⁴²⁸⁰ Republic of Mauritius, *List of Citizens Advice Bureaus* (2023), <https://www.csu.mu/map-of-cab-offices-offering-cep-services>

⁴²⁸¹ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

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sectors.⁴²⁸² The Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation initiated the development of a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy with a consultation meeting in July 2025, which brought together government, business, academia, and civil society under a public–private–people partnership approach. The Ministry also set up thematic working groups to draft inputs for the strategy chapters, indicating an ongoing multi-stakeholder engagement process.⁴²⁸³

In the UN e-Government survey 2020, Mauritius moved to first place in Africa, 63rd in the world, and 45th globally in the open data index, and was recognized as a model digital government.⁴²⁸⁴ The most recent e-Government Survey from 2024⁴²⁸⁵ ranked the country as one of the two countries in the African continent in the very high EGDI group, after South Africa.

Authorities launched AI for All,⁴²⁸⁶ a national public awareness booklet, and announced the Let’s Talk AI program as an outreach strand on the MITCI portal in 2025. The initiatives aim to democratize AI knowledge across schools and businesses, promoting public engagement with AI technologies and enhancing public participation in formulating the upcoming AI policy.⁴²⁸⁷ Parliamentary debates in July–October 2025 also referenced a technical committee working on the AI Strategy, confirming an institutional mechanism to sustain participation and expert input.⁴²⁸⁸ These outreach efforts build on the Data Protection Office’s conference on Data Protection Day in 2023 to raise awareness about privacy rights, accountability, and protection against government surveillance.⁴²⁸⁹

⁴²⁸² Government of Mauritius, *Digital Mauritius 2030*, p. 4 (Dec. 17, 2018),

<https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DigitalMauritius2030.pdf>

⁴²⁸³ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *Public-Private-People Partnership—Ministry of ICT Kicks Off First Industry Meeting on the Formulation of AI Strategy* (Jul. 31, 2025), <https://mitci.govmu.org/mitci/public-private-people-partnership-ministry-of-ict-kicks-off-first-industry-meeting-on-the-formulation-of-ai-strategy/>

⁴²⁸⁴ Central Informatics Bureau, *UN e-Government Survey 2020: Mauritian Perspective* (Jun. 21, 2020), [https://cib.govmu.org/Documents/Reports/Mauritius Perspective- UN e-Gov 2020.pdf](https://cib.govmu.org/Documents/Reports/Mauritius%20Perspective-UN%20e-Gov%2020.pdf)

⁴²⁸⁵ United Nations, *United Nations E-Government Survey 2024* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789211067286/read>

⁴²⁸⁶ Government Information Service (GIS), *Digital Transformation: “AI for All” Booklet Launched by President Gokhool* (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://gis.govmu.org/News/SitePages/Digital-Transformation--AI-For-All-Booklet-launched-by-President-Gokhool.aspx>

⁴²⁸⁷ Government of Mauritius, *Budget Speech 2024–2025* (Jun. 6, 2024), https://edbmauritius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Budget_Speech-24-25.pdf

⁴²⁸⁸ National Assembly, *Debate No. 33 of 2025 (Unrevised)* (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/mauritiusassembly/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Debate-No.-33-of-2025-UNREVISED-Tuesday-07-October-2025-1.pdf>

⁴²⁸⁹ NewsGov, *Conference Focuses on Protecting Personal Data across All Economic Sectors* (Jan. 31, 2023), <https://govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/Conference-focuses-on-protecting-personal-data-across-all-economic-sectors.aspx>

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Data Protection

Mauritius was among the first African countries to enact data protection in line with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁴²⁹⁰ with the Data Protection Act 2017 (DPA).⁴²⁹¹ The 2017 DPA repealed the previous Data Protection Act.⁴²⁹² The DPA aims to enhance data subjects' control over their personal data and individual autonomy.⁴²⁹³ Unlike the GDPR, the DPA does not have extra-territorial effect. The DPA covers "the processing of personal data, wholly or partly by automated means."⁴²⁹⁴ Section 21 of the DPA⁴²⁹⁵ enshrines provisions regarding the lawful, fair, and transparent processing of data, the right to erasure and rectification, and the observance of the rights of data subjects. Section 34 provides for the right to privacy within the "principles of lawfulness, necessity, and proportionality in a democratic society."

The DPA requires a Data Protection Impact Assessment ex-ante to assess if the processing has the potential to result in "high risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects by virtue of their nature, scope, context, and purpose."⁴²⁹⁶ The DPA has been criticized for providing no limitations regarding the use of new technologies, including AI,⁴²⁹⁷ thus raising privacy and ethical concerns if no impact assessment is conducted.⁴²⁹⁸

⁴²⁹⁰ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Mauritius Right to Privacy in the Digital Age CFI-RTP*, p. 2 (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/digitalage/reportprivindigage2022/submissions/2022-09-06/CFI-RTP-Mauritius.docx>

⁴²⁹¹ Parliament of Mauritius, *The Data Protection Act 2017* (Dec. 22, 2017), <https://rm.coe.int/dpa-2017-maurice/168077c5b8>

⁴²⁹² Data Protection Office, *Data Protection Act 2017* (Dec. 22, 2017), <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Pages/The%20Law/Data-Protection-Act-2017.aspx>

⁴²⁹³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Mauritius Right to Privacy in the Digital Age CFI-RTP* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/digitalage/reportprivindigage2022/submissions/2022-09-06/CFI-RTP-Mauritius.docx>

⁴²⁹⁴ Data Protection Office, *Data Protection Act 2017*, p. 9 (Dec. 22, 2017), https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Documents/DPA_2017_updated.pdf?csf=1&e=0rlrff

⁴²⁹⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Mauritius Right to Privacy in the Digital Age CFI-RTP*, question 4 (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/digitalage/reportprivindigage2022/submissions/2022-09-06/CFI-RTP-Mauritius.docx>

⁴²⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁴²⁹⁷ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right, *States, Mauritius* (2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/DigitalAge/Submissions/States/Mauritius-1.docx>

⁴²⁹⁸ Mauritius Institute of Directors, *Position Paper 8, Guidelines for the Audit Committee on Data Protection* (2020), <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/mu/pdf/2020/mu-ACF-Position-Paper-8.pdf>

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The Assessment shall include:

- Purposes and the legitimate interest of the processing
- Necessity and proportionality
- Risks to the rights and freedoms of data subjects
- Measures to address risks; safeguards

The Data Protection Office (DPO)⁴²⁹⁹ is the supervisory authority responsible for protecting the privacy rights of individuals since 2009. The DPO offers e-services ranging from Data Protection Impact Assessments, compliance audits, certifications, transfer of personal data abroad, and notifications of a personal data breach.

Mauritius's Data Protection Commissioner contributed to the reform of the data protection legislation and to reforms in the Southern Mediterranean region, including with regard to the negotiations with the EU to achieve adequacy.⁴³⁰⁰ The DPO has been a member of the Global Assembly (GPA) since 2013. However, the DPO did not endorse the GPA 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴³⁰¹ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁴³⁰² or 2022 Declaration on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴³⁰³

The DPO has issued several Guidelines regarding the DPA,⁴³⁰⁴ including AI solutions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic⁴³⁰⁵ and a Code of Practice⁴³⁰⁶ to ensure that the Mauritius Police Force complies with the DPA when it operates the

⁴²⁹⁹ Data Protection Office, *About the Office*, <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Pages/AboutUs/About-the-Office.aspx>

⁴³⁰⁰ Data Protection Office, *Data Protection*, <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Pages/Home-Pages/Upcoming-Events/The-Data-Protection-Commissioner.aspx>

⁴³⁰¹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴³⁰² Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁴³⁰³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴³⁰⁴ Data Protection Office, *Guidelines Protection Act 2017*, <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Pages/Downloads/Guidelines-Data-Protection-Act-2017.aspx>

⁴³⁰⁵ Ibid

⁴³⁰⁶ Government Portal of Mauritius, *Code of Practice for the Operations of Safe City Systems by MPF* (2020), <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Documents/Code of Practice for the operation of the Safe City System%28s%29 by MPF.PDF>

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Safe City surveillance systems. In a report by the UN Rights Committee of 2021, Mauritius was found in violation of citizens' privacy rights due to the lack of assurance of protection of the biometric data stored in the National Identity Card.⁴³⁰⁷

The Government promulgated the Information and Communication Technologies (Registration of SIM) (Revocation) Regulations 2025 (GN No. 2 of 2025), revoking the 2023 SIM registration regime. Operators were required to destroy stored photographs by 14 January 2025 and certify destruction to the ICT Authority by 23 January 2025; non-compliance is an offence. This course-correction responds to privacy and proportionality concerns over excess biometric/image collection.⁴³⁰⁸

In 2018, Mauritius ratified⁴³⁰⁹ the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention).⁴³¹⁰ The collaboration with the European Union led the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication, and Innovation (MITCI) to initiate the Cyber Resilience for Development Project (Cyber4D) project in 2018.⁴³¹¹ In April of that year, the country signed the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).⁴³¹² The parties to the Declaration acknowledged the importance of agreeing on common standards, strengthening data protection and security, and affirmed that “the same rights that citizens have offline must be also protected online.”

⁴³⁰⁷ UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner *Mauritius: Storing Biometric Data on Identity Cards Violates Privacy* (2021), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/07/mauritius-storing-biometric-data-identity-cards-violates-privacy-un-human?LangID=E&NewsID=27329>

⁴³⁰⁸ Information and Communication Technologies Authority, *The Information and Communication Technologies (Registration of SIM) (Revocation) Regulations 2025* (Jan. 6, 2025), https://www.icta.mu/documents/2025/01/Revocation_of_SIM_Registration_Regulations.pdf

⁴³⁰⁹ African Union, *List of Countries which Have Signed, Ratified/Acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Mar. 25, 2022), https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN_UNION_CONVENTION_ON_CYBER_SECURITY_AND_PERSONAL_DATA_PROTECTION.pdf

⁴³¹⁰ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

⁴³¹¹ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *Speech of Hon. Deepak Balgobin*, African Cyber Resilience Conference by the Cyber Resilience for Development Project (EU) (Apr. 25, 2022), [https://mitci.govmu.org/Documents/Speeches/2022/Hon. D Balgobin's Speech - African Cyber Resilience Conference - 25.04.22.pdf](https://mitci.govmu.org/Documents/Speeches/2022/Hon._D_Balgobin's_Speech_-_African_Cyber_Resilience_Conference_-_25.04.22.pdf)

⁴³¹² The Commonwealth, *Commonwealth Cyber Declaration 2018* (2018), <https://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-cyber-declaration-2018>

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The MITCI submitted a new Cybersecurity and Cybercrime legislation to Parliament⁴³¹³ in alignment with the Council of Europe tenets and other international conventions in 2021 and achieved enactment. Mauritius is a priority country in the Council of Europe Global Action on Cybercrime Extended Project (GLACY+), which seeks to strengthen States' capabilities in the formulation of cybercrime legislation.⁴³¹⁴ However, the cybercrime legislation does not specifically address personal data protection or algorithm transparency as fundamental rights.

The Digital Transformation Blueprint⁴³¹⁵ elevates Data Governance as a core enabler of digital government, proposes a Data Management Office (DMO) (initially a DMU) to lead a National Data Strategy, and establishes an AI Office and a National Cyber Resilience & Cyber Security Agency (NCRCSA) to strengthen security, ethics, and oversight of AI systems. The National Data Strategy includes (i) a Data Governance Framework, (ii) Data Sharing policy and protocol, (iii) Data Retention policy, and (iv) a National Government Data Warehouse, with a Citizen Data Hub managed by the DMO.

The 2025–2026 Budget Speech committed to amend the Data Protection Act to meet EU requirements, align the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act with international standards, set up a Cyber Security Operation Centre, create a dedicated AI Unit at MITCI, launch an AI Innovation Start-Up Programme, and fund a Public Sector AI Programme (Rs 25 million) to equip ministries with AI tools. The Budget also provides resources to Statistics Mauritius to build open/big-data capacity and finances a Tier IV Government Data Centre for disaster recovery.⁴³¹⁶

On 31 July 2025, MITCI launched the formulation of a National AI Strategy under a public–private–people partnership model. Working groups across government, industry, academia, and civil society were convened, with a nationwide public consultation announced. The kick-off emphasized ethics, inclusivity, human-centric innovation, and prerequisites such as data governance, quality datasets, regulatory clarity, and security.⁴³¹⁷

⁴³¹³ Government Gazette of Mauritius, No. 173: *The Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act 2021* (Nov. 24, 2021), [https://ncb.govmu.org/ncb/legislations/THE CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIME ACT 2021.pdf](https://ncb.govmu.org/ncb/legislations/THE%20CYBERSECURITY%20AND%20CYBERCRIME%20ACT%202021.pdf)

⁴³¹⁴ Council of Europe, *Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+)* (2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/glacyplus>

⁴³¹⁵ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴³¹⁶ Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, *Budget Speech 2025–2026—From Abyss to Prosperity: Rebuilding the Bridge to the Future* (Jun. 5, 2025), nationalbudget2025.govmu.org/documents/2025_26_budgetSpeech.pdf

⁴³¹⁷ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *Public-Private-People Partnership—Ministry of ICT Kicks Off First Industry Meeting on the Formulation of AI Strategy*

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After an eight-day visit to the country in December 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy stated, “Overall, privacy is taken seriously in Mauritius and the Government has prioritized developing a comprehensive legal framework. However, the challenge, as is the case for all States, is to ensure the implementation of the laws.”⁴³¹⁸

The Ministry of Education and Mauritius Telecom signed an MoU to pilot mytGPT for Education in schools in 2025. Given the involvement of children’s data and AI-enabled learning tools, the rollout should be preceded by Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) and strong safeguards in line with Section 34 DPA.⁴³¹⁹

Algorithmic Transparency

The DPA foresees in Article 37 that the data subject is entitled to information related to “the existence of automated decision-making, including profiling, and information about the logic being involved, as well as the significance and envisaged consequences of such processing for the data subject. On September 4, 2020, Mauritius became the first African country to ratify the Convention 108+, which sets a right to algorithmic transparency.”⁴³²⁰ Section 38 of the DPA addresses the rights of an individual not to be subject to automated decision making, including profiling, that results in legal effects for the subject. This section establishes that automated processing for evaluation “shall not be based on special categories of personal data” and must include safeguards for the “rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests” of the subject.⁴³²¹ The DPA covers “the processing of personal data, wholly or partly by automated The DPA, Article 5, also establishes examining any proposal for automated decision-making that may result in adverse effects on the privacy of individuals as a function for the DPO.

(Jul. 31, 2025), <https://mitci.govmu.org/mitci/public-private-people-partnership-ministry-of-ict-kicks-off-first-industry-meeting-on-the-formulation-of-ai-strategy/>

⁴³¹⁸ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *UN Expert Says Mauritius Leads on Privacy in the Region, but Challenges Remain* (Dec. 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/12/un-expert-says-mauritius-leads-privacy-region-challenges-remain>

⁴³¹⁹ Government Information Service (GIS), *MoU Implementing the mytGPT Educational Platform Pilot Project Signed* (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/MoU-implementing-the-mytGPT-Educational-Platform-Pilot-Project-signed.aspx>

⁴³²⁰ Council of Europe, *Convention 108+: Signature and Ratification by Mauritius* (Sept. 20, 2020), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/-/convention-108-signature-and-ratification-by-mauritius>

⁴³²¹ Data Protection Office, *Data Protection Act 2017* (Dec. 22, 2017), https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Documents/DPA_2017.pdf

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Mauritius signed a Joint Declaration⁴³²² on privacy and the protection of personal data with the European Union, Australia, Comoros, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and Sri Lanka, with the aim to promote core safeguards relating to automated decision-making such as transparency and the possibility to challenge the outcome of an automated decision.

Facial Recognition and Smart Cities

Mauritius' National AI Strategy states that AI is essential to help improve public safety, which is also echoed in Mauritius' Vision Strategic Plan 2030⁴³²³ and the Digital Government Transformation Strategy. Already underway, the Safe City Project is set to include the installation of a Safe City infrastructure comprised of a total of 4000 surveillance cameras (Intelligent Video Surveillance –IVS) with built-in facial recognition capabilities once it is completed.⁴³²⁴ Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd, the Chinese Information Communication Technology giant with an almost two-decades-old presence in Mauritius in partnership with Mauritius Telecom, provided the AI-powered technology, which has the capability of generating alarms when it detects suspicious personnel.⁴³²⁵ The Carnegie Endowment for Peace study on AI surveillance reported this exclusive surveillance contract for smart policing with Huawei to be the result of a commitment of Mauritius to access long-term financing from China.⁴³²⁶

In 2020, members of the Parliament raised concerns about the effectiveness of data protection safeguards because the Prime Minister exempted the Safe City Project from the DPA, under Section 44 of the DPA, evoking national security grounds. As a result, the Government released a Code of Practice⁴³²⁷ for the operation of the Safe City Systems by the Mauritius Police Forces in accordance with the provisions of the DPA 2017. Mauritius' Prime Minister stated that no biometric data

⁴³²² European Union, *Joint Declaration on Privacy and Protection of Personal Data* (Feb. 23, 2022), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-declaration-privacy-and-protection-personal-data_en

⁴³²³ Republic of Mauritius, *The Digital Government 2030* (Dec. 17, 2018), <https://govmu.org/EN/communiqué/Pages/Vision-2030.aspx>

⁴³²⁴ L.E. Pep, *Safe City Project: Apprehensions Persist!* Mauritius Times (Aug. 26, 2019), <https://www.mauritiustimes.com/mt/safe-city-project-apprehensions-persist/>

⁴³²⁵ Roukaya Kasenally, *The Trappings of the Mauritius Safe City Project*, L'Express Mauritius (Aug. 1, 2022), <https://lexpress.mu/node/411788>

⁴³²⁶ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Global Expansion of AI Surveillance* (Sept. 2019), https://carnegieendowment.org/files/WP-Feldstein-AISurveillance_final1.pdf

⁴³²⁷ Government Portal of Mauritius, *Code of Practice of Safe City Systems by the MPF* (2020), <https://dataprotection.govmu.org/Documents/Code of Practice for the operation of the Safe City System%28s%29 by MPF.PDF>

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has been collected because the AI technology is not yet operational and reiterated that the Safe City project is aligned with Section 44 of the DPA 2017.⁴³²⁸

The Safe City pilot falls under the jurisdiction of the Mauritius Police Force, under the Prime Minister's Office, but the responsibilities for the data of this project were opaque from the onset.⁴³²⁹ The Government Information Center reported in 2021 that data from the Safe City Project could be stored for “at least 30 days on a 24-hour basis.” Deliverables include the “Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 4000 Intelligent Video Surveillance cameras over 2000 sites” as well 300 Traffic Surveillance cameras and a centralized Command and Control Centre.⁴³³⁰

The Hoover Institution warned about the risks for “political control, manipulation, and oppression” resulting from surveillance projects, and calls for checks and balances by the Mauritian Parliament, National Audit Office, and media to ensure that the public interest in projects of this magnitude is a priority. A 2021 OHCHR report also pointed to the use of AI for profiling and automated decision-making by Intelligent agencies in Mauritius despite the regulations of Section 9 of the Constitution. The report noted deployment of AI across four areas: (1) public safety video and image analysis, including the use of CCTVE audio recording; (2) DNA Analysis powered by AI; (3) Forensic application of Facial Identification Techniques (FITS) and (4) Crime forecasting through the Intelligent Video Surveillance (IVS).

In May 2023, the German Council on Foreign Relations published a study demonstrating that these concerns still exist in Mauritius, as part of Chinese-planned coastal smart cities, located close to submarine cable landing stations and vital naval channels.⁴³³¹ Dia—Democracy in Africa—wrote on November 13, 2024 that there seems to be a correlation between the island's digitalization trajectory and its democratic backsliding. Mauritius, moving from a liberal democracy to an electoral

⁴³²⁸ Mauritius News, *Surveillance Cameras: Facial Recognition Not Yet Operational* (Dec. 2021), <https://mauritiushindinews.com/ion-news/surveillance-cameras-facial-recognition-not-yet-operational>

⁴³²⁹ Hoover Institution, *The Trappings of the Mauritius Safe City Project* (2022), https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/kasenally_webreadypdf-compressed.pdf

⁴³³⁰ Government Information Services. *Safe City system: Data Can Be Stored for At Least 30 Days on a 24-Hour Basis, Indicates PM* (Mar. 30, 2021), <https://govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/2021/Safe-City-system--Data-can-be-stored-for-at-least-30-days-on-a-24-hour-basis,-indicates-PM.aspx>

⁴³³¹ Valentin Weber, *China's Smart Cities and the Future of Geopolitics*, German Council on Foreign Relations (May 2023), <https://dgap.org/en/research/publications/chinas-smart-cities-and-future-geopolitics>

autocracy, is marked by state capture, censorship, surveillance, and suppression of media and academic freedom.⁴³³²

Biometrics

At the age of 18, all Mauritius citizens must apply for an identity card that they must carry on them.⁴³³³ Mauritius launched its first identity card scheme under the National Identity Card Act of 1985.⁴³³⁴ A new smart biometric ID card scheme, which mandates the Government to store data including fingerprints and calls for stiffer penalties against identity fraud⁴³³⁵ to deter multiple ID card applications using fake information, initiated under the Mauritius National Identity Card Unit in 2019.

The 2013 National Identity Card scheme led to a constitutional challenge, *Madhewoo v The State of Mauritius, and another*,⁴³³⁶ which reached the Supreme Court of Mauritius as citizens of Mauritius feared misuse of their personal data for Government mass surveillance. The Supreme Court held that although the smart ID card scheme interfered with the plaintiff's right to privacy under Section 9(1) of the Constitution, the application of the 2013 Act was permissible under Section 9(2) because the right to privacy is not absolute and interference with that right is permissible in the interest of public order. However, the Court held that the storage of the data was not adequately secured because of the lack of safeguards as provided under the DPA. In response, the Mauritius Government issued the National Identity Card (Amendment, Civil Identity Register) Regulations 2015,⁴³³⁷ which erases the biometric data once the ID card has been issued.

In 2016, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council confirmed the 2015 judgment of the Supreme Court of Mauritius.⁴³³⁸ Subsequently, the plaintiff filed a UN human rights complaint. On July 21, 2021, the UN Human Rights Committee shared the views of the Committee according to which the mandatory storing of

⁴³³² Dia – Democracy in Africa, *The Chilling Effect of Censorship, Self-Censorship, and Surveillance in Mauritius* (Nov 13, 2024), <https://democracyinafrica.org/the-chilling-effect-of-censorship-self-censorship-and-surveillance-in-mauritius/>

⁴³³³ Government Portal of Mauritius, *Mauritius National ID Card* (2024), <https://mnis.govmu.org/>

⁴³³⁴ Mauritius LII, *National Identity Card Act, Act 60 of 1985* (Apr. 11, 1986), <https://mauritiuslii.org/akn/mu/act/1985/60/eng@2017-06-30>

⁴³³⁵ Government Portal of Mauritius, *Mauritius National Identity Card Unit* (2019), <https://mnis.govmu.org/Pages/Index.aspx>

⁴³³⁶ Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Decisions, *JCPC/2016/0006, Constitutions: Madhewoo (Appellant) v The State of Mauritius and another* (Oct. 31, 2016), <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2016-0006>

⁴³³⁷ Government Portal of Mauritius, *Communiqués* (2020), <https://govmu.org/EN/communiqué/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴³³⁸ Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Decisions, *JCPC/2016/0006, Constitutions: Madhewoo v The State of Mauritius and another* (Oct. 31, 2016), <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2016-0006>

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biometric data interfered with the plaintiff's right to privacy since it relates to data storage and retention contrary to Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁴³³⁹ to which Mauritius is a party. The Committee found that the Government failed to set appropriate measures to protect the stored data against the risk of arbitrariness and abuse and must take steps to avoid similar violations. Mauritius was given 180 days to report back to the Committee with the actions taken to give effect to the Committee's views and to publish them broadly in the official language of Mauritius. To date, there are no official reports about any action planned by Mauritius to address the UN report.

A 2021 OHCHR report also pointed to the use of AI for profiling and automated decision-making by Intelligent agencies in Mauritius despite the regulations of Section 9 of the Constitution. The report noted deployment of AI across four areas: (1) public safety video and image analysis, including the use of CCTV audio recording; (2) DNA Analysis powered by AI; (3) Forensic application of Facial Identification Techniques (FITS) and (4) Crime forecasting through the Intelligent Video Surveillance (IVS).⁴³⁴⁰

The Government of Mauritius launched a new identity card with additional features to prevent fraud, including the creation of a Mobile ID Card and digital wallet in 2024.⁴³⁴¹ The Mobile ID effort is being conducted in partnership with Thales. In August 2024, the government unveiled additional details about the Mobile ID Card, which will comply with ISO standards. The 2024 National Identity Card Regulation revoked the 2013 National Identity Card Regulations. The new regulation states that changes to biometric information will require the issuance of a new card. However, it does not mention the deletion of biometric data, as discussed in the 2015 Regulations. As of 2025, the Mobile ID is not compulsory⁴³⁴² and authentication can be done via Face ID or Touch ID registered in the mobile phone of the user.⁴³⁴³

⁴³³⁹ UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner *Mauritius: Storing Biometric Data on Identity Cards Violates Privacy* (Jul. 22, 2021), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/07/mauritius-storing-biometric-data-identity-cards-violates-privacy-un-human?LangID=E&NewsID=27329>

⁴³⁴⁰ OHCHR, *Digital Age Submissions: Mauritius 1* (2021), <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/DigitalAge/Submissions/States/Mauritius-1.docx>

⁴³⁴¹ Mauritius National Identity Card, *What Is Mobile ID* (Nov. 2025), <https://mnis.govmu.org/what-is-mobile-id/>

⁴³⁴² Government Information Services (GIS). *The Mobile ID Showcases Government's Commitment to Modernise Mauritius' Digital Ecosystem*, States Minister Balgobin (Aug. 29, 2024), <https://govmu.org/EN/newsgov/SitePages/New-Mauritius-National-Identity-Card,-MNIC-3.0,-unveiled-by-the-Prime-Minister.aspx>

⁴³⁴³ Mauritius National Identity Card, *Brochure for Mobile ID* (May 2025), https://mnis.govmu.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Mobile-ID_v8_1.pdf

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Environmental Impact of AI

The 2018 AI Strategy does not address mitigating environmental impacts of AI, only the use of AI to reduce environmental impact in agriculture and to reduce pollution and energy waste in urban areas. Pillar 4 in the 2025 Digital Blueprint addresses waste reduction from the digital economy, including public procurement acquisition of energy-efficient ICT products and green data centers, as well as government portals using the principle of “green computing.”⁴³⁴⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Mauritius ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in 1993 and has participated in some CCW meetings on autonomous weapons systems. As a member of the Non-Aligned (NAM) and the African Union, Mauritius supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems to ensure that the weapons respect human rights and remain accountable.⁴³⁴⁵ The African Group in 2021 stressed the “ethical, legal, moral, and technical questions” raised by the use of autonomous weapons systems and urged for concrete policy recommendations to be adopted including prohibitions and regulations.⁴³⁴⁶

AI Literacy

Mauritius has framed AI literacy as a cross-cutting capacity for all citizens. In 2025, the Government’s Digital Transformation Blueprint (2025–2029) positioned AI as a core enabler of a “smart, secure and citizen-first digital nation,” and called for building digital/AI skills at national scale through education and reskilling programs.⁴³⁴⁷ These priorities were reiterated at the presidential launch of the Blueprint in May 2025.⁴³⁴⁸ Foundational efforts pre-date the current cycle. Since

⁴³⁴⁴ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025),

<https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴³⁴⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (2021), https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CCW_GGE1_2020_WP_7-ADVANCE.pdf.

⁴³⁴⁶ CCW Group of Governmental Experts meeting on LAWS, *Statement by the African Group* (Dec 3, 2021), http://149.202.215.129:8080/s2t/UNOG/LAWS3-03-12-2021-AM_mp3_en.html

⁴³⁴⁷ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication & Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025), <https://mitci.govmu.org/mitci/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴³⁴⁸ Office of the President, *Launching of Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025–2029—A Bridge to the Future* (May 2025), <https://president.govmu.org/president/launching-of-digital-transformation-blueprint-2025-2029-a-bridge-to-the-future/>

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2006, the National Computer Board, now the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA), has operated nationwide digital-literacy schemes such as the Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP)⁴³⁴⁹ and the Cyber Caravan outreach model,⁴³⁵⁰ now modernized as Digital Lab on the Go (DLOG)).

Human Rights

The 2025 Freedom in the World Report ranks Mauritius “Free” with a score of 86/100,⁴³⁵¹ up one from 2024. The positive change is attributed to the successful handover of political power from the long-reigning party to the opposition after a decisive electoral defeat in November 2024. The country’s peaceful democratic transition allowed Mauritius to climb 23 places (the most globally) in terms of democratic representation in the International IDEA’s Global State of Democracy 2025 Report.⁴³⁵² Mauritius also showed improved indicators in credible elections and scored highly in civic engagement and rule of law.

Mauritius has a comprehensive framework on Human Rights as a member of the United Nations and a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mauritius has also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic and Social Cultural Rights (ICESR), and the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).⁴³⁵³ Mauritius enacted the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998, which that creates a national framework for the protection of human rights.⁴³⁵⁴ The Act establishes the National Human Rights Commission to protect human rights and investigate complaints regarding violations. Democratic backsliding in Mauritius, marked by state capture, censorship, surveillance, and suppression of media and academic freedom, raises concerns about its impact on human rights protections and AI policy implementation.

⁴³⁴⁹ Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (MDPA), *Universal ICT Education Programme* (Apr. 17, 2024), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/index.php/universal-ict-educational-programme/>

⁴³⁵⁰ Open Data Mauritius, *Number of People Trained in Cybercaravan by ICT Courses, 2006–2018*, Data.govmu (Sep. 30, 2018), <https://data.govmu.org/dataset/number-people-trained-cybercaravan-ict-courses-2006-2018>

⁴³⁵¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Mauritius* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/mauritius/freedom-world/2025>

⁴³⁵² International IDEA, *Global State of Democracy* (2025), <https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/2025-09/global-state-of-democracy-2025-democracy-on-the-move.pdf>

⁴³⁵³ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Mauritius, CFI-RTP* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/digitalage/reportprivindigage2022/submissions/2022-09-06/CFI-RTP-Mauritius.docx>

⁴³⁵⁴ International Labour Organization, *The Protection of Human Rights Act 1998* (1998), <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/69100/67757/F21666391/MUS69100.pdf>

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These developments could affect how AI policies align with international human rights standards.⁴³⁵⁵

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review of Mauritius highlighted the country's efforts to develop human rights indicators, which were integrated systematically into national implementation and monitoring plans.⁴³⁵⁶ Mauritius issues periodic reports on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. The latest report,⁴³⁵⁷ covering 2018–2024, highlighted Mauritius's efforts to prepare youth and women for greater opportunities in the job market through digital skills programs and vocational programs.⁴³⁵⁸

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Mauritius is not a member of the OECD or the G20 and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles⁴³⁵⁹ or the G20 AI Guidelines.⁴³⁶⁰ Mauritius is not a member of the Global partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁴³⁶¹ The OECD AI Observatory reports the strides of the government of Mauritius in the field of AI policy⁴³⁶² with the release of the AI Strategy and the establishment of an AI Council. The Mauritius AI strategy addresses six OECD AI principles: (1) inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being; (2) Human-centered values and fairness, (3) Robustness, security, and safety, (4) Fostering a digital ecosystem for AI, (5) Providing an enabling policy environment for AI, and (6) Building human capacity and preparing for labor market transitions.⁴³⁶³ However, fairness is only glancingly mentioned in the national AI strategy without a clear indication of how the

⁴³⁵⁵ Democracy in Africa, *The Chilling Effect of Censorship, Self-Censorship, and Surveillance in Mauritius* (Nov 13, 2024), <https://democracyinafrica.org/the-chilling-effect-of-censorship-self-censorship-and-surveillance-in-mauritius/>

⁴³⁵⁶ United Nations, *UN Human Rights in Southern Africa* (2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries-and-territories/africa-region/un-human-rights-southern-africa>

⁴³⁵⁷ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *Mauritius: 11th Periodic Report, 2019–2024* (Aug. 22, 2024), <https://achpr.au.int/en/state-reports/mauritius-11th-periodic-report-2019-2024>

⁴³⁵⁸ Ibid, p. 49–61

⁴³⁵⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendations of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

⁴³⁶⁰ OECD, *G20 AI Principles* (Jun. 2021), <https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/06/G20-AI-Principles.pdf>

⁴³⁶¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴³⁶² OECD, *AI Policies in Mauritius* (2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/Mauritius>

⁴³⁶³ OECD, *Mauritius AI Strategy* (2018), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-27393>

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government of Mauritius defines and intends to promote fairness in relation to AI development and deployment.⁴³⁶⁴

At the International Conference on Digital Economy & Digital Banking held in Mauritius in October 2022, Mauritius' Prime Minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, reiterated the government's engagement to continue to foster collaboration with international institutions, especially with the OECD, with the aim to promote Mauritius as a Development Model in Africa.⁴³⁶⁵ The Prime Minister shared Mauritius's determination to become a member of the OECD. Mauritius was one of the guest countries invited to attend the G20 summit in Delhi, India, in September 2023.⁴³⁶⁶

In 2024, the Government strengthened its technical relationship with the OECD with the launch of the OECD–Mauritius Country Programme.⁴³⁶⁷ The Blueprint for Mauritius 2025–2029 mandate to develop a new National AI Strategy aligns with OECD policy recommendations.⁴³⁶⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Mauritius did not participate in negotiations for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁴³⁶⁹ Mauritius has not endorsed this first international treaty on Artificial Intelligence.⁴³⁷⁰

⁴³⁶⁴ Government of Mauritius, *Mauritius Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 17 (Nov. 2018), <https://treasury.govmu.org/Documents/Strategies/Mauritius%20AI%20Strategy.pdf>

⁴³⁶⁵ Economic Development Board, *Mauritius-OECD: Unleashing New Pathways for Development* (2022), <https://edbmauritius.org/newsroom/mauritius-oecd>

⁴³⁶⁶ Policy Circle, *G20 Presidency: India Must Focus on Climate Action, Malnutrition* (2022), <https://www.policycircle.org/diplomacy/g20-india-climate-change/>

⁴³⁶⁷ OECD, *OECD and Mauritius Further Strengthen and Deepen Co-operation with New Country Programme* (Sep. 6, 2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2024/09/oecd-and-mauritius-further-strengthen-and-deepen-co-operation-with-new-country-programme-and-adherence-to-investment-policy-standard.html>

⁴³⁶⁸ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029* (May. 27, 2025), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴³⁶⁹ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴³⁷⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 27, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Mauritius is a member state of UNESCO since 1968⁴³⁷¹ and one of the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (UNESCO Recommendations) on November 21, 2021.⁴³⁷²

In 2022, Mauritius attended the UNESCO-Southern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on AI (SARFAI 2022) held in Windhoek, Namibia in September 2022. Discussions concerned the Ethical Impact Assessment and Readiness Assessment Methodologies in the framework of the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation. Mauritius was not a participant in the session. The co-hosts of SARFAI 2022 (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) approved the Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa,⁴³⁷³ which calls for the establishment of a Southern African coordination mechanism for the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

Member states of the South African Development Community (SADC), including Mauritius, were to submit the Declaration to the 2023 Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training and Science, Technology, and Innovation, for discussion and adoption. The most recent UNESCO AI Needs Assessment Survey did not include any report or statistic about Mauritius.⁴³⁷⁴

Mauritius completed the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report⁴³⁷⁵ and explicitly acknowledged the report in the development of the Digital Transformation Blueprint.⁴³⁷⁶ UNESCO notes the equitable access to internet and investment in education and skills as strengths for the country's AI development but stressed the need for cross-sectoral collaboration in the development of AI policy.⁴³⁷⁷ Discussions between Mauritius and UNESCO emphasized the importance of integrating the UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation into the new national AI

⁴³⁷¹ UNESCO, *Countries: Mauritius*, <https://en.unesco.org/countries/mauritius>

⁴³⁷² UNESCO, *Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380455>

⁴³⁷³ UNESCO, *Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Africa* (Sept. 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383197/PDF/383197eng.pdf.multi>

⁴³⁷⁴ UNESCO, *Artificial intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁴³⁷⁵ UNESCO, *Mauritius: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000397391>

⁴³⁷⁶ Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, *A Blueprint for Mauritius a Bridge to the Future: Digital Transformation 2025–2029*, p. 50 (May. 27, 2025), <https://mdpa.govmu.org/mdpa/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Blueprint-for-Mauritius-2025.pdf>

⁴³⁷⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Mauritius* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/mauritius>

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strategy under the Bridge to the Future Government Program 2025–2029,⁴³⁷⁸ indicating a commitment to ethical AI practices.⁴³⁷⁹

With patronage from UNESCO, Mauritius hosted its inaugural AI Summit in 2024, focused on “ethical AI driving socio-economic progress, global collaboration, and innovation.” Organized by the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication, and Innovation and the Mauritius Emerging Technology Council, the event marks a preliminary step towards implementing the UNESCO Recommendation, particularly principle 9 on Awareness and Literacy) and, given the international spotlight, principle 4 on Multi-stakeholder and Adaptive Governance & Collaboration. The Summit brought together stakeholders from across Africa and around the world and provided a spotlight for the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, presented by Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem of the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.⁴³⁸⁰

Evaluation

Mauritius has made significant strides in advancing its AI policy framework, including the development of a new national AI strategy under the "Bridge to the Future" Government Program 2025–2029.⁴³⁸¹ The program commits to emphasizing transparency, accountability, and alignment with international benchmarks such as the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics and OECD AI Principles in the new strategy. Public engagement has been enhanced through the AI-for-All campaign, democratizing AI knowledge across schools and businesses. However, democratic backsliding marked by censorship and surveillance raises concerns about human rights protections and the alignment of AI policies with democratic values. Continued focus on ethical governance, public participation, and regulatory frameworks will be essential for Mauritius to achieve trustworthy and inclusive AI development.⁴³⁸²

⁴³⁷⁸ Government of Mauritius, *Budget Speech 2024-2025* (Jun. 6, 2024),

https://edbmauritius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Budget_Speech-24-25.pdf

⁴³⁷⁹ UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, *Discussion on UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation* (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://democracyinafrica.org/the-chilling-effect-of-censorship-self-censorship-and-surveillance-in-mauritius/>

⁴³⁸⁰ UNESCO, *Mauritius Hosts Inaugural AI Summit* (May 13, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/mauritius-hosts-inaugural-ai-summit>

⁴³⁸¹ Government of Mauritius, *Budget Speech 2024-2025* (Jun. 6, 2024),

https://edbmauritius.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Budget_Speech-24-25.pdf

⁴³⁸² UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, *Discussion on UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation* (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://democracyinafrica.org/the-chilling-effect-of-censorship-self-censorship-and-surveillance-in-mauritius/>

Mexico

In 2025, Mexico updated the data protection law to reflect the dissolution of the autonomous data protection agency (INAI) and shifted oversight for data protection to the Anticorruption and Good Government Secretariat. The Chapultepec Principles released in early 2026 aim to provide a nonbinding voluntary framework for the ethical development and use of AI in the country.

National AI Strategy

In 2018, Mexico became the first Latin American country to announce a national AI strategy. The Office of the Mexican President under the Peña Nieto administration together with the United Kingdom's Embassy in Mexico City commissioned a readiness assessment and policy report.⁴³⁸³

The report provided a preliminary outline of how Mexico should become a leader in AI. Mexico's manufacturing-centric economy, the report argues, faces grave risks amid growing automation and should take a clear, strategic position in developing AI. The report set out five thematic areas: governance, government, and public services; research and development; capacity, skills, and education; data infrastructure; and ethics and regulation.

Within the category of ethics and regulation, the report recommends that the Mexican government bring data assets inside the scope of Mexican competition law (COFEC) in recognition of the fact that data is a competitive asset. The report also calls for the creation of an AI Ethics Council which would "set guidelines and limits which reflect Mexican Values" and "award a quality mark for AI companies who abide by the standards."⁴³⁸⁴

On this basis, in March 2018, the Office of the President under the former Peña Nieto administration launched Mexico's AI Strategy 2018. The Strategy sets out five key actions for the Mexican government: 1) develop an inclusive governance framework; 2) identify the needs of AI in industry; 3) open the recommendations of the readiness assessment and policy report for public consultation; 4) support Mexico's AI leadership in international forums; and 5) promote continuity through

⁴³⁸³ British Embassy of Mexico City, Oxford Insights, C Minds, *Hacia una Estrategia de IA en México: Aprovechando la Revolución de la IA* (Jun. 2018), https://7da2ca8d-b80d-4593-a0ab-5272e2b9c6c5.filesusr.com/ugd/7be025_ba24a518a53a4275af4d7ff63b4cf594.pdf; Oxford Insights, *Towards an AI Strategy in Mexico: Harnessing the AI Revolution* (Jun. 2018), <https://go.wizeline.com/rs/571-SRN-279/images/Towards-an-AI-strategy-in-Mexico.pdf>

⁴³⁸⁴ Ibid

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changing administrations by working with all interested stakeholders toward an official AI National Policy.⁴³⁸⁵

However, a 2022 report conducted by the OECD in collaboration with the Development Bank of Latin America reported: “Mexico’s 2018 strategy, which was put into effect under a previous administration, is no longer publicized on official government websites. It is unclear whether the current administration considers the strategy to be still in effect.”⁴³⁸⁶

During the López Obrador administration but following a recommendation of the 2018 AI readiness and policy report, a multi-stakeholder national coalition, IA2030.Mx comprising institutions from government, industry, civil society, and academia, and coordinated by C Minds, issued the Mexican National AI Agenda (2018–2030).⁴³⁸⁷ The Agenda takes the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as inspiration in the objective to “lay the foundation for the ethical development and use of AI, mitigating the present and future social and environmental risks.”⁴³⁸⁸ The Agenda revolves around six thematic axes: 1) Data, Digital Infrastructure, and Cybersecurity; 2) Ethics; 3) Governance, Government, and Public Services; 4) Skills, Capacities, and Education; 5) Research and Development; and 6) Mexicans Abroad.

Concerning ethics, the Agenda states that “it is of the utmost importance for the development and adoption of AI technology in our country to be based on the protection of, and respect for human rights.”⁴³⁸⁹ The Agenda explains that “one of the main merits in using human rights as a pivotal element in the development of AI is that human rights clearly establish the responsibility of the government in protecting human rights and providing mechanisms for the prevention of, and remedy against possible violations.”⁴³⁹⁰ The Agenda identifies three rights which may be particularly at risk: freedom of expression, equality and non-discrimination, and privacy.

The Mexican government also published the General Principles for the Development and Use of Systems based on AI in the Federal Public

⁴³⁸⁵ CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, *Mexico: The Story and Lessons behind Latin America’s First AI Strategy*, p. 5 (Jun. 2020),

https://scioteca.caf.com/bitstream/handle/123456789/1587/Mexico_the_story_and_lessons_behind_Latin_America's_first_AI_strategy.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁴³⁸⁶ OECD/CAF, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, OECD Public Governance Reviews, p. 101 (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1f334543-en>

⁴³⁸⁷ IA2030Mx, *Agenda Nacional Mexicana de Inteligencia Artificial [Mexican AI National Agenda]* (Sept. 2020),

https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2022/01/Mexico_Agenda_Nacional_Mexicana_de_IA_2030.pdf

⁴³⁸⁸ *Ibid*, p. 9

⁴³⁸⁹ *Ibid*, p. 47

⁴³⁹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 48

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Administration.⁴³⁹¹ The key principles are: Monitor and evaluate the impacts of AI systems in order to ensure that they achieve the expected results; Promote transparency, by explaining to the users that interact with AI systems the decision process taken by such systems, the expected benefits as well as the potential risks derived from using such systems; Protect privacy, by incorporating mechanisms of control and consent for the use of personal data during the design of AI systems; Foster equality, by reducing risks of discriminatory biases derived from the utilized data; Due process, by allowing individuals to dispute decisions made by AI systems.

The National Artificial Intelligence Alliance (*Alianza Nacional de Inteligencia*, ANIA) established a framework to integrate AI as a driver of social, economic, and educational development in Mexico, promoting inclusion, scientific research, innovation, and responsible entrepreneurship. This framework was designed to guide public policy, regulation, and governance to protect human and environmental rights by managing AI-associated risks and ensuring ethical and transparent AI deployment. The initiative included multi-sectoral workgroups covering public policy, education, labor, cybersecurity, gender inclusion, and innovation conducting diagnostics and formulating regulatory and policy recommendations; promoting AI awareness and training; documenting AI use cases within Mexico; and fostering international collaboration. Launched in the Senate, ANIA united stakeholders from technology, academia, civil society, and government under an AI Framework for the Common Good. This collaborative model, developed with UNESCO, aimed to advance an ethical AI ecosystem for the benefit of all Mexicans.⁴³⁹²

The Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (*Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación*, Secihti) and Digital Transformation and Telecommunications (*Agencia de Transformación Digital y Telecomunicaciones*, ATDT) established a national framework for the design, use, and evaluation of AI systems in the country with the Declaration of Ethics and Good Practices for the Use and Development of Artificial Intelligence.⁴³⁹³ The Declaration is based on the Principles of Chapultepec, named for a sacred cultural and nature

⁴³⁹¹ Digital Government and Emerging Technologies, *Principles for the Administration of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2018), https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/415644/Consolidado_Comentarios_Consulta_IA_1.pdf

⁴³⁹² Alianza Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (ANIA), *Proposal for a National Agenda for Artificial Intelligence for Mexico 2024–2030* (2024), https://www.ania.org.mx/files/ugd/447d95_ae0e425d83644651bd19ab4acd9007.pdf

⁴³⁹³ Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación, *Presentan Declaración de ética y buenas prácticas para el uso y desarrollo de la IA en México: Secihti y ATDT* (Jan. 29, 2026), <https://secihti.mx/sala-de-prensa/presentan-declaracion-de-etica-y-buenas-practicas-para-el-uso-y-desarrollo-de-la-ia-en-mexico-secihti-y-atdt/>

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preserve in Mexico City. The Principles serve as a nonbinding, voluntary guidelines for the public and private sector. These 10 foundational principles are:⁴³⁹⁴

- “AI should amplify rights, never reduce them.”
- All AI-supported decisions should have responsible human oversight within clear institutional frameworks
- Decisions should not be automated if they cannot be explained
- “AI is governed best when its governed collectively.”
- “AI is valuable only if it fosters wellbeing for people.”
- “Before automating, it’s necessary to understand whom and what are affected.”
- Technology should respond to the country’s needs
- “Developing AI requires strengthening education and knowledge in the country.”
- AI must integrate the country’s cultural and linguistic diversity
- “Data is a public good and should be cared for with responsibility.”

AI Legislation

Mexican Senator Ricardo Monreal introduced the Federal Law Regulating Artificial Intelligence, a bill aimed at creating a legal framework for AI in Mexico, in February 2024.⁴³⁹⁵ However, the bill never passed. The Senate has since undertaken a series of conversations with academic and industry experts to gain insights into how to regulate AI. Congressman Ricardo Monreal Ávila, coordinator of the Morena parliamentary group, introduced a constitutional reform initiative to Article 73, fraction XVII, granting Congress explicit authority to legislate on artificial intelligence ⁴³⁹⁶. The initiative aims to establish Mexico's technological sovereignty and create a robust legal framework aligned with international standards. The reform proposal emphasizes the need for regulatory frameworks that protect human rights while fostering innovation.

⁴³⁹⁴ Gobierno de México, *Principles of Chapultepec: Declaration of Ethics and Good Practices for the Use and Development of Artificial Intelligence [Principios de Chapultepec: Declaración de ética y buenas prácticas para el uso y desarrollo de la Inteligencia Artificial]* (Jan. 29, 2026), https://secihti.mx/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Principios_Chapultepec-2.pdf

⁴³⁹⁵ VeerOne, *Key Points of Mexico's Proposed Artificial Intelligence Regulation Bill: A Comparative Analysis with EU and Chile Models* (Aug. 1, 2024), <https://veerone.com/searches/key-points-mexicos-proposed-artificial-intelligence-qjimZmW>

⁴³⁹⁶ Gaceta Parlamentaria, *Initiative for a Decree to Reform Part XVII of Article 73 of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico [Iniciativa con proyecto de decreto por el que se reforma la fracción XVII del artículo 73 de la Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos]* (Feb. 19, 2025), https://sil.gob.mx/Archivos/Documentos/2025/02/asun_4839766_20250219_1739991446.pdf

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Deputies from the ruling political party, MORENA ((*Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional*, National Regeneration Movement), and the Mexican Green Ecologist Party (PVEM, *Partido Verde Ecologista de México*) presented the Federal Law for the Ethical, Sovereign, and Inclusive Development of Artificial Intelligence to the Chamber of Deputies (*Cámara de Diputados*).⁴³⁹⁷ The comprehensive bill establishes a risk-based classification system for AI applications, creates a National AI Council with multi-stakeholder representation, and prohibits specific high-risk uses, including mass surveillance without judicial authorization, psychological manipulation of vulnerable groups, and social scoring systems.⁴³⁹⁸ The proposed law mandates impact assessments for high-risk AI systems and establishes certification requirements for AI deployed in critical sectors.

Public Participation

The Mexican AI National Agenda is the product of broad public participation. The IA2030Mx coalition stated that “the members of this movement have been working since the beginning of 2018 under a philosophy of co-responsibility of government, academia, industry and civil society, seeking that Mexico does not lag behind in the 4th Industrial Revolution, strategically takes advantage of the benefits of AI and mitigates the possible ethical and social risks.”⁴³⁹⁹ “What started as the collaboration of 10 institutions grew to the participation of more than 110 on a national scale. One of the first actions of the coalition was launching a national consultation on AI” in which 1588 people across the different Mexican states participated.⁴⁴⁰⁰

The Commission for Analysis, Monitoring, and Evaluation of the Application and Development of Artificial Intelligence in Mexico [*Comisión de Análisis, Seguimiento y Evaluación sobre la Aplicación y Desarrollo de la Inteligencia Artificial en México*, CIAM) conducts public forums and discussions to allow the

⁴³⁹⁷ Mexico Business, *Deputies Propose Law to Regulate AI in Mexico* (Apr. 24, 2025),

<https://mexicobusiness.news/tech/news/deputies-propose-law-regulate-ai-mexico>

⁴³⁹⁸ Cámara de Diputados, *Initiative with a Draft Decree Issuing the Federal Law for the Ethical, Sovereign and Inclusive Development of Artificial Intelligence* [*Iniciativa con proyecto de decreto por el que se expide la Ley Federal para el Desarrollo Ético, Soberano e Inclusivo de la Inteligencia Artificial*] (Apr. 2025),

https://sil.gobernacion.gob.mx/Archivos/Documentos/2025/04/asun_4896460_20250430_17477570_09.pdf

⁴³⁹⁹ IA2030Mx, *Artificial Intelligence in Mexico: A National Agenda* (Nov. 2020),

https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2022/01/Mexico_Agenda_Nacional_Mexicana_de_IA_2030.pdf

⁴⁴⁰⁰ IA2030Mx, *National Survey of Artificial Intelligence* [*Encuesta Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial*] (2019), https://36dc704c-0d61-4da0-87fa-917581cbce16.filesusr.com/ugd/7be025_9e91bfffeca647a0a663630ea716aa8f.pdf

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public to voice concerns. For example, a forum in March 2025 centered on the Impact of AI on Innovation, Creativity, and Intellectual Property.⁴⁴⁰¹

Data Protection

The right to data protection⁴⁴⁰² is enshrined in Article 16 paragraph 2 of the Mexican Constitution. Mexico has also ratified the 1981 Council of Europe (Convention 108) for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data but not yet the 2018 Protocol modernizing the Convention.⁴⁴⁰³

Two federal laws on personal data protection, one for personal data held by private parties,⁴⁴⁰⁴ one for personal data held by “obligated subjects” (government entities) and related guidelines, provide the main legislative framework for data protection in Mexico. Reforms⁴⁴⁰⁵ to both laws and the General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information in 2025 upheld protections with some changes but created the Secretariat of Anticorruption and Good Government (*Secretaría Anticorrupción y Buen Gobierno*, SABG) to replace the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (*Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos Personales*, INAI),⁴⁴⁰⁶ which was dissolved along with other independent, autonomous agencies by a 2024 constitutional amendment.⁴⁴⁰⁷ Under the new law,

⁴⁴⁰¹ Gaceta del Senado, *Meetings: Commission for Analysis, Monitoring, and Evaluation of the Application and Development of Artificial Intelligence in Mexico* [Reuniones: Comisión de Análisis, Seguimiento y Evaluación sobre la Aplicación y Desarrollo de la Inteligencia Artificial en México] (Mar. 19, 2025) https://www.senado.gob.mx/66/gaceta_del_senado/documento/148221

⁴⁴⁰² INAI, *The Right to Personal Data Protection in Mexico: Guide* (Dec. 2020), https://home.inai.org.mx/wp-content/documentos/GuiasTitulares/guiapdpextranjeros_ing.pdf

⁴⁴⁰³ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=223>

⁴⁴⁰⁴ Cámara de Diputados, *Federal Law on Protection of Personal Data in Possession of Private Entities* [Ley Federal de Protección de Datos Personales en Posesión de los Particulares (Nueva Ley)] (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LFPDPPP.pdf>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ Diario Oficial de la Federación, *Decreto por el que se expiden la Ley General de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública; la Ley General de Protección de Datos Personales en Posesión de Sujetos Obligados; la Ley Federal de Protección de Datos Personales en Posesión de los Particulares; y se reforma el artículo 37, fracción XV, de la Ley Orgánica de la Administración Pública Federal* (Mar. 20, 2025),

https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5752569&fecha=20/03/2025#gsc.tab=0

⁴⁴⁰⁶ Rosa Maria Franco Velázquez, *Understanding the Federal Law on Protection of Personal Data in Possession of Private Entities* [Entendiendo la Ley Federal de Protección de Datos Personales en Posesión de los Particulares], IAPP (Apr. 1, 2025), <https://iapp.org/news/a/entendiendo-la-ley-federal-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-en-posesion-de-los-particulares-en-mexico>

⁴⁴⁰⁷ Diario Oficial de la Federación, *Decree reforming, adding to, and repealing various provisions of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, regarding organic simplification* [Decreto por el que se reforman, adicionan y derogan diversas disposiciones de la Constitución Política de

all references to INAI and regulatory agencies fall to the SABG. Analysts have criticized the dissolution of the INAI, which had functional and financial autonomy.⁴⁴⁰⁸ The SABG, by contrast, falls under the executive branch.⁴⁴⁰⁹ Each of the 32 Mexican States has a legal framework that regulates the collection and processing of personal data by the public sector. A State-level data protection authority oversees compliance with the law.

On releasing Recommendations for AI-related data processing, the INAI stressed the need to uphold the right to privacy in public and private processing, noting “a common basis for the private and the public sector are the principles and duties regarding the protection of personal data that are found in the regulations that apply to them, which assure data subjects that the processing of their information is carried out properly.”⁴⁴¹⁰ Whether the processing of personal data occurs in the private or the public sector, data subjects benefit from the ARCO rights, which refer to the access, ratification, cancelation, and opposition rights of data subjects with respect to their personal data.⁴⁴¹¹ Data subjects have the right to oppose the processing of their data at any time by any mechanism, including automated decision-making and profiling. In the public sector, data subjects are also granted the right to data portability.

los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, en materia de simplificación orgánica] (Dec. 20, 2024), https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5745905&fecha=20/12/2024#gsc.tab=0

⁴⁴⁰⁸ Fernando Nieto-Morales, *The Elimination of INAI: A Blow to Transparency and Accountability in Mexico*, Wilson Center (Nov. 21, 2024), <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/elimination-inai-blow-transparency-and-accountability-mexico>

⁴⁴⁰⁹ Renata Denisse Bueron Valenzuela and Iván García Argueta, *New Authority Established for Personal Data Protection in Mexico* (Mar. 11, 2025), <https://iapp.org/news/a/new-authority-established-for-personal-data-protection-in-mexico>

⁴⁴¹⁰ INAI, *Recommendations for the Treatment of Personal Data Derived from the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (May 2022), <https://home.inai.org.mx/wp-content/documentos/DocumentosSectorPublico/RecomendacionesPDP-IA.pdf>; Cristos Velasco and Maria Solange Maqueo, *Privacy and Data Protection Law in Mexico*, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business (Nov. 2022), https://law-store.wolterskluwer.com/s/product/privacy-and-data-protection-law-in-mexico/01t4R00000OknfVQAR?srltid=AfmBOooxbz8DFOWPvBKXXIxWYE6hOmJe7LAe-A7Z1vGK3WzLN_0VB-tP

⁴⁴¹¹ Secretaría Anticorrupción y Buen Gobierno, *Guide for Exercising the Rights to Access, Rectification, Cancelation, and Opposition of Personal Data [Guía para ejercer los derechos de Access, Rectificación, Cancelación y Oposición de datos personales]* (Jul. 2025), <https://portal-transparencia.buengobierno.gob.mx/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Guia-para-ejercer-los-derechos-de-Acceso-2025-SABG.pdf>

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In May 2022, the INAI issued recommendations for the processing of personal data deriving from the use of AI.⁴⁴¹² The INAI's recommendations highlight the OECD AI Principles—inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being; human-centered values and fairness; transparency and explainability; robustness, security, and safety; and accountability—as the foundation for responsible AI governance and development.

The INAI is part of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network (RIPD),⁴⁴¹³ a group of experts on data protection and access to information, comprising 34 entities, including 14 federal and state authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2019, the RIPD adopted the Specific Guidelines for Complying with the Principles and Rights Governing Personal Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence Projects,⁴⁴¹⁴ based on the Standards for Personal Data Protection for the Ibero-American States approved in 2017.⁴⁴¹⁵ The INAI relied on the RIPD AI Guidelines to formulate its own recommendations on top of the OECD AI Principles.

The INAI was a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2010; as of February 2026, the SABG is not listed as a GPA member.⁴⁴¹⁶ Data protection institutes for the Federal District (Mexico City) and for the states of Mexico, Michoacan, Nuevo León, Quintana Roo, and Tamaulipas are accredited members. The INAI co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁴¹⁷ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁴⁴¹⁸ and 2023

⁴⁴¹² INAI, *Recommendations for the Treatment of Personal Data Derived from the Use of Artificial Intelligence* (May 2022), <https://home.inai.org.mx/wp-content/documentos/DocumentosSectorPublico/RecomendacionesPDP-IA.pdf>

⁴⁴¹³ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *The Network: United Mexican States*, <https://www.redipd.org/la-red/integrantes/paises/estados-unidos-mexicanos>

⁴⁴¹⁴ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 21, 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

⁴⁴¹⁵ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (Jun. 20, 2017), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/estandares-iberoamericanos-2017>

⁴⁴¹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴⁴¹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁴¹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

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GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁴⁴¹⁹ However, INAI did not endorse the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴⁴²⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Although transparency and explainability are not expressly mentioned in the data protection laws of Mexico, the INAI's 2022 Recommendations for the processing of personal data deriving from the use of AI mention transparency and explainability as one of the five basic AI principles that should be respected during the development and implementation of AI systems.⁴⁴²¹ The INAI explains that: "whoever uses AI systems should be transparent regarding the use of such systems and provide significant information in order for people to be aware that they are interacting with AI systems; to know what part AI systems play in the results obtained; to be granted the opportunity to contest the outcome if they have been negatively impacted by the AI system."⁴⁴²² The ARCO rights—access, ratification, cancellation, and opposition rights of data subjects with respect to their personal data⁴⁴²³—apply to any processing of data, giving Mexicans the right to oppose the processing of their data at any time by any mechanism, including automated decision-making and profiling.

Data Scraping

The INAI and 16 of its international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to

⁴⁴¹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴⁴²⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁴⁴²¹ INAI, *Recommendations for the Treatment of Personal Data Derived from the Use of Artificial Intelligence*, p. 17 (May 2022), <https://home.inai.org.mx/wp-content/documentos/DocumentosSectorPublico/RecomendacionesPDP-IA.pdf>

⁴⁴²² *Ibid.*, p. 17

⁴⁴²³ Secretaría Anticorrupción y Buen Gobierno, *Guide for Exercising the Rights to Access, Rectification, Cancellation, and Opposition of Personal Data [Guía para ejercer los derechos de Access, Rectificación, Cancellación y Oposición de datos personales]* (Jul. 2025), <https://portal-transparencia.buengobierno.gob.mx/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Guia-para-ejercer-los-derechos-de-Acceso-2025-SABG.pdf>

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data scraping and privacy.⁴⁴²⁴ The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”⁴⁴²⁵ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”⁴⁴²⁶

Use of AI in Public Administration

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Mexico approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in November 2023.⁴⁴²⁷ The Charter aims to provide a roadmap and common framework for CLAD member states to learn about the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI in public administration and adapt their AI policy strategies and laws accordingly.

The guiding principles in the Charter include human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection. The Charter calls on member states to create policies and laws to require the assessment of the impact of AI systems on human rights and freedoms and the registration of algorithms to “anticipate risks, prevent undesirable

⁴⁴²⁴ ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁴⁴²⁵ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2023/js-dc_20230824/

⁴⁴²⁶ ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁴⁴²⁷ Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

effects and ensure its proper implementation,”⁴⁴²⁸ and proposes a risk classification mechanism that includes prohibitions.

EdTech and Children Tracking

In November 2020, the Council of Europe Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (Convention 108), to which Mexico is party, issued Guidelines on Children’s Data Protection in an Education Setting, also applicable to remote e-learning solutions and services.⁴⁴²⁹ The Committee recalls that “The UN Convention Committee on the Rights of the Child set out in 2001, that [...] Education must be provided in a way that respects the inherent dignity of the child and enables the child to express his or her views freely.”⁴⁴³⁰ The Committee highlighted the need for children to have agency over how their data re used and called for better education for them around their digital footprint. The Committee set standards to minimize data collection, especially in the use of EdTech “when consent cannot be freely given because the choice is to use a product and receive remote instruction or refuse and receive none.”⁴⁴³¹ The Committee recommended “A precautionary approach and a strengthened protection towards sensitive, special categories of data, including genetic and biometric data, and ethnic origin, or relating to sexual orientation, or offences, recognising children’s additional vulnerability.”⁴⁴³² In addition, they noted that “Profiling of children should be prohibited by law. In exceptional circumstances, States may lift this restriction when it is in the best interests of the child or if there is an overriding public interest, on the condition that appropriate safeguards are provided for by law”⁴⁴³³

In May 2022, Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Mexico, for children’s education during the pandemic. Based on technical and policy analysis of 163 EdTech products, Human Rights Watch found that governments’ endorsements of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children’s rights.

⁴⁴²⁸ Ibid, p. 10

⁴⁴²⁹ Council of Europe Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108), *Guidelines on Children’s Data Protection in an Education Setting* (Apr. 2021), <https://rm.coe.int/t-pd-2019-6bisrev5-eng-guidelines-education-setting-plenary-clean-2790/1680a07f2b>

⁴⁴³⁰ Ibid, p. 3

⁴⁴³¹ Ibid, p. 5

⁴⁴³² Ibid, p. 8

⁴⁴³³ Ibid, p. 19

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EdTech products used in Mexico sent children's data to AdTech companies that specialize in behavioral advertising or whose algorithms determine what children see online. The report noted steps companies should take to protect children's rights, including working with governments to define clear retention and deletion rules for children's data collected during the pandemic. Furthermore, governments should develop, refine, and enforce modern child data protection laws and standards, and ensure that children who want to learn are not compelled to give up their other rights to do so.⁴⁴³⁴

The UNESCO Representation in Mexico and the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico held a conference on the opportunities for AI use in education.⁴⁴³⁵ Educators, specialists, private-sector members, and education authorities participated in the dialogue as part of the International Day of Education centered on strengthening “teachers, students and curricula to preserve people’s autonomy so that it is human beings and communities who make decisions about their future in an increasingly automated world.” The UNESCO Representation presented 11 priority proposals, including one to establish an observatory of AI in education in Mexico was also put forward.

AI and Copyright

The Second Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJN) issued a landmark ruling in Amparo Directo 6/2025, unanimously determining that works generated entirely by artificial intelligence cannot receive copyright protection under Mexican law.⁴⁴³⁶ The Court's 47-page decision established that Article 12 of the Federal Copyright Law recognizes only natural persons as authors, as creativity requires human intellect, emotions, and lived experiences that AI systems cannot possess. The Court found that uploading photographs and prompting a generative AI tool to create an avatar did not reflect substantial human creative input. However, the ruling maintained that AI-assisted works, where human creativity is enhanced by AI tools, remain protectable.⁴⁴³⁷

⁴⁴³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

⁴⁴³⁵ UNESCO, *AI Will Be at the Service of Education and People in Mexico* (Jan. 24, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-will-be-service-education-and-people-mexico>

⁴⁴³⁶ Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, *Amparo Directo 6/2025* (Aug. 30, 2025), https://www2.scjn.gob.mx/juridica/engroses/2/2025/1/2_346361_7265_firmado.pdf

⁴⁴³⁷ Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, *Intellectual Property and the Use of Artificial Intelligence [Propiedad intelectual y uso de Inteligencia Artificial]* (2025), <https://transparencia-ciudadana.scjn.gob.mx/resoluciones-relevantes-de-la-SCJN/derechos-digitales/ad-6-2025>

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Use of AI for Criminal Purposes

The use of AI and the use of deepfakes for criminal-related purposes is on the rise and Mexico has not been exempted. In December 2023, the financial services regulator, the National Commission for the Protection and Defense of Users of Financial Services gave a warning about a deepfake video being widespread mainly through social media purporting to be Mr. Carlos Slim (Mexico's wealthiest man). The video shows a manipulated image of Mr. Carlos Slim taken from an earlier event that his company and foundation Telmex promotes among interns.⁴⁴³⁸ The deepfake video informs about a new application requesting citizens to redirect to a hyperlink, download, fill out, and send a form to earn an attractive sum of money per day. The video was a well-elaborated scam and there is evidence that many people in Mexico were affected by this fraud.

Environmental Impact of AI

Mexico's participation in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Council and other international organizations signals a commitment to sustainable development in the use of AI technologies. However, Mexico has not developed specific policies around the environmental impact of AI or other digital technologies.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Mexico is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁴⁴³⁹ and participant in the Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). Mexico has consistently advocated for prohibitions and regulations on autonomous weapons systems in the UN⁴⁴⁴⁰ and other venues, including regional discussions⁴⁴⁴¹ and the

⁴⁴³⁸ El Financiero, *Carlos Slim Is Not Looking for Partners: The Face and Voice of the Businessman Was Faked with AI to Cheat Investors* (Dec. 8, 2023),

<https://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/nacional/2023/12/08/carlos-slim-no-busca-socios-suplantando-rostro-y-voz-del-empresario-con-ia-para-estafar-a-inversores/>

⁴⁴³⁹ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴⁴⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf; UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L56, A/C.1/78/L.56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/78/L.56>

⁴⁴⁴¹ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

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Vienna Conference.⁴⁴⁴² Mexico notes an “urgent need” for international action given that “such systems represent a risk to international peace and security and are incompatible with the full observance of the rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law.”⁴⁴⁴³ In 2024, Mexico co-sponsored Draft Resolution L.77, reiterating concerns LAWS pose for international peace, stability, and security and stressing the importance of maintaining human control over decisions related to the use of force, and the need for accountability, responsibility, and adherence to international legal frameworks.⁴⁴⁴⁴

AI Literacy

The Mexican Government and public institutions have various initiatives to support AI Literacy in schools and universities as well as workplaces. The Secretary of Public Education (*Secretario de Educación Pública*, SEP) announced a “humanist, critical, and community focus” to the New Mexican School and “the principles of equality, democratic inclusion, and collective construction will be foundational for the ethical implications of artificial intelligence” as part of his address at the UNESCO-sponsored International Day of Education conference.⁴⁴⁴⁵

The Interinstitutional Observatory for Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education in Mexico (*Observatorio Interinstitucional de Inteligencia Artificial en la Educación Superior en México*) established partnership among universities and the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education (*Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior*, ANUIES) to “promote the integration of Artificial Intelligence in higher education in an ethical, equitable, transparent way, centered in people” by monitoring, researching, advising public policy.⁴⁴⁴⁶ The Observatory and National AI Forum

⁴⁴⁴² Federal Ministry European and International Affairs, Republic of Austria, 2024 *Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems, List of Associated States* (Oct. 11, 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/list-of-associated-states>

⁴⁴⁴³ UN Secretary-General, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems; Report of the Secretary-General*, Mexico, p. 74 (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059475?v=pdf>

⁴⁴⁴⁴ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Draft Resolution L.77, A/C.1/79/L.77* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/79/L.77>

⁴⁴⁴⁵ Secretaría de Educación Pública, *SEP Will Use AI to Strengthen National Educational System [Boletín 26: SEP se apoyará en IA para el fortalecimiento del Sistema Educativo Nacional: Mario Delgado]* (Jan. 24, 2025), <https://www.gob.mx/sep/prensa/boletin-26-sep-se-apoyara-en-ia-para-el-fortalecimiento-del-sistema-educativo-nacional-mario-delgado>

⁴⁴⁴⁶ Observatorio Interinstitucional de Inteligencia Artificial en la Educación Superior en México, *About the Observatory [Sobre el Observatorio]* (2026), <https://observatorio-ia.org/#sobre>

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stress the importance of training teachers in AI technologies as a way to ensure responsible use by students.⁴⁴⁴⁷

The Secretariat of Labor and Social Security (*Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social*) has also developed courses to “build and provide work competencies and skills and assist companies’ compliance with their training obligations.”⁴⁴⁴⁸

Human Rights

Freedom House gives Mexico a “partly free” (59/100) rating for political rights and civil liberties.⁴⁴⁴⁹ According to Freedom House, “Mexico has been an electoral democracy since 2000 and power has alternated between parties at both the federal and state levels, though the left-leaning National Regeneration Movement (Morena) has grown dominant in recent years. The country suffers from severe rule-of-law deficits that limit full citizen enjoyment of political rights and civil liberties.” A 2024 constitutional amendment that introduced the popular election of judges, including Supreme Court justices, has raised concerns about potential threats to judicial independence and the impartiality of the courts. Additionally, the reform expanded the use of mandatory pretrial detention, a practice criticized by human rights organizations for undermining due process.⁴⁴⁵⁰

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Mexico has taken an active role in pursuing international cooperation for the ethical development of AI. The Mexican government endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁴⁴⁵¹ Mexico has also endorsed G20 AI Guidelines and is one of the founding members of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), the world’s first international AI initiative.⁴⁴⁵²

⁴⁴⁴⁷ OEI, *México apuesta por la IA en la educación* (Mar. 29, 2025),

<https://oei.int/oficinas/mexico/noticias/mexico-apuesta-por-la-ia-en-la-educacion/>

⁴⁴⁴⁸ Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social, *Secretariat of Labor and Social Security Launches Course “Artificial Intelligence for Life and Work”* [*Boletín 35/25, Lanza Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social curso “Inteligencia artificial para la vida y el trabajo”*] (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/lanza-secretaria-del-trabajo-y-prevision-social-curso-inteligencia-artificial-para-la-vida-y-el-trabajo?idiom=es-MX>

⁴⁴⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Mexico* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/mexico/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁴⁵⁰ Ibid

⁴⁴⁵¹ OECD, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026),

<https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁴⁴⁵² Gobierno de México, *Joint Statement by the Founding Members of the Global Alliance on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 5, 2020), <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaracion-conjunta-de-los-miembros-fundadores-de-la-alianza-global-sobre-la-inteligencia-artificial>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Mexico contributed as an Observer State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁴⁴⁵³ However, Mexico has not signed the treaty.⁴⁴⁵⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Mexico is represented in UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). COMEST produced a preliminary study on the ethics of AI, which became the foundation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴⁴⁵⁵ In November 2021, Mexico alongside 192 other states adopted the Recommendation on Ethics of AI.⁴⁴⁵⁶ Mexico is among the countries that "have initiated a process to establish institutional infrastructures, such as national steering committees on the ethics of AI, to oversee the piloting of the capacity-building tools under development."⁴⁴⁵⁷

Mexico signed the 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence⁴⁴⁵⁸ as part of the Regional Council supported by a UNESCO and CAF (development bank of Latin America).⁴⁴⁵⁹ The Santiago Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data

⁴⁴⁵³ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁴⁵⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 15, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁴⁴⁵⁵ UNESCO, *Elaboration of a Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2020), <https://en.unesco.org/artificial-intelligence/ethics#recommendation>; UNESCO, *World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)* (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://en.unesco.org/themes/ethics-science-and-technology/comeest/members>

⁴⁴⁵⁶ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁴⁴⁵⁷ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on Ethics of AI*, p. 3 (Oct. 7, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

⁴⁴⁵⁸ Summit of Ministerial and High Authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Santiago Declaration "To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean"* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

⁴⁴⁵⁹ Gabriela Ramos and Ángel Melguizo, *Ethical and Responsible Artificial Intelligence: From Words to Action and Rights*, Somos Iberoamérica (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://somosiberoamerica.org/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-y-responsable-de-las-palabras-a-los-hechos-y-derechos/>

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protection.⁴⁴⁶⁰ Mexico reinforced this commitment with its endorsement of the Montevideo Declaration following the Second Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁴⁴⁶¹ The declaration calls on governments and companies across the region to ensure AI advancements align with democratic values, prioritize human rights, and improve quality of life.

Mexico completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation.⁴⁴⁶² The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.⁴⁴⁶³ UNESCO developed the Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment of Mexico report following the RAM in partnership with the National Alliance for Artificial Intelligence (ANIA) and supported by Centro-i.⁴⁴⁶⁴ The assessment involved over 250 participants from government, civil organizations, academia, and industry to evaluate Mexico's AI ecosystem and readiness for ethical governance. The report, which was presented to the Mexican Senate, highlights AI's potential to boost global GDP and transform up to 60% of jobs. The report also outlines Mexico's opportunity to become a regional leader through a national AI strategy integrated into its National Development Plan. However, the report advises bolstering inclusivity for underrepresented groups, including by supporting Indigenous languages, and integrating media literacy in education. Additional recommendations include a unified digital identity system, an expanded open data policy, and enhanced security for critical infrastructure.

Evaluation

Mexico was the first Latin American country to initiate a national AI strategy in 2018. However, the change in administration at the end of 2018 put a brake on

⁴⁴⁶⁰ UNESCO, *Authorities from 24 Countries to Participate in the 1st Forum of High Authorities on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/authorities-24-countries-participate-1st-forum-high-authorities-ethics-artificial-intelligence-latin>

⁴⁴⁶¹ Uruguay, Agency for Electronic Government (AGESIC), *Montevideo Declaration* (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/EN-Proposal%20for%20Montevideo%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁴⁶² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Country Profiles: Mexico* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/mexico>

⁴⁴⁶³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

⁴⁴⁶⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO Presents the Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment of Mexico* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-presents-artificial-intelligence-readiness-assessment-mexico>

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previous AI policy initiatives. The 2022 Recommendations for the processing of personal data deriving from the use of AI issued by the former national data protection authority (INAI) and the steps taken to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI were positive signs. Legislative proposals on AI and efforts in government agencies such as the Secretariats of Public Education and Labor offer further signs of progress. However, constitutional reforms such as the one to eliminate the INAI and other changes to governance structure could curb efforts to establish independent AI governance to ensure fundamental rights and the rule of law. Concerns remain over the use of AI for mass surveillance of citizens and for malicious and criminal related purposes.

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Morocco

In 2025, Morocco established the base for a national AI strategy, Maroc IA 2030, while Parliament continued to work on a legal framework to govern the technology. Internationally, Morocco's foreign minister stressed the importance of ethical and responsible AI aligned to the sustain development goals to peers in the African Union.

National AI Strategy

Morocco lacks a National AI Strategy. However, government organizations have collaborated among themselves and civil society to create pathways to such a strategy. For example, the Morocco AI conference organized by a non-governmental agency proposed a framework for a national strategy that included recommendations on Ethics and Regulation as well as Governance.⁴⁴⁶⁵ The report centers Morocco's New Development Model for Morocco, which includes artificial intelligence as a key lever in the country's vision until 2035, driving a need for investment in human capital.⁴⁴⁶⁶

Researchers from Moroccan universities built on a 2021 Strategy for Developing an AI Ecosystem by the Agency for Digital Development to propose a framework for an AI strategy in 2024.⁴⁴⁶⁷ The LAFBAH AI Framework—standing for Leadership & vision, Adaptive governance, Forward-thinking, Breakthrough innovations, Agility in implementation, and Human-centered approach—favors “a holistic and integrated approach to AI in Morocco, which combines AI Governance with technological innovation, ethical and societal considerations to promote sustainable and inclusive development and enhance Moroccan competitiveness.” The Maroc IA 2030 roadmap launched in early 2026 allegedly operationalized outcomes from the two-day National AI Conference in July 2025,⁴⁴⁶⁸ placing a “strong emphasis on digital sovereignty, the development of national skills,

⁴⁴⁶⁵ Morocco AI, *Recommendations towards a National AI Strategy for Morocco* (Oct. 2023), <https://morocco.ai/>

⁴⁴⁶⁶ Royaume du Maroc, *The New Developpement Model: Summary of the SCDM's General Report* (Apr. 2021), <https://www.hcp.ma/attachment/2327977/>

⁴⁴⁶⁷ Abdelmjid Lafram and Salah Eddine Bahji, *Artificial Intelligence in Morocco: Towards Holistic, Responsible and Ethical National AI Strategy for Moroccan Competitiveness and Strategic Influence* (2024), https://oecd-ai.case-api.buddyweb.fr/storage/policy-initiatives/Jul2025/fu_52tiuvq52qr48s8.pdf

⁴⁴⁶⁸ Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, *Inaugural National AI Conference Kicks Off in Rabat* (Jul. 1, 2025), <https://www.maroc.ma/en/news/inaugural-national-ai-conference-kicks-rabat>

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innovation incentives, and territorial inclusions, while seeking to reduce structural dependence on external technological systems.”⁴⁴⁶⁹

The president of Morocco’s National Human Rights Council reiterated the need for a human-rights-based AI strategy in the country at a scientific seminar in 2025.⁴⁴⁷⁰ She emphasized the need for a national AI strategy and noted that “human rights are not necessarily at odds with technological and digital advancement.” Her speech highlighted that “voluntary commitment to rights and freedoms, along with the protection of human dignity, could be a key determinant in innovation approaches, which would pave the way for deeper, more meaningful, and more human-centered innovations.”

The Moroccan House of Representatives created a parliamentary working group, the Artificial Intelligence Thematic Working Group in September 2024. The group is to study the opportunities and impacts of AI systems, including an assessment of existing laws.⁴⁴⁷¹ The working group met for another workshop in January 2025, this time focused on the legislative and regulatory framework of artificial intelligence in Morocco, including potential uses in parliamentary action.⁴⁴⁷²

A parliamentary opposition group in the Moroccan House of Councilors (the General Union of Moroccan Workers’ group) presented a bill to regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the country in April 2024.⁴⁴⁷³ The bill is aimed at addressing the negative aspects and illegal uses of AI technology. It proposes the creation of a National Agency for Artificial Intelligence dedicated to AI governance. This agency would be responsible for implementing, monitoring, and updating a national AI strategy in line with global developments in the field.

⁴⁴⁶⁹ Oumaima Moho Amer, *Morocco Launches “Maroc IA 2030” Roadmap to Strengthen AI Governance, Digital Sovereignty*, *Morocco World News* (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2026/01/274765/morocco-launches-maroc-ia-2030-roadmap-to-strengthen-ai-governance-digital-sovereignty/>

⁴⁴⁷⁰ National Human Rights Council, *CNDH Chairperson Reiterates Calls for Ambitious National AI Strategy* (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://cndh.ma/en/cndh-chairperson-reiterates-calls-ambitious-national-ai-strategy-both-drives-innovation-and-guided>

⁴⁴⁷¹ House of Representatives, *Internal Meeting of the Thematic Group on AI* (Sept. 4, 2024), <https://www.chambrederesrepresentants.ma/en/agenda/internal-meeting-thematic-group-artificial-intelligence-wednesday-september-4-2024>

⁴⁴⁷² Chambre des Représentants, *Workshop on the Legislative and Regulatory Framework of Artificial Intelligence in Morocco* (Jan 22, 2025), <https://www.chambrederesrepresentants.ma/en/node/420200>

⁴⁴⁷³ Adil Faouzi, *Morocco Proposes Establishment of National Agency for AI Governance*, *Morocco World News* (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2024/04/362295/morocco-proposes-establishment-of-national-agency-for-ai-governance>

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African Union Continental AI Strategy

In December 2018, the Mohamed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco hosted UNESCO's first Forum on AI in Africa.⁴⁴⁷⁴ This led to the creation of the Benguérir Declaration,⁴⁴⁷⁵ advocating for the advancement of an AI Strategy across the African continent.⁴⁴⁷⁶ The declaration emphasized “the importance of fostering AI in Africa as a catalyst for development, focusing on the human rights aspect and grounded in universal ethical principles.”⁴⁴⁷⁷ Morocco supported the development of the African Union Continental AI Strategy,⁴⁴⁷⁸ released in 2024, and has since advocated for unity to promote coordinated action to implement it. For example, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the need for “mobilization and collective action to make AI a true lever for development, peace, and security for Africans”⁴⁴⁷⁹ in a meeting with AU Peace and Security Council peers.

Public Participation

Although specific public participation opportunities for the development of Morocco's AI Strategy were not identified, the formulation of the New Development Model for Morocco, which outlines the country's vision until 2035,⁴⁴⁸⁰ employed a comprehensive consultative process and co-construction approach. Artificial intelligence is highlighted in the report as a disruptive force, emphasizing the necessity for adequate training in this field. However, it remains unclear whether a similar process will be adopted for the development of the National AI Strategy.

The Morocco AI Annual conference serves as a platform for businesses, government entities, and civil society to convene in Morocco.⁴⁴⁸¹ Last held virtually

⁴⁴⁷⁴ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁴⁴⁷⁵ UNESCO, *Outcome Statement of the Forum on Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Benguérir (Kingdom of Morocco)* (Dec. 13, 2018), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390203>

⁴⁴⁷⁶ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁴⁴⁷⁷ Ibid

⁴⁴⁷⁸ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

⁴⁴⁷⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, *Morocco Advocated Thursday before the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU-PSC) for an Ethical, Responsible, Beneficial, and Sovereign African AI* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://diplomatie.ma/en/morocco-advocates-ethical-sovereign-african-ai-au-psc>

⁴⁴⁸⁰ Special Commission for the Development Model, *The New Developpement Model: Summary of the SCDM's General Report* (Apr. 2021), <https://www.hcp.ma/attachment/2327977/>

⁴⁴⁸¹ MoroccoAI, *Conferences and Workshops* (2023), <https://morocco.ai/conference/>

in December 2024,⁴⁴⁸² the conference aimed to foster “meaningful dialogue on how AI is transforming innovation across industries,” including to “address the ethical and legal implications of AI.”

Data Protection

Morocco’s Law on the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data was passed in 2009.⁴⁴⁸³ This law establishes a framework for safeguarding personal data and the National Commission for the Protection of Personal Data (*Commission Nationale de contrôle de la protection des Données à caractère Personnel*, CNDP). The CNDP possesses the authority to issue guidance and enforce its provisions. Presently, the CNDP is engaged in the process of revising the law to ensure alignment with global standards and potentially seek EU adequacy status.⁴⁴⁸⁴ Morocco signed and ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108 on automatic processing of personal data in 2019⁴⁴⁸⁵ but has neither signed nor ratified Convention 108+. ⁴⁴⁸⁶

Since 2013, the processing of biometric data has been governed by the provisions outlined in CNDP Decision no. 478-2013,⁴⁴⁸⁷ which delineates the necessary conditions for the utilization of biometric devices for access control.⁴⁴⁸⁸ This decision establishes regulations for the handling of biometric data and mandates

⁴⁴⁸² MoroccoAI, *MoroccoAI Annual Conference 2024* (2024),

<https://morocco.ai/events/conferences/MoroccoAI-Conference-2024/>

⁴⁴⁸³ CNDP, *Law No. 09–08 on the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data [Loi no 09-08 à la protection des personnes physiques à l’égard du traitement des données à caractère personnel]*, Bulletin Officiel No. 5714 (Mar. 5, 2009),

<https://www.dgssi.gov.ma/en/loi-09-08-relative-la-protection-des-personnes-physiques-legard-du-traitement-des>

⁴⁴⁸⁴ Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V. Rule of Law Programme MENA, *Data Protection Laws in Northern Africa* (Sept. 2022),

https://www.kas.de/documents/265308/22468903/230406_DataProtectionLawsNorthernAfrica_KAS_Web.pdf; see also, CNDP, *International Relations: The Adequacy Process [Relations Internationales: Le processus d’adéquation]* (2026), <https://www.cndp.ma/relations-internationales/>

⁴⁴⁸⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 108* (Feb. 28, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=108>

⁴⁴⁸⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 28, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁴⁴⁸⁷ CNDP, *Deliberation on the Necessary Conditions for the Use of Biometric Deposits for Access Control [Délibération no. 478-2013 du 1er novembre 2013 portant sur les conditions nécessaires à l’utilisation des dispositifs biométriques pour le contrôle d’accès]* (Nov. 1, 2013), <https://www.cndp.ma/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/deliberation-n-478-2013-01-11-2013.pdf>

⁴⁴⁸⁸ Mehdi Kettani, *Morocco: Data Protection & Cybersecurity*, DLA Piper, Legal 500 (2022), <https://www.legal500.com/guides/wp-content/uploads/sites/1/2022/05/morocco-1.pdf>

prior authorization from the CNDP for the installation of such devices. However, authorization for the use of biometric data in accessing “sensitive premises and facilities” is granted under specific conditions.

In September 2019, the CNDP imposed a moratorium on facial recognition⁴⁴⁸⁹ by both public and private organizations.⁴⁴⁹⁰ The CNDP then extended the moratorium it through a Deliberation,⁴⁴⁹¹ which stipulates the requirement of CNDP authorization among other criteria. Notably, in 2020, the CNDP sanctioned the use of biometric systems for “user authentication and proof of life for social welfare beneficiaries” by social security institutions.

The CNDP conducted interviews to investigate a deliberation on the use of artificial intelligence for processing personal data through late 2025.⁴⁴⁹²

Morocco is an active member of the Network of African Data Protection Authorities (NADPA).⁴⁴⁹³ This network serves as a platform for facilitating exchanges and cooperation among its members, aiming to amplify Africa's voice in its engagements with partners worldwide.⁴⁴⁹⁴ The NADPA has focused on “strengthening the network’s international presence, promoting legislation on Data Protection across Africa, and fostering cooperation among members, including capacity building.”⁴⁴⁹⁵

The CNDP has represented Morocco to the Global Privacy Assembly since 2011.⁴⁴⁹⁶ The CNDP co-sponsored the 2023 Resolution on Generative AI

⁴⁴⁸⁹ BiometricUpdate.com, *Morocco Places Moratorium on Facial Recognition, California Limits Police Use* (Sept. 12, 2019), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201909/morocco-places-moratorium-on-facial-recognition-california-limits-police-use>

⁴⁴⁹⁰ BiometricUpdate.com, *Morocco Extends Facial Recognition Moratorium to Year-End, Proposes Biometric Authentication Service* (Apr. 9, 2020), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202004/morocco-extends-facial-recognition-moratorium-to-year-end-proposes-biometric-authentication-service>

⁴⁴⁹¹ CNDP, *Deliberation Relating to the Definition of the Usages of Facial Recognition Technologies [Délibération no.D-195-EUS/2020 du 39/12/2020 relative à la définition de l’usage des technologies de reconnaissance faciale]* (Dec. 30, 2020), https://www.cndp.ma/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CNDP-Dlibration_D-195-EUS-2020-Usage_de_la_reconnaissance_faciale-20210421.pdf

⁴⁴⁹² CNDP, *AI and the Protection of Personal Data [IA et Protection des données à caractère Personnel]* (2026), <https://www.cndp.ma/ia-pdp/>

⁴⁴⁹³ DiploFoundation, *Stronger Digital Voices from Africa: Building African Digital Foreign Policy and Diplomacy* (Nov. 2022), https://www.diplomacy.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/African-digital-foreign-policy_En.pdf

⁴⁴⁹⁴ NADPA/RAPDP, *Who Are We?* (2023), <https://www.nadpa-rapdp.org/en/qui-sommes-nous>

⁴⁴⁹⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *International Enforcement Cooperation Working Group, Privacy and DataProtection Networks, Snapshot* (May 13, 2021), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/20210513-DPA-networks-Landscape-Snapshot-Infographic-1.0.pdf>

⁴⁴⁹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

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Systems.⁴⁴⁹⁷ However, the CNDP did not sponsor the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁴⁹⁸ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁴⁴⁹⁹ or 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴⁵⁰⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Article 11 of the data protection law prohibits decision-making based on the automated processing of personal data.⁴⁵⁰¹ Morocco acceded to Convention 108 in 2019, following a formal evaluation to ensure that the relevant laws met the requirements outlined in Convention 108.⁴⁵⁰² Morocco ratified Convention 108,⁴⁵⁰³ becoming the 55th State and the 6th country in the African region to do so.⁴⁵⁰⁴

The CNDP and Council of Europe announced the Neighbourhood Partnership in 2021 to promote the ratification of the Protocol modernizing Convention 108, as well as supporting the CNDP's efforts to enhance data protection in the Kingdom of

⁴⁴⁹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴⁴⁹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁴⁹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁴⁵⁰⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁴⁵⁰¹ National Commission for the Protection of Personal Data, *Law No. 09-08 on the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (2009), <https://www.cndp.ma/fr/cndp/publications.html>

⁴⁵⁰² Graham Greenleaf, *Data Protection Convention 108 Accession Eligibility: 80 Parties Now Possible* (Nov. 1, 2017), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3062415

⁴⁵⁰³ OneTrust DataGuidance, *International: Morocco Signs Convention 108 and Amending Protocol* (May 29, 2019), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/international-morocco-signs-convention-108-and-amending>

⁴⁵⁰⁴ Council of Europe, *Welcome of Morocco, 55th State Party to Convention 108* (May 28, 2019), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/-/welcome-to-morocco-55th-state-party-to-convention-108->

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Morocco.⁴⁵⁰⁵ However, Morocco has neither signed nor ratified the modernized Convention 108+.⁴⁵⁰⁶

Digital ID

Morocco established its national electronic identity system in 2008,⁴⁵⁰⁷ introducing the CNIE (*Carte Nationale d'Identité Electronique*), a smart ID card equipped with cutting-edge security features. Enrollment procedures included biometric data capture to ensure the uniqueness of individuals, employing an Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for de-duplication.

In 2022, the Digital Development Agency (ADD) and the Directorate of National Security (DGSN) collaborated to launch an identification and authentication service for digital service users. This initiative enables individuals to verify their identities when accessing services from both public and private sectors.⁴⁵⁰⁸ Holders of the National Electronic Identity card introduced in 2019 gained immediate access to the platform; holders of the old CNIE were also granted access.⁴⁵⁰⁹

A tripartite agreement between the Ministries of Health and Social Protection, the National Security Directorate, and the National Commission for the Control of Personal Data Protection aimed to utilize the national identity card to simplify and enhance access to health services.⁴⁵¹⁰ Hospitals and other medical facilities would be empowered to verify patient identities, and citizens would have the option to include certain health data in the electronic chip embedded within the national identity card.⁴⁵¹¹ Morocco enhanced the CNIE to a secure digital service tool in 2024 with launch of the second-generation National Electronic Identity Card (CNIE 2.0). The CNIE 2.0 enables authentication via the National Trust Platform, integration with the

⁴⁵⁰⁵ Council of Europe, *Support to Data Protection in Morocco* (Mar. 11, 2021),

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/support-to-data-protection-in-morocco>

⁴⁵⁰⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 2, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=223>

⁴⁵⁰⁷ World Bank Group, *ID4D Country Diagnostic: Morocco* (Jul. 2014),

https://id4d.worldbank.org/sites/id4d/files/2018-04/Morocco_ID4D_Diagnostic_Web404018.pdf

⁴⁵⁰⁸ IDEMIA, *The Kingdom of Morocco Launches a National Digital ID Platform with IDEMIA* (May 19, 2022), https://www.idemia.com/pdf-export.php?post_id=9407

⁴⁵⁰⁹ Sara Zouiten, *Digital ID: Moroccans to Access Multitude of Services Online* (Apr. 26, 2022), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/04/348615/digital-id-moroccans-to-access-multitude-of-services-online>

⁴⁵¹⁰ Middle East Online, *National Card's Digital ID: A Convention for Health* (Jun. 16, 2023), <https://middle-east-online.com/en/national-card%E2%80%99s-digital-id-convention-health>

⁴⁵¹¹ Biometric Update, *Morocco Will Introduce Digital IDs into Health Services* (Jun. 22, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202306/morocco-will-introduce-digital-ids-into-health-services>

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Mon e-ID app, access to public and private sector services, and mobile issuance for remote areas.⁴⁵¹²

AI Development and Applications

Morocco has implemented AI systems in various sectors, including higher education, the judiciary, and healthcare. The Euromed University of Fes (UEMF) inaugurated the Euromed School of Digital Engineering and Artificial Intelligence (EIDIA), a specialized institution focusing on AI research, development, and education.⁴⁵¹³ It stands as the first Digital Engineering and Artificial Intelligence (EIDIA) school within the Euro-Mediterranean-African Space, marking a significant milestone in the region's academic landscape.⁴⁵¹⁴

Morocco's Justice Committee purchased an AI program to “revolutionize the court system.” Tools will initially be used to undertake tasks such as note taking and “transcribe judgments through AI-supported voice dictation” with further plans to facilitate processings.⁴⁵¹⁵

In healthcare, Morocco has integrated AI tools as part of the efforts to expand access to healthcare through digitization and software. A representative from the Ministry of Health noted stressed that “Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a tool intended to support our healthcare professionals, not replace them” and that “the final decision always remains under the responsibility of the healthcare professional.”⁴⁵¹⁶

Environmental Impact of AI

The LAFBAH AI Framework proposed to guide a national AI strategy seeks to use AI to advance environmental development and other factors in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁴⁵¹⁷ The framework, which is shared

⁴⁵¹² Maghreb Arab Press, *CNIE 2.0: From ID Card to Electronic Service Tool—2024 Report* (Dec. 25, 2024), <https://www.mapnews.ma/en/actualites/social/cnie-20-id-card-electronic-service-tool-%E2%80%93-2024-report>

⁴⁵¹³ Morocco World News, *Artificial Intelligence School to Open in Fes* (Jul. 12, 2019), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/07/278026/artificial-intelligence-school-open-fe>

⁴⁵¹⁴ Euromed University of Fes, *School of Digital Engineering and Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://ueuromed.org/en/etablissements/ecole-d-ingenierie-digitale-et-d-intelligence-artificielle>

⁴⁵¹⁵ Adil Faouzi, *Morocco's Justice Ministry to Integrate Artificial Intelligence in Court System* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2024/07/363918/moroccos-justice-ministry-to-integrate-artificial-intelligence-in-court-system>

⁴⁵¹⁶ Asmae Daoudi, *Health Minister: Digitization and Innovation Are Crucial for Healthcare System Improvement* (May 30, 2024), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2024/05/362968/health-minister-digitization-and-innovation-are-crucial-for-healthcare-system-improvement>

⁴⁵¹⁷ Abdelmjid Lafram and Salah Eddine Bahji, *Artificial Intelligence in Morocco: Towards Holistic, Responsible and Ethical National AI Strategy for Moroccan Competitiveness and Strategic*

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on the OECD dashboard for Morocco, identifies sustainable practices as a “fundamental factor in minimizing environmental impact and promoting green technologies for the benefit of the Moroccan economy and society.” However, no policies to date explicitly address this challenge.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Morocco is a member of the Group of Government Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS)⁴⁵¹⁸ of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) since 2014. Ethical concerns led the group to declare a pre-emptive ban on LAWS.⁴⁵¹⁹ Morocco voted in favor of UN the 2024 General Assembly Resolution expressing concerns over threat of LAWS to international security and affirming that “international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights and criminal law applies to autonomous weapons systems and reaffirmed that any weapon which cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law must not be used.”⁴⁵²⁰

Morocco endorsed the Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy.⁴⁵²¹ “To build international consensus around responsible behavior and guide states’ development, deployment, and use of military AI,” reads the declaration’s stated goal.

AI Literacy

Morocco’s national digital strategy, Digital Morocco 2030,⁴⁵²² aims to “make Morocco a Digital Hub to accelerate the Kingdom’s social and economic development,” in part by ensuring the available of digital talent. The strategy focuses

Influence (2024), https://oecd-ai.case-api.buddyweb.fr/storage//policy-initiatives/Jul2025/fu_52tiuvq52qr48s8.pdf

⁴⁵¹⁸ Automated Decision Research, *Morocco* (2023),

https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/morocco/

⁴⁵¹⁹ Congressional Research Service, *International Discussions Concerning Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Feb. 14, 2023), <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/weapons/IF11294.pdf>

⁴⁵²⁰ UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *Threat of Mass-Destruction Weapons in Space, New Technology in Military Domain Inform General Assembly’s Adoption of 72 First Committee Texts* (GA/12660) (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12660.doc.htm>

⁴⁵²¹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, Endorsing States* (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-arms-control-deterrence-and-stability/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy>

⁴⁵²² Ministry of Digital Transition and Administration Reform, *National Strategy “Digital Morocco 2030”* (Sept. 2024), https://www.mmsp.gov.ma/sites/default/files/2024-09/PlaquetteInstitutionnel_18092024_Ang.pdf

on upskilling and professional digital talent but includes “campaigns to promote digital awareness for young Moroccan and foreign talents.”⁴⁵²³ A national digital and AI training program based on this objective launched in fall 2025, though reached only 12 cities.⁴⁵²⁴

Human Rights

Morocco ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).⁴⁵²⁵ Morocco is a member of the Arab League but has not ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights.⁴⁵²⁶ Other UN human rights treaties that Morocco has ratified are: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).

Freedom House scored Morocco as “Partly Free” with score of 37/100 in 2025.⁴⁵²⁷ Freedom House explains that while Morocco holds regular multiparty elections for Parliament and local bodies, King Mohammed VI and his palace “maintain full dominance through a combination of substantial formal powers, informal lines of influence in state and society, and ownership of crucial economic resources. Many civil liberties are constrained in practice.” Morocco scored 54/100 for net freedom.⁴⁵²⁸ The Ibrahim Index of African Governance in 2023 scored Morocco at 62/100 for Overall Governance, and 48.5/100 in Participation, Rights &

⁴⁵²³ Ibid, p. 19

⁴⁵²⁴ Oumaima Moho Amer, *Morocco Launches National Digital and AI Training Program for Children under Marco Digital 2030 Strategy*, Morocco World News (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2025/10/264501/morocco-launches-national-digital-and-ai-training-program-for-children-under-maroc-digital-2030-strategy/>

⁴⁵²⁵ University of Minnesota, *Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties: Morocco* (2023), <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/ratification-morocco.html>

⁴⁵²⁶ International Justice Resource Center, *Country Factsheet Series: Morocco* (Sept. 15, 2017), <https://ijrcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Morocco.pdf>

⁴⁵²⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Morocco* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/morocco/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁵²⁸ Freedom House, *Morocco: Freedom on the Net 2025* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/morocco>

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Inclusion, placing the country in position 8 out of 54 African countries, with an increasing trend since 2012.⁴⁵²⁹

The Moroccan presidency of the Human Rights Council organized high-level discussions in Geneva to address artificial intelligence and its impact on human rights. Since prioritizing this issue in January 2024, Morocco has appointed co-facilitators who led extensive consultations resulting in a comprehensive report advocating for the integration of human rights principles in the development and evolution of AI tools.⁴⁵³⁰

OECD / G20 AI Principles

While Morocco is not a member of the OECD and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles,⁴⁵³¹ the OECD does track Morocco on its Policy Observatory site.⁴⁵³² Morocco is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁴⁵³³ The Recommendations towards a National AI Strategy for Morocco Report,⁴⁵³⁴ New Development Model,⁴⁵³⁵ and Maroc IA 2030 roadmap⁴⁵³⁶ suggest a commitment to OECD principles, especially related to international cooperation and creating an AI ecosystem.

⁴⁵²⁹ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Morocco 2023* (2024),

<https://iiag.online/locations/ma.html>

⁴⁵³⁰ Firdaous Naim, *Morocco Leads UN Human Rights Discussions on Development, AI, and Gender Issues*, Morocco World News (Sept. 11, 2024),

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2024/09/14807/morocco-leads-un-human-rights-discussions-on-development-ai-and-gender-issues/>

⁴⁵³¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁴⁵³² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Morocco* (2026),

<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/morocco>

⁴⁵³³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁵³⁴ MoroccoAI, *Recommendations towards a National AI Strategy for Morocco* (Oct. 2023),

<https://morocco.ai/>

⁴⁵³⁵ Royaume du Maroc, *The New Developpement Model: Summary of the SCDM's General Report* (Apr. 2021), <https://www.hcp.ma/attachment/2327977/>

⁴⁵³⁶ Oumaima Moho Amer, *Morocco Launches "Maroc IA 2030" Roadmap to Strengthen AI Governance, Digital Sovereignty*, Morocco World News (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2026/01/274765/morocco-launches-maroc-ia-2030-roadmap-to-strengthen-ai-governance-digital-sovereignty/>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Morocco has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁴⁵³⁷

UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics

Morocco has been a member state of UNESCO since October 1975.⁴⁵³⁸ It is one of the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in November 2021.⁴⁵³⁹ Morocco participated on the 24-member expert group that prepared the text of the recommendation and was one of the 5 African countries that “contributed comments on the first draft of the recommendation.”⁴⁵⁴⁰

In 2021, in UNESCO's AI Needs Assessment Survey, 32 countries in Africa identified institutional capacity building for AI as a key priority.⁴⁵⁴¹ At the UNESCO General Conference 2023, 194 countries decided to designate AI Movement in Morocco as the first UNESCO-affiliated Center in Africa.⁴⁵⁴² AI Movement will work on:

- Capacity building for policymakers, public administrations
- Innovation and entrepreneurship through its programs like African Women in Tech
- Educational programs at Masters and Doctoral level, as well as programs for Executives to support African businesses.
- Creating research cooperation within Africa and beyond

Morocco's Minister Delegate for Digital Transition and Administrative Reform pledge that a “commission will be set up to establish a road map to

⁴⁵³⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 2, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁴⁵³⁸ UNESCO, *Morocco* (2023), <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ma>

⁴⁵³⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁵⁴⁰ DiploFoundation, *Stronger Digital Voices from Africa: Building African Digital Foreign Policy and Diplomacy* (Nov. 2022), https://www.diplomacy.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/African-digital-foreign-policy_En.pdf

⁴⁵⁴¹ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁴⁵⁴² UNESCO, *Category 2 Institutes and Centres, Proposals for Designation, Part II: Moroccan International Centre for Artificial Intelligence (AI Movement)* (Sept. 2023), https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386790_eng

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implement the provisions of the recommendation on the ethics of AI.”⁴⁵⁴³ Beginning in 2023, Morocco was selected as part of a pilot group of countries developing legislative, regulatory, and institutional changes to best align themselves with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴⁵⁴⁴

At the beginning in 2023, Morocco was selected as part of a pilot group of countries developing legislative, regulatory, and institutional changes to best align themselves with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.” Morocco has since completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to help countries identify gaps and opportunities to implement AI systems ethically. The RAM report highlighted Morocco’s “favorable ecosystem for the development of a holistic and responsible vision of AI”⁴⁵⁴⁵ and progress on technical infrastructure. Along with gaps in technological infrastructure, the lack of a national AI strategy could increase the challenge of making necessary adjustments to legal frameworks, particularly in regulating personal data and cyberspace, to “address the challenges and opportunities of AI.”

Evaluation

Morocco's AI trajectory points to a strategic shift in the direction of a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, though no such document has been published. Even in situations when the human rights environment is not ideal, the Data Protection National Commission's active oversight offers a layer of safety in areas of AI research. Morocco has demonstrated its commitment to ethical AI and data protection standards by endorsing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and by signing Convention 108 and the Protocol. The nation's co-sponsorship of Resolution 2023 on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems at the World Privacy Assembly demonstrates its active involvement in forming global AI policy.

Completion of the UNESCO RAM and continental agreements and meetings further demonstrated the country’s contributions to global AI governance. Morocco's introduction of projects centered on AI in higher education and emphasis on human capital in the roadmap, along with a attention to leveraging AI to improve public services, point to awareness of the critical role AI will play in determining the course of the future and its deliberate attempts to establish itself as a leader in the international AI arena, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

⁴⁵⁴³ Oumaima Latrech, *Morocco, UNESCO Pledge to Strengthen Artificial Intelligence Ethics* (Mar. 26, 2022), <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/03/48307/morocco-unesco-pledge-to-strengthen-artificial-intelligence-ethics/>

⁴⁵⁴⁴ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)* (2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387369>

⁴⁵⁴⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Morocco* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/morocco>

Mozambique

Mozambique acted on recommendations in the 2023 UNESCO RAM report in 2025 by initiating a national AI strategy formulation process, in collaboration with UNESCO, and carrying out public consultations on proposed data protection and cybersecurity legislation.

National AI Strategy

The National Institute of Information and Communication Technologies (*Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicação*, INTIC) presented plans for developing a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy at the 3rd BFSI Mozambique Conference in December 2025.⁴⁵⁴⁶ According to INTIC board chair Lourino Chemane, UNESCO is providing technical support to align the strategy with international principles on ethics, human rights, and responsible technology use. The strategy is being developed through a multisectoral and multidisciplinary committee that includes representatives from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society. The collaboration with UNESCO will help embed international principles on ethics and human rights into Mozambique's national AI policy, strengthening public trust in digital solutions. Committee members developing the strategy stressed the need to establish clear regulatory and ethical policies, “ensuring security, transparency, and protection of personal data.”⁴⁵⁴⁷

The strategy forms part of a broader digital transformation agenda that encompasses digital government, open data, cybersecurity, interoperability, and e-commerce.⁴⁵⁴⁸ Chemane emphasized that the agenda aligns with regional and international commitments, including the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The strategy responds in part to the 11 recommendations to improve the country's regulation, institutional framework, and capacity building for ethical AI implementation recommendations in UNESCO's

⁴⁵⁴⁶ CADE Project, *Mozambique Begins Work on National AI Strategy with UNESCO Support* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://cadeproject.org/updates/mozambique-begins-work-on-national-ai-strategy-with-unesco-support/>

⁴⁵⁴⁷ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *INTIC e UNESCO coordenam esforços para a elaboração da proposta da Estratégia Nacional de Inteligência Artificial* (Nov. 26, 2025), <https://intic.gov.mz/intic-e-unesco-coordenam-esforcos-para-a-elaboracao-da-proposta-da-estrategia-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

⁴⁵⁴⁸ CADE Project, *Mozambique Begins Work on National AI Strategy with UNESCO Support* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://cadeproject.org/updates/mozambique-begins-work-on-national-ai-strategy-with-unesco-support/>

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Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report,⁴⁵⁴⁹ which Mozambique completed in 2023.

The country does not have an independent agency or mechanism specifically designated for AI oversight. The Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation (*Ministério das Comunicações e Transformação Digital*, MCTD) leads AI policy formulation and strategy implementation and the charge includes has “contributing to the work of combatting crimes”⁴⁵⁵⁰ but no enforcement powers are specified.⁴⁵⁵¹ The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy is in process.

Public Participation

Mozambique established a multisectoral committee for the development of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.⁴⁵⁵² INTIC board chair Lourino Chemane stated that stakeholder engagement is embedded from the outset of the policy process rather than limited to consultations after the strategy is finalized.⁴⁵⁵³ The committee includes representatives from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society, creating opportunities for diverse perspectives to inform policy design from the beginning. The extent to which the broader public can meaningfully participate beyond the committee structure remains unclear. Materials about the country's AI strategy are not yet publicly available, as the strategy is still under development.

The proposed data protection law is available for public consultation on the INTIC website as of February 2026,⁴⁵⁵⁴ though no deadlines are specified. Citizens enter their comments in a matrix (misabeled for the cybersecurity law) and email to four INTIC addresses. The Draft Laws page⁴⁵⁵⁵ on the INTIC website also includes

⁴⁵⁴⁹ UNESCO, *Mozambique: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392743>

⁴⁵⁵⁰ Boletim da República, *Presidential Decree no. 9/2025 Defining the nature, attribute, and competencies of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation [Define a natureza, atribuições e competências do Ministério das Comunicações e Transformação Digital]* (Feb. 6, 2025), <http://dev.digital.gov.mz/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Decreto-presidencial-n-9-2025-de-6-de-Fevereiro-que-define-natureza-BR-24-SERIE-atribuicoes-e-competencias-do-MCTD.pdf>

⁴⁵⁵¹ UNESCO, *Mozambique: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392743>

⁴⁵⁵² CADE Project, *Mozambique Begins Work on National AI Strategy with UNESCO Support* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://cadeproject.org/updates/mozambique-begins-work-on-national-ai-strategy-with-unesco-support/>

⁴⁵⁵³ Ibid

⁴⁵⁵⁴ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *Draft Data Protection Law [Proposta de Lei de Protecção de Dados]* (Nov. 5, 2025), <https://intic.gov.mz/proposta-de-lei-de-protecao-de-dados/>

⁴⁵⁵⁵ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *Draft Laws [Propostas de Leis]*, <https://intic.gov.mz/propostas-de-lei-em-curso/>

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drafts of a Cyber Crimes law and Cyber Security law with similar matrices and a form available to submit completed matrices.

Government websites and legal texts are primarily available only in Portuguese.

Data Protection

Mozambique is drafting a data protection law but does not yet have a comprehensive data protection law or a dedicated data protection authority.⁴⁵⁵⁶ The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique grants all citizens the right to protection of their private life and the right to honor, good name, reputation, protection of their public image, and privacy.⁴⁵⁵⁷ Article 71 of the Constitution acknowledges the need to legislate on access, generation, protection, and use of computerized personal data.

A draft Personal Data Protection Law was released in 2025.⁴⁵⁵⁸ The proposed legislation aims to align Mozambique with international standards, particularly the principles of the African Union's Malabo Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection,⁴⁵⁵⁹ which Mozambique ratified.⁴⁵⁶⁰ The draft law establishes fundamental principles including consent, transparency, legality, purpose, and proportionality, and proposes a two-tiered governance structure with a National Council for the Protection of Personal Data chaired by the Prime Minister.

Until comprehensive data protection legislation is enacted, various legal instruments provide limited privacy protections. These include the Civil Code,⁴⁵⁶¹ the Penal Code,⁴⁵⁶² the Labor Law,⁴⁵⁶³ the Electronic Transactions Law,⁴⁵⁶⁴ and

⁴⁵⁵⁶ DLA Piper, *Data Protection in Mozambique* (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=MZ>

⁴⁵⁵⁷ Mozambique, *Constitution* (Nov. 16, 2004), https://presidencia.gov.mz/?page_id=430

⁴⁵⁵⁸ INTIC, *Draft Personal Data Protection Law, Version 05112025* (Nov. 5, 2025), <https://intic.gov.mz/propostas-de-lei-em-curso/>

⁴⁵⁵⁹ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

⁴⁵⁶⁰ Boletim da República, *Resolution No.5/2019 of 20 June* (Jun. 20, 2019), https://www.intic.gov.mz/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/AFRICAN-UNION-CONVENTION-ON-CYBER-SECURITY-AND-PERSONAL-DATA-PROTECTION_Portuguese.pdf

⁴⁵⁶¹ Lexlink, *Civil Code* (Nov. 25, 1966), [https://www.africa-laws.org/Mozambique/civil%20law/Civil%20Code%20\(in%20Portuguese\).pdf](https://www.africa-laws.org/Mozambique/civil%20law/Civil%20Code%20(in%20Portuguese).pdf)

⁴⁵⁶² Assembleia da República, *Penal Code* (2013), https://www.unodc.org/cld/uploads/res/document/moz/codigo-penal_html/Mozambique_Codigo_Penal.pdf

⁴⁵⁶³ Boletim da República, *Law No. 13/2023: Labor Law [Lei do Trabalho]* (Aug 25, 2023), <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/moz221728.pdf>

⁴⁵⁶⁴ Presidente, *Electronic Transactions Law: Law No. 3/2017* (Jan. 9, 2017), https://ts.gov.mz/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LEI_DE_TRANSACCOES_ELECTRONICAS1-1.pdf

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regulations on electronic service providers and digital platforms.⁴⁵⁶⁵ Draft cybersecurity and cybercrime laws aim to provide further protection and accountability for those who misuse or abuse technology.⁴⁵⁶⁶ A Zero Draft of the National Data Governance Policy and Strategy⁴⁵⁶⁷ developed with the World Bank seeks to unite these efforts to establish “the principles, institutional mechanisms, and action priorities that will enable the country to consolidate digital sovereignty, ensuring that data produced within national territory is managed in line with the strategic interests of the State and the protection of citizens.”

Mozambique does not have a data protection authority and is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁴⁵⁶⁸

Algorithmic Transparency

Mozambique has not established a legal right to algorithmic transparency by law. The Constitution provides general privacy protections and places limits on the use of individually identifiable information about political, philosophical, or ideological beliefs, religious beliefs, political affiliation, and trade union membership. The Constitution also prohibits accessing databases to obtain personal data of third parties and transferring personal data between different services or institutions unless specifically permitted by law or judicial decision.⁴⁵⁶⁹

The draft Personal Data Protection Law includes provisions on principles such as transparency and consent. The draft law does not specifically establish a right to algorithmic transparency, explainability of automated decision-making, or contestability of algorithmic decisions with adverse consequences.⁴⁵⁷⁰ Until comprehensive data protection legislation is enacted with specific provisions

⁴⁵⁶⁵ Boletim da República, *Decree No. 59/2023: Approving the Regulation of Registration and Licensing of Intermediary Providers of Electronic Services and of Digital Platform Operators* [Aprova o Regulamento de Registo e Licenciamento de Provedores Intermediários de Serviços Eletrónicos e de Operadores de Plataformas Digitais] (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://gazettes.africa/akn/mz/officialGazette/government-gazette-series-i/2023-10-27/206/por@2023-10-27>

⁴⁵⁶⁶ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *Draft Laws [Propostas de Leis]*, <https://intic.gov.mz/propostas-de-lei-em-curso/>

⁴⁵⁶⁷ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *Mozambique Zero Draft 2 Data Governance Policy*, p. 4, <https://intic.gov.mz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Mozambique-Zero-Draft-2-Data-Governance-Policy-1.pdf>; also see, *Política e Estratégia Nacional de Governação de Dados*, <https://intic.gov.mz/politica-e-estrategia-nacional-de-governacao-de-dados/>

⁴⁵⁶⁸ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴⁵⁶⁹ Presidência, *Constitution [Constituição da República de Moçambique]* (Nov. 16, 2004), https://presidencia.gov.mz/?page_id=430

⁴⁵⁷⁰ Instituto Nacional de Tecnologias de Informação (INTIC), *Draft Personal Data Protection Law, Version 05112025* (Nov. 5, 2025), <https://intic.gov.mz/propostas-de-lei-em-curso/>

addressing algorithmic decision-making systems, Mozambican citizens do not have a legally enforceable right to know when automated systems are used to make decisions affecting them or to challenge such decisions.

Biometric Identification

Biometric and facial recognition technologies are expanding in Mozambique's telecommunications and security sectors without a dedicated legal framework governing their use. Mozambique's Regulatory Authority for Communications (*Autoridade Reguladora das Comunicações*, INCM) introduced facial recognition technology in mobile subscribers to validate customer identity at registration and address fraud and irregular SIM registration.⁴⁵⁷¹ After months of voluntary participation in the biometric registration, the government announced that mobile users would be required to register with biometric identity cards,⁴⁵⁷² further integrating facial images and other biometric traits into subscriber databases as part of INCM's telecommunications oversight. The Regulation on the Registration of Telecommunications Services approved in April 2023⁴⁵⁷³ implement biometric registration as a means to deter fraudulent activity and "make it easier to identify criminals."

INCM press releases assure citizens the actions will improve data protection and security by storing the data in a Central Database and no longer rely on individual operators to store this information.⁴⁵⁷⁴ Because Mozambique still lacks comprehensive data protection legislation and sector-specific rules on biometrics and facial recognition, key safeguards, such as clear limits on biometric data collection, processing, storage, retention, and sharing, remain undefined, contributing to a high-risk environment for misuse of these systems and potential abuses of privacy, freedom of expression, and association.

⁴⁵⁷¹ 360 Mozambique, *INCM Introduces Facial Recognition Technology to Mobile Subscribers* (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://360mozambique.com/innovation/tech/incm-introduces-facial-recognition-technology-to-mobile-subscribers/>

⁴⁵⁷² Further Africa, *Mozambique to Require Biometric Card Registration for Mobile Users* (Jan. 18, 2024), <https://furtherafrica.com/2024/01/19/mozambique-to-require-biometric-card-registration-for-mobile-users/>

⁴⁵⁷³ INCM, *Decree no. 13/2023 Regulation for the Register of Subscribers of Telecommunications Services* [*Regulamento do Registo dos Subscritores dos Serviços de Telecomunicações*], Legislação, Telecomunicações (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://www.incm.gov.mz/index.php/legislacao/legislacao-telecomunicacoes>

⁴⁵⁷⁴ INCM, *Biometrics to Improve Telecommunications Consumer Security* [*Biometria vai melhorar segurança dos consumidores de telecomunicações*] (Sept. 12, 2023), <https://www.incm.gov.mz/index.php/sala-de-imprensa/noticias/583-biometria-vai-melhorar-seguranca-dos-consumidores-de-telecomunicacoes>

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Environmental Impact of AI

Mozambique requires environmental impact assessments for public or private activities categorized as A+ because of their complexity, location, irreversibility, or magnitude of impacts under the Directive of Independent Specialist Reviewers of Environmental Impact Assessments for Category A+ activities.⁴⁵⁷⁵ These projects must undergo independent review. However, the directive does not specifically address data centers, AI infrastructure, energy consumption of AI systems, or the resource demands of machine learning operations.

The country's AI development initiatives focus on applications that support sustainable development goals, particularly early warning systems for climate resilience, but specific policies to hold AI developers and deployers accountable for technology's environmental footprint have not been established.⁴⁵⁷⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Mozambique is not a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁴⁵⁷⁷ and has not explicitly supported a treaty to prohibit or otherwise regulate the use or development of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). The country generally supports disarmament in line with the African Group and Non-Aligned Movement and has reiterated the importance of human control in the responsible use of force. Mozambique voted in favor of Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems at the 79th United Nations General Assembly First Committee in October 2024.⁴⁵⁷⁸ The resolution⁴⁵⁷⁹ raises concerns about the negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapons systems on global security and regional and international stability, and stresses the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability. The resolution called for further discussions among UN Member

⁴⁵⁷⁵ Mozambique, *Ministerial Diploma No. 118/2022* (Nov. 21, 2022), https://sibmoz.gov.mz/reports-and-publications/http-sibmoz-gov-mz-content-uploads-2025-11-diploma-ministerial-no-118-2022_aia_rei-pdf/

⁴⁵⁷⁶ iAfrica, *Mozambique Harnesses AI To Modernize Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilience* (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://iafrica.com/mozambique-harnesses-ai-to-modernize-early-warning-systems-for-climate-resilience/>

⁴⁵⁷⁷ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴⁵⁷⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament Report of the First Committee* (Jan. 27, 2025), p. 103, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4067759?ln=zh_CN&v=pdf

⁴⁵⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, A/C.1/79/L.77* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.1/79/L.77>

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States, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS, and civil society organizations in 2025.

AI Literacy

Mozambique does not yet have clearly articulated nationwide policies specifically labeled as AI literacy programs and is working to address digital divides in access to internet. A study by UNU-WIDER in Mozambique's Nampula province found that less than 15 percent of youth regularly use computers, highlighting significant digital divides that affect the potential for AI literacy development and broader digital participation.⁴⁵⁸⁰

Initiatives by non-governmental organizations contribute to bridging the gap in digital skills and literacy diagnosed in the UNESCO RAM report.⁴⁵⁸¹ For example, the Jecua Community Connectivity and Digitalization Project, led by Microsoft, Ologa Sistemas de Información, and the TAEDA Foundation in collaboration with Franciscan friars, is providing internet access and digital training to over 100,000 underserved Mozambicans.⁴⁵⁸² The program emphasizes digital literacy training, empowering communities with practical skills for learning, communication, and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on including women and girls. Mozambique's participation in international discussions such as the UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI provides a base for addressing these concerns.⁴⁵⁸³

Human Rights

Mozambique has committed to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a member of the United Nations. The country is a state party to 12 human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁴⁵⁸⁴

⁴⁵⁸⁰ UNU-WIDER, *AI and Africa's Future Of Work—Mozambique's Moment of Decision* (Jan. 4, 2026), <https://unu.edu/article/ai-and-africas-future-work-mozambiques-moment-decision>

⁴⁵⁸¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Mozambique* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/mozambique>

⁴⁵⁸² Fundación Taeda, *Transforming Jecua: A Digital Future for Mozambique* (Nov. 18, 2024), <https://fundaciontaeda.org/en/transforming-jecua-a-digital-future-for-mozambique/>

⁴⁵⁸³ UNESCO, *From Readiness to Ethical AI Adoption and Localization: UNESCO Elevates Africa's Voice in Bangkok* (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/readiness-ethical-ai-adoption-and-localization-unesco-elevates-africas-voice-bangkok>

⁴⁵⁸⁴ United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, *Ratification Status for Mozambique* (2025), https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=118&Lang=en

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Freedom House rates Mozambique as “Partly Free” with a score of 41/100 in the Freedom in the World 2025 report.⁴⁵⁸⁵ The report identifies limitations on freedoms of expression, the press, association, and peaceful assembly. Freedom House notes that members of the media, political opposition, and civil society organizations have been subject to criminal charges, intimidation, or harassment.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Mozambique is not a member of the OECD or G20 and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles or the G20 AI Guidelines.⁴⁵⁸⁶ Mozambique is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, the international initiative that formalized a partnership with the OECD in 2024 and through which members endorse the OECD AI Principles.⁴⁵⁸⁷

The country’s ongoing development of a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy with UNESCO support represents an effort to align with international principles on ethics, human rights, and responsible technology use. The extent to which the strategy, once published, will incorporate principles consistent with the OECD AI Principles, such as inclusive growth and well-being, respect for human rights and democratic values, transparency, robustness, and accountability, cannot be assessed until the strategy is finalized and made publicly available.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Mozambique is not a member of the Council of Europe and has not participated in the negotiation⁴⁵⁸⁸ or signed the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Neither has Mozambique taken action to endorse the treaty.⁴⁵⁸⁹

⁴⁵⁸⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Mozambique* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/mozambique/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁵⁸⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁴⁵⁸⁷ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁵⁸⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁵⁸⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 17, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Mozambique is working to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence with technical support from UNESCO. The country completed UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology in 2023,⁴⁵⁹⁰ a macro-level instrument that helps countries understand their level of preparedness to implement AI ethically and responsibly and identify needed institutional and regulatory changes. The assessment produced 11 recommendations to improve Mozambique's regulation, institutional framework, and capacity building, with a timeframe of 2024–2026 for implementation.

INTIC is leading the development of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy with collaboration from UNESCO to incorporate international principles on ethics and human rights.⁴⁵⁹¹

Evaluation

Mozambique is in the early stages of building an AI governance ecosystem, with notable strengths in its collaboration with UNESCO, a multisectoral approach to strategy development, and constitutional and treaty-based human rights commitments. The country still lacks core legal and institutional safeguards such as a comprehensive data protection law, an independent oversight body, algorithmic transparency rights, and clear rules for high-risk uses like biometrics. The ongoing development of a National AI Strategy, alignment with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, and participation in international disarmament debates create a foundation for rights-respecting AI. A lack of transparency around public participation, significant digital divides, and biometric deployments without robust protections demonstrate a need for closing regulatory and capacity gaps to ensure AI advances democratic governance and fundamental rights.

⁴⁵⁹⁰ UNESCO, *Mozambique* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/mozambique>

⁴⁵⁹¹ 360 Mozambique, *INTIC Prepares National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence with UNESCO Support* (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://360mozambique.com/innovation/tech/intic-prepares-national-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence-with-unesco-support/>

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Myanmar

In 2025, Myanmar progressed on drafting a National AI Strategy. The country also passed a Cyber Security Law that requires authorization for the use of VPNs.

National AI Strategy

The Government of Myanmar is in the process of developing a National AI Strategy.⁴⁵⁹² Opening a meeting to draft the documents, the Union Minister for Science and Technology framed the importance of an AI Policy to use the technology in development and “to ensure that citizens are aware of the ethics, standards, and regulations to be followed, and to development local AI human resources.”

The e-Governance Master Plan 2030⁴⁵⁹³ aims to “facilitate Myanmar Digital Transformation through effective, efficient, and systematic implementation of Digital Government in order to foster the development of Digital Economy that is sustainable, transformative, secure, open to innovation and all-inclusivity, and integrated with the ASEAN community.”⁴⁵⁹⁴ The Plan frames AI technology as an enabler of digital services in various sectors, highlighting the benefits of reaching remote areas through mobile applications and AI to provide services at lower cost.⁴⁵⁹⁵ The strategy charges the public to familiarize themselves with digital tools through training programs and awareness-building initiatives, including “issues related to personal information protection and cybersecurity.”⁴⁵⁹⁶ The Master Plan lays out advantages, disadvantages, and applications of AI⁴⁵⁹⁷ with little depth on how these interact with challenges of e-government such as lacking infrastructure and legal frameworks.⁴⁵⁹⁸

Myanmar endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, which could provide a template for a human-centered national AI strategy, should Myanmar take step to implement it.

⁴⁵⁹² Ministry of Information, *Fourth Coordination Meeting Held on Drafting National AI Strategy & National Policy* (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.moi.gov.mm/news/67356>

⁴⁵⁹³ Ministry of Transport and Communication, *The Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan 2030* (Dec. 2024), <https://myanmar.gov.mm/documents/20143/0/Myanmar+e-Governance+Master+Plan+2030+%28English+version%29.pdf/7565b686-90c8-68dc-4649-3e1c9ad3f37d?t=1742277608582>

⁴⁵⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7

⁴⁵⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 73–74

⁴⁵⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 75

⁴⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 10.3 Artificial Intelligence, pp. 89–92

⁴⁵⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 76

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Public Participation

The Myanmar government does not appear to hold public participation in AI policymaking.

Data Protection

Myanmar does not have a single principal data protection law and does not have a data protection agency. Three legal instruments refer to the concept of privacy or data protection:

- The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008)⁴⁵⁹⁹
- The Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens (Union Parliament Law 5/2017) of March 8, 2017, as amended by Law 16/2020 of August 28, 2020, and by the State Administration Council Law 4/2021 of February 13, 2021 (Privacy Law)⁴⁶⁰⁰
- The Electronic Transactions Law of April 30, 2004 (State Peace and Development Council Law No. 5/2004), as amended by the Law amending the Electronic Transactions Law (No. 6/2014) of February 25, 2014, and by the State Administration Council Law No. 7/2021 of February 15, 2021 (ETL)⁴⁶⁰¹

Section 357 of the Constitution states: “The Union shall protect the privacy and security of home, property, correspondence, and other communications of citizens under the law subject to the provisions of this Constitution.”⁴⁶⁰²

According to its Preamble, the Privacy Law was enacted to protect the privacy and security of citizens as stated in the Constitution. Privacy is defined as “the right to freedom of movement, freedom of residence, and freedom of speech of a citizen.” Section 3 of the Privacy Law states that every citizen “has the right to enjoy the protection of his/her privacy and security in full, as set out in the Constitution.” Section 4 requires the relevant Ministry and relevant government department, organization, or official (called Responsible Authorities in the Privacy Law) to ensure that the privacy and security of citizens are protected. Before the

⁴⁵⁹⁹ Constitute Project, *Myanmar 2008*, unofficial translation (2015),

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Myanmar_2015

⁴⁶⁰⁰ Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, *Unofficial Translation Consolidating the Amendments in Law 4/2021: Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens* (Feb. 13, 2021), https://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/pdf/Law-Protecting-Privacy-and-Security-of-Citizens_en_unofficial.pdf

⁴⁶⁰¹ Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, *Unofficial Translation: Electronic Transactions Law (consolidated version)* (Feb. 15, 2021), https://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/pdf/electronic-transactions-law-consolidated-2014-and-2021_en.pdf

⁴⁶⁰² Constitute Project, *Myanmar 2008*, unofficial translation, Chapter VIII: Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens (2015), https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Myanmar_2015#s2673

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Privacy Law was amended by the State Administration Council Law 4/2021 of February 13, 2021 (“SACL 4/2021”), Section 8 of the Privacy Law protected citizens from unreasonable searches, seizures, and surveillance. The SACL 4/2021 suspended section 8 on February 13, 2021, thirteen days after Myanmar’s military took power in a coup.

Amendments to the ETL by the State Administration Council Law 7/2021 of February 15, 2021 (SACL 7/2021) introduced the concept of personal data and personal data protection. Personal Data is defined as “information that identifies or is capable of identifying an individual.” A new section 27-A was inserted into the ETL, among other things: (a) setting out the obligations of a Personal Data Management Officer; (b) requiring that an “investigation team” receiving personal data keep it confidential except disclosing it to permitted persons; and (c) excluding the application of the personal data protection obligations from certain scenarios, such as investigations by the government. The term Personal Data Management Officer covers persons authorized by the government and organizations who are responsible for collecting, retaining, and using personal data.

Despite the data protection regime, the 2025 Cyber Security Law⁴⁶⁰³ grants the State Administration Council broad powers to monitor and regulate online activity and requires retention of data such as usernames, account activity, national identity numbers, and IP address for up to three years. The Law does not require authorities to gain consent before sharing or modifying personal data. The Law requires all digital platform service providers to obtain a license from the newly designated Cyber Security Steering Committee to operate in Myanmar. While providers must take care to store data in line with classification rules, the law facilitates state surveillance. In particular, Article 36 in Chapter 9 strengthens enforcement powers and expands liability for non-compliance. Article 90 and related provisions criminalize unauthorized VPN use and mandate domestic storage of user data.⁴⁶⁰⁴ Appeals against surveillance or data-takedown orders go to military-controlled bodies rather than independent courts, leaving data access requests opaque and without judicial oversight.⁴⁶⁰⁵

⁴⁶⁰³ Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council, *Cyber Security Law No 1/25* (Jan. 1, 2025) <https://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/news/16633>

⁴⁶⁰⁴ Ibid

⁴⁶⁰⁵ Human Rights Myanmar, *Privacy Violations and Discrimination in Myanmar: Submission to UN OHCHR on Unequal Enjoyment of the Right to Privacy* (May 2025), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/cfi-subm/privacy-digital-age/subm-privacy-digital-age-cso-18-hr-myanmar.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

In Myanmar, algorithmic transparency is neither protected nor provided as a legal right. The report *Human Rights Impact Assessments for AI: Learning from Facebook's Failure in Myanmar* by the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School investigates the identification of discrimination as an algorithmic harm and the assessment of algorithmic decision-making under the UN Guiding Principles through the case of Facebook.⁴⁶⁰⁶

Facial Recognition

In December 2020, Myanmar authorities started using a system of 335 surveillance cameras in the capital, Napyidaw.⁴⁶⁰⁷ This was done as part of the government's "Safe City" project to curb crime. Made by the technology company Huawei, the cameras were spread between eight townships and reportedly equipped with facial recognition as well as license plate recognition capabilities. An advisor for the Naypyitaw Safe City project, said that "anyone with a criminal history entering Naypyitaw will be recognized."⁴⁶⁰⁸

Similar systems have been installed in Mandalay and the commercial capital Yangon.⁴⁶⁰⁹ Myanmar's regional minister for Electrical Power and Construction confirmed by way of comments to the media, that the system in Mandalay would use AI to detect any abnormal activity such as crime and accidents. Such activity would be recorded and followed by the cameras, which would send information to one another as well as to the police.

Human Rights Watch raised concerns that the use of this technology was approved without public consultation or transparency, making it unclear how the Myanmar authorities would mitigate any potential impact on human rights and the right to privacy.⁴⁶¹⁰

Protesters protesting the ousting of Aung San Suu Kyi in a coup in 2021 have cited fears regarding the deployment and use of facial recognition technology by the

⁴⁶⁰⁶ Mark Latonero and Aaina Agarwal, *Human Rights Impact Assessments for AI: Learning from Facebook's Failure in Myanmar* (Mar. 19, 2021),

https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/2023-11/2021_13_facebook-failure-in-myanmar_0.pdf

⁴⁶⁰⁷ MyanmarNow, *Hundreds of Huawei CCTV Cameras with Facial Recognition Go Live in Naypyitaw* (Dec. 19, 2020), <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/hundreds-of-huawei-cctv-cameras-with-facial-recognition-go-live-in-naypyitaw>

⁴⁶⁰⁸ Ibid

⁴⁶⁰⁹ Reuters, *Fears of "Digital Dictatorship" as Myanmar Deploys AI* (Mar. 19, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/fears-digital-dictatorship-myanmar-deploys-ai-2021-03-18/>

⁴⁶¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Myanmar: Facial Recognition System Threatens Rights* (Mar. 12, 2021), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/12/myanmar-facial-recognition-system-threatens-rights>

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military junta.⁴⁶¹¹ In a few weeks after the coup, the military leadership successfully pushed for amendments⁴⁶¹² suspending Sections 5, 7, and 8 of the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens. The ramifications of the suspension of these sections, particularly Section 8(b) of the Privacy Law which previously provided that the State “shall not surveil, spy upon, or investigate any citizen in a manner which could disturb their privacy and security or affect their dignity” when it comes to the potential of privacy breaching AI surveillance, is immense.

The deployment of facial recognition technology by the Tatmadaw against protesters has drawn concern from the international community including a call by the Indonesian President for a high-level ASEAN meeting in 2021.⁴⁶¹³ A report by the Reuters news agency in July 2022 revealed that Myanmar's military government is expanding camera surveillance systems for cities in all 14 states and divisions in the country.⁴⁶¹⁴ Myanmar's military deployed an AI-powered Person Scrutinization and Monitoring System (PSMS) integrated with facial recognition cameras and biometric databases by 2025. Human Rights Myanmar documented the system resulted in at least 1,657 arrests between March and May 2025, targeting pro-democracy activists and Civil Disobedience Movement members.⁴⁶¹⁵ Myanmar's military deployed Chinese-supplied “Great Firewall” technology from Geedge Networks, enabling real-time surveillance and geolocation tracking of 33.4 million internet users.⁴⁶¹⁶

Biometric Identification

In 2019, Myanmar's Ministry of Transport and Communications announced its intention to make biometric data collection mandatory when mobile phone services are purchased, this being part of a strategy to create a “national database to

⁴⁶¹¹ Rina Chandran, *Fears of “Digital Dictatorship” as Myanmar Deploys AI* (Mar. 18, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/fears-digital-dictatorship-myanmar-deploys-ai-2021-03-18/>

⁴⁶¹² Myanmar State Administration Council, *Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens* (unofficial translation) (Apr. 2021), https://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/pdf/Law-Protecting-Privacy-and-Security-of-Citizens_en_unofficial.pdf

⁴⁶¹³ WION, *Myanmar Deploys AI: Indonesian President Calls for ASEAN Meeting on Coup Crisis* (Mar. 19, 2021), <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/myanmar-deploys-ai-indonesian-president-calls-for-asean-meeting-on-coup-crisis-371577>

⁴⁶¹⁴ Reuters, *Myanmar's Junta Rolls Out Chinese Camera Surveillance Systems in More Cities* (Jul. 10, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-myanmars-junta-rolls-out-chinese-camera-surveillance-systems-more-2022-07-10/>

⁴⁶¹⁵ Human Rights Myanmar, *Myanmar's Repressive Use of AI to Counter “Terrorism”* (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://humanrightsmyanmar.org/myanmars-repressive-use-of-ai-to-counter-terrorism/>

⁴⁶¹⁶ Justice for Myanmar, *Silk Road of Surveillance* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.justiceformyanmar.org/stories/silk-road-of-surveillance>

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store and manage biometric mobile subscriber registration information from all mobile network operators in Myanmar.”⁴⁶¹⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

Myanmar has not published policies related to the environmental impact of AI in English.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

At the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in October 2017, Myanmar said that lethal autonomous weapons systems were a security issue that warranted serious consideration.⁴⁶¹⁸ At the 74th Session of the UNGA in October 2019, Myanmar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that there were “growing concerns on new types of weapons such as lethal autonomous weapon systems and their destructive power” and there was a risk of a new arms race growing with worldwide military expenditures increasing at an “alarming level.”⁴⁶¹⁹ Myanmar voted in support of UNGA Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems,⁴⁶²⁰ which stressed the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems.” Myanmar also supported the 2024 Draft Resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems⁴⁶²¹ stressing “the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability and for States to comply with international law.”

⁴⁶¹⁷ Biometrics Research Group, *Myanmar to Introduce Mandatory Biometric Data Collection for Massive National Database* (Dec. 6, 2019), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201912/myanmar-to-introduce-mandatory-biometric-data-collection-for-massive-national-database>

⁴⁶¹⁸ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, *Report on Activities — Convention on Conventional Weapons Group of Governmental Experts Meeting on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems & Meeting of High Contracting Parties, United Nations Geneva*, p. 18 (Nov. 2017), https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CCW_Report_Nov2017_posted.pdf

⁴⁶¹⁹ Myanmar, *Statement by Mr. Ye Minn Thein, Director, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the First Committee Thematic Discussion on “Conventional Weapons, 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, pp. 2–3 (Oct. 25, 2019), <http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/21999843/myanmar-statement-on-conventional-weapons-cluster-25-oct-.pdf>

⁴⁶²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Dec. 23, 2023) <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

⁴⁶²¹ UN General Assembly, *First Committee Draft Resolution L.77, A/C.1/79/L.77* (Oct. 18, 2024) <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

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Myanmar is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW),⁴⁶²² but according to Human Rights Watch, participated in CCW meetings on killer robots in 2017–2018.⁴⁶²³

AI Literacy

Myanmar's government has no generalized AI literacy or capacity-building program. However, the Union Minister for Education and other official attended a capacity-building presentation directed to teachers about ed-tech and using AI tools responsibly.⁴⁶²⁴ Nearly 60 educators from across the country participated in an 8-week online training program to learn the fundamentals of AI technology, including for offline use.⁴⁶²⁵ The two-day workshop closing the program included a day emphasizing the ethical implications of AI and learned how to safeguard student data and minimize biases in AI-centered assessments.

Human Rights

Though the country is a signatory to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, according to Freedom House, Myanmar is “Not Free” with a score of 7/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report.⁴⁶²⁶ According to Freedom House, “Myanmar’s already-stalled democratic transition was completely derailed in February 2021, when the military, known as the Tatmadaw, seized control of the government, arresting dozens of senior government officials and preventing the newly elected parliament from convening. The National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a sweeping victory in the November 2020 elections, led a broad-based opposition to the takeover, organizing a country-wide Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) that continued throughout the year. Protesters were met with indiscriminate violence from military forces, and journalists, activists, and ordinary people risked criminal charges and detention for voicing dissent. Armed conflict between the military and ethnic

⁴⁶²² UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴⁶²³ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots - Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

⁴⁶²⁴ Myanmar iTV, *Capacity-Building: Presentation on AI in Education* (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://www.myanmaritv.com/news/capacity-building-presentation-ai-education>

⁴⁶²⁵ Parami University, *AI & EdTech Workshop in Mandalay Empowers Educators through Hands-On Experience* (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.parami.edu.mm/post/ai-edtech-workshop-in-mandalay-empowers-educators-through-hand-on-experience>

⁴⁶²⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Myanmar* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/myanmar/freedom-world/2025>

rebel groups continued, as did the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, a mostly Muslim ethnic minority.”

The use of AI has been implicated in what has been described as ethnic genocide and ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, in the wake of several reports regarding the complicity of Meta, formerly known as Facebook.⁴⁶²⁷ The social media platform was reported as unable or unwilling to moderate hate speech calls for violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, and in some cases amplified them. Relying on a small Burmese-speaking team who were not based in Myanmar, the company depended heavily on Natural Language Processing systems which struggled to provide accurate translations of content in Burmese. In the aftermath of the crisis which has seen over 1 million Rohingya Muslims in refugee camps in Bangladesh, a class action has been launched against Meta seeking 150 billion pounds in compensation for the company’s complicity in the genocide.⁴⁶²⁸

The Law Amending the Electronic Transactions Law of 2004⁴⁶²⁹ enacted in February 2021 permits government confiscation of personal data and the criminalization of content deemed to be untruthful or fake or created to incite public panic. Meanwhile, the Cyber Security Law⁴⁶³⁰ went into effect despite criticisms and calls for withdrawal due to its potential impacts on fundamental rights, particularly the prohibition on virtual private networks (VPNs) without the Ministry’s permission. The law grants authorities the power to order Digital Platform Service Providers to “block or remove content” when a “legitimate complaint” is made that the content “damages a person’s social standing and livelihood.”⁴⁶³¹

⁴⁶²⁷ Mish Khan and Sam Taylor, *Facebook in Myanmar: A Human Problem that AI Can’t Solve* (Nov. 6, 2018), <https://teacircleoxford.com/essay/facebook-in-myanmar-a-human-problem-that-ai-cant-solve/>

⁴⁶²⁸ Dan Milmo, *Rohingya Sue Facebook for £150bn over Myanmar Genocide*, The Guardian (Dec. 2016), <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/dec/06/rohingya-sue-facebook-myanmar-genocide-us-uk-legal-action-social-media-violence>

⁴⁶²⁹ Free Expression Myanmar, *Legislation Amending the Electronic Transactions Law* (Feb. 15, 2021), <https://freexpressionmyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Electronic-Transaction-Law-Amendment-2021-EN-MM.docx.pdf>

⁴⁶³⁰ Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council, *Cyber Security Law No 1/25* (Jan. 1, 2025) <https://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/news/16633>

⁴⁶³¹ Human Rights Watch, *Myanmar: Scrap Draconian Cybersecurity Bill* (Feb. 15, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/15/myanmar-scrap-draconian-cybersecurity-bill>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Myanmar has endorsed neither the OECD AI Principles nor the G20 AI Guidelines.⁴⁶³² The country is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁴⁶³³

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Myanmar has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁴⁶³⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Myanmar adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI together with UNESCO Member States.⁴⁶³⁵ Myanmar has not engaged with the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁴⁶³⁶

Evaluation

Myanmar does not have a national AI strategy and has not established a process for meaningful public participation to this end. Meanwhile, AI is being used for surveillance purposes in a country in which the unregulated use of new technologies has already had devastating consequences in the framework of the Rohingya genocide. Myanmar has yet to act on its endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

⁴⁶³² OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁴⁶³³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁶³⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 20, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁴⁶³⁵ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁶³⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

Namibia

Namibia published the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report in 2025 and released a National Digital Strategy that includes a plan for AI capacity building for civil servants and AI literacy programs in schools and community-based programs.

National AI Strategy

Namibia has not yet announced a national AI strategy or regulatory framework.⁴⁶³⁷ However, the country has enacted, and is in the process of drafting, several policy frameworks that support the country's commitment to harness the transformative power of AI and other emerging technologies.⁴⁶³⁸ The initiatives include the draft Data Protection Bill,⁴⁶³⁹ draft Cybercrime Bill, and the National Cybersecurity Strategy (2022–2027).

Public Participation

Namibia's ICT policy does not explicitly include AI but prioritizes the use of digital technologies to strengthen public service delivery and support democratic participation.⁴⁶⁴⁰ Central to this approach are the right to access to information and mechanisms for meaningful public engagement, which underpin an open governance model. Despite significant advances in digital government, however, public participation remains one of the areas for growth in the country.⁴⁶⁴¹ Findings from the E-Participation Index indicate limited citizen engagement on online government platforms, raising concerns about the capacity for meaningful public input into future AI policymaking.

⁴⁶³⁷ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report: Namibia* (Aug. 2025), p. 36, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394686?posInSet=1&queryId=1ad1e2a7-3e12-4954-a47b-78d0812afbe5>

⁴⁶³⁸ Africa Press, *Namibia's Ministry of ICT to Launch New Cybersecurity Policy Document* (Apr. 1, 2023), <https://www.africa-press.net/namibia/all-news/namibias-ministry-of-ict-to-launch-new-cybersecurity-policy-document>

⁴⁶³⁹ Minister of Information and Communication Technology, *Draft Data Protection Bill*, Action Namibia (2022), <https://action-namibia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Data-Protection-Draft-Bill-March-2022....pdf>

⁴⁶⁴⁰ Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, *Information Technology Policy for the Republic of Namibia* (2009), https://www.npc.gov.na/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Information-Technology-Policy-for-Rep-of-Nam-Sept.-2008_.pdf

⁴⁶⁴¹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *United Nations E-Government Survey 2024: Accelerating Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development* (2024), <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Reports/UN-E-Government-Survey-2024>

The Namibian National Assembly passed the Access to Information Act 2022 to provide for the right to access information held by both public and private entities.⁴⁶⁴² Although not yet fully in force, the Act aims to promote transparency, accountability, and democratic governance by ensuring information is well-organized and accessible.⁴⁶⁴³

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology sought public consultation on the draft Data Protection Bill, 2021, in October 2022.⁴⁶⁴⁴ The consultations raised human rights concerns around the draft bill, including weak consent provisions and insufficient protections for data subjects.⁴⁶⁴⁵ Additional community consultations were scheduled through March 2023 to address these shortcomings.

Data Protection

The right to privacy, and data privacy as an extension, is enshrined in Article 13 of Namibia's Constitution.⁴⁶⁴⁶ However, beyond the constitution, Namibia has not yet established a comprehensive data protection regulatory framework.

The government published the Draft Data Protection Bill to regulate the processing of personal data that is organized in a searchable way, whether handled by computers or manually.⁴⁶⁴⁷ The bill would:

- Establish a Data Protection Supervisory Authority and define its powers, duties, and functions
- Establish obligations for data controllers and processors
- Regulate the processing of personal information to protect individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms, especially their right to privacy
- Provide for the rights of individuals whose data is processed

⁴⁶⁴² Office of the Prime Minister, *Access to Information Act, Act No. 8 of 2022*, Government Gazette No. 7986 (Dec. 28 2022), <https://namiblii.org/akn/na/officialGazette/government-gazette/2022-12-28/7986/eng@2022-12-28>

⁴⁶⁴³ Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia, *Advancing Namibia's Access To Information Act* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.cran.na/advancing-namibias-access-to-information-act-12-feb-2025/>

⁴⁶⁴⁴ Action Namibia, *Government Seeks Public Input on Draft Data Protection Bill* (Oct. 26, 2022), <https://action-namibia.org/government-seeks-public-input-on-draft-data-protection-bill/>

⁴⁶⁴⁵ Association for Progressive Communications, *Rights Watered Down in Draft Privacy and Data Protection Bill in Namibia* (Mar. 25, 2024), <https://www.apc.org/en/news/rights-watered-down-draft-privacy-and-data-protection-bill-namibia>

⁴⁶⁴⁶ United Nations, *Chapter 3—Fundamental Human Rights And Freedoms*, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations, <https://www.un.int/namibia/namibia/chapter-3-fundamental-human-rights-and-freedoms>

⁴⁶⁴⁷ Minister of Information and Communication Technology, *Draft Data Protection Bill*, Action Namibia (2022), <https://action-namibia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Data-Protection-Draft-Bill-March-2022....pdf>

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- Specify restrictions and exceptions under this Act
- Provide for codes of conduct for data controllers and processors, and related matters

Public consultations during 2022 and 2023 revealed concerns including weak protection for data subjects, limited independence of the supervisory authority, and overly broad exceptions.⁴⁶⁴⁸ Notably, many of these issues were linked to changes made between the 2020 and 2022 versions. The draft law remains in its early legislative stages and continues to undergo parliamentary review.⁴⁶⁴⁹

The draft bill aligns with several frameworks, including the African Union Malabo Convention, which Namibia ratified in 2019, the South African Development Community (SADC) model laws on data protection and cybercrime; the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and South Africa's Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).⁴⁶⁵⁰

Namibia is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly and as such, does not endorse any of the adopted resolutions.⁴⁶⁵¹

Algorithmic Transparency

Namibia has not established a right to algorithmic transparency. The draft Data Protection Bill includes provisions for automated decision making.⁴⁶⁵² However, existing law does not provide individuals the right to know when such systems are used, to receive explanation, or to challenge their decisions.

National Awareness Campaign on Deepfakes and Scams

Namibia plans to launch a nationwide awareness campaign in response to the rise of digital applications and increasing risks from disinformation.⁴⁶⁵³ The goal is to help citizens better understand how to use emerging technologies and recognize their limitations. The initiative, announced by Namibia's Information and

⁴⁶⁴⁸ Action Namibia, *Government seeks public input on draft Data Protection Bill* (Oct. 26, 2022), <https://action-namibia.org/government-seeks-public-input-on-draft-data-protection-bill/>

⁴⁶⁴⁹ ENSAfrica, *Securing Data Privacy: Key highlights of Namibia's Data Protection Bill* (Nov. 18, 2024), <https://www.ensafrika.com/news/detail/9421>

⁴⁶⁵⁰ Hertta-Maria Amutenja, *Cabinet Yet to Finalise Data Protection Bill*, Windhoek Observer (2025), <https://www.observer24.com.na/cabinet-yet-to-finalise-data-protection-bill/>

⁴⁶⁵¹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁴⁶⁵² Government Gazette of the Republic of Namibia, *Publication of the Draft Data Protection Bill*, 2021, <https://www.nmt.africa/uploads/6363852044dba/Data-Protection-Draft-Bill-March-2022....pdf>

⁴⁶⁵³ Ecofin Agency, *Namibia Moves to Curb Deepfake and Scam Risks with National Awareness Campaign* (Nov. 11, 2025), <https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-digital/1111-50368-namibia-moves-to-curb-deepfake-and-scam-risks-with-national-ai-awareness-campaign>

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Communication Technology Minister, will include school programs, public sessions on generative technologies, and stronger regulations on the use of AI tools in media and public services. The government also plans to collaborate with the private sector and civil society organizations to broaden the campaign's reach.

Environmental Impact of AI

Namibia currently does not have a specific policy addressing the environmental impact of AI. Namibia's ICT policy acknowledges the environmental impact of the broader digital sector, with a focus on reducing emissions and ensuring safe electronic waste disposal.⁴⁶⁵⁴ The UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment Report on Namibia⁴⁶⁵⁵ highlights the importance of addressing the environmental impact of AI technologies, including its "effects on greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and resource use, particularly in areas like autonomous vehicles and industrial automation."⁴⁶⁵⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Namibia has supported the UN General Assembly efforts to address the challenges and concerns raised by lethal autonomous weapons systems. Namibia was among the 70 states urging the international community to establish rules that ensure autonomous weapons remain under meaningful human control and compliant with international law.⁴⁶⁵⁷ Namibia voted in favor of resolution 78/241 in 2023⁴⁶⁵⁸ and resolution 79/62 in 2024,⁴⁶⁵⁹ and supported the draft resolution to create an

⁴⁶⁵⁴ National Planning Commission of Namibia, *Information Technology Policy for the Republic of Namibia 2008* (Feb. 18, 2009), https://www.npc.gov.na/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Information-Technology-Policy-for-Rep-of-Nam-Sept.-2008_.pdf

⁴⁶⁵⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Namibia* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/namibia>

⁴⁶⁵⁶ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report: Namibia*, p. 37 (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394686>

⁴⁶⁵⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴⁶⁵⁸ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Resolution L.56*, 78th General Assembly (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4031004?ln=en>

⁴⁶⁵⁹ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Resolution L.77*, 79th General Assembly (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4068497?ln=en>

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instrument for future multilateral negotiations on LAWS.⁴⁶⁶⁰ Namibia is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁴⁶⁶¹

AI Literacy

Namibia's National Digital Strategy (2025–2028)⁴⁶⁶² outlines a comprehensive plan to enhance digital skills within the public sector, with a focus on creating a digitally literate public service. The Strategy includes Digital Skills as one of 5 Strategic Pillars. The Digital Skills pillar focuses on “cultivating digital competencies across all societal levels in Namibia, spanning from basic digital literacy to advanced information and communications technology (ICT) skills. It aims to close the digital skills gap, ensuring that Namibians are well-prepared to engage with the digital economy and contribute to technological innovation.”⁴⁶⁶³ To realize these goals, the Strategy emphasizes integrating digital literacy into the national education curriculum and training teachers, equipping schools with the necessary technology, developing community-based digital literacy and AI training programs, and conducting awareness campaigns on child online safety.⁴⁶⁶⁴ These initiatives align with the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), which includes provisions for advancing digital learning and literacy in AI for both teachers and learners in the education system.⁴⁶⁶⁵

Limited AI expertise among policymakers and regulators has been a significant barrier to developing a comprehensive national AI strategy.⁴⁶⁶⁶ Low levels of public awareness and trust, coupled with insufficient stakeholder engagement, may further restrain the adoption and implementation of AI policies.

⁴⁶⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 14, 2025), https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4091330/files/A_C.1_80_L.41-EN.pdf

⁴⁶⁶¹ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴⁶⁶² Minister of Information and Communications Technology, *National Digital Strategy Namibia 2025–2028*, <https://mict.gov.na/documents/869282/6500577/NDS4+040825.pdf/aeb1c2a6-63a9-f04e-7f78-3e15549eefcf?t=1754320341496>

⁴⁶⁶³ *Ibid*, p. 20

⁴⁶⁶⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 61–63

⁴⁶⁶⁵ Republic of Namibia, *Namibia's Sixth National Development Plan* (Jul. 2025), https://www.npc.gov.na/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NDP6-Policy-Documents_compressed.pdf

⁴⁶⁶⁶ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report: Namibia* (2025) <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394686?posInSet=1&queryId=a042b929-5266-4138-b041-1758f335c6a4>

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Human Rights

Freedom House scored Namibia 73 out of 100 and categorized the country as “Free” in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.⁴⁶⁶⁷ Namibia is a multiparty democracy; however, the SWAPO Party has been in power since the country’s independence. Among human rights concerns, Freedom House cites reported discrimination against minority ethnic groups, poverty and marginalization of nomadic San people, police brutality, and discrimination against women and LGBTQ+ people.⁴⁶⁶⁸

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Namibia is not a member of OECD, the G20, or the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), and has not formally adopted the OECD AI Principles or the G20 AI Guidelines.⁴⁶⁶⁹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Namibia is neither a member of the Council of Europe nor a signatory to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, which currently consists of signatories from Europe and select partner states.⁴⁶⁷⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As part of its implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the Namibian government hosted a national workshop with over eighty professionals from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector to develop a national framework (roadmap) for the ethical development and use of AI.⁴⁶⁷¹

The workshop marked the first step toward completing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology. Supported by UNESCO, the assessment report was published in 2025, evaluating Namibia’s preparedness across five dimensions:

⁴⁶⁶⁷ Freedom House, *Namibia*, Freedom in the World 2025 (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/namibia>

⁴⁶⁶⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Namibia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/namibia/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁶⁶⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁶⁷⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁴⁶⁷¹ UNESCO, *Namibia Sets Roadmap to Develop AI Responsibly and Ethically* (Oct. 2, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/namibia-sets-roadmap-develop-ai-responsibly-and-ethically>

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legal, technical, social, education, and economic.⁴⁶⁷² The RAM report acknowledges Namibia's progress in implementing the UNESCO framework while identifying ongoing challenges including the absence of "a formal AI regulatory framework, limited AI expertise, infrastructure gaps, and low public awareness."⁴⁶⁷³ To fully realize AI's potential for national development, the report recommends strengthening policy development, building capacity, and improving digital infrastructure.

Namibia hosted the UNESCO Southern Africa Sub-Regional forum on Artificial Intelligence in Windhoek under the theme "Towards a sustainable and ethical use of 'Artificial Intelligence for Development.'"⁴⁶⁷⁴ The event brought together policymakers, academics, and civil society to discuss ethical and inclusive AI development, marking Namibia's first significant engagement in regional AI governance. Notably, the event culminated in the Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa.⁴⁶⁷⁵ The statement recommended advancing standard-setting initiatives and fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among AI stakeholders, including through the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for implementing the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

Evaluation

Namibia currently lacks a formal national AI strategy or comprehensive AI policy framework. The draft Data Protection Bill represents an important foundation for future AI governance and the protection of individual rights, though it remains in the legislative process.

Namibia's completion of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology is a positive signal of the country's commitment to ethical and responsible AI governance. Capacity gaps identified in the RAM report continue to constrain the development of a robust national AI policy framework and limit meaningful public participation.

Public engagement on AI-related policymaking remains limited, with few documented consultation processes. Although Namibia has enacted the Access to Information Act, it has not yet entered into force. Challenges accessing public

⁴⁶⁷² UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report: Namibia* (2025) <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000394686?posInSet=1&queryId=a042b929-5266-4138-b041-1758f335c6a4>

⁴⁶⁷³ Ibid

⁴⁶⁷⁴ United Nations, *Namibia Hosts the Southern Africa Sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 2022), <https://namibia.un.org/en/222608-namibia-hosts-southern-africa-sub-regional-forum-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁶⁷⁵ UNESCO, *Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa* (Sept. 9, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383197>

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information, official documents, and details on government initiatives limits transparency and informed public participation.

Netherlands

In 2025, the Dutch Data Protection Authority (DPA) and Consumers & Markets Authority intensified oversight of AI, issuing detailed guidelines for AI use in both the public and private sectors.

National AI Strategy

In January 2024, the Dutch government presented its “vision on generative AI,” which highlighted the opportunities and challenges posed by generative AI, recognizing its potential to revolutionize sectors like labor, education, research, and government services.⁴⁶⁷⁶ While embracing the technology’s ability to enhance productivity and innovation, the vision is also focused on managing risks, market monopolies, and biases in AI models.

Key initiatives outlined in the vision include funding for AI research, public-private partnerships, and the creation of a national AI test facility. It emphasizes responsible AI development based on principles of safety, fairness, human wellbeing, and sustainability. To ensure the responsible integration of AI, it committed to pursuing a comprehensive action plan that includes stakeholder collaboration, legislative development, education, and strict oversight.⁴⁶⁷⁷

The Dutch government set out the Strategic Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence in September 2019.⁴⁶⁷⁸ The Plan sets out three broad themes: “Capitalizing on societal and economic opportunities,” “Creating the right conditions,” and “Strengthening the Foundations.” The key goals are public-private partnerships, international cooperation, an “inclusive approach that puts people first,” and “a country that is at the forefront of AI applications which serve the interests of people and society.” Under this plan, the Dutch government commits to protecting public values and human rights. The plan emphasizes prohibition of discrimination, protection of privacy, freedom of speech, human dignity and autonomy, as well as the right to a fair trial.

The Dutch AI strategy follows the 2018 Netherlands Digitalization Strategy (NDS), the first Cabinet-wide effort to formulate key priorities for digitalization, data and AI. As part of the NDS, the government “supports and endorses the guidelines established in the EU’s recent communication on the ‘Ethics guidelines for

⁴⁶⁷⁶ Government of the Netherlands, *Dutch Government Presents Vision on Generative AI* (Jan. 18, 2024), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2024/01/18/dutch-government-dutch-government-presents-vision-on-generative-ai>

⁴⁶⁷⁷ Ibid

⁴⁶⁷⁸ Government of the Netherlands, *The Strategic Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence* (2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/documents/netherlands-strategic-action-plan-for-ai-2019>

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trustworthy AI.”⁴⁶⁷⁹ The government also commits to creating a “responsible innovation toolbox (including impact assessments, handbooks and guidelines)” and making knowledge available in the areas of transparency, explainability and accountability. Through the Transparency Lab initiative, the “government is working with businesses and supervisory bodies to assess how algorithms and their practical applications can be made more transparent and verifiable.”

In 2021, the government published an updated Netherlands Digitalization Strategy. The ministries that coordinate the efforts are advised by the Digital Netherlands Council, which joins the deliberation process on digitalization policy and consists of domain experts. The Strategy commits the Netherlands to European and international cooperation within appropriate ethical and legal frameworks. The NDS devotes particular attention to fairness (especially in relation to the GDPR), rule of law, accountability, transparency, and fundamental rights (with explicit reference to privacy, non-discrimination, and autonomy). A renewed Netherlands Digitalisation Strategy was launched in June 2025 under the motto, ‘Accelerating together is the only option’. The strategy has identified ‘responsibly leveraging on AI’ as one of the six priorities of all government organizations. The NDS focused on scaling up AI within the government and establishing auditable standards for AI use by the government.”⁴⁶⁸⁰

Despite the actions already taken by the Dutch government, some concerns have been raised as to how the government proceeds towards its policy objectives. The findings in the 2020 report of the Temporary Committee on the Digital Future (TCDT) of the Dutch House of Representatives concludes that the House of Representatives has only discussed digitization in a fragmented way; that not all of the risks, opportunities and public values have been addressed; and that many laws and rules in the field of digitization are determined in the European Union.⁴⁶⁸¹ The TCDT proposed to establish a standing committee for Digital Affairs in the House of

⁴⁶⁷⁹ Nederland Digitaal, *Dutch Digitalization Strategy 2.0* (2018), <https://www.nederlanddigitaal.nl/documenten/publicaties/2019/11/13/english-version-of-the-dutch-digitalisation-strategy-2.0>

⁴⁶⁸⁰ Government of the Netherlands, *The Netherlands Accelerate with a Renewed Digital Strategy* (Jul. 7, 2025), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/07/04/nederland-versnelt-met-vernieuwde-digitaliseringsstrategie>

⁴⁶⁸¹ House of Representatives, Temporary Committee on the Digital Future (TCDT), *Summary of the Report Update Required. Towards Greater Parliamentary Control of Digitisation*, <https://www.houseofrepresentatives.nl/members-parliament/committees/temporary-committee-digital-future/summary-report-update-required>

Representatives, which was effectively formed in 2021 and addressed themes like digital fundamental rights, digital citizenship, and data ethics.⁴⁶⁸²

The Dutch Research Council (NWO) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate Policy jointly developed a public-private research program that funds research on explainable, socially aware and responsible AI.⁴⁶⁸³ The NWO funds several other AI-related programs, such as SPRONG—Responsible Applied AI. SPRONG aims to find ways to responsibly implement AI in practice, which resulted in several AI projects on sustainability and reducing socio-economic inequality.⁴⁶⁸⁴ In 2023, the NWO announced funding for the ten-year AI research program ROBUST, which in part focuses on “accuracy, reliability, repeatability, resilience and security” and taking “AI out of the black box.”⁴⁶⁸⁵ The Special Interest Group of AI, SIGAI, representing all computing science academic institutes and researchers in the Netherlands that perform AI research also published Dutch Artificial Intelligence Manifesto highlighting the importance of socially aware, explainable and responsible AI.⁴⁶⁸⁶

The public administration within the Kingdom is layered and sometimes disconnected. However, the government organizations and the Association of the Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations commit to focusing on “ethics in, by and for design and the transparency of algorithms when government experiments with AI for public tasks.” A study commissioned by Ministry of Interior proposed AI guidelines that apply to the public and private sectors. The guideline, prepared by researcher at VUB, Tilburg University, Eindhoven University of Technology and the National Human Rights Institute of the Netherlands, is a result of Dutch parliament stating that “racism must be ended as soon as possible, not least by stopping the use of discriminatory algorithms.”⁴⁶⁸⁷

⁴⁶⁸² House of Representatives, *Digitale Zaken – Thema’s* (Jun. 9, 2021), <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerleden-en-commissies/commissies/digitale-zaken/thema%E2%80%99s>

⁴⁶⁸³ NWO, *Dutch Research Agenda* (2026), <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/dutch-research-agenda-nwa>

⁴⁶⁸⁴ Regieorgaan SIA, *SPRONG-trajecten 2022–2030 (ronde 1)* (2022), <https://regieorgaan-sia.nl/praktijkgericht-onderzoek/programmas/sprong/sprong-trajecten-2022-2030-ronde-1/>

⁴⁶⁸⁵ NWO, *ROBUST – Trustworthy AI-based Systems for Sustainable Growth*, (2020), <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant/long-term-programmes-kic-2020-2023/robust-trustworthy-ai-based-systems-sustainable-growth>

⁴⁶⁸⁶ *Dutch Artificial Intelligence Manifesto* (2018), <http://bnvki.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Dutch-AI-Manifesto.pdf>; IPN SIG AI (2019), https://ii.tudelft.nl/bnvki/?page_id=1247

⁴⁶⁸⁷ VUB Today, *New guidelines aim to correct discriminatory algorithms: VUB researchers help to create AI rules for government organisations and companies* (Jul. 15, 2021), <https://today.vub.be/en/article/new-guidelines-aim-to-correct-discriminatory-algorithms>

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In 2020, the Dutch Data Protection Authority (*Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens*) approved the first code of conduct in the Netherlands, the Data Pro Code⁴⁶⁸⁸ drafted by NL Digital, the Dutch industry association for organizations in the ICT sector. In 2021, researchers from VUB, Tilburg University, Eindhoven University of Technology, and the National Human Rights Institute of the Netherlands developed AI guidelines that apply to the public and private sectors. The Guideline is a result of Dutch parliament stating that “racism must be ended as soon as possible, not least by stopping the use of discriminatory algorithms” and was funded by the Ministry of the Interior.⁴⁶⁸⁹

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, the Netherlands shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁴⁶⁹⁰ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. The Netherlands designated the Dutch Consumer & Markets Authority (*Autoriteit Consument & Markt*) to monitor compliance with the DSA in the Netherlands.⁴⁶⁹¹

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, the Netherlands is bound by the EU AI Act.⁴⁶⁹² The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

⁴⁶⁸⁸ Nederland ICT, *Guidelines on Codes of Conduct and Monitoring Bodies under Regulation 2016/679* (Aug. 20, 2020), https://www.edpb.europa.eu/our-work-tools/accountability-tools/register-code-of-conduct/2020/data-pro-code-0_en

⁴⁶⁸⁹ VUB Today, *New Guidelines Aim to Correct Discriminatory Algorithms* (Jul. 15, 2021), <https://today.vub.be/en/article/new-guidelines-aim-to-correct-discriminatory-algorithms>

⁴⁶⁹⁰ EUR-LEX, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)*, (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁴⁶⁹¹ Autoriteit Consument & Markt, *Overview of Laws and Regulations for the Digital Economy* (2025), <https://www.acm.nl/nl/digitale-economie/overzicht-wetten-en-regels-voor-digitale-economie>

⁴⁶⁹² European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

The Netherlands has not officially determined the division of supervisory duties under the EU AI Act, but the data protection authority (*Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens*, AP) and the Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure (RDI) “in collaboration with 20 other Dutch supervisory authorities that may play a role in AI-supervision,”⁴⁶⁹³ have submitted three rounds of advice on supervisory duties to the Dutch government. The third and final round of advice was submitted on November 7, 2024.⁴⁶⁹⁴ The country has designated six authorities, including the Dutch Data Protection Authority, with special powers under the AI Act to protect fundamental rights.⁴⁶⁹⁵

The Association of Dutch Municipalities (*Vereniging Nederlandse Gemeenten*, VNG) published a report⁴⁶⁹⁶ highlighting municipalities’ unpreparedness for the EU AI Act and suggesting necessary actions to meet compliance obligations. The report highlights that municipalities are faced with new activities (e.g. setting up AI compliance, inventorying AI systems, and organizing AI literacy and human supervision) as well as specific obligations (e.g. fundamental rights assessments and enhanced risk management for high-risk AI systems) for which they are not yet sufficiently equipped and are dependent on AI providers to do it.⁴⁶⁹⁷

Public Participation

With the implementation of the EU AI Act, the Dutch Algorithm Coordination Directorate (DCA), part of the Dutch Data Protection Authority (*Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens*, AP), opened its first two calls for public input in the fall of 2024. The calls specifically referenced certain prohibitions outlined in the EU AI Act, “based upon the AP’s role as coordinating supervisor of algorithms and

⁴⁶⁹³ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Second (Interim) Advice on Supervisory Structure AI Act* (Jun. 12, 2024), <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/second-interim-advice-on-supervisory-structure-ai-act>

⁴⁶⁹⁴ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Third Advice on the Supervisory Structure for the AI Act* (Nov. 7, 2024), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/third-advice-on-the-supervisory-structure-for-the-ai-act>

⁴⁶⁹⁵ European Commission, *Fundamental Rights Protection Authorities with Special Powers under the AI Act* (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/fundamental-rights-protection-authorities-ai-act>

⁴⁶⁹⁶ Vereniging Nederlandse Gemeenten, *3rd Digital Decade Report: AI Regulation Published [3e rapport Digital Decade: AI-verordening gepubliceerd]* (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://vng.nl/nieuws/3e-rapport-digital-decade-ai-verordening-gepubliceerd>

⁴⁶⁹⁷ Vereniging Nederlandse Gemeenten, *Implementation Analysis Digital Decade AI Regulation* (Dec. 2024), https://vng.nl/sites/default/files/2025-01/uitvoeringsanalyse_digital_decade_ai-verordening.pdf

AI.”⁴⁶⁹⁸ Citizens, governments, businesses and other organizations were asked to submit responses to the first two prohibitions outlined in the Act, manipulative and deceptive AI systems (prohibition A) and exploitative AI systems (prohibition B), as well as the sixth prohibition, AI systems for emotion recognition in the areas of workplace and education institutions (prohibition F).

The Dutch DPA issued additional calls for public consultations on published guidance on implementing meaningful human intervention in algorithmic decision-making systems to ensure compliance with GDPR prohibitions of decisions based solely on automated processing that produce legal or similarly significant effects.⁴⁶⁹⁹ The DPA sought consultations aimed at validating and enhancing the guidance document based on real world practical experience.

The DPA launched a consultation concerning the implementation of the EU's Regulation on Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising, specifically strict limitations on using personal data and targeting techniques for political online advertising.⁴⁷⁰⁰ The purpose of the regulation is to prevent voters from being secretly influenced during election campaigns and that confidence in fair elections is being undermined.

Participation in the development of the Dutch digitalization plan and the Strategic Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence was geared more toward public agencies, private companies, universities and research institutes than the citizens directly. Taskforce AI, which created the initial AI report, is a public-private partnership. The national Innovation Centre for AI (ICAI) is also a national network between knowledge institutions, industry and government.⁴⁷⁰¹

The AI Coalition for the Netherlands (AIC4NL), a public-private consortium, offers membership for interested stakeholders in the field of AI, which would grant access to AI projects and working groups.⁴⁷⁰² The Human-Centric AI working group has developed two key projects. The Ethical, Legal and Societal Aspects (ELSA) Labs aims “to ensure that companies, governmental authorities, centers of expertise, civil society organizations and the general public develop responsible applications of AI jointly. This involves solutions for both social and business problems, focusing

⁴⁶⁹⁸ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Input on Prohibited AI systems* (2024), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/themes/algorithms-ai/eu-ai-act/input-on-prohibited-ai-systems#first-call-manipulative-and-exploitative-ai-systems>

⁴⁶⁹⁹ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Consultation Meaningful Human Intervention in Algorithmic Decision Making* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/current/consultation-meaningful-human-intervention-in-algorithmic-decision-making>

⁴⁷⁰⁰ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *AP Requests Input on Guidelines for Targeted Online Political Advertising* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/actueel/ap-vraagt-input-over-leidraad-gerichte-online-politieke-reclame>

⁴⁷⁰¹ Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence, <https://icai.ai/>

⁴⁷⁰² AIC4NL, *Become a Participant* (2026), <https://aic4nl.nl/en/deelnemer-worden/>

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on honesty, fairness, security and (above all) trustworthiness. The approach addresses human values as well as public values.”⁴⁷⁰³

While not equivalent to public participation in AI policy as such, the Dutch government has made efforts towards document accessibility and knowledge-building, which are often the building blocks for adequate public participation in AI policies. The Electronic Announcement Act requires national governments to publish official publications on the internet rather than on paper.⁴⁷⁰⁴ All AI policies are accessible by the public via the websites of the Dutch Parliament and the Digital Government.⁴⁷⁰⁵

Data Protection

Since the Netherlands is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is directly applicable. In alignment with GDPR requirements, the Dutch Data Protection Authority (DPA, or *Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens*, AP) was established. The authority is an independent supervisory body in charge of promoting and enforcing personal data protection rights. The DPA is tasked with the supervision of national and international businesses and organizations, the central government (including the police and the criminal justice authorities), as well as associations, schools, foundations, and individual citizens.

The DPA is a member of the European Data Protection Body (EDPB), “an independent European body, which contributes to the consistent application of data protection rules throughout the European Union, and promotes cooperation between the EU’s data protection authorities.”⁴⁷⁰⁶

The Dutch DPA is also a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002. The DPA did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁷⁰⁷ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI

⁴⁷⁰³ AIC4NL, *ELSA Labs*, <https://aic4nl.nl/en/onze-ondersteuning/verantwoord-omgaan-met-ai/elsa-labs/>

⁴⁷⁰⁴ European Commission, *Digital Government Factsheet 2019 – Netherlands* (2019), [https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/inline-files/Digital Government Factsheets Netherlands 2019_0.pdf](https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/inline-files/Digital%20Government%20Factsheets%20Netherlands%202019_0.pdf)

⁴⁷⁰⁵ Dutch House of Representatives, <https://www.houseofrepresentatives.nl>; Government of the Netherlands, *Digital Government Agenda* (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.nldigitalgovernment.nl/digital-government-agenda/>

⁴⁷⁰⁶ European Data Protection Board, *Who We Are*, https://edpb.europa.eu/about-edpb/about-edpb/who-we-are_en

⁴⁷⁰⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

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Accountability,⁴⁷⁰⁸ nor the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁴⁷⁰⁹ However, the DPA did co-sponsor the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴⁷¹⁰

The Dutch DPA fined Clearview AI, an American facial recognition startup, €30.5 million for violating GDPR by building a database that included facial data from Dutch citizens. Dutch DPA chairman Aleid Wolfsen said Clearview violated data privacy law “on several points: the company should never have built the database and is insufficiently transparent” and further warned that use of Clearview services is prohibited in the Netherlands. “Clearview breaks the law, and this makes using the services of Clearview illegal,” Wolfsen said. “Dutch organisations that use Clearview may therefore expect hefty fines from the Dutch DPA.”⁴⁷¹¹

The Dutch DPA imposed a €2.7 million fine on Experian Nederland for unlawfully processing personal data and failing to adequately inform individuals about how their information was being used. Experian provided credit ratings on individuals to its customers until January 1, 2025.⁴⁷¹² To this end, the company collected data on factors such as negative payment behavior, outstanding debts, and bankruptcies. The DPA found that Experian violated the rules by improperly using personal data.

Algorithmic Transparency

The Netherlands is subject to both the EU GDPR and Council of Europe Convention 108+. Algorithmic transparency is therefore a legal right. The DPA has expressed concerns about the lack of transparency and poor data security practices in the public sector, policing, criminal justice. The government has also mentioned

⁴⁷⁰⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁴⁷⁰⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴⁷¹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴⁷¹¹ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Dutch DPA imposes a fine on Clearview because of illegal data collection for facial recognition* (Sept. 3, 2024), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/current/dutch-dpa-imposes-a-fine-on-clearview-because-of-illegal-data-collection-for-facial-recognition>

⁴⁷¹² Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Experian Fined €2.7 Million for Privacy Violations* (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/actueel/experian-krijgt-boete-van-27-miljoen-euro-voor-privacyovertredingen>

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that digital government will be one of its three core focus areas for 2020–2023.⁴⁷¹³ In March 2024, “as the coordinating authority for the oversight of AI and algorithms,” the Dutch DPA and the DCA outlined an oversight work plan focused on four main areas: “transparency, auditing, governance, and preventing discrimination in algorithmic processes.”⁴⁷¹⁴

The second AI & Algorithmic Risks Report in 2024 highlighted the urgent need for better risk management and incident monitoring.⁴⁷¹⁵ The DPA also stressed that “the advance of generative AI puts additional pressure on the development of effective safeguards.” The report recommends a comprehensive strategy including human control and oversight, secure applications and systems, and strict rules to ensure that organizations are in control. The fourth edition of the report emphasized growing concerns over AI risks related to fundamental human rights, transparency, and regulatory oversight in AI-driven profiling and the increasing role of AI in workplace decision making. The report underscores concerns that these AI applications may exhibit systemic bias, leading to discrimination and undermine fundamental rights, particularly in predictive policing and automated risk profiling. The report suggests further coordination between national supervisory authorities and EU regulators to ensure consistent oversight and fair and transparent AI governance.⁴⁷¹⁶

AI Oversight

The Dutch government launched a supervisory body for algorithms, the *algoritmetoezichthouder*, or Algorithm Watchdog in 2023.⁴⁷¹⁷ The Department for the Coordination of Algorithmic Oversight was also created within the DPA. The main mission of the algorithm supervisor is to coordinate all algorithm-related cooperation among Dutch regulators. The focus will be mainly on monitoring the use of algorithms in the public sector to better protect citizens’ fundamental rights (such

⁴⁷¹³ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Focus Dutch Data Protection Authority 2020–2023*, https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/sites/default/files/atoms/files/ap-dataprotectie_in_een_digitale_samenleving_-gb_wtk.pdf

⁴⁷¹⁴ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Work Plan Oversight of AI and Algorithms 2024* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/work-plan-oversight-of-ai-and-algorithms-2024>

⁴⁷¹⁵ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *AI & Algorithmic Risks Report Netherlands—Winter 2023–2024* (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/ai-algorithmic-risks-report-netherlands-winter-2023-2024-0>

⁴⁷¹⁶ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *AI & Algorithmic Risks Report Netherlands (ARR)—Fourth Edition* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/ai-algorithmic-risks-report-netherlands-arr-february-2025>

⁴⁷¹⁷ Digitaleoverheid.nl, *Algoritmetoezichthouder gelanceerd* (Jan. 17, 2023), <https://www.digitaleoverheid.nl/nieuws/algoritmetoezichthouder-gelanceerd/>

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as privacy and non-discrimination) and reduce the risks of serious incidents. This development responds to a series of issues identified with the use of AI in the public sector and some initiatives of several Dutch regulators.

The Dutch Digital Infrastructure Agency (RDI) partnered with UNESCO in October 2023 to enhance the supervisory capabilities of AI regulators across Europe.⁴⁷¹⁸ This collaboration supports the efforts of Dutch and European working groups focused on AI oversight. UNESCO aims to assist RDI and these groups in strengthening their oversight abilities in accordance with the AI Act and other relevant legislation by sharing best practices, presenting options and approaches for shareholders, discussing oversight case studies, and providing training for leaders.⁴⁷¹⁹

The Dutch Court of Audit, following an investigation on the Dutch government's use of algorithms, concluded that "government interests are central to algorithms, not private citizens' interests; that the government recognizes the importance of privacy but takes little account of ethical aspects; and warns against the government's use of algorithms becoming dependent on external suppliers."⁴⁷²⁰ In another report issued in 2022, the Dutch Court of Audit concluded that 6 out of 9 algorithms used by the Dutch government did not meet the basic requirements of Dutch law and exposed the government to various risks: from inadequate control over the algorithm's performance and impact to bias, data leaks and unauthorized access.⁴⁷²¹

Several Dutch regulators—the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, the Dutch DPA, the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets, and the Dutch Media Authority—intensified their cooperation via the Digital Regulation Cooperation Platform (DST). The platform facilitates their ability to coordinate oversight activities, including on the use of algorithms and AI.⁴⁷²² The regulators also pushed for more transparency in how the personal data of users is processed and

⁴⁷¹⁸ UNESCO, *Supervising the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (May 2024),

<https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics/supervising>

⁴⁷¹⁹ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Report AI & Algorithms Netherlands (RAN)* (Jul. 2025),

<https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/report-ai-algorithms-netherlands-ran-july-2025>

⁴⁷²⁰ The Netherlands Court of Audit, *Understanding algorithms* (Jan. 2021),

<https://english.rekenkamer.nl/publications/reports/2021/01/26/understanding-algorithms>

⁴⁷²¹ The Netherlands Court of Audit, *Algoritmes getoetst* (May 2022),

<https://www.rekenkamer.nl/publicaties/rapporten/2022/05/18/algoritmes-getoetst>

⁴⁷²² Authority for Consumers and Markets, *The Digital Regulation Cooperation Platform (SDT)* (Oct. 2021) <https://www.acm.nl/en/about-acm/cooperation/national-cooperation/digital-regulation-cooperation-platform-sdt>

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used.⁴⁷²³ This stronger coordination followed a 2021 audit of Google’s teaching tools for schools⁴⁷²⁴ that found the software’s privacy protections to be lacking, and regulatory pushback against other Big Tech firms.⁴⁷²⁵

Algorithm Impact Assessment

Under the commission of the Dutch Ministry of the Interior, Utrecht University developed the Fundamental Rights and Algorithm Impact Assessment (FRAIA) in 2021.⁴⁷²⁶ This innovative tool aims to proactively identify and address risks to fundamental rights associated with algorithm use. Between 2023 and 2024, FRAIA was successfully piloted with 15 algorithms across various government bodies, allowing for the collection of valuable insights and recommendations for future enhancements.⁴⁷²⁷ While there was some initial skepticism, participants in these pilot programs expressed positive feedback and valued FRAIA’s comprehensive approach, which integrates legal, ethical, and technical perspectives. As a result, FRAIA is gaining considerable political and international recognition.

Fraud Detection Algorithm

In early 2020, a Dutch court ruled that the System Risk Indication algorithm (SyRI), used to combat fraud in government programs violated Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.⁴⁷²⁸ In the landmark decision, the Court ruled that the principle of transparency was not observed because there is no insight into the risk indicators and the operation of the risk model. The Court also warned that there is a risk of bias in that inadvertent links could be established through SyRI based on lower socio-economic status or an immigration background. The Dutch Parliament adopted a motion in 2025 instructing the government, in cases of fraud detection, to consider that citizens are assessed blindly to reduce the possibility of bias in human assessment.

⁴⁷²³ Authority for Consumers and Markets, *Dutch regulators press for better information about online use of internet users’ data* (Mar. 2022), <https://www.acm.nl/en/publications/dutch-regulators-press-better-information-about-online-use-internet-users-data>

⁴⁷²⁴ Sjoera Nas and Floor Terra, *DPIA on the use of Google G Suite (Enterprise) for Education* (Mar. 12, 2021), <https://www.surf.nl/files/2021-06/updated-g-suite-for-education-dpia-12-march-2021.pdf>

⁴⁷²⁵ Natasha Singer, *How the Netherlands Is Taming Big Tech*, New York Times (Jan. 18, 2023), www.nytimes.com/2023/01/18/technology/dutch-school-privacy-google-microsoft-zoom.amp.html

⁴⁷²⁶ Government of the Netherlands, *Impact Assessment Fundamental Rights and Algorithms* (Jul. 7, 2021), <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2021/07/31/impact-assessment-fundamental-rights-and-algorithms>

⁴⁷²⁷ Government of the Netherlands, *FRAIA in Action* (Jun. 20, 2024), <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2024/06/20/fraia-in-action>

⁴⁷²⁸ Wired.com, *Europe Limits Government by Algorithm. The US, Not So Much* (Feb. 7, 2020), <https://www.wired.com/story/europe-limits-government-algorithm-us-not-much/>

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The UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights explained that the decision challenged the “systematic, legislatively sanctioned, used of digital technologies in welfare state on human rights ground.”⁴⁷²⁹ In a filing with the court, the Special Rapporteur voiced concern that “SyRI has consistently been rolled out in poorer and more vulnerable areas of municipalities”, and that the Dutch government has denied access to information about the data and ‘risk models’ used in the algorithm.” The Special Rapporteur called the decision, “a clear victory for all those who are justifiably concerned about the serious threats digital welfare systems pose for human rights.”⁴⁷³⁰

The Data Processing by Partnerships Act was introduced by the government in April 2020. Where SyRI was related to public data sharing, this bill expands the data surveillance and sharing to all data stored in public and private storage.⁴⁷³¹

In January 2021, the Dutch government resigned after it became clear that thousands of families, disproportionately of ethnic minority backgrounds, were wrongly accused of child welfare fraud by a discriminatory algorithm and ordered to pay money back, which drove many victims into deep poverty.⁴⁷³² This scandal would later lead to several policy shifts: a mandatory AI registry, a new algorithmic supervisory body, and mandatory human rights risk assessments for public sector AI systems.⁴⁷³³ Alexandra van Huffelen, Minister of Digitalization at the time, later declared that high-risk AI systems should require certification before use, that “impact assessments should be meaningful and address fundamental rights in the complete AI lifecycle,” that AI should respect and protect people and their rights, and human-centric AI requires more human oversight - especially when systems have a big influence on people.”⁴⁷³⁴ Van Huffelen also makes clear that the government’s

⁴⁷²⁹ UN OHCHR, *Brief by the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights as Amicus Curiae in the case of NJCM c.s./De Staat der Nederlanden (SyRI) before the District Court of The Hague* (2019),

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Poverty/Amicusfinalversionsigned.pdf>

⁴⁷³⁰ UN OHCHR, *Landmark ruling by Dutch court stops government attempts to spy on the poor – UN expert* (Feb. 5, 2020),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25522&LangID=E>

⁴⁷³¹ AlgorithmWatch, *Automating Society Report 2020* (2020),

<https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Automating-Society-Report-2020.pdf>

⁴⁷³² Gabriel Geiger, *How a Discriminatory Algorithm Wrongly Accused Thousands of Families of Fraud*, Vice (Mar. 1, 2021) <https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgq35d/how-a-discriminatory-algorithm-wrongly-accused-thousands-of-families-of-fraud>

⁴⁷³³ Luca Bertuzzi, *Once bitten, Netherlands wants to move early on algorithm supervision* (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/once-bitten-netherlands-wants-to-move-early-on-algorithm-supervision/>

⁴⁷³⁴ Alexandra van Huffelen, *Toespraak Alexandra van Huffelen, 30 maart 2022, Brussel* (Mar. 30, 2022) <https://rijksoverheid.sitearchief.nl/#archive>

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experiences with the fraud detection algorithm have urged the Netherlands not just to implement new algorithmic oversight policies, but also to proactively implement components of the EU AI Act, and sometimes even go beyond its requirements: she states that the high-risk impact assessment should be expanded to more cases via “a broader Impact Assessment tool on Human Rights and algorithms” and that Big Tech platform governance is inadequate, suggesting that stricter rules should include content labelling policies.⁴⁷³⁵

In a similar scandal, journalists revealed that five Dutch municipalities (Nieuwegein, Houten, IJsselstein, Lopik and Veenendaal) used a discriminatory risk scoring system for fraud—even after the SyRi scandal—and the Dutch labor union FNV filed a complaint with the Dutch DPA in January 2023.⁴⁷³⁶

AI Registries

Amsterdam launched an AI registry in beta version to detail how city government uses algorithms to deliver services in 2020. For each algorithm, the registry lists training datasets, a description of how an algorithm is used, how humans utilize the prediction, and how algorithms were assessed for potential bias or risks. Citizens can give feedback on algorithms their local government uses and access the name, city department, and contact information for the person responsible for the responsible deployment of a particular algorithm.⁴⁷³⁷

The city of Amsterdam’s system was used as a blueprint for a nation-wide mandatory registry for algorithms deployed in the public sector.⁴⁷³⁸ The registry, available online starting December 2022, is freely accessible for citizens and shows information on the purpose, legal background, application, human rights impact assessments, and oversight of public sector algorithms.⁴⁷³⁹ Contribution to the

⁴⁷³⁵ Ibid

⁴⁷³⁶ Yvette de Vries, *FNV doet aangifte tegen vijf gemeenten om omstreden screening uitkeringsgerechtigden* (Jan. 21, 2023),

<https://www.fnv.nl/nieuwsbericht/sectornieuws/uitkeringsgerechtigden/2023/01/fnv-doet-aangifte-tegen-vijf-gemeenten-om-omstreden>

⁴⁷³⁷ Khari Johnson, *Amsterdam and Helsinki Launch Algorithm Registries to Bring Transparency to Public Deployments of AI* (Sept. 28, 2020), <https://venturebeat.com/2020/09/28/amsterdam-and-helsinki-launch-algorithm-registries-to-bring-transparency-to-public-deployments-of-ai/>; See also Meeri Haataja, Linda van de Fliert and Pasi Rautio, *Public AI Registers: Realising AI Transparency and Civic Participation in Government Use of AI*, A White Paper (Sept. 30, 2020), <https://ai.hel.fi/wp-content/uploads/White-Paper.pdf>

⁴⁷³⁸ Luca Bertuzzi, *Once bitten, Netherlands wants to move early on algorithm supervision* (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/once-bitten-netherlands-wants-to-move-early-on-algorithm-supervision/>

⁴⁷³⁹ Government of the Netherlands, *The Dutch Government’s Algorithm Register* (2022), <https://algoritmes.overheid.nl/nl>

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registry is currently voluntary but the aim is to make it compulsory by the end of 2025.⁴⁷⁴⁰ The Dutch government's Fundamental Rights and Algorithms Impact Assessment (FRAIA), launched in 2021, dovetails with the algorithm registry: the registry specifies whether a Human Rights Impact Assessment was performed. As of July 2025, the Algorithms Register contains about 1,000 algorithms and the Dutch Government aims to develop a legal framework for this Register to ensure mandatory registration of algorithms.⁴⁷⁴¹

The Dutch cities of Rotterdam and Eindhoven are among 7 European cities to participate in a public AI algorithm registry experiment, The Algorithmic Transparency Standard, led by Eurocities Digital Forum Lab. Building on the Amsterdam and Helsinki experiment, the aim is to provide cities with a common data schema for algorithm registries that is validated, open-source, publicly available, and ready for use in local algorithm registries.⁴⁷⁴²

Predictive Policing

The Dutch police force, in collaboration with Utrecht University and the University of Amsterdam, established the National Police Lab AI to develop "AI techniques to improve the safety in the Netherlands in a socially, legally and ethically responsible way."⁴⁷⁴³ In alignment with the government's commitment to experiment with technology to solve social issues, the Dutch police has launched pilot projects with predictive policing to anticipate and prevent crime that might be committed by a certain person or at a certain location.

The first was the Sensing Project in Roermond, where police used cameras and other sensors to reduce pickpocketing. The system monitored all people driving in and around Roermond and created a risk score, effectively transforming the "city into a living lab where every person travelling by car is subjected to mass surveillance and other human rights violations".⁴⁷⁴⁴ The project violated the principles of human rights, informed consent, right to privacy and data protection, right to due process and non-discrimination. Amnesty International called on the

⁴⁷⁴⁰ European Commission, Open Source Observatory, *Dutch government launches Algorithms Register* (Dec. 23, 2022), <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/dutch-government-launches-algorithms-register>

⁴⁷⁴¹ Government of the Netherlands, *The Algorithm Register of the Dutch Government*, <https://algoritmes.overheid.nl/nl>

⁴⁷⁴² Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Report AI & Algorithms Netherlands (RAN)* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/documents/report-ai-algorithms-netherlands-ran-july-2025>

⁴⁷⁴³ Utrecht University, *National Police Lab AI* (Accessed Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.uu.nl/en/research/ai-labs/our-labs/national-police-lab-ai>

⁴⁷⁴⁴ Amnesty International, *We Sense Trouble* (2020), <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR3529712020ENGLISH.PDF>

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Dutch government to “halt the Sensing project and comparable ‘experimental’ predictive policing projects” and to “implement a mandatory and binding human rights impact assessment requirement applicable to the public sector.”⁸ The experiment was halted in 2022, with its “results unclear” and without leading to structural policy shifts.⁴⁷⁴⁵

The second predictive policing project is *Criminaliteits Anticipatie Systeem* (Crime Anticipation System or CAS) implemented nationwide in 2017. The use of CAS to predict crime locations makes the Netherlands the first country in the world to deploy predictive policing on a national scale.⁴⁷⁴⁶ The Dutch Court of Auditors criticized the CAS for its lack of oversight, privacy, and transparency, deeming the system “high-risk,” “worrying,” and “prejudiced,” but Dutch police has not made significant changes in response.⁴⁷⁴⁷

The Dutch Police Scientific Advisory Board published the report *Navigating No-Man’s Land*, outlining seven challenges and recommendations for the responsible use of AI in police practice in 2025. The report warns that algorithms are increasingly making autonomous decisions within police operations, requiring urgent legal and ethical frameworks. Police Chief Janny Knol acknowledged these challenges, committing to implement the recommendations to ensure legitimacy and accountability in AI-assisted policing.⁴⁷⁴⁸

Environmental Impact of AI

The Netherlands is taking a proactive and structured approach to addressing the environmental impact of AI through its updated AI Impact Assessment (AIIA). The AIIA serves as a mandatory tool for evaluating the ethical, societal, and ecological implications of AI systems throughout their lifecycle—from development to deployment. A key component of the assessment focuses specifically on sustainability, recognizing that AI systems require significant resources, including energy, water, and raw materials. The AIIA prompts organizations to critically assess whether the energy consumption is proportional to the intended benefits of the AI system, and to evaluate how the energy is generated and consumed. Moreover, the

⁴⁷⁴⁵ Gertie Driessen, Landelijke proef in Roermond rond opsporen zakkenrollers stille dood gestorven, resultaten onduidelijk (Nov. 11, 2020), https://www.limburger.nl/cnt/dmf20221111_95634631

⁴⁷⁴⁶ Litska Strikwerda, *Predictive Policing: The Risks Associated with Risk Assessment*, The Police Journal (Aug. 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032258X20947749>

⁴⁷⁴⁷ Esther Lammers, *Rekenkamer waarschuwt voor mogelijke ‘vooringenomenheid’ bij politie-algoritmes* (May 18, 2022), <https://www.trouw.nl/politiek/rekenkamer-waarschuwt-voor-mogelijke-vooringenomenheid-bij-politie-algoritmes-bdccc1753/>

⁴⁷⁴⁸ Scientific Advisory Board of the Dutch Police, *Navigating No-Man’s Land (Navigeren in niemandsland)*, (Jun.12, 2025), <https://www.eur.nl/en/news/ai-policing-between-innovation-and-no-mans-land>

AIIA promotes the integration of sustainability considerations into technical decision-making, such as model selection, infrastructure design, and system maintenance. It underscores the importance of designing AI systems that are not only accurate and reliable, but also environmentally responsible. This approach aligns with the broader goals of the Dutch government to ensure that public sector innovation contributes to climate resilience and the responsible use of digital technologies. Importantly, the AIIA requires a multidisciplinary team—including environmental, legal, and data experts—to collaboratively complete the assessment, ensuring that sustainability is embedded across all dimensions of an AI project.”⁴⁷⁴⁹

The Dutch government has shown a strong commitment to initiatives to contribute to apply AI technology to promote sustainability⁴⁷⁵⁰ by allocating substantial resources through the National Growth Fund to projects that address climate resilience and promote sustainable practices.⁴⁷⁵¹ The AI Coalition for Netherlands (AIC4NL, previously Netherlands AI Coalition) also engages collaboratively with various stakeholders, including governmental bodies, enterprises, educational institutions, research organizations, and societal groups, to advance the development of socially responsible applications of AI.⁴⁷⁵² The coalition underscores energy and sustainability as pivotal domains for the application of AI and established a specialized working group focused on Energy and Sustainability.⁴⁷⁵³

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In 2016, the Dutch government agreed with the conclusions of the Joint Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) and the Advisory Committee on Issues of Public International Law (CAVV) advisory report that meaningful human control is required in the deployment of autonomous weapon

⁴⁷⁴⁹ Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management, *AI Impact Assessment: The Tool for a Responsible AI Project* (Dec. 31, 2024),

<https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/03/02/ai-impact-assessment>

⁴⁷⁵⁰ Government of the Netherlands, *Government-Wide Vision on Generative AI of the Netherlands* (Jan. 17, 2024), [https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-](https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2024/01/17/government-wide-vision-on-generative-ai-of-the-netherlands)

[documents/2024/01/17/government-wide-vision-on-generative-ai-of-the-netherlands](https://www.government.nl/documents/parliamentary-documents/2024/01/17/government-wide-vision-on-generative-ai-of-the-netherlands)

⁴⁷⁵¹ Nationaal Groeifonds, *AI and Digitalisation in Safety and Security Projects*, <https://www.nationaalgroeifonds.nl/overzicht-lopende-projecten/thema-veiligheid-en-digitalisering/ained>

⁴⁷⁵² AI Coalition for Netherlands, *Homepage*, <https://aic4nl.nl/en/>

⁴⁷⁵³ AI Coalition for Netherlands, *Energy and Sustainability*, <https://aic4nl.nl/>

systems and responsibility and accountability attribution needs to be considered in the design stage of weapon systems.⁴⁷⁵⁴

The government also viewed a moratorium on fully autonomous weapon systems to be unfeasible as of 2022. In a 2022 letter from the Government to the House of Representatives regarding Autonomous Lethal Weapons, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the Dutch government agreed that the underlying mathematical models—and the data underlying those models—must be traceable and explainable at all times and further that it must be clear throughout the decision-making process where and how meaningful human control is assigned and who is responsible for what.⁴⁷⁵⁵ The same year the Royal Netherlands Army became the first military in the West to deploy armed unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) “for experimental use in an operational unit in a military-relevant environment.”⁴⁷⁵⁶ Also in 2022, the Netherlands endorsed the UN’s Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,⁴⁷⁵⁷ which underlines “the need to maintain human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁴⁷⁵⁸

In February 2024, at the High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament held in Geneva, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hanke Bruins Slot announced that, as the current chair of the Government Group of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, the Netherlands will preside over the discussions on the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The Minister stated, “One big challenge we face is the rapid evolution of emerging technologies. [...] we believe that the responsible development and use of emerging technologies in weapons systems are indispensable for modern armed forces. But those technologies also entail real and imminent risks to security, human rights and fundamental freedoms. [...] We must develop clear standards for responsible behaviour in this area. And we must strengthen the existing norms. The urgency is clear. [...] The risks and legal

⁴⁷⁵⁴ Advisory Council on International Affairs, *Government response to AIV/CAVV advisory report no. 97, Autonomous weapon systems: the need for meaningful human control* (Mar. 2, 2016), <https://perma.cc/J37M-UQ33>

⁴⁷⁵⁵ Government of the Netherlands, *Letter to Parliament about Autonomous Weapon Systems* (Oct. 13, 2022), <https://minaz.sitearchief.nl/?subsite=government#archive>

⁴⁷⁵⁶ Alexander Stronell, *Royal Netherlands Army commences armed robot trials in first among Western militaries* (Oct. 14, 2022), <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/royal-netherlands-army-commences-armed-robot-trials-in-first-among-western-militaries/>

⁴⁷⁵⁷ United Nations, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴⁷⁵⁸ Stop Killer Robots, *70 states deliver joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at UN General Assembly* (2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

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implications of weapons systems that take decisions fully outside the scope of human control are obvious.”

He also clearly expressed the Dutch national position. “Autonomous weapons systems that can’t be used in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, should be explicitly prohibited. And those that can be used in accordance with international law should be regulated. We must ensure human judgement and control with the development of new weapon systems. That should be the main objective of regulation.”⁴⁷⁵⁹ On November 5th, 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted the Draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. The Netherlands was one of 161 countries that voted in favor of this.⁴⁷⁶⁰

The Netherlands hosted the first REAIM Summit in 2023, issuing a joint call for action stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁴⁷⁶¹ The Netherlands has also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy.⁴⁷⁶² The Netherlands also launched the Global Commission on Responsible AI in the Military Domain in the Hague. The Global Commission has been established for an initial period of two years to help promote mutual awareness and understanding regarding the global governance of AI in the military domain and support fundamental norm development and policy coherence in the field. The Global Commission produces strategic guidance reports to identify short- and long-term recommendations for governments and the wider multi-stakeholder community.⁴⁷⁶³ The Netherlands also participated in

⁴⁷⁵⁹ Government of the Netherlands, *Speech by Minister Hanke Bruins Slot at the High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2024/02/27/speech-by-minister-hanke-bruins-slot-at-the-conference-on-disarmament>

⁴⁷⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L77* (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/resolutions/L77.pdf>

⁴⁷⁶¹ Government of Netherlands, *Call to action on responsible use of AI in the military domain* (Feb. 16, 2023) Press Release, <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴⁷⁶² US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁴⁷⁶³ The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, *Global Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (GC REAIM)*, <https://hcss.nl/gcreaim/>

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and endorsed the outcome document, *Blueprint for Action*, for the second REAIM summit, which took place in 2024 in Korea.⁴⁷⁶⁴

The Netherlands maintains a stance on regulating lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS), advocating for a two-tiered international treaty that both prohibits and regulates such systems.⁴⁷⁶⁵ The Dutch government's current policy, finalized in 2022, pursues a legally binding international instrument with a dual structure: (1) a complete ban on autonomous weapons that cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), and (2) regulation of other autonomous systems to ensure their ethical use in accordance with IHL. The principle of *meaningful human control*—the requirement that humans retain sufficient judgment and oversight to remain accountable for any use of force is central to the Dutch position, along with a focus on the *effects* of autonomous systems rather than definitions. The Netherlands advocates for transparency measures such as traceability and understandability in the use of AI in military applications.

The Netherlands continues to play a leading role in international discussions on the regulation of LAWS. Robert in den Bosch of the Netherlands served as Chair of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS, guiding the development of a “rolling text” outlining key regulatory elements for a future treaty.⁴⁷⁶⁶ The Netherlands was also among a group of 42 states that, in September 2025, issued a joint statement expressing readiness to move toward formal treaty negotiations under the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁴⁷⁶⁷

⁴⁷⁶⁴ Joyce Lee, *Sixty Countries endorse 'Blueprint' for AI Use in Military*, Reuters (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/south-korea-summit-announces-blueprint-using-ai-military-2024-09-10/>

⁴⁷⁶⁵ Kingdom of the Netherlands, *Submission in Accordance with Resolution 78/241 on Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Apr. 26, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Netherlands-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Netherlands-EN.pdf)

⁴⁷⁶⁶ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Briefing by the Chair of the CCW GGE on LAWS on the Margins of the First Committee* (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/updates/briefing-chair-ccw-gge-laws-margins-first-committee>

⁴⁷⁶⁷ Government of the Netherlands, *Position Paper on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 2025), <https://automatedresearch.org/news/netherlands-announces-new-position-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/>; United Nations Office at Geneva, *Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS — Chair's Summary* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.1_-_Chair's_summary.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.1_-_Chair's_summary.pdf); UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 5, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

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Domestically, the Netherlands' position enjoys parliamentary backing and aligns with public and civil society advocacy for binding rules on “killer robots.” The current policy reflects the outcomes of expert consultations with the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) and the Advisory Committee on Issues of Public International Law (CAVV).⁴⁷⁶⁸

AI Literacy

The Dutch Data Protection Authority published a guide highlighting AI literacy as a foundational element for responsible AI governance and meaningful human oversight.⁴⁷⁶⁹ As the coordinating supervisor on algorithms and AI, the DPA emphasizes that AI literacy supports compliance with the article 4 of the EU AI Act⁴⁷⁷⁰ and enables staff and users to recognize AI's risks and opportunities. The DPA recommends a long-term, strategic approach through a four-step framework: identifying AI systems, associated risks, and knowledge gaps; defining measurable literacy goals; executing training programs and establishing governance structures; and evaluating outcomes via audits and reports. Literacy should be tailored to different roles, with policymakers and supervisors requiring deeper understanding and citizens and consumers needing basic knowledge. The DPA notes that AI literacy also enhances societal resilience by fostering critical engagement with AI.

The DPA will continue guiding implementation by sharing best practices and convening stakeholders, positioning AI literacy as essential for accountable AI deployment.

Human Rights

The Netherlands has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Union (EU) Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).⁴⁷⁷¹ The Dutch government expanded the AI, Public Values and Human Rights knowledge platform to include training on AI

⁴⁷⁶⁸ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Briefing by the Chair of the CCW GGE on LAWS on the Margins of the First Committee* (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/updates/briefing-chair-ccw-gge-laws-margins-first-committee>

⁴⁷⁶⁹ Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens, *Getting Started with AI Literacy: A Perspective on Knowledge Development About AI Systems in Organizations* (Feb, 2025), <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/themes/algoritmes-en-ai/ai-literacy-2025>

⁴⁷⁷⁰ European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 on Artificial Intelligence (AI Act)*, Article 4 – *AI Literacy Requirements*. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R1689>

⁴⁷⁷¹ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, *The European Union (EU) Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Netherlands* (2015), https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-eu-charter-in-netherlands_en.pdf

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literacy and compliance with the EU AI Act, focusing on fundamental rights, non-discrimination, and transparency in AI.⁴⁷⁷²

Freedom House classifies the Netherlands as “Free” in the Freedom in the World report with a score of 97/100 in 2025.⁴⁷⁷³

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, the Netherlands participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁴⁷⁷⁴ The Netherlands thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

At the AI Action Summit in Paris in 2025, the Netherlands signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet⁴⁷⁷⁵ and the Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI enabled Weapon Systems.⁴⁷⁷⁶

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The Netherlands endorsed the OECD AI Principles as an OECD and through membership in the Global Partnership for AI (GPAI).⁴⁷⁷⁷ The GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD

⁴⁷⁷² Government of the Netherlands, *AI, Public Values and Human Rights Platform—Expansion under the EU AI Act* (2025), <https://minbzk.sitearchief.nl/?subsite=digitaleoverheid#archive>

⁴⁷⁷³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Netherlands* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/netherlands/freedom-world/2025>

⁴⁷⁷⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁴⁷⁷⁵ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

⁴⁷⁷⁶ Élysée, *Paris Declaration on Maintaining Human Control in AI enabled Weapon Systems* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/paris-declaration-on-maintaining-human-control-in-ai-enabled-weapon-systems>

⁴⁷⁷⁷ Global Partnership on AI, *Community* (2024), <https://gpai.ai/>

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Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.” An integrated partnership with the OECD formalized this shared commitment to the principles in 2024.⁴⁷⁷⁸

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Netherlands contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁴⁷⁷⁹ The Netherlands is party to the Convention through the European Commission signature but has not acted independently on this first legally binding international AI treaty.⁴⁷⁸⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

In November 2021, the Netherlands, alongside 192 other states, adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴⁷⁸¹ Together with 8 other states, the Netherlands recalled the efforts made by the members of the Group of friends for the implementation of the Recommendation and called on Member States to be “actively involved throughout the implementation process of the Recommendation.”⁴⁷⁸²

The Netherlands was the first European country to initiate UNESCO’s Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁴⁷⁸³ The outcome of the RAM study highlighted the country’s robust protections for fundamental rights and attention to the ethical implications of AI applications. The report specifically called out the strength of the Impact Assessments and Algorithm Registry.⁴⁷⁸⁴

⁴⁷⁷⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁷⁷⁹ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁷⁸⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁴⁷⁸¹ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁴⁷⁸² UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 7, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>; UNESCO Executive Board, *Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 215th session*, p. 41 (Nov. 18, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/permalink/PN-98f40d84-ad53-44dc-bb48-466d1d9450e5>

⁴⁷⁸³ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/netherlands>

⁴⁷⁸⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Netherlands* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/netherlands>

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Evaluation

The Netherlands continues to perform strongly in the AI domain with comprehensive legal frameworks and a commitment to ethical AI use, aligning with EU regulations. The Dutch Data Protection Authority (DPA) and the Dutch Consumer & Markets Authority have intensified their oversight of the sector, issuing detailed guidelines for AI use in both the public and private sectors.⁴⁷⁸⁵ The Netherlands has taken positive steps towards the rights-based deployment of AI with endorsement of UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and related implementing efforts, OECD AI Principles, GDPR, and creation of an AI watchdog within the DPA. The country has expanded algorithmic transparency with its AI public registry and impact assessments. Further, the Netherlands has played a leading role in building international consensus towards the need to regulate the use of autonomous weapons. The Dutch judiciary should be credited with a landmark decision concerning the use of secret algorithms in government services. Still, the rise of predictive policing and biometric databases, as well as risk-based systems that may adversely impact minority and vulnerable groups remain a concern.

⁴⁷⁸⁵ Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, *Responsible Use of Generative AI: Government-Wide Guide* (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.government.nl/documents/leaflets/2025/01/31/responsible-use-of-generative-ai>

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New Zealand

In 2025, New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment released a national AI strategy centered on the OECD AI Principles. A Privacy Amendment and Biometric Code passed into law, providing greater protection around algorithmic transparency and biometric processing.

National AI Strategy

The process for developing a National AI strategy started in May 2021 with the proposal of AI cornerstones⁴⁷⁸⁶ and culminated in 2025 with New Zealand's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with Confidence published by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).⁴⁷⁸⁷ The strategy provides a coordinated roadmap for AI adoption and innovation in the private sector, emphasizing a light-touch, risk-based regulatory approach aligned with the OECD AI Principles⁴⁷⁸⁸ and protective of Māori values and cultural integrity.⁴⁷⁸⁹ The Strategy for Artificial Intelligence explicitly encompasses other resources such as the MBIE Responsible AI Guidance for Businesses⁴⁷⁹⁰ also released in 2025 to promote clarity in an enabling environment for AI adoption and innovation.

Government ministries also developed tools for the public sector as part of the AI Strategy. Digital Government NZ adopted the OECD AI Principles to guide AI adoption across ministries in the Public Service AI Framework. While not legally binding, the framework "encourages agencies to pursue using AI to create value for New Zealanders, while managing risks and maintaining public trust and confidence in the Public Service overall."⁴⁷⁹¹ The Responsible AI Guidance for the Public

⁴⁷⁸⁶ AI Forum New Zealand, *Introducing Aotearoa's Proposed AI Cornerstones* (Apr. 29, 2021), <https://aiforum.org.nz/2021/04/29/introducing-aotearoas-proposed-ai-cornerstones/>

⁴⁷⁸⁷ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), *New Zealand's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/new-zealands-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence.pdf>

⁴⁷⁸⁸ Ibid, p. 10

⁴⁷⁸⁹ Ibid, p. 13

⁴⁷⁹⁰ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), *Responsible AI Guidance for Businesses: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/responsible-ai-guidance-for-businesses.pdf>

⁴⁷⁹¹ Digital Government NZ, *Public Service AI Framework* (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-artificial-intelligence-framework>

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Service: GenAI⁴⁷⁹² supports the “responsible update and use of GenAI”⁴⁷⁹³ in public agencies with advice on key considerations for GenAI in customer service, including transparency; bias, discrimination, fairness, and equity; accessibility; privacy; and Māori, Pacific Peoples, ethnic communities.

The 2025 strategy and supporting documents build from the Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Technology 2024 cabinet paper, *Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence*.⁴⁷⁹⁴ The paper advocates for increasing AI use in New Zealand to drive innovation, economic growth, and more effective public services through the “light-touch, proportionate, and risk-based” approach defined in the strategy. The approach prioritizes the use of existing regulatory mechanisms rather than developing a standalone AI Act.⁴⁷⁹⁵ In addition to the OECD AI Principles, the paper acknowledges New Zealand’s obligations arising from the Treaty of Waitangi in the development and use of AI. The paper highlights the Data Iwi Leaders’ Group’s (DILG) readiness to adopt AI, noting that, in discussions with the Cabinet Office, the DILG agreed that “the danger for Māori in AI lies in being excluded from its ability to bring about substantial improvements in the provision of services for Māori.”⁴⁷⁹⁶

Existing regulatory mechanisms include the Ministry for Social Development’s Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics (PHRaE) framework⁴⁷⁹⁷ published in 2018⁴⁷⁹⁸ to promote privacy-by-design in AI tools. In addition, Government agencies signed Stats NZ’s Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa,⁴⁷⁹⁹ committing to clearly explaining how decisions are informed by algorithms (transparency); incorporating the *Te Ao Māori* perspective in the development and use of algorithms; actively engaging with stakeholders and affected people, communities and groups;

⁴⁷⁹² Internal Affairs, *Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service: GenAI* (Feb. 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Public-Service-Artificial-Intelligence-Framework.pdf>

⁴⁷⁹³ Digital Government NZ, *Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service GenAI* (Feb. 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/responsible-ai-guidance-for-the-public-service-genai>

⁴⁷⁹⁴ Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation, and Technology, *Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28913-approach-to-work-on-artificial-intelligence-proactiverelase-pdf>

⁴⁷⁹⁵ Ibid, p. 1, para 4

⁴⁷⁹⁶ Ibid, p. 24, para. 5

⁴⁷⁹⁷ Ministry of Social Development, *Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics Framework*, <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/phrae/phrae-on-a-page.pdf>

⁴⁷⁹⁸ Ministry of Social Development, *Using Personal Information Responsibly: The Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics Framework*, <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/initiatives/phrae/index.html>

⁴⁷⁹⁹ Stats NZ, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand* (Jun. 15, 2023), <https://data.govt.nz/toolkit/data-ethics/government-algorithm-transparency-and-accountability/algorithm-charter>

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understanding the limitations in data and managing bias; retaining human oversight by providing a channel to appeal decisions informed by algorithms; and regularly peer-reviewing algorithms to assess for unintended consequences and act on this information to safeguard privacy, ethics and human rights.⁴⁸⁰⁰

New Zealand's *Te Rautaki Matihiko mō Aotearoa*, the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa (Digital Strategy)⁴⁸⁰¹ and related Action Plan⁴⁸⁰² aim to enable "Aotearoa New Zealand's people, communities, economy, and environment to flourish and prosper in the digital era."⁴⁸⁰³ David Clark, the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, introduced the digital strategy by stating that: "New Zealand stands on the precipice of a huge opportunity to design, build and use digital technologies in world-leading, ethical, equitable ways that reflect the culture and uniqueness of our country." The Strategy is framed around 3 connected themes: *Mahi Tika*—Trust; *Mahi Tahi*—Inclusion; and *Mahi Aka*—Growth, supported by goals and measures.⁴⁸⁰⁴ As part of the Digital Strategy, the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation⁴⁸⁰⁵ was established in 2025 to "shape a collective understanding of data ethics and innovation." The Centre collates and develops guidance to facilitate ethical data use, promotes awareness of data ethics guidance, and supports government agencies to integrate data ethics in their programs.

Public Participation

New Zealand government processes have consistently included periods of public participation in policy and law development. Public participation opportunities for AI are across the government sector in a variety of industries from

⁴⁸⁰⁰ Stats NZ, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand* (Jul. 2020),

https://data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/algorithm/Algorithm-Charter-2020_Final-English-1.pdf

⁴⁸⁰¹ Digital.govt.nz and Department of Internal Affairs, *The Digital Strategy for Aotearoa* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/dmsdocument/237~the-digital-strategy-for-aotearoa/html#ministers-foreword>

⁴⁸⁰² New Zealand Government, *Action Plan for the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/assets/Digital-government/Strategy/Action-Plan-for-the-Digital-Strategy-for-Aotearoa-English-PDF.pdf>

⁴⁸⁰³ Digital.govt.nz and Department of Internal Affairs, *The Digital Strategy for Aotearoa* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/dmsdocument/237~the-digital-strategy-for-aotearoa/html#ministers-foreword>

⁴⁸⁰⁴ Ibid

⁴⁸⁰⁵ Data.govt.nz, *Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, About the Centre* (2026), <https://data.govt.nz/leadership/centre-for-data-ethics-and-innovation>

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policy and instrument development, like the Algorithm Charter,⁴⁸⁰⁶ to application and end use, like consultation on the use of AI in conservation efforts.⁴⁸⁰⁷

Consultation opportunities on the development of AI and digital policy include the 2019 public consultation on the draft Algorithm Charter for the use of algorithms in the public sector with government data.⁴⁸⁰⁸ The consultation period ran for approximately 2 months, and submissions were solicited from key stakeholders such as central government agencies, academics, non-government organizations, civil society representatives, and regulators. Thirty-four written submissions were received in relation to the charter and related issues.⁴⁸⁰⁹

The Ministry of Justice held public consultations on reforming the disclosure aspect of the Privacy Act to increase transparency regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of personal in 2022.⁴⁸¹⁰ The Ministry of Justice subsequently published a summary of comments and reforms under consideration.⁴⁸¹¹ New Zealand's Digital Technologies Industry Draft Transformation Plan 2022–2032 was also open for public consultation in 2022.⁴⁸¹²

New Zealand does not have a single written constitution, rather several documents of constitutional importance. One of these, *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*/The Treaty of Waitangi, is a founding agreement between the English Crown and the Maori iwi (tribes). *Te Tiriti* is applied in New Zealand through a series of core principles.⁴⁸¹³ The AI Charter reflects these principles as a commitment to embed a

⁴⁸⁰⁶ Data.govt.nz, *Consultation, and Submission Summary: Draft Algorithm Charter* (Nov. 20, 2020), <https://data.govt.nz/docs/sub-summary-algorithm-charter/>

⁴⁸⁰⁷ Toitū Te Whenua, *Long-Term Insights Briefing 2023* (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://www.lin.govt.nz/our-work/crown-property-management/biosecurity-and-biodiversity/long-term-insights-briefing>

⁴⁸⁰⁸ Data.govt.nz, *Consultation and Submission Summary: Draft Algorithm Charter* (Nov. 20, 2020), <https://data.govt.nz/docs/sub-summary-algorithm-charter/>

⁴⁸⁰⁹ Ibid

⁴⁸¹⁰ Ministry of Justice, *Broadening the Privacy Act's Notification Rules* (Mar. 3, 2023), <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/broadening-the-privacy-acts-notification-rules/>

⁴⁸¹¹ Ministry of Justice, *Possible Changes to Notification Rules under the Privacy Act 2020: Summary of Engagement* (Dec. 2022), <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Summary-of-Submissions-notification-rules-Privacy-Act-2020.pdf>

⁴⁸¹² Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Consultation for Digital Technologies Industry Transformation Plan 2022–2032*, p. 15 (Feb. 2022), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-for-digital-technologies-industry-transformation-plan/>

⁴⁸¹³ Waitangi Tribunal, *Tribunal Releases Report on Treaty Principles Bill* (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/en/news/tribunal-releases-report-on-treaty-principles-bill>

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Te Ao Māori perspective in the development and use of algorithms consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi.⁴⁸¹⁴

The public was consulted on the Privacy Regulation of Biometrics in 2022, particularly regarding concerns over facial recognition in retail CCTV.⁴⁸¹⁵ The consultation received 100 submissions, leading to plans for a regulatory code.⁴⁸¹⁶

After the Privacy Amendment Bill introduced to Parliament in 2024 was referred to the Justice Committee for further consideration,⁴⁸¹⁷ the Chairperson called for comments.⁴⁸¹⁸ This process, as outlined by the NZ government, provided individuals and organizations an opportunity to offer their opinions, observations, and recommendations on the bill under review by the selected committee.⁴⁸¹⁹

The GCDO hosted the AI Accelerate: Ideas to Impact public forum in Wellington in August 2025.⁴⁸²⁰ The event engaged over 200 public service leaders, stakeholders, and Māori data-sovereignty representatives to discuss practical AI adoption and oversight across agencies.

Data Protection

The Privacy Act 2020 came into force on 1 December 2020, replacing the Privacy Act of 1993.⁴⁸²¹ Apart from the Privacy Act, the courts of New Zealand developed a series of privacy torts recognizing the right of an individual to sue

⁴⁸¹⁴ Stats NZ, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand* (Jul. 2020),

https://data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/algorithm/Algorithm-Charter-2020_Final-English-1.pdf

⁴⁸¹⁵ Privacy Commissioner New Zealand, *Public Input is Sought to Inform Privacy Rules for Biometrics*, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of New Zealand (Aug. 15, 2022), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/publications/statements-media-releases/public-input-sought-to-inform-privacy-rules-for-biometrics/>

⁴⁸¹⁶ Ibid

⁴⁸¹⁷ New Zealand Parliament, *Privacy Amendment Bill — First Reading* (May 2, 2024),

<https://hansard.parliament.nz/hansard-transcript/2024-05-02/privacy-amendment-bill?sId=6d1334499992478da421b06a56da1ac4>

⁴⁸¹⁸ New Zealand Parliament, *Privacy Amendment Bill* (May 6, 2024),

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCJUST_SCF_56E3FBE7-1F3D-464E-B54D-08DBAE8917AE/privacy-amendment-bill#RelatedAnchor

⁴⁸¹⁹ New Zealand Parliament, *How to Make a Submission* (Nov. 27, 2015),

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCJUST_SCF_56E3FBE7-1F3D-464E-B54D-08DBAE8917AE/privacy-amendment-bill#RelatedAnchor

⁴⁸²⁰ Department of Internal Affairs, *AI in the Public Service: AI Accelerate Event, 2025 Public Sector Survey Results Released* (Aug. 12, 2025),

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/press.nsf/d77da9b523f12931cc256ac5000d19b6/758ae60ff09f6e6ccc258ce4001aff5c!OpenDocument>

⁴⁸²¹ Privacy Commissioner, *Privacy Act 2020 and the Privacy Principles* (Nov. 30, 2022),

<https://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-act-2020/privacy-principles/>

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another for breach of privacy.⁴⁸²² The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act contains many rights founded on the right to privacy, such as the freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.⁴⁸²³

The Privacy Act provides a framework for protecting an individual's right to privacy of personal information, including the right to access personal information and giving effect to internationally recognized privacy obligations and standards. The Privacy Act set down 13 privacy principles that require an individual to be informed of the fact and purpose of data collection, that require that collection not to be through unfair or overly intrusive means, that require the information to be protected by the agency and not used or shared outside the purposes for which it was collected, held only as long as needed for the purpose, and may not transfer the information offshore except under particular circumstances that continue comparable protection of the information.⁴⁸²⁴ The individual has some rights to access and correct the information collected.⁴⁸²⁵ These principles were largely unchanged from the 1993 Act that was replaced, with the only addition being requirements around offshore transfers.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) has the power under the Privacy Act to issue codes of practice that become part of the law.⁴⁸²⁶ These codes apply the Privacy Act to specific scenarios, for example credit reporting or situations of national security. There are currently six codes of practice. A breach of the privacy principles may lead to fine or a claim of interference under the Act, but these are minimal when compared to the European fines under the General Data Protection Regulation, or those proposed in the Australian Privacy Reforms.

The Privacy Amendment Act 2025 with a new Information Privacy Principle 3A (IPP3) received Royal Assent,⁴⁸²⁷ officially introducing several significant updates to the Privacy Act 2020. The most consequential change is the obligation of organizations to inform individuals when their personal information is collected indirectly. The new provision will come into force on May 1, 2026 and aims to enhance transparency and accountability, aligning New Zealand's privacy framework more closely to the EU GDPR.

⁴⁸²² Court of Appeal of New Zealand, *Hosking v Runting* [2004] NZCA 34 (Mar. 25, 2004), <http://www.nzlii.org/nz/cases/NZCA/2004/34.html>

⁴⁸²³ Ministry of Justice, *New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990*, section 21 (Aug. 2022), <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0109/latest/DLM224792.html>

⁴⁸²⁴ Ministry of Justice, *New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990*, Section 22, Principles 1–5, 10–12 (Aug. 2022), <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0109/latest/DLM224792.html>

⁴⁸²⁵ *Ibid*, Principles 6–7

⁴⁸²⁶ *Ibid*

⁴⁸²⁷ Privacy Commissioner, *Privacy Amendment Act Passes* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/tuhono-connect/statements-media-releases/privacy-amendment-act-passes/>

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The OPC has also been active in the Global Privacy Assembly, co-sponsoring the 2022 resolution on facial recognition technology⁴⁸²⁸ and the 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.⁴⁸²⁹ New Zealand did not co-sponsor the 2023 Resolution on Generative AI Systems⁴⁸³⁰ or 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI.⁴⁸³¹ New Zealand joined eighteen other data protection authorities in signing the Joint Statement on Building Trustworthy Data Governance Frameworks to Encourage Development of Innovative and Privacy-protecting AI at the 2025 Global Privacy Assembly in Seoul.⁴⁸³²

Algorithmic Transparency

The Privacy Act does not contain a right for an individual to understand how the AI decision was made. However, in New Zealand, where an automated decision is being made by a government agency, section 23 of the Official Information Act 1982 provides an individual with a right to obtain reasons for a government decision. These reasons are to be supplied in a written statement that includes any findings on material issues of fact and a reference to the information on which the findings were based to allow anybody with the power of review to understand the process of thought before a conclusion was reached.⁴⁸³³

The Privacy Amendment Act 2025 provides the regulatory groundwork for future reforms in explainability and fairness of private-sector AI systems by improving data source transparency and individual awareness by mandating specific

⁴⁸²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴⁸²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution On Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁴⁸³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁴⁸³¹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁸³² New Zealand Privacy Commissioner, *Joint Statement on Trustworthy Data Governance for AI* (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/tuhono-connect/statements-media-releases/joint-statement-on-trustworthy-data-governance-for-ai/>

⁴⁸³³ *Re Vixen Digital Ltd* [2003] NZAR 418 (HC) at [43]

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and proactive disclosure of indirect data collection practices.⁴⁸³⁴ The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Responsible AI Guidance for Businesses includes an AI Transparency Checklist and advises businesses to watermark or label AI-generated content or provide disclaimers when GenAI systems are used or included in functionality.⁴⁸³⁵

The Algorithm Charter⁴⁸³⁶ also commits its public sector signatories to transparency by clearly explaining how decisions are informed by algorithms. This transparency may include a plain English document, making information about data and processes available, and publishing information about how data are collected, secured and stored.⁴⁸³⁷ Where algorithms are being employed by government agencies in a way that can significantly impact on the wellbeing of people, or there is a high likelihood many people will suffer an unintended adverse impact, the Charter signatories will make an assessment of their algorithm decisions using a risk matrix.⁴⁸³⁸ The Public Service AI Principles includes the OECD principles of transparency and explainability, requiring agencies to assess and document AI decision-making processes, but makes no mention of contestability.⁴⁸³⁹

The Joint AI Security Guidance, *Deploying AI Systems Securely*, developed with NZ's participation through its National Cyber Security Centre alongside Australia, Canada, UK, and US in 2024, provides further recommended practices for algorithmic systems.⁴⁸⁴⁰ The guidance suggests government agencies should implement protection, detection, and response methodologies when deploying externally developed AI systems, including maintaining comprehensive audit logs of

⁴⁸³⁴ Privacy Commissioner, *Privacy Amendment Act Passes* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/tuhono-connect/statements-media-releases/privacy-amendment-act-passes/>

⁴⁸³⁵ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Responsible AI Guidance for Businesses Investing with Confidence*, pp. 18, 38 (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/responsible-ai-guidance-for-businesses.pdf>

⁴⁸³⁶ Stats NZ, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand* (Jul. 2020), https://data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/algorithm/Algorithm-Charter-2020_Final-English-1.pdf

⁴⁸³⁷ Ibid, Transparency

⁴⁸³⁸ Ibid

⁴⁸³⁹ Digital Government NZ, *Public Service AI Framework* (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-artificial-intelligence-framework>

⁴⁸⁴⁰ National Security Agency's Artificial Intelligence Security Center NSA AISC Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre, and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre, *Deploying AI Systems Securely*, U.S. Department of Defense Media (Apr. 15, 2024), <https://media.defense.gov/2024/Apr/15/2003439257/-1/-1/0/CSI-DEPLOYING-AI-SYSTEMS-SECURELY.PDF>

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algorithmic decisions and establishing clear monitoring protocols for system transparency.⁴⁸⁴¹

The Court has required that information provided to individuals under this access right⁴⁸⁴² is in a “form which can be comprehended,” including “the key” which unlocks the information in a “meaningful way.”⁴⁸⁴³ In other words, the standard appears to require an explanation: evidence, support or reasoning for a decision.

Data Scraping

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner and international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy.⁴⁸⁴⁴ The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”⁴⁸⁴⁵ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”⁴⁸⁴⁶

Data scraping generally involves the automated extraction of data from the web. Data protection authorities are seeing increasing incidents involving data scraping, particularly from social media companies and the operators of other websites that host publicly accessible data. Scraped personal information can be exploited for targeted cyberattacks, identity fraud, monitoring, profiling and

⁴⁸⁴¹ Ibid

⁴⁸⁴² Ministry of Justice, *New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990*, Section 22, Principle 6 (Aug. 2022), <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0109/latest/DLM224792.html>

⁴⁸⁴³ *Naidu v Australasian College of Surgeons* [2018] NZHRRT 234.

⁴⁸⁴⁴ UK Information Commissioner’s Office, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁴⁸⁴⁵ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2023/js-dc_20230824/

⁴⁸⁴⁶ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 2024), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2024/js-dc_20241028/

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surveillance purposes, unauthorized political or intelligence gathering purposes, unwanted direct marketing or spam.

Use of AI in the Public Sector

The Algorithm assessment report, published in 2018, recommended that consideration be given to ways in which agencies ensure human rights, privacy and ethics when developing algorithms, and that agencies embed a *Te Ao Māori* perspective where appropriate. The Data Ethics Advisory Group (DEAG) was created to assist in meeting those recommendations. The DEAG is convened by the Government Chief Data Steward (GCDS) to assist the New Zealand Government to maximize the opportunities and benefits from new and emerging uses of data while responsibly managing potential risks and harms. The Group provides advice, comments, views and recommendations to the GCDS and State Sector agencies.⁴⁸⁴⁷ It has provided advice matters including on population density assessment and a framework to work more collaboratively with *iwi* (tribes).⁴⁸⁴⁸

The Algorithm Charter⁴⁸⁴⁹ finalized in July 2020 is considered a “commitment by government agencies to carefully manage how algorithms will be used to strike the right balance between privacy and transparency, prevent unintended bias and reflect the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.”⁴⁸⁵⁰ The Algorithm Charter stipulates that an annual review will be conducted to ensure that it is meeting its intended purpose of improving government transparency and accountability without stifling innovation or causing undue compliance burden. An independent review involving interviews with signatories, non-signatories, and subject matter experts, was completed in December 2021.⁴⁸⁵¹ This report found almost universal support for the charter, but a lot of work remains on implementation to ensure compliance with all charter commitments. The report also noted there is little opportunity for New Zealanders to get individual recourse on decisions made about them that were

⁴⁸⁴⁷ Data Ethics Advisory Group, *Terms of Reference*, Stats NZ (Feb. 2023), <https://www.data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/DEAG/Data-Ethics-Advisory-Group-Terms-of-Reference-February-2023-Final-Signed.pdf>

⁴⁸⁴⁸ Data Ethics Advisory Group, *Guidance from Data Ethics Advisory Group*, data.govt.nz (2026), <https://www.data.govt.nz/leadership/advisory-governance/data-ethics-advisory-group/guidance-from-data-ethics-advisory-group>

⁴⁸⁴⁹ New Zealand Government, *The Algorithm Charter*, <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/cross-government/the-algorithm-charter/>

⁴⁸⁵⁰ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Stats NZ, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand* (Jul. 2020), https://data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/algorithm/Algorithm-Charter-2020_Final-English-1.pdf

⁴⁸⁵¹ Taylor Fry. 2021, *Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand 3 Year 1 Review* (Dec. 2021), <https://www.data.govt.nz/assets/data-ethics/algorithm/Algorithm-Charter-Year-1-Review-FINAL.pdf>

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informed by an algorithm. It also noted that greater enforcement of the Charter might be necessary to keep social license, as there is a lack of a clear oversight body. The report also noted that capability and capacity within agencies and the expert community is limited. Stats NZ is working to consider and implement the findings of the review.

Various NZ institutions worked to development and implement guidance to integrate AI in the public sector. The National Cyber Security Centre participated in developing the Joint AI Security Guidance in April 2024, providing security guidance for public sector AI.⁴⁸⁵² The Cabinet paper *Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence* in July 2024 expanded on the Algorithm Charter's framework by outlining five key domains for public sector AI governance.⁴⁸⁵³ The AI Blueprint for Aotearoa by the AI Forum of NZ also introduced guidelines for public sector AI adoption, emphasizing both innovation and ethical considerations aligned with Te Ao Māori principles.⁴⁸⁵⁴

Developments continued with the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) appointing a national AI Expert Advisory Panel to guide responsible AI adoption across the public service.⁴⁸⁵⁵ The AI Expert Advisory Panel will play a significant role for setting standards, coordinating AI adoption across public service agencies. The Public Service AI Framework⁴⁸⁵⁶ mandates that all public sector AI deployments undergo algorithmic impact assessments and adhere to risk-based governance structures. Additionally, the Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service GenAI provides a framework for government agencies to responsibly integrate generative

⁴⁸⁵² National Security Agency's Artificial Intelligence Security Center NSA AISC, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre, and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre, *Deploying AI Systems Securely*, United States Department of Defense Media (Apr. 15, 2024), <https://media.defense.gov/2024/Apr/15/2003439257/-1/-1/0/CSI-DEPLOYING-AI-SYSTEMS-SECURELY.PDF>

⁴⁸⁵³ Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Cabinet Office, *Cabinet Paper: Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28913-approach-to-work-on-artificial-intelligence-proactiverelase-pdf>

⁴⁸⁵⁴ AI Forum of New Zealand, *AI Blueprint for Aotearoa* (Jul. 24, 2024), <https://aiforum.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/AI-Blueprint-for-Aotearoa-2024.pdf>

⁴⁸⁵⁵ Digital Government New Zealand, *GCDO Appoints AI Panel to Guide Responsible AI Use in Public Service* (Jun. 30, 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/news/government-chief-digital-officer-appoints-ai-expert-advisory-panel-to-guide-responsible-ai-use-in-public-service>

⁴⁸⁵⁶ Ministry of Internal Affairs, *Public Service AI Framework* (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-artificial-intelligence-framework>

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AI models into public services.⁴⁸⁵⁷ The framework requires public service agencies to proactively identify and mitigate bias risks across data collection, model development, and deployment stages to ensure equitable outcomes for all communities, including Māori and Pasifika populations.

Facial Recognition

New Zealand's Office of the Privacy Commissioner co-sponsored a GPA resolution on the Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology in 2022.⁴⁸⁵⁸

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner released the Biometric Processing Privacy Code 2025⁴⁸⁵⁹ under the Privacy Act to regulate the collection, use, and storage of biometric information for biometric processing. The Code provides exceptions for intelligence and security agencies to Rules 2 and 3 on the direct sampling from individuals and Rule 4(b) requiring collection by means that are fair and “does not intrude to an unreasonable extent upon the personal affairs of the individual concerned.” Exceptions to Rule 10(5) allow intelligence and security agencies to use biometric information for biometric categorization without meeting the criteria.

The Code underwent extensive consultation periods through multiple phases of drafting from a position paper to workshops, targeted consultations, and broad public consultations between 2022 and 2025.⁴⁸⁶⁰ The Code applies to automatic processing of biometric information by organizations outside of health services with targeted exceptions for national intelligence and security office.⁴⁸⁶¹ The Code has 13 rules aligned with common privacy principles including requirements for purpose

⁴⁸⁵⁷ Ministry of Internal Affairs, *Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service GenAI* (Feb. 2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/responsible-ai-guidance-for-the-public-service-genai>

⁴⁸⁵⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁴⁸⁵⁹ Privacy Commissioner, *Biometric Processing Privacy Code 2025* (Jul. 21, 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/assets/Codes-of-Practice-2020/Biometrics/060825-Biometric-Processing-Privacy-Code-2025-A1102662.pdf>

⁴⁸⁶⁰ Privacy Commissioner, *Biometrics Project* (Nov. 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/focus-areas/biometrics/>

⁴⁸⁶¹ Privacy Commissioner, *Factsheet 1: Biometrics Processing Privacy Code Overview*, <https://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-principles/codes-of-practice/biometric-processing-privacy-code/1-bppc-overview/>

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and use limitations and specification, proportionality, fairness, transparency, data quality, and the right to correction.

Environmental Impact of AI

The AI Forum, in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment (*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*) and Stats NZ, launched the 2022 report *AI for the Environment in Aotearoa New Zealand*, exploring how AI can contribute to positive environmental outcomes in the country. The report identifies five key areas where AI can provide impactful solutions: biodiversity preservation, understanding land use impacts, pollution reduction, freshwater and marine resource protection, and climate change mitigation. It highlights AI's capacity to process large data sets, improve predictions, enhance decision-making, and deliver real-time insights. Additionally, the report recommends the development of a cohesive environmental data ecosystem, strengthening capabilities, and aligning funding to maximize AI's potential in addressing environmental challenges.⁴⁸⁶²

The Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor stated that the office is considering how AI might be useful for improving outcomes for NZ's natural environment. The office's webpage highlights existing applications and provides examples of AI research and technology that are already supporting positive environmental outcomes.⁴⁸⁶³

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

New Zealand is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and active in the Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). In 2021, the Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control announced that New Zealand will push for a new international law to ban and regulate autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).⁴⁸⁶⁴ New Zealand committed to “upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force,”⁴⁸⁶⁵

⁴⁸⁶² AI Forum of New Zealand, *AI for the Environment in Aotearoa New Zealand* (May 18, 2022), <https://aiforum.org.nz/2022/05/18/ai-for-the-environment-in-aotearoa-new-zealand>

⁴⁸⁶³ Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, *AI for the Environment* (May 2, 2024), <https://www.pmcas.ac.nz/artificial-intelligence-2/ai-for-the-environment/>

⁴⁸⁶⁴ New Zealand Ministry for Disarmament and Arms Control, *New Zealand Policy Position and Approach for International Engagement* (2021), <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Disarmament/Autonomous-Weapons-Systems-Cabinet-paper.pdf>

⁴⁸⁶⁵ UN General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, First Committee, 77th General Assembly Thematic Debate—Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022),

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in a joint statement on LAWS at the 2022 UN General Assembly. New Zealand joined a statement delivered by Brazil at the GGE on LAWS⁴⁸⁶⁶ in 2025 stressing the “urgent need” to move forward to fulfill the GGE mandate to development a legal instrument to establish prohibitions and regulations on LAWS.

At the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023) in the Netherlands, New Zealand joined a call to ensure the responsible use of AI in the military domain⁴⁸⁶⁷ and endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁴⁸⁶⁸

AI Literacy

The AI literacy initiatives in New Zealand are focused primarily on the business and public sector. The AI Strategy calls for targeted training across all private sector companies and ministries to foster AI-ready public servants,⁴⁸⁶⁹ integrating AI comprehension into professional development pathways. In support, the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) and the AI Expert Advisory Panel launched two capability programs.⁴⁸⁷⁰ The first, a three-part AI Masterclass series for senior leaders, aims to “improve the understanding of and use of AI within agencies” covering “core AI concepts and key decision-making considerations.” The second is the AI Foundational Development Programme for general public-service users, which will run for 5 weeks online. Materials will be published online.

New Zealand’s Ministry of Education does not have a dedicated AI Literacy program but proposed curriculum to begin in 2028 integrates related skills such as

https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/11.0010/20221021/A1j8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁴⁸⁶⁶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_state_ment_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

[library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons - Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems \(2025\)/Joint_state ment to the September 2025 session of the CCW GGE LAWS - As delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_state_ment_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

⁴⁸⁶⁷ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁴⁸⁶⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁴⁸⁶⁹ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *New Zealand's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), [https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/New%20Zealand%27s%20AI%20Strategy%20-%20Investing%20with%20confidence.pdf)

[07/New%20Zealand%27s%20AI%20Strategy%20-%20Investing%20with%20confidence.pdf](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/New%20Zealand%27s%20AI%20Strategy%20-%20Investing%20with%20confidence.pdf)

⁴⁸⁷⁰ Hon Judith Collins KC, *AI Training to Boost Public Sector Productivity*, Beehive: Official Website of the New Zealand Government (May 26, 2025), <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ai-training-boost-public-sector-productivity>

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systems and computational thinking, design, and computer science throughout the curriculum.⁴⁸⁷¹ Existing curriculum addresses many of these skills as well.⁴⁸⁷² The Ministry of Education has also provided guidance for schools on Generative AI.⁴⁸⁷³

Human Rights

Freedom House ranked New Zealand as Free with a score of 99/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.⁴⁸⁷⁴ and noted that New Zealand has “a long record of free and fair elections and of guaranteeing political rights and civil liberties.”⁴⁸⁷⁵ The total consists of a score of 40/40 on political rights and a score of 59/60 on civil liberties. The country maintains strong protections, though issues such as discrimination against Māori, Pacific Islanders, and other minority groups persist, including disparities in education, employment, and the justice system. Concerns about foreign influence in politics remain. The Government acknowledges ongoing risks of discrimination against Māori, Pacific peoples and other minority communities. The 2025 AI policy framework explicitly incorporates Te Ao Māori perspectives and equity programs to address some of these issues.⁴⁸⁷⁶

The Bill of Rights Act of 1990 (NZBORA), the Human Rights Act of 1993 (HRA) and the Privacy Act of 2020 are the primary legislative instruments that recognize and safeguard human rights in New Zealand. The Preamble of the NZBORA describes its purpose as the affirmation and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the expression of New Zealand’s commitments to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. The NZBORA qualifies the exercise of rights through section 5 “reasonable limits prescribed by laws as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.” NZBORA is not supreme

⁴⁸⁷¹ Ministry of Education, *New Zealand Curriculum, NZC—Technology Phases 1–4* (2026), <https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/new-zealand-curriculum-online/nzc-technology-phases-1-4-years-0-10/5637293836.p>

⁴⁸⁷² Ministry of Education, *New Zealand Curriculum—Technology* (2026), <https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/the-new-zealand-curriculum---technology/5637209125.p?activeTab=tab:3>

⁴⁸⁷³ Ministry of Education, *Generative AI: Guidance and Resources for Education Professionals on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Schools* (Nov. 25, 2024),

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/digital-technology/generative-ai>

⁴⁸⁷⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: New Zealand* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/new-zealand>

⁴⁸⁷⁵ Ibid

⁴⁸⁷⁶ Digital Government NZ, *Māori, Pacific Peoples, Ethnic Communities and GenAI* (2025), <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/responsible-ai-guidance-for-the-public-service-genai/customer-experience/maori-pacific-and-ethnic-communities>

law and cannot be used by the Courts as a basis to strike down legislation.⁴⁸⁷⁷ A statutory meaning consistent with the rights protected in NZBORA is preferred, however a statute that has direct conflict with NZBORA will remain in force.⁴⁸⁷⁸ This situation has been criticized by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which has called on New Zealand to strengthen the NZBORA.⁴⁸⁷⁹

The HRA protects people in New Zealand from discrimination on grounds such as ethnic or national origins, race, sex, political opinion, and others.⁴⁸⁸⁰ It applies to the public sector (with some limitations for national security) and the private sector in matters such as employment, education, provision of services, and membership of organizations.

New Zealand has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and was one of the 48 nations that voted in favor of the UDHR in 1948 under the UN General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/217(III)[A].⁴⁸⁸¹ In addition to the UDHR, New Zealand is a signatory to various international human rights treaties, including the following core instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).⁴⁸⁸²

⁴⁸⁷⁷ The White Paper ‘A Bill of Rights for New Zealand’ (1985) proposed the enactment of a Bill of Rights that would have the power to strike down inconsistent legislation. This was not accepted by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Justice and Law Reform. See *Final Report of the Justice and Law Reform Select Committee “On a White Paper of a Bill of Rights for New Zealand”* (1998) AJHR 3

⁴⁸⁷⁸ New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, s 6 and s 4

⁴⁸⁷⁹ Concluding Observations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee on New Zealand CCPR/C/NZL/CO/6 (31 March 2016) at [10(a)] and [10(c)]

⁴⁸⁸⁰ Human Rights Act 1993, section 21

⁴⁸⁸¹ United Nations, *International Bill of Human Rights: Universal Declaration of Human Rights: resolution/adopted by the General Assembly* (1948), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/670964>

⁴⁸⁸² Ministry of Justice, *International Human Rights Legislation* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/constitutional-issues-and-human-rights/human-rights/international-human-rights/international-human-rights-legislation/>

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OECD AI Principles / G20 AI Guidelines

New Zealand endorsed the OECD AI Principles in May 2019 and recommitted to the AI Principles as updated in May 2024.⁴⁸⁸³

New Zealand joined the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) in 2020 to promote “the responsible development and use of AI” in a manner consistent with human rights, fundamental freedoms, and democratic values.⁴⁸⁸⁴

The Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation, and Technology of New Zealand has promoted the OECD AI Principles as a key direction for responsible AI development.⁴⁸⁸⁵ The Principles are explicitly integrated into policy documents and guidance including the national AI strategy⁴⁸⁸⁶ and Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service: GenAI.⁴⁸⁸⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law opened for signature by member and non-member states in September 2024.⁴⁸⁸⁸ New Zealand has not endorsed this first legally binding, international AI treaty.⁴⁸⁸⁹

⁴⁸⁸³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁴⁸⁸⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁴⁸⁸⁵ Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation, and Technology, *Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28913-approach-to-work-on-artificial-intelligence-proactiverelase-pdf>

⁴⁸⁸⁶ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), *New Zealand’s Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/new-zealands-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence.pdf>

⁴⁸⁸⁷ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), *Responsible AI Guidance for Businesses: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/responsible-ai-guidance-for-businesses.pdf>

⁴⁸⁸⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁸⁸⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 8, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI

New Zealand has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴⁸⁹⁰ New Zealand has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to assess alignment with the ethical principles outlined in the Recommendation.⁴⁸⁹¹ New Zealand's policy developments and guidelines for responsible AI use in the public and private sectors reflect progress on implementing the UNESCO Recommendation.

Evaluation

New Zealand has a national AI strategy centering the OECD AI Principles⁴⁸⁹² and guidance on responsible and ethical adoption of AI aligned to a “light-touch, proportionate, and risk-based” regulatory framework.⁴⁸⁹³ The country ranks among the best in the world for civil liberties and political freedom, reflected in active public consultations and discussions with the Māori and other groups to design national policies. Greater protections toward algorithmic transparency through the Privacy Amendment, Algorithm Charter, and regarding facial recognition with the Biometric Processing Code⁴⁸⁹⁴ reflect a commitment to realizing the human-centered, rights-protecting principles and policy actions recommended by the OECD and the UNESCO Recommendation. Establishing an explicit right to contest automated decisions as protection against algorithmic bias and adding enforcement powers to AI oversight would ensure New Zealand citizens are protected from real existing harms caused by AI use and abuse.

⁴⁸⁹⁰ UN News, *193 Countries Adopt First-Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

⁴⁸⁹¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁴⁸⁹² Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), *New Zealand's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: Investing with Confidence* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/new-zealands-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence.pdf>

⁴⁸⁹³ Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation, and Technology, *Approach to Work on Artificial Intelligence*, p. 1, para. 4 (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28913-approach-to-work-on-artificial-intelligence-proactiverelease-pdf>

⁴⁸⁹⁴ Privacy Commissioner, *Biometric Processing Privacy Code 2025* (Jul. 21 2025), <https://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-principles/codes-of-practice/biometric-processing-privacy-code/>

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Nigeria

In 2025, Nigeria formally launched the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, marking the country's first comprehensive framework for ethical and inclusive AI governance. Nigeria reinforced multilateral commitments by signing the Paris Charter on Artificial Intelligence in the Public Interest and continuing to advocate for a legally binding instrument on lethal autonomous weapons.

National AI Strategy

Nigeria is making notable strides in AI governance with the National AI Strategy, driven by the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy (FMCIDE), Nigeria's IT standards regulator. Nigeria launched its first Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre to advance skills and innovation in emerging technologies, including AI and IoT, in November 2020.⁴⁸⁹⁵ In August 2022, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) called for experts to contribute to a National AI Policy, leading to the establishment of a Volunteer Expert Group (VEG).⁴⁸⁹⁶ NITDA's Director General, Kashifu Inuwa, said the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (NAIP) would cover Education and Research; Finance; Health; Media and Telecommunications; Labor and Productivity; General and Special Issues (such as building safe and responsible AI and ensuring Nigerian culture and values are digitally visible); and Security.⁴⁸⁹⁷

Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy of Nigeria, Dr Bosun Tijani, launched a public call for the drafting of a National AI Strategy in August 2023, stating: "A National Strategy for Nigeria to responsibly steer the AI revolution towards achieving national goals around job creation, social inclusion, and sustainable development becomes imperative. With collaborative leadership, Nigeria seeks to pioneer ethical and inclusive AI innovation that improves welfare

⁴⁸⁹⁵ Innovation Village, *FG Launches Nigeria's First Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre* (Nov. 16, 2020), <https://innovation-village.com/fg-launches-nigerias-first-artificial-intelligence-and-robotics-centre/>

⁴⁸⁹⁶ National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) *Call for Contribution Form for the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (NAIP)*, Facebook (Aug. 11, 2022), <https://www.facebook.com/nitda.nig/photos/press-release11th-august-2022call-for-contribution-to-the-national-artificial-in/374818984828655/>; Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, *Expression of Interest Form for Expert Volunteers on NAIP*, <https://forms.office.com/r/nvmpp8Nv65>

⁴⁸⁹⁷ Lukman Oladokun, *FG Formulates National Policy on Artificial Intelligence, Commends the Volunteer Expert Group*, The Info-tech Regulator, pp. 12–13 (Mar. 1, 2023), <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/The-Info-tech-Regulator-01032023-1st-Quarter.pdf>

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and expands opportunities for all its citizens.”⁴⁸⁹⁸ With that aim, the Minister held the first session on the National AI Strategy workshop with Nigerians across the globe on March 27, 2024. A second workshop ran April 15–18, 2024.⁴⁸⁹⁹ According to the Minister, the objective of the National AI Strategy was to build on the existing work done by the NITDA through an expanded co-creation approach including top AI researchers of Nigerian descent globally.⁴⁹⁰⁰

The final version was formally launched as official National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (NAIS) in September 2025. The vision is: “To be a global leader in AI, leveraging ethical and inclusive innovation, local talent, and strategic collaboration to drive sustainable development.” Three overarching strategic objectives underpin the vision: Economic Growth and Competitiveness, Social Development and Inclusion, and Technological Advancement and Leadership. The NAIS pursues these objectives through five core strategic pillars: Building Foundational AI Infrastructure; Building and Sustaining a World-class AI Ecosystem; Accelerating AI Adoption and Sector Transformation; Ensuring Responsible and Ethical AI Development and Deployment; Developing a Robust AI Governance Framework.⁴⁹⁰¹

The National AI Strategy reflects a commitment to fairness, accountability, and transparency by emphasizing inclusive AI development that considers social inclusion, ethical use, and respect for human rights. The Strategy also aligns with fundamental rights by aiming to promote inclusivity, diversity, and shared prosperity and to mitigate bias in AI applications.

Both houses in Nigeria’s national assembly have proposed bills to regulate artificial intelligence. A working paper in the House seeks to regulate the Development, Deployment, and Use of AI.⁴⁹⁰² The Senate introduced the National Artificial Intelligence Commission (Establishment) Bill (SB 731) in 2025 to propose

⁴⁸⁹⁸ Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: Empowering Nigerians through the Digital Nigeria Programme* (Aug. 28, 2023), <https://fmcide.gov.ng/initiative/nais/>

⁴⁸⁹⁹ Bosun Tijani, LinkedIn Post (Mar. 27, 2024), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-%E2%80%98bosun-tijani-1b027b_excellent-session-today-as-we-kickstarted-activity-7178464543973552129-r4cU?

⁴⁹⁰⁰ Bosun Tijani, *Co-creating a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Nigeria*, Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy, LinkedIn (Aug. 28, 2023), <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/co-creating-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy-tijani>

⁴⁹⁰¹ Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and National Information Technology Development Agency, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 5 (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://ncair.nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy-19092025.pdf>

⁴⁹⁰² National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies Institutional Repository, *A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Development, Deployment, and Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria and for Related Matters* (2024), <https://ir.nilds.gov.ng/handle/123456789/3103>

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the establishment of a national AI governance oversight body. However, the bill stalled after a first reading in February 2025.⁴⁹⁰³

Regional AI Governance Collaboration

Nigeria hosted the Global Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence: Africa (GIAA) Conference in Lagos, in September 2024.⁴⁹⁰⁴ The event brought together over 370 stakeholders to discuss inclusive AI development across Africa, further advancing Nigeria's engagement in AI initiatives as the country continues to develop the AI strategy and policies. The conference emphasized the need for AI development that benefits all communities, acknowledging Africa's diverse cultural landscape, including Nigeria's more than 300 ethnic groups and over 500 languages.

Nigeria announced that it was working with the United Arab Emirates on Solar Energy and Artificial Intelligence⁴⁹⁰⁵ after a meeting held in Nigeria between Nigeria's Minister of Science and Technology, and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Nigeria. The government announced that the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure would be responsible to develop AI in Nigeria.

Public Participation

The Nigerian government made efforts to involve the public in the development of the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (NAIP). This was evident in the NITDA August call for the contribution of stakeholders in the information technology sector to the development of the AI Policy and workshops held in March and April 2024.⁴⁹⁰⁶ Articles in the popular press⁴⁹⁰⁷ and social media posts⁴⁹⁰⁸ announcing the release of the draft National AI Strategy in August 2024 invited

⁴⁹⁰³ PLA BillsTrack, *SB 731: National Artificial Intelligence Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2025* (Aug. 6, 2025), <https://p.placbillstrack.org/bills/43d55c40-7f75-4887-8d0c-f27691293766/>

⁴⁹⁰⁴ U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Nigeria, *Global Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence: Africa Conference, Factsheet* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://ng.usembassy.gov/global-inclusivity-and-artificial-intelligence-africa-conference/>

⁴⁹⁰⁵ Olusegun Shogbola, *Nigeria and UAE to Cooperate on Artificial Intelligence and Solar Energy*, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (Oct. 24, 2018), <https://perma.cc/GN67-8M8R>

⁴⁹⁰⁶ National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), *Call for Contribution Form for the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (NAIP)* (Aug. 11, 2022) <https://www.facebook.com/nitda.nig/photos/press-release11th-august-2022call-for-contribution-to-the-national-artificial-in/374818984828655/>

⁴⁹⁰⁷ Uchenna Okonkwo, *Nigeria Unveils National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Public Review*, Noir Press (Aug. 5, 2024), <https://noirpress.org/nigeria-unveils-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy-for-public-review/>

⁴⁹⁰⁸ Alex Tsado, LinkedIn Post (Aug. 5, 2024), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/alex-tsado-44365b52_nigeria-ai-strategy-activity-7225562688490196993-rA5e

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feedback with links to the strategy document. The draft itself includes an email address to receive public feedback and input on the back cover.⁴⁹⁰⁹

The draft Data Protection Act also went through public consultation in 2021 before being enacted in 2023.⁴⁹¹⁰

Data Protection

Section 37 of the Nigerian Constitution provides for the right to privacy. Nigeria enacted the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) in 2023 to address data privacy issues in the digital age.⁴⁹¹¹ Currently, the National Data Protection Regulation (NDPR)⁴⁹¹² and Data Protection Act (NDPA) are in force. The NDPA takes precedence where the Act conflicts with the NDPR and the related Implementation Act from 2020.⁴⁹¹³

The Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 (NDPA) was signed into law and became the applicable data protection law in Nigeria in July 2023.⁴⁹¹⁴ The NDPA 2023 establishes the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) as the data protection authority in the country, replacing the National Data Protection Bureau. NDPC's independence is enshrined in art. 7. The NDPA 2023 applies to the processing of personal data of subjects in Nigeria. Compared to the NDPR 2019, the Act establishes a new data portability right for data subjects and requires processors and controllers to obtain authorization for, and justify processing of, "sensitive data" relating to religious or other beliefs, sexual orientation, health, race, ethnicity, political views, trades union membership, criminal records. The NDPA 2023 adds a requirement for data controllers to consult the Nigeria Data Protection Commission prior to processing personal data if the Data Privacy Impact Assessment performed signals high-risk potential of the operation. The NDPA 2023 also distinguishes between data processors and controllers of "major importance" and "not of major

⁴⁹⁰⁹ Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and National Information Technology Development Agency, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 43 (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://ncair.nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy-19092025.pdf>

⁴⁹¹⁰ ITedge, *Nigerian Government Seeks Your Input on Draft Bill on Data Protection* (Aug 26, 2021), <https://www.itedge.africa/nigerian-government-seeks-your-input-on-draft-bill-on-data-protection/>

⁴⁹¹¹ National Data Protection Commission, *About Us* (2024), <https://ndpc.gov.ng/about-us/>

⁴⁹¹² Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency, *Nigeria Data Protection Regulation* (2019), <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NigeriaDataProtectionRegulation11.pdf>

⁴⁹¹³ Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency, *Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019: Implementation Framework* (2020), <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NDPR-Implementation-Framework.pdf>

⁴⁹¹⁴ Nigeria Data Protection Commission, *Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023*, Resources (2023), https://ndpc.gov.ng/resources/#flipbook-df_2442/1/

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importance,” with the former required to formally register before the National Data Privacy Committee.⁴⁹¹⁵

The National Data Protection Commission has authority to levy sanctions for infringement. Possible sanctions include the greater of 10,000,000 nairas or 2% of the revenue of the preceding year for data controllers or data processors of major importance, or for data controllers or processors not of major importance, the great of 2,000,000 nairas and 2% of the revenue of the preceding year.

The Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) issued the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID 2025) in March 2025.⁴⁹¹⁶ The Directive became fully effective in September 2025 after a six-month transition period.

The Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB), which represented Nigeria before the General Privacy Assembly (GPA) until the Nigeria Data Protection Commission joined the GPA Assembly as a full member in October 2023,⁴⁹¹⁷ did not a sponsor the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁹¹⁸ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁴⁹¹⁹ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁴⁹²⁰ or 2023 Resolution on Generative AI.⁴⁹²¹

⁴⁹¹⁵ Ibid

⁴⁹¹⁶ Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID 2025) (Mar 20, 2025), <https://ndpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NDP-ACT-GAID-2025-MARCH-20TH.pdf>

⁴⁹¹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, 45th Closed Session, *Accreditation Resolution* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/8.-GPA2023-Accreditation-Resolution-EN.pdf>

⁴⁹¹⁸ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioner, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁴⁹¹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁴⁹²⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁴⁹²¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

Nigeria established the right to algorithmic transparency in art. 3.1 (7) (I) of the NDPR, which required data controllers to explain the existence of automated decision-making and the logic involved.⁴⁹²² These provisions are now superseded by the right to algorithmic transparency in the NDPA 2023.⁴⁹²³ The NDPA 2023 establishes that data subjects have the right not to be subject to decisions taken solely based on automated processing of personal data, if those decisions produce legal or similar significant effects on the subject. The data subject is entitled to obtain human intervention in the decision, express his or her point of view, and contest the decision. The data subject is also entitled to be informed of the existence of automated decision-making, its significance, and his or her rights in relation to the process prior to being subject to processing of personal data by the controllers.⁴⁹²⁴

Articles 42–44 of the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID 2025)⁴⁹²⁵ establish a comprehensive framework for transparency and accountability in automated and emerging-technology systems. Article 42 sets out demonstrable-transparency requirements, including disclosure of algorithmic capabilities, risks, mitigation measures, and redress channels. Article 43 extends these obligations to artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, mandating Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) that evaluate disparate outcomes and vulnerability indexes, sandbox testing, and continuous monitoring. Article 44 further requires alignment with international human-rights standards and cessation of technologies that pose undue risks to privacy or fundamental rights. Together, these provisions operationalize algorithmic transparency, fairness, and human oversight under the NDPA 2023.

Use of AI in Public Administration

Nigeria unveiled Service Wise GPT,⁴⁹²⁶ an AI-powered public service assistant, at the World Governments Summit in Dubai. Developed by the Federal

⁴⁹²² Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), *Nigeria Data Protection Regulation* (2019), <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NigeriaDataProtectionRegulation11.pdf>

⁴⁹²³ Nigeria Data Protection Commission, *Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023*, Art 37.1–3 (2023), https://ndpc.gov.ng/resources/#flipbook-df_2442/1/

⁴⁹²⁴ Ibid, Art. 27.1(g) and 34.1(viii)

⁴⁹²⁵ Nigeria Data Protection Commission, *General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID)*, Art. 42(2), Art. 43, Art. 44 (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://ndpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NDP-ACT-GAID-2025-MARCH-20TH.pdf>

⁴⁹²⁶ Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, *Nigeria Unveils AI-Driven Public Service Transformation at Global Government Summit 2025* (Feb. 13, 2025),

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Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy in collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the tool is part of Nigeria's broader effort to digitally transform public administration. Service Wise GPT leverages generative AI to enhance citizen engagement by providing accurate, real-time responses to inquiries in sectors like healthcare, education, and immigration. Beyond public-facing functions, it is also designed to automate internal processes such as policy drafting, memo generation, and real-time policy research assistance. By reducing administrative workloads, improving compliance, and supporting more informed decision-making across ministries, Service Wise GPT aims to boost transparency, accountability, and productivity in Nigeria's public sector.

The NASS-AI project⁴⁹²⁷ uses AI to classify parliamentary bills from the national assembly to make them more accessible. Based on the principle of open data the system ensures that legislative-related documents are complete, accessible, and machine-processable, amongst other requirements.

Facial Recognition

Nigeria plans to use facial recognition technology as an essential part of its digital identification scheme. According to the Director-General of the Nigerian Identity Management Commission (NIMC), the agency has plans to capture the iris of prospective enrollees, and the agency already has the capacity for capturing the iris at its backend.⁴⁹²⁸

In 2022, Nigeria added facial recognition for voter verification. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) used an Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) that deduplicated fingerprints and used facial recognition to verify voters before issuing permanent voter registration cards.⁴⁹²⁹ This was adopted in response to the issues identified with nullified registrations voters who were already registered and incomplete data. In 2023, the Federal Government indicated plans to install facial recognition technology at major airports across the federation.⁴⁹³⁰

<https://fmino.gov.ng/nigeria-unveils-ai-driven-public-service-transformation-at-global-government-summit-2025/>

⁴⁹²⁷ Adewale Akinfaderin and Olamilekan Wahab, *NASS-AI: Towards Digitization of Parliamentary Bills Using Document Level Embedding and Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory* (Oct. 2, 2019), <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.04865v1>

⁴⁹²⁸ ID4Africa, *EP7 Nigeria's Identity Ecosystem*, YouTube, from 1:18:00 (Sept. 13, 2021), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgcKzQ8I7_U&t=4605s

⁴⁹²⁹ DigWatch, *Nigeria Adds Facial Recognition for Voter Verification* (Apr. 13 2022), <https://dig.watch/updates/nigeria-adds-facial-recognition-for-voter-verification>

⁴⁹³⁰ Punch Newspaper, *FG to Install Facial Recognition Technology at Airports* (Mar. 22 2023), <https://punchng.com/fg-to-install-facial-recognition-technology-at-airports/>

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Biometrics

The Nigerian government through the Independent National Electoral Commission set a plan to use biometrics (fingerprint and face) matching systems such as the Automatic Biometric Identification System and Biometric Voter Accountability System (BVAS) in the February 2023 presidential elections. This is despite the systems having invalidated around 2.78 million Nigerians.⁴⁹³¹ Despite these concerns, post-election analysis praised BVAS for significantly reducing electoral fraud.⁴⁹³²

In 2021 the failure of the BVAS system resulted in several votes deemed inconclusive during the governorship poll in Anambra State.⁴⁹³³ Elections for Ekiti State's governorship were held successfully with these systems. Reports from Oyo state showed that 42% of voter registrations were rendered invalid due to duplications.⁴⁹³⁴

The World Bank issued recommendations to the Nigerian government to invest in AI-enabled Geospatial data to support the response to the COVID-19 crisis and build back better.⁴⁹³⁵ Nigeria has multiple datasets, captured across multiple platforms such as Bank Verification Number (BVN), Voter's card, International passport, Road Safety, and National Identification Number (NIN). Reports suggest that the country loses up to US\$2 billion annually on biometric data collection duplication.⁴⁹³⁶

To address these inefficiencies and improve Nigeria's digital identity infrastructure, the World Bank provided \$45.5 million in 2024 to Nigeria's National Identity Management Commission as part of the Digital Identification for

⁴⁹³¹ Frank Hersey, *Calls for Nigeria to Test Integrity of Biometric Matching Systems Ahead of Elections* *Biometric Update* (Jan. 13, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/calls-for-nigeria-to-test-integrity-of-biometric-matching-systems-ahead-of-elections>

⁴⁹³² Avang Macdonald, *Biometrics Reduced Fraud in 2023 Nigerian Elections, Analyst Argues* (Mar. 6, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202303/biometrics-reduced-fraud-in-2023-nigerian-elections-analyst-argues>

⁴⁹³³ Ayang Macdonald, *Nigeria State Election Suffers Biometric Voter Verification Failures, Polls Declared Inconclusive*, *Biometric Update* (Nov 8, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202111/nigeria-state-election-suffers-biometric-voter-verification-failures-polls-declared-inconclusive>

⁴⁹³⁴ The Nation Newspaper, *CVR: 42.3 per Cent of Oyo Registrations Invalid* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://thenationonlineng.net/cvr-42-3-per-cent-of-oyo-registrations-invalid/>

⁴⁹³⁵ J Blummenstock et al, *Using Big Data and Machine Learning to Locate the Poor in Nigeria* (Feb. 21, 2021), <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/using-big-data-and-machine-learning-locate-poor-nigeria>

⁴⁹³⁶ Justin Lee, *Nigeria Loses \$2b Annually to Agencies' Duplication of Biometrics Data Collection* (Aug. 14, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201708/nigeria-loses-2b-annually-to-agencies-duplication-of-biometrics-data-collection>

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Development (ID4D) project.⁴⁹³⁷ This funding, part of a larger \$430 million initiative, aims to upgrade biometric systems and increase the number of Nigerians enrolled in the NIN system.⁴⁹³⁸

Nigeria advanced new initiatives governing biometric data and identity systems in 2025. Under the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID 2025),⁴⁹³⁹ biometric information, which is classified as sensitive personal data in the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023,⁴⁹⁴⁰ is subject to Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for high-risk or large-scale processing. The National Population Commission confirmed that the forthcoming national census will include fingerprint, facial, and voice-recognition modalities to enhance verification.⁴⁹⁴¹ The National Identity Management Commission also announced plans to launch a multipurpose digital identity card with biometric authentication by October 2025.⁴⁹⁴² The Senate passed the National Identity Management Commission (Repeal and Enactment) Bill 2025 to consolidate oversight of biometric databases and seeks to make citizen enrollment in the national digital-ID system compulsory.⁴⁹⁴³

Environmental Impact of AI

The National AI Strategy includes “Ensure AI Contributes to Sustainable Development and Environmental Well-being” among the objectives.⁴⁹⁴⁴ The

⁴⁹³⁷ World Bank, *Nigeria Digital Identification for Development Project (P167183)* (Mar. 29, 2024), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099032924113511058/pdf/P1671831f4dde506218b6117b06811e35e0.pdf>

⁴⁹³⁸ Cass Kennedy, *World Bank Provides \$45.5M for Nigeria’s National Digital ID Program* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://mobileidworld.com/world-bank-provides-45-5m-for-nigerias-national-digital-id-program/>

⁴⁹³⁹ Nigeria Data Protection Commission, *General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID) 2025* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://ndpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NDP-ACT-GAID-2025-MARCH-20TH.pdf>

⁴⁹⁴⁰ Nigeria Data Protection Commission, *Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023* (Jun. 12, 2023) https://ndpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Nigeria_Data_Protection_Act_2023.pdf

⁴⁹⁴¹ National Population Commission (NPC), *NPC Chairman Hosts Nigeria Computer Society Delegation; Affirms President Tinubu’s Commitment to Biometric Census* (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://nationalpopulation.gov.ng/news/npc-chairman-hosts-nigeria-computer-society-delegation-affirms-president-tinubu-s-commitment-to>

⁴⁹⁴² Economy Footprint, *Nigeria to Launch New Digital Identity Card by October 2025, Says NIMC* (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://economyfootprint.com/2025/07/25/nigeria-to-launch-new-digital-identity-card-by-october-2025-says-nimc/>

⁴⁹⁴³ Voice of Nigeria, *Nigerian Senate Passes National Identity Management Commission Bill* (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://von.gov.ng/nigerian-senate-passes-national-identity-management-commission-bill/>

⁴⁹⁴⁴ Federal Ministry of , National Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and National Information Technology Development Agency, *NAIS: National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*,

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objective includes a statement that “AI’s energy and resource consumption warrants a specific focus on green and sustainable AI initiatives.” The Outcomes and strategies focus on “green AI” solutions and projects, such as those used to monitor and manage waste. However, the Strategy does not define what “green AI” would entail.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Nigeria, though not a State party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW),⁴⁹⁴⁵ has actively participated in CCW meetings and supports a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons. Nigeria endorsed both the 2024 Freetown Communiqué and the Vienna Conference’s call for urgent regulation,⁴⁹⁴⁶ while also contributing to a draft UN protocol proposing prohibitions on autonomous weapons systems without meaningful human control.⁴⁹⁴⁷

The Humanity at the Crossroads conference in Vienna in April 2024, brought together over 1,000 representatives from 144 nations, including Nigeria,⁴⁹⁴⁸ to discuss the urgent regulatory needs for LAWS.⁴⁹⁴⁹ Key concerns included maintaining human control, accountability, and adherence to international law, with LAWS posing serious risks to global security and human rights. The conference’s consensus on prohibiting certain AWS and regulating others underlined the closing window to prevent an autonomous arms race. For states like Nigeria, active participation and contributions signify a commitment to shaping international norms, protecting human dignity, and ensuring regional stability in the face of emerging AI-driven military technologies.⁴⁹⁵⁰

1.4.4.5., Objective 3.5, p. 43 (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://ncair.nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy-19092025.pdf>

⁴⁹⁴⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁴⁹⁴⁶ Automated Decision Research, *Nigeria*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/nigeria/

⁴⁹⁴⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General* (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

⁴⁹⁴⁸ Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, *List of Associated States* (Apr. 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/list-of-associated-states>

⁴⁹⁴⁹ Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, *2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems>

⁴⁹⁵⁰ Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, *Chair’s Summary: Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation* (Apr. 30, 2024),

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In 2021, Nigeria issued a joint statement with ten other states at the CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS) meeting, calling to “adopt a legally binding instrument to ensure the prohibition of autonomous weapons systems.”⁴⁹⁵¹

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Nigeria voted in favor⁴⁹⁵² of resolution L.56⁴⁹⁵³ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. Nigeria contributed a statement to the report.⁴⁹⁵⁴

Human Rights

Nigeria is party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and a member of the African Union (AU) and has ratified the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.⁴⁹⁵⁵ The rights and freedoms in the treaties signed have been envisaged in Chapter IV of the Nigerian Constitution.⁴⁹⁵⁶ In 2006 the government of Nigeria developed a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NAP) which was a response to the Recommendation of the Vienna Declaration and Program Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights. NAP was an integrated and systematic national strategy to help realize the advancement of human rights in the country. There have been considerable improvements in the enforcement, promotion, and protection of human rights and freedoms in the country since the transition to democratic rule in 1999.

https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/AWS_2024/Chair_s_Summary.pdf

⁴⁹⁵¹ Automated Decision Research, *Nigeria, State Positions* (2024),

https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/nigeria/

⁴⁹⁵² Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁴⁹⁵³ General Assembly, *Resolution L.56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023),

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁴⁹⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, pp. 34–36 (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

⁴⁹⁵⁵ African Union, *African Charter of Human and People’s Rights* (Jun. 1981),

https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36390-treaty-0011_-_african_charter_on_human_and_peoples_rights_e.pdf

⁴⁹⁵⁶ National Library of Nigeria, *Nigeria’s Constitution of 1999 with Amendments through 2011* (2011), <https://nigeriareposit.nlm.gov.ng/items/4a370a96-b42f-4b09-ad68-4fd872b871f1/full>

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Freedom House ranks Nigeria as “Partly Free” with a rating of 44/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report.⁴⁹⁵⁷ The country’s security challenges, extra-judicial killings, torture, and abuses by military of police forces, along with harassment and arrests of media over political issues undermine political rights. Further, civil liberties are undermined by religious and ethnic bias while women and LGBT+ people face discrimination.

In 2016, Nigeria joined the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and some European Union states to sponsor a United Nations Resolution that affirms that rights that apply offline must also apply online.⁴⁹⁵⁸

Nigeria’s involvement in the UN’s call for input on digital technologies in the administration of justice through its National Human Rights Commission highlighted the importance of addressing the protection of human-rights and promotion of equitable legal outcomes when adopting digital technologies in the justice system⁴⁹⁵⁹

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Nigeria participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁴⁹⁶⁰ Nigeria thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.” Nigeria continued its engagement in international AI-safety cooperation beyond the 2023 Bletchley Summit. In May 2024, Nigeria participated in the second Global AI Safety Summit held in Seoul and

⁴⁹⁵⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Nigeria* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/nigeria>

⁴⁹⁵⁸ UN Human Rights Council, *The Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet: Resolution Adopted by the Human Rights Council*, A/HRC/RES/32/13 (Jul. 30, 2016), https://www.article19.org/data/files/Internet_Statement_Adopted.pdf

⁴⁹⁵⁹ OHCHR, *Call for Input: Application of Digital Technologies in the Administration of Justice—Report to the General Assembly on Human Rights in the Administration of Justice* (Jun. 19, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2024/call-input-application-digital-technologies-administration-justice-report>

⁴⁹⁶⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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joined other governments in endorsing the Seoul Declaration.⁴⁹⁶¹ In February 2025, Nigeria also took part in the third edition of the summit, the Paris AI Action Summit, signing on to commitments aimed at strengthening global coordination on AI risks, improving information-integrity protections, and promoting transparency in advanced AI systems.⁴⁹⁶²

OECD / G20 Principles

Nigeria is not a member of the OECD and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁴⁹⁶³ Five AI initiatives from Nigeria are mentioned in the OECD AI Policy Navigator.⁴⁹⁶⁴ The National AI Strategy has not been submitted. The National AI Strategy’s vision to leverage “ethical and inclusive innovation, local talent, and strategic collaboration to drive sustainable development”⁴⁹⁶⁵ aligns with the OECD principle for human-centered, sustainable AI development.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Nigeria has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁴⁹⁶⁶

⁴⁹⁶¹ Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Australia), *The Seoul Declaration by countries attending the AI Seoul Summit* (May 24, 2024), <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/seoul-declaration-countries-attending-ai-seoul-summit-21-22-may-2024>

⁴⁹⁶² Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy, *Week in Review Vol. 74 – Full Recap of Activities of the Honourable Minister Dr. Bosun Tijani* (Feb. 12 2025), <https://fmcide.gov.ng/weekinreview-full-week-recap-of-activities-of-the-honourable-minister-dr-bosun-tijani-vol-74/>

⁴⁹⁶³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁴⁹⁶⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Nigeria* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/nigeria>

⁴⁹⁶⁵ Federal Ministry of , National Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and National Information Technology Development Agency, *NAIS: National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 5 (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://ncair.nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy-19092025.pdf>

⁴⁹⁶⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 29, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Nigeria is a member of UNESCO and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁴⁹⁶⁷ Nigeria also participates in the African Forum for Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence (AFEGAI), which was created in 2019 following a recommendation by UNESCO and African Member States to establish an African Forum of Association of Artificial Intelligence (AI).⁴⁹⁶⁸ AFEGAI brings together AI constituencies in Africa to support the ethical development of Artificial Intelligence. AFEGAI coordinates AI Governance Forums in Africa.⁴⁹⁶⁹

Nigeria is also in the process of completing UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁴⁹⁷⁰ a key step in aligning with the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The RAM aims to evaluate the country's readiness in terms of ethical AI development, governance frameworks, and regulatory measures.

Evaluation

Nigeria has developed a national AI strategy that included stakeholder consultations. Still, Nigeria has not yet established an institutionalized or continuous mechanism for broad public engagement in AI policymaking.⁴⁹⁷¹ The independent data protection, which officially joined the Global Data Privacy assembly as a full member, and the right to algorithmic transparency mark concrete progress toward establishing a robust legal framework to protect citizens from AI risks.

Nigeria is a signatory of the UDHR and the African Union Charter but is only "partially free" with a record of human rights protection that could be improved. Fulfilling the commitment taken by endorsing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI could provide a perfect opportunity to accomplish the reform necessary at national level to turn trustworthy AI into reality for the benefit of all. Beginning the RAM process is a step in the right direction.

⁴⁹⁶⁷ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁹⁶⁸ Forum on AI in Africa Summit, *The Benguerir Declaration* (Dec. 13, 2018), <https://webarchive.unesco.org/20231004045815/https://ru.unesco.org/node/302161>

⁴⁹⁶⁹ UNESCO, *Multistakeholder Group Discusses Ten Building Blocks towards Creating inclusive AI Policies* (Jan. 24, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/multistakeholder-group-discusses-ten-building-blocks-towards-creating-inclusive-ai-policies>

⁴⁹⁷⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁴⁹⁷¹ Paradigm Initiative, *Nigeria Digital Rights and Inclusion Report 2024* (Apr. 2025), <https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Londa-2024-2.pdf>

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Norway

In 2025, Norway drafted an AI Act to implement the EU AI Act. The National data protection authority called for a prohibition on remote biometric identification as part of the new law.

National AI Strategy

The Norwegian Government presented the national artificial intelligence (AI) strategy in January 2020.⁴⁹⁷² The strategy outlines policy actions for the coming years to maximize the opportunities that AI can bring for Norwegian individuals, businesses and industry, and the public sector.⁴⁹⁷³ The national AI strategy includes policy initiatives such as:

- Expanding the offer of education programs and workplace trainings in the AI field to create a solid basis of digital skills and capabilities
- Strengthening Norwegian research in AI
- Enhancing the innovation capacity in AI in both the private and public sector
- Outlining ethical principles for AI to allow fair, reliable and trustworthy AI-related developments
- Establishing digitalization-friendly regulations as to define the legislative framework in which AI developments take place
- Constructing a strong data infrastructure, ensuring open data and data sharing across sectors and business areas, and ensuring the availability of language data resources through the Norwegian language bank at the National library
- Deploying a telecommunication infrastructure that provides high-capacity connectivity and computing power and that ensures security in AI-based systems.

In a section dedicated to ethics, the strategy highlights the adoption of the EU ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI⁴⁹⁷⁴ and the OECD AI principles.

Norway developed its strategy after signing a Declaration of cooperation on Artificial Intelligence with 24 other European countries in May 2018.⁴⁹⁷⁵ Several

⁴⁹⁷² Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (2020), https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/1febbbb2c4fd4b7d92c67ddd353b6ae8/en-gb/pdfs/ki-strategi_en.pdf

⁴⁹⁷³ European Commission, *AI Watch, AI Policies by Country: Norway*, https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/norway_en

⁴⁹⁷⁴ European Commission, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI* (Apr. 2019), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

⁴⁹⁷⁵ European Commission, *EU Declaration on Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 10, 2018), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-member-states-sign-cooperate-artificial-intelligence>

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other initiatives in 2018 paved the way for the drafting of the national strategy. For example, the Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet) published a report on artificial intelligence and privacy.⁴⁹⁷⁶ Another report, Digital21, focused on national collaboration and encouraged engagement from industry, academia and government.⁴⁹⁷⁷ The Norwegian Board of Technology also published a report, Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, Challenges and a Plan for Norway.⁴⁹⁷⁸

The national AI strategy emphasizes that implementation and progress will be closely reviewed and, if necessary, changed with further AI policies. The Datatilsynet released the Strategy for Working with Artificial Intelligence in March 2024, aligned with the 2024–2026 goals. The strategy ensures a coordinated and unified approach to AI-related inquiries and activities to improve supervision in the AI area as well as the authority's use of AI and other IT tools to improve efficiency and quality in the Datatilsynet's work.⁴⁹⁷⁹

Norway established six new centers in 2025 to provide evidence-based research to inform Norway's regulatory framework, including implementation of the EU AI Act and alignment with international standards for responsible AI development.⁴⁹⁸⁰ Research will focus on areas ranging from trustworthy AI and human-AI collaboration to robotics and ethical decision-making across societal impact, technology, and innovation.⁴⁹⁸¹

Nordic-Baltic and Nordic Cooperation on AI

As for the regional landscape, the Norwegian Minister for digitalization signed the declaration on AI in the Nordic-Baltic region, establishing a collaborative framework on “developing ethical and transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to

⁴⁹⁷⁶ Datatilsynet, *Artificial Intelligence and Privacy* (Jan. 2018), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/globalassets/global/english/ai-and-privacy.pdf>

⁴⁹⁷⁷ Digital 21, <https://digital21.no>

⁴⁹⁷⁸ Teknologirådet, *Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, Challenges and a Plan for Norway* (Nov. 26, 2018), <https://teknologiradet.no/en/publication/ai-and-machine-learning-possibilities-challenges-and-a-plan-for-norway/>

⁴⁹⁷⁹ Datatilsynet, *Strategy for Work with Artificial Intelligence [Strategi for Arbeidet med Kunstig Intelligens]* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/om-datatilsynet/planer/strategi-for-arbeidet-med-kunstig-intelligens/>

⁴⁹⁸⁰ The Research Council of Norway, *The Norwegian Government's 5 Billion Kroner Investment: These Are Norway's Six New Research Centres for Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/news/2025/artificial-intelligence/>

⁴⁹⁸¹ Ibid; Simula, *Simula Involved in 3 National AI Research Centres by the Government's "AI Billion"* (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://www.simula.no/about/news/simula-involved-3-national-ai-research-centres-governments-ai-billion>

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the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability.”⁴⁹⁸²

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0⁴⁹⁸³ builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries, and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017-2020. “In order to promote work with digitalisation, co-ordinate efforts, and follow up on the goals of the declaration, a council of ministers for digitalisation (MR-DIGITAL) was established in 2017. The aim is to promote development in three areas: (1) Increase mobility and integration in the Nordic and Baltic region by building a common area for cross-border digital services; (2) Promote green economic growth and development in the Nordic-Baltic region through data-driven innovation and a fair data economy for efficient sharing and re-use of data; and (3) Promote Nordic-Baltic leadership in the EU/EEA and globally in a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies.”⁴⁹⁸⁴

The Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization released another joint statement in November 2021, announcing a focus on digital inclusion, striving to implement measures to make digital services more accessible to all Norwegian inhabitants and ensuring that those who do not possess the necessary level of skills get the opportunity to acquire them.⁴⁹⁸⁵

The Nordic and Baltic ministers for digitalization issued a common statement in September 2022 on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In their common statement, the ministers stressed that this “rapid transformation has challenged everyone to adapt to new, digital ways of doing business, learning and accessing public authorities.” The ministers declared that they “have committed to ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefit from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills. One important factor that helps ensure a strong level of digitalisation in the region is the trust citizens put in digital services from the public sector – be it at regional, national or local level. To keep up this high level of trust, we need to continue our efforts to make our digital public services human centric and accessible. [...] Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and

⁴⁹⁸² Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

⁴⁹⁸³ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Sept. 29, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ministerial-declaration-digital-north-20>

⁴⁹⁸⁴ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation*, <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

⁴⁹⁸⁵ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Promoting Digital Inclusion as a Central Part of the Digital Transformation in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

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ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services.”⁴⁹⁸⁶

As part of its action plan for Vision 2030 (2021–2024), the Nordic Council of Ministers identified innovation, digital integration, the safe use of artificial intelligence, data development and open data, education and digitalization as key objectives.⁴⁹⁸⁷ The Nordic Council of Ministers also emphasizes the involvement of civil society in efforts relating to our vision for 2030 thanks to “a Nordic civil society network and public consultations.”⁴⁹⁸⁸ Nordic Data Protection Authorities signed a joint declaration addressing current data protection issues and emphasized that national legislation must ensure responsible AI and a legal basis to process personal data in 2024, signaling the Nordic DPAs’ commitment to strengthening their cooperation moving forward.⁴⁹⁸⁹

Public Participation

The Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in 2020,⁴⁹⁹⁰ following the Minister of Digitalization’s listening sessions across Norway through 2019. Suggestions from diverse communities in the listening sessions informed the national strategy. Additionally, close to 50 businesses and government agencies provided comments through written statements.

The Datatilsynet and the Norwegian Technology Council conducted a public survey about views on AI in 2024.⁴⁹⁹¹ The survey results informed a draft version of the Act on Artificial Intelligence (AI Act) submitted for public consultation by the

⁴⁹⁸⁶ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Cooperation on Digital Security in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

⁴⁹⁸⁷ Nordic Council of Ministers, *The Nordic Region—Towards Being the Most Sustainable and Integrated Region in the World, Action Plan for 2021–2024* (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-towards-being-most-sustainable-and-integrated-region-world>

⁴⁹⁸⁸ Nordic Council of Ministers, *Guidelines for Involving Civil Society in Work Relating to Our Vision 2030* (Feb. 12, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/guidelines-involving-civil-society-work-relating-our-vision-2030>

⁴⁹⁸⁹ Datatilsynet, *Oslo Declaration: Nordic Data Protection Authorities Join Forces on Children’s Data Protection in Gaming, AI, and Administrative Fines* (May 30–31, 2024), https://www.datatilsynet.no/contentassets/86d8d858f8cc47b18eef8ec000fe5cf8/oslo-declaration_signed.pdf.

⁴⁹⁹⁰ European Commission, *AI Watch* (2020), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/norway_en

⁴⁹⁹¹ Datatilsynet, *Shared View of Generative Artificial Intelligence [Delt syn på generativ kunstig intelligens]* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/aktuelt/aktuelle-nyheter-2024/delt-syn-pa-generativ-kunstig-intelligens/>

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Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Administration in June 2025.⁴⁹⁹² The proposed law will implement the EU AI Act in Norway.

Norway has worked to strengthen national funding for research and innovation in artificial intelligence, and to substantially increase their research collaborations. With the Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium (NORA.ai), Norway has taken important steps to support the European ambition of increased cross-border co-operation in AI research.⁴⁹⁹³

Data Protection

The European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement is an international agreement which enables three European Free Trade Area (EFTA) States, including Norway, to participate in the EU Single Market. All relevant EU legislation in the field of the Single Market is integrated into the EEA Agreement so that it applies throughout the whole EEA. The GDPR was incorporated in the EEA Agreement by a 2018 Joint Committee Decision. The new Norwegian Personal Data Act (PDA) implements the GDPR and became effective as of July 2018.⁴⁹⁹⁴ Norway also updated several sector-specific regulations, such as in the healthcare sector, to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

Norway is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Convention 108 for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data. The country has not ratified the modernized version (108+) as of 2025 but agreed to apply the protocol provisionally.⁴⁹⁹⁵

The Norwegian Data Inspectorate (*Datatilsynet*) is the national supervisory authority charged with enforcing the GDPR in Norway. The Datatilsynet is a member of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), though the country has no voting rights or the right to be elected chair or vice-chair for GDPR-related matters.⁴⁹⁹⁶

⁴⁹⁹² Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Administration, *Consultation Draft New Law on Artificial Intelligence Implementation of the EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Norwegian Law [Høring – utkast til ny lov om kunstig intelligens – gjennomføring av EUs forordning om kunstig intelligens i norsk rett]* (Jun. 30, 2025),

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/3112327/id3112327/?expand=horings svar>

⁴⁹⁹³ Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium (NORA), *About NORA*,

<https://www.nora.ai/about/>

⁴⁹⁹⁴ Datasylnet, *Artificial Intelligence and Privacy* (Jan. 2018),

<https://www.datatilsynet.no/globalassets/global/english/ai-and-privacy.pdf>

⁴⁹⁹⁵ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 1, 2026),

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty num=223>

⁴⁹⁹⁶ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World, Norway Data Protection Authority* (Jan. 2024),

<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=authority&c=NO>

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The Datatilsynet is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002 and co-sponsored the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability⁴⁹⁹⁷ and 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁴⁹⁹⁸ The Datatilsynet did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence⁴⁹⁹⁹ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁵⁰⁰⁰

In June 2018, the Data Inspectorate released a report on AI and privacy. The report showed how imperative further knowledge about the privacy implications of artificial intelligence is, “not only in order to safeguard the right to privacy of the individual, but also to meet the requirements of society at large.”⁵⁰⁰¹ The Datatilsynet offered greater technical detail describing artificial intelligence, including the black box, while also taking a closer look at four relevant AI challenges associated with the data protection principles enshrined in the GDPR: fairness and discrimination, purpose limitation, data minimization, and transparency and the right to information. The report brings awareness to the ethical and privacy consequences of AI systems and the need for deployed systems to respect privacy by design and meet the legislative requirements.

The Datatilsynet has been very active in both enforcement and publication of guidelines on a wide range of significant data protection concerns, including CCTV surveillance and codes of conduct. The data protection authority has made a list of processing activities likely to pose a significant risk to data subjects’ rights and as such always necessitate a data protection impact assessment.⁵⁰⁰² These include: processing of biometric data for identification purposes on a large scale; collecting

⁴⁹⁹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁴⁹⁹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁴⁹⁹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵⁰⁰⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁵⁰⁰¹ Datatilsynet, *Artificial Intelligence and Privacy* (Jan. 2018), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/globalassets/global/english/ai-and-privacy.pdf>

⁵⁰⁰² Datatilsynet, *Processing Operations Subject to the Requirement of a Data Protection Impact Assessment*, <https://www.datatilsynet.no/globalassets/global/dokumenter-pdf/er-skjema-ol/regelverk/veiledere/dpia-veileder/dpialist280119.pdf>

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and combining personal data from third parties in order to decide whether the data subject shall be offered, continue to receive, or shall be denied a product, service or offer; monitoring employees' internet activity, electronic communication or camera surveillance for the purposes of employee monitoring; systematic monitoring, including camera surveillance, on a large scale, in areas accessible by the public.

Following a data protection impact assessment of Facebook, the Data Inspectorate announced that it will no longer communicate via the social media network. Datatilsynet Director-General Bjorn Erik Thon noted, "We believe the risks to the users' rights and freedoms associated with the processing of personal data through a Page on Facebook are too high."⁵⁰⁰³ This is not the first time the Data Inspectorate opposed Facebook. Back to 2012, the Datatilsynet raised important concerns about Facebook's facial recognition tool. Bjorn Erik Thon stated that "It's a very powerful tool Facebook has and it's not yet clear how it all really works," and "They have pictures of hundreds of millions of people. What material Facebook has in its databases is something we need to discuss with them."⁵⁰⁰⁴

In December 2021, the Datatilsynet issued its highest fine at the time—65 million NOK (around 6.5 million Euros)—against Grindr for failing to comply with the consent requirements under the GDPR.⁵⁰⁰⁵ Grindr appealed the fine and the Norwegian Data Protection Authority will assess the relevant appeal and consider whether there are grounds to rescind or alter the decision. By application of the Norwegian Public Administration Act, the Norwegian Consumer Council will also issue an opinion. If the decision is not rescinded/altered, the case may be assessed by the Privacy Appeals Board.⁵⁰⁰⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Although it has not yet ratified the Protocol amending the Convention 108 which provides for algorithmic transparency, Norway is subject to the PDA, implementing the GDPR. Norwegians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an

⁵⁰⁰³ Datasynet, *Norwegian Data Protection Authority Choose Not to Use Facebook* (2021), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/en/news/2021/norwegian-data-protection-authority-choose-not-to-use-facebook/>

⁵⁰⁰⁴ Bloomberg, *Facebook Faces Norway Probe over Facial-Recognition Tags* (Aug. 2, 2012), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2012-08-02/facebook-faces-norway-probe-over-facial-recognition-photo-tags>

⁵⁰⁰⁵ IAPP, *2022 Global Legislative Predictions* (2022),

https://iapp.org/media/pdf/resource_center/2022_iapp_global_legislative_predictions.pdf

⁵⁰⁰⁶ Datatilsynet, *Grindr Has Appealed the Administrative Fine Imposed by the NO DPA* (Feb. 2022), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/en/news/aktuelle-nyheter-2022/datatilsynet-har-mottatt-klage-pa-overtredelsesgebyr-i-grindr-saken/>

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algorithm and to contest automated decisions.⁵⁰⁰⁷ The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability, and effective remedies.⁵⁰⁰⁸

Data Scraping

The Datatilsynet and international data protection and privacy counterparts released a joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy.⁵⁰⁰⁹ An initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”⁵⁰¹⁰ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”⁵⁰¹¹

Data scraping generally involves the automated extraction of data from the web. Data protection authorities are seeing increasing incidents involving data scraping, particularly from social media companies and the operators of other websites that host publicly accessible data. Scraped personal information can be exploited for targeted cyberattacks, identity fraud, monitoring, profiling and surveillance purposes, unauthorized political or intelligence gathering purposes, unwanted direct marketing or spam.

⁵⁰⁰⁷ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

⁵⁰⁰⁸ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁵⁰⁰⁹ UK Information Commissioner’s Office, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁵⁰¹⁰ Regulatory Supervision Information Commissioner’s Office of the United Kingdom, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/media/about-the-ico/documents/4026232/joint-statement-data-scraping-202308.pdf>

⁵⁰¹¹ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Oct. 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

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The draft Artificial Intelligence Act reinforces accountability for data collection and AI training practices to address this problem by mandating that AI developers maintain lawful bases along with appropriate documentation when using scraped data.⁵⁰¹²

Facial Recognition

The Norwegian Consumer Council (*Forbrukerrådet*) urged the Government (*Regjeringen*) to “take a more active role to ensure Norwegian consumers’ privacy and turn words into action” in September 2022.⁵⁰¹³ Drawing on a report from the Privacy Commission, the Consumer Council noted that the use of remote biometric identification, including facial recognition, puts great pressure on privacy.⁵⁰¹⁴ The Datatilsynet formally proposed a nationwide ban on remote biometric identification in 2025, placing high regard on human rights and privacy.⁵⁰¹⁵ The initiative complements earlier requests from the Consumer Council and anticipates a rights-protection framework in Norway’s forthcoming AI Act.

Regulatory Sandbox

Pursuant to the national AI strategy, the Datatilsynet has created a regulatory sandbox for responsible AI. The goal is to promote the development of innovative artificial intelligence solutions that, from a data protection perspective, are both ethical and responsible. The sandbox provides free guidance to a handful of companies, of varying types and sizes, across different sectors, selected through regular calls for application issued by the Data Inspectorate, in exchange for full openness about the assessments that are made.⁵⁰¹⁶ In the fifth round of the regulatory

⁵⁰¹² Regjeringen, *Consultation—Draft New Law on Artificial Intelligence—Implementation of the EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence in Norwegian Law* [Høring—Utkast til ny lov om Kunstig Intelligens— Gjennomføring av EUs forordning om Kunstig Intelligens i norsk rett] (Jun. 30 2025), <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/3112327/id3112327/?expand=horingsnotater>

⁵⁰¹³ Forbrukerrådet, *The Consumer Council Asks the Government to Take Privacy Measures* [Forbrukerrådet ber Regjeringen ta personvern grep] (Sept. 26, 2022), <https://www.forbrukerradet.no/siste-nytt/forbrukerradet-ber-regjeringen-ta-personvern-grep/>

⁵⁰¹⁴ Regjeringen, *NOU 2022: 11 Your Privacy—Our Shared Responsibility, Time for a Privacy Commission* [Ditt personvern—Vårt Felles Ansvar—Tid for en Personvernpolitikk] (Sept. 26, 2022), <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/nou-2022-11/id2928543/>

⁵⁰¹⁵ Datatilsynet, *Consultation Response on the KI Regulation* [Høringssvar om KI-forordningen] (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/regelverk-og-verktoy/lover-og-regler/hoeringsuttalelser/hoeringsuttalelser-2025/hoeringssvar-om-ki-forordningen/>

⁵⁰¹⁶ IAPP, *2022 Global Legislative Predictions* (2022), https://iapp.org/media/pdf/resource_center/2022_iapp_global_legislative_predictions.pdf

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sandbox, generative AI emerged as a common theme for projects in the sandbox, offering potential for valuable insights across the projects.⁵⁰¹⁷

The proposed Norwegian state budget for 2023 funded the regulatory sandbox as a permanent initiative, not as a temporary pilot project as it was the previous two years.⁵⁰¹⁸ The government launched KI-Norge, a national coordination hub under the Norwegian Digitalisation Agency (Digdir) to complement the Datatilsynet sandbox.⁵⁰¹⁹ The platform aims to strengthen oversight capabilities by supporting regulators and developers through testing environments, cross-stakeholder collaboration, and guidance tools.

Environmental Impact of AI

The Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education has formal collaboration agreements with the US Department of Energy to address AI challenges in climate, energy, and health through joint research projects, student exchanges, and a commitment to ethical AI.⁵⁰²⁰

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Norway has regularly participated in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons meetings.⁵⁰²¹ The ethics committee of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global⁵⁰²² recommended in June 2020 that the Fund add lethal autonomous

⁵⁰¹⁷Datatilsynet, *Time for Generative AI in the Sandbox* (Sept. 1, 2024),

<https://www.datatilsynet.no/en/news/aktuelle-nyheter-2023/time-for-generative-ai-in-the-sandbox/>

⁵⁰¹⁸ Datatilsynet, *Annual Report for 2024: Regulatory Sandbox [Årsrapport for 2024: Regulatorisk Sandkasse]* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.datatilsynet.no/regelverk-og-verktoy/rapporter-og-utredninger/datatilsynets-arsrapporter/arsrapport-for-2024/regulatorisk-sandkasse/>

⁵⁰¹⁹ Regjeringen, *Paving the Way for Safe and Innovative Use of AI in Norway [Gjør Norge klar for trygg og innovativ KI-bruk]* (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/whats-new/gjor-norge-klar-for-trygg-og-innovativ-ki-bruk/id3093081/>

⁵⁰²⁰ *Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy of the United States of America and the Royal Ministry of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway on Collaboration on Artificial Intelligence and its applications to Science, Climate Energy and Health* (Mar. 2022),

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/110ee1b82d8a4478991faa95cc95d895/signerte-dokumenter-mou-on-collaboration-on-ai-and-its-applications-to-science-climate-energy-and-health.pdf>

⁵⁰²¹ Norway in the UN, *IC: Conventional Weapons: Statement by Norway in the First Committee Thematic Discussion under the Cluster of Weapons of Mass Destruction* (Oct. 19, 2022), <https://www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/statements/general-assembly-committees/2022/1c-conventional-weapons/>

⁵⁰²² Regjeringen, *The Government Pension Fund*, <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/theeconomy/the-government-pension-fund/id1441/>

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weapons systems to the exclusion list of weapons that it will not invest in.⁵⁰²³ Norway's parliament voted in favor of a proposal to add new criteria to the fund's policy, following endorsement by the Ministry of Finance in 2021. The proposal was aimed at breaking ties the fund may have with companies that sell weapons to parties that use them to violate international humanitarian law.⁵⁰²⁴

Norway's Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) strengthened its ethical guidelines in 2023 by excluding companies linked to military sales that contravene international humanitarian law. This exclusion policy aims to prevent investments in companies that sell weapons used in ways that violate ethical and humanitarian standards.⁵⁰²⁵

In 2022, Norway and 69 other countries signed a UN statement calling for humans to stay in control of AI weapons. The countries called for clear limits and human oversight for military decisions.⁵⁰²⁶ The statement details a two-tier approach where States should commit to (1) outlaw fully autonomous lethal weapons systems operating completely outside human control and a responsible chain of command, and (2) regulate other lethal weapons systems featuring autonomy in order to ensure compliance with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law by preserving human responsibility and accountability through appropriate human control and risk mitigation measures.

Norway reiterated this stance in 2024 by backing new global rules for AI weapons. The proposal would ban fully autonomous weapons and require human control over other military AI systems.⁵⁰²⁷

⁵⁰²³ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots: Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020)

https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and#_ftn195; Human Rights Watch, *An Agenda for Action Alternative Processes for Negotiating a Killer Robots Treaty* (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/11/10/agenda-action/alternative-processes-negotiating-killer-robots-treaty>.

⁵⁰²⁴ Sovereign Wealth Funds, *The proposal was aimed at breaking any links the fund may have to companies that sell weapons to parties that use them to violate humanitarian law* (June 10, 2021), <https://www.pionline.com/sovereign-wealth-funds/norwegian-parliament-calls-further-weapons-exclusions-wealth-fund>

⁵⁰²⁵ Norges Bank Investment Management, *Decisions on Exclusion* (Jan. 24, 2023), <https://www.nbim.no/en/the-fund/news-list/2023/decisions-on-exclusion/>

⁵⁰²⁶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁵⁰²⁷ Permanent Mission of Norway in Geneva, *Statement by Norway to the GGE on LAWS* (Mar. 2024), https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-

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Norway endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain at the REAIM 2023 summit hosted by the Netherlands.⁵⁰²⁸ States stressed that autonomous weapons should be “employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” Norway also participated in an endorsed the outcomes statement for the REAIM 2024 summit. The Blueprint for Action operationalized the principles for the 2023 REAIM call into a series of action steps for countries to collaborate on a legal instrument on AI in the military.⁵⁰²⁹ Norway reaffirmed this stance at the REAIM 2025 conference, emphasizing continued human oversight and accountability in the military use of AI systems.⁵⁰³⁰

AI Literacy

Norway’s National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence noted government intention to give digital skills and literacy greater prominence in primary and secondary education.⁵⁰³¹ The government vowed to make Elements of AI, a series of free online courses developed by Finnish and Norwegian companies with the University of Helsinki, available in Norwegian in 2020. The National Digitalisation Strategy includes the goal for 95% of the population to have basic digital skills “and everyone should be offered the opportunity to develop such skills through national curriculum, workforce training, and opportunities through institutions such as libraries.”⁵⁰³²

Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (2024)/2024-03 GGE LAWS Norway general statement.pdf

⁵⁰²⁸ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM 2023 Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁵⁰²⁹ DigWatch, *Responsible AI in the Military Domain: REAIM Blueprint for Action* (Sept. 2024), [https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-ream-blueprint-for-action#REAIM Blueprint for Action](https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-ream-blueprint-for-action#REAIM%20Blueprint%20for%20Action)

⁵⁰³⁰ REAIM 2025, *Outcome Statement on Human Control in AI Defense Systems* (Mar. 2025), <https://www.ream2025.org/outcome-statement/>

⁵⁰³¹ Regjeringen, *The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence [Nasjonal Strategi for Kunstig Intelligens]*, 3: Developing and Leveraging AI (Jan. 14, 2020), <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/documents/nasjonal-strategi-for-kunstig-intelligens/id2685594/?ch=5>

⁵⁰³² Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance, *The Digital Norway of the Future: National Digitalisation Strategy 2024–2030*, p. 10 (Oct. 2024), https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/c499c3b6c93740bd989c43d886f65924/en-gb/pdfs/digitaliseringsstrategi_eng.pdf

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Human Rights

Norway is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions, among which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights.⁵⁰³³ Norway legislators passed the Human Rights Act in 2019, allowing five human rights conventions to override domestic legislation in times of conflict. The following conventions have this special designation: the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Children.

Freedom House ranks Norway among the world's most democratic and "Free" countries in the 2025 Freedom in the World report with a score of 99 out of 100 for its strong civil rights and transparent government.⁵⁰³⁴

Norway values diversity in AI by prioritizing the development of language technology systems that support communications in Norwegian, Sámi, and other dialects.⁵⁰³⁵ The aim is to protect the rights of the Sámi people, a Finno-Ugric-speaking people inhabiting the region of Sápmi, of which Norway is part. This focus on the Sámi language is also included in the Norwegian National AI Strategy, in line with the UNESCO recommendation to increase the accessibility of AI technologies through multi-lingual delivery.

In a 2020 recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers clarified that their commitment to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms requires that "member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, with the intention to produce positive outcomes and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects."⁵⁰³⁶

⁵⁰³³ Norwegian Human Rights Institution, *The Human Rights Framework in Norway* (Apr. 2020), <https://www.nhri.no/en/2019/the-human-rights-framework-in-norway/>

⁵⁰³⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Norway* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/norway/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁰³⁵ Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 19 (Jan. 2020),

https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/1febbbb2c4fd4b7d92c67ddd353b6ae8/en-gb/pdfs/ki-strategi_en.pdf

⁵⁰³⁶ Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems (Apr. 8, 2020),

https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Norway is a member of the OECD and endorsed the OECD AI Principles in May 2019.⁵⁰³⁷ The country reaffirmed this commitment in 2024 by aligning its AI initiatives with updated OECD guidelines, which now emphasize risk management, data privacy, and AI accountability.⁵⁰³⁸ The national AI strategy reflects aligns with the OECD principles including fairness, accountability, transparency, and trustworthiness in AI development with a focus on data privacy and integrity.⁵⁰³⁹

Norway has taken steps to implement the OECD AI principles through initiatives such as norge.no, a public platform providing a centralized guide for accessing public services.⁵⁰⁴⁰ The site includes open data from previous versions of the site via the National Data Catalog, which offers an overview of datasets, concepts, APIs, and models accessible to both public and private sectors.⁵⁰⁴¹ The project was established by the Brønnøysund Register Centre and the Norwegian Digitalization Agency.

In September 2022, Norwegian Research Council announced a 10-year financial support for Integreat, a purely AI focused Center of Excellence (CoE) that will offer groundbreaking research and develop theories, methods, models, and algorithms from a sociological perspective that integrate general and domain-specific knowledge with data, laying the foundations of the next generation of machine learning. This initiative supports OECD's principle of shaping an enabling policy environment for AI and corresponds to the policy goal identified in the Norway's AI strategy to strengthen research in AI and enhance the innovation capacity in AI in both the private and public sector.⁵⁰⁴²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Norway contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy

⁵⁰³⁷ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵⁰³⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Evolving with Innovation: The 2024 OECD AI Principles Update* (May 20, 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/work/evolving-with-innovation-the-2024-oecd-ai-principles-update>

⁵⁰³⁹ Regjeringen, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 14, 2020) <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/nasjonal-strategi-for-kunstig-intelligens/id2685594/>

⁵⁰⁴⁰ Norge.no, *About norge.no*, <https://www.norge.no/en/about-norgeno>

⁵⁰⁴¹ Norwegian Digitization Agency (Digdir), *National Data Catalogue*, <https://data.norge.no/nb>

⁵⁰⁴² Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium, *A New Centre of Excellence on AI Will Be Funded by the Research Council of Norway* (Oct. 5, 2022), <https://www.nora.ai/norsk/news/2022/a-new-centre-of-excellence-on-ai-will-be-funded-by.html>

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and the Rule of Law.⁵⁰⁴³ Norway signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty,⁵⁰⁴⁴ the first international legally binding agreement on AI, on September 5, 2024.⁵⁰⁴⁵ Norway pledged to apply the treaty to cover AI's lifecycle and risks for both public and private sectors.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Norway has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.⁵⁰⁴⁶ Norway has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵⁰⁴⁷ Norway's digitalization and AI strategies provide ambitious goals to promote digital and AI literacy across the population.⁵⁰⁴⁸ The national AI strategy's attention to diverse language resources for training systems reflects a similar commitment to ethical AI.⁵⁰⁴⁹

Evaluation

Norway launched a national AI strategy in 2020, aiming to foster responsible and transparent AI aligned with ethical principles. The strategy includes principles including fairness, transparency, accountability, and a commitment to protect civil rights in digital spaces. Norway integrated the OECD AI Principles into the AI policy framework, supporting transparency, accountability, and human rights protections. Norway's oversight framework includes the Data Inspectorate (*Datatilsynet*) for data protection, the Consumer Council for consumer rights in digital platforms, and the Privacy Commission, which recently highlighted risks related to biometric and facial

⁵⁰⁴³ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁰⁴⁴ Council of Europe, *CM(2024)52-final-Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)-Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law-Explanatory Report* (May 17, 2024), <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=091259488025fb06>

⁵⁰⁴⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 2, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁵⁰⁴⁶ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>.

⁵⁰⁴⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵⁰⁴⁸ Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance, *The Digital Norway of the Future: National Digitalisation Strategy 2024–2030*, p. 10 (Oct. 2024), https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/c499c3b6c93740bd989c43d886f65924/en-gb/pdfs/digitaliseringsstrategi_eng.pdf

⁵⁰⁴⁹ Regjeringen, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 14, 2020) <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/nasjonal-strategi-for-kunstig-intelligens/id2685594/>

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recognition technologies. As a European Free Trade Associate state (EFTA) in the European Economic Area (EEA), Norway will be required to implement the EU AI Act by 2026. The proposed AI Act allocates resources for oversight to enforce the Act's provisions on high-risk AI and transparency.

Although Norway ranks high in the protection of civil liberties, Norway has yet to ratify the updated Council of Europe Convention 108+, which would enhance data protection and algorithmic transparency rights, strengthening protections for digital privacy. Following Norway's endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the government has engaged with UNESCO's Global AI Ethics Observatory, which provides frameworks for implementing ethical AI at national levels. Norway has also signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty and specified that it will apply to private as well as public AI uses. However, further action will be required to translate these recommendations and pledges into practice.

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Oman

In 2025, Oman released an updated National AI Policy, providing a governance framework for the safe and ethical use of AI systems. Oman also progressed toward implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics by completing the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

National AI Strategy

Oman's digital transformation began under the framework of Oman Vision 2040, announced in 2021. The Vision positioned advanced and forward-looking technologies as core drivers of national progress and economic diversification.⁵⁰⁵⁰ The Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology subsequently published three programs centered on AI related to future opportunities and AI applications,⁵⁰⁵¹ an executive program,⁵⁰⁵² and the National Program for AI and Advanced digital Technologies.⁵⁰⁵³ The National Program includes pillars dedicated to the adoption and localization of AI as well as a pillar centered on effective governance with a human-centered vision. This pillar focuses on establishing the necessary legislative and regulatory frameworks to ensure the safe and ethical use of AI technologies, protecting data privacy, and fostering trust in advanced digital technologies.

Several pilot programs and policy initiatives were introduced to promote the safe and efficient adoption of AI across sectors such as healthcare, environment, agriculture, and smart cities in 2024.⁵⁰⁵⁴ Notable accomplishments in recent years include the establishment of a National AI Committee and launch of several strategic initiatives like Engineer it with AI, National Open Data Portal, Oman GPT, Oman AI Studio, and AI Economics Initiative.

⁵⁰⁵⁰ Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Unit, *Oman Vision 2040* (2021), <https://www.oman2040.om/uploads/publication/20231105221146-2023-11-05publication221143.pdf>

⁵⁰⁵¹ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Future Opportunities for Artificial Intelligence Applications and Advanced Technologies in the Sultanate of Oman* (Jun. 2021), <https://www.mtcit.gov.om/web/content/14162>

⁵⁰⁵² Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Executive Program for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies* (Oct. 2021), <https://www.mtcit.gov.om/web/content/14157>

⁵⁰⁵³ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *The National Program for AI and Advanced Digital Technologies* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.mtcit.gov.om/web/content/14143>

⁵⁰⁵⁴ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *2024 Annual Report: National Program for AI and Advanced Digital Technologies* (2025), <https://www.mtcit.gov.om/web/content/14149>

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General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems

The General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems,⁵⁰⁵⁵ also known as the National AI Policy 2025⁵⁰⁵⁶ and AI Strategy 2025,⁵⁰⁵⁷ outlines a national framework to govern the use and development of AI systems in the Sultanate of Oman. The policy combines technical regulations and ethical principles to ensure the responsible and safe use of AI systems. The foundational, ethical principles include privacy, equality, justice, and the preservation of human dignity. The introduction explicitly references alignment with Islamic principles, underscoring the commitment to preserving local cultural and ethical characteristics. The principles align with three ethical standards for the use of AI systems: (1) humanity and society; (2) inclusivity and justice; and (3) responsibility and accountability.

The framework aims to enhance public trust in AI systems and contribute to supporting innovation and achieving competitiveness at the regional and international levels. The policy emphasizes a flexible regulatory environment and aligns with the National Program focus on strengthening the capacity of both the public and private sectors to adopt and implement ethical safeguards in AI development and deployment.

The National AI Policy 2025 builds on an earlier version of the document that includes an ethical charter as well as specific provisions for entities using and developing AI technologies.⁵⁰⁵⁸ The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology monitors compliance across state agencies while regulatory bodies oversee compliance in other sectors. The policy cites other relevant publications such as the Personal Data Protection Law, demonstrating the integration across sectors and other bodies.

⁵⁰⁵⁵ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Apr. 1, 2025), <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/general-policy-for-the-safe-and-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-systems-291>; original document in Arabic, <https://mtcit.gov.om/web/content/mtcit.content/291/attachment?download=True>

⁵⁰⁵⁶ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/national-artificial-intelligence-policy-2025-291>

⁵⁰⁵⁷ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁵⁸ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Aug. 2024), [https://www.ita.gov.om/itaportal/Data/SiteImgGallery/2024731125545486/National Artificial Intelligence Policy.pdf](https://www.ita.gov.om/itaportal/Data/SiteImgGallery/2024731125545486/National%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20Policy.pdf)

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Public Participation

Oman has implemented several initiatives across the e-government portal, Omanuna, to increase effective communication with citizens and include them in the policymaking process, based on government recognition of “the importance of involving the public in decision-making, planning, and the implementation and evaluation of policies and initiatives, effective communication with citizens has become a top priority. In this context, utilising digital tools to enhance community participation is more vital than ever.”⁵⁰⁵⁹

Oman Vision 2040, which officially launched Oman’s digital development projects, received input from over 41,000 participants from government and private sectors, civil society institutions, municipal councils, and academic institutions.⁵⁰⁶⁰ To ensure diverse perspectives were represented, organizers sought out women, youth, people with special needs, and expatriates during this process.⁵⁰⁶¹ Moreover, during the drafting of the national AI policy, the Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology launched a public consultation to encourage the public to get involved in shaping the policy.⁵⁰⁶²

Data Protection

Oman enacted its Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) in 2022.⁵⁰⁶³ The PDPL came into force on February 13, 2023, introducing mandatory safeguards on the collection, analysis, and inference based on personal data. The PDPL embeds core privacy-by-design principles relevant to AI, including lawful processing, purpose limitation, data minimization, and accountability. The law also clearly distinguishes between data controllers (i.e., the individual/entity who determines the purpose and means of the processing of personal data and carries out this processing himself or entrusts it to someone else) and data processors (i.e., the individual/entity who processes personal data on behalf of the controller). Data subjects are granted enforceable rights such as access, erasure, consent withdrawal, and breach notification. Oversight is entrusted to the Ministry of Transport, Communications

⁵⁰⁵⁹ Omanuna, *E-Participation* (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://oman.om/en/home-top-level/eparticipation>

⁵⁰⁶⁰ Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, *Vision Overview* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.oman2040.om/vision?lang=en>

⁵⁰⁶¹ Ibid

⁵⁰⁶² Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (2025), <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/report-studies-9/survey-report-76/public-consultation-on-the-national-artificial-intelligence-policy-421>

⁵⁰⁶³ Sultanate of Oman, *Royal Decree No. 6/2022 Issuing the Personal Data Protection Law* (Feb. 13, 2022), <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/laws-75/personal-data-protection-law-1034>

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and Information Technology, which may impose fines ranging from OMR 500 to OMR 500,000, depending on the severity of violations.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, in its dual role as policymaker and regulatory authority, issued the Executive Regulations of the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL Executive Regulations), which specify that consent must be explicit, written, and freely given by the data subject.⁵⁰⁶⁴ The PDPL Executive Regulations also require the controller to obtain authorization from the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology before handling personal data. The Regulations further mandates technical and organizational safeguards, including logging of data processing activities, appointment of a Data Protection Officer, breach notification protocols, and strict conditions for cross-border data transfers.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly so is ineligible to endorse the relevant resolutions.⁵⁰⁶⁵

Algorithmic Transparency

The principles of algorithmic transparency and contestability are not established as explicit rights under Omani laws. The rights are, however, indirectly and partially addressed through the Personal Data Protection Law. According to the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL)⁵⁰⁶⁶ organizations must inform individuals about the purpose of data processing and obtain their explicit consent, and the data subject has the right to access the data, rectify it, transport it, and update it. However, the PDPL does not explicitly grant individuals the right to receive meaningful information about the logic involved in an automated decision. While citizens can object to the decision, PDPL does not legally compel the organization to explain how an algorithm reached a conclusion. The PDPL also does not contain an explicit probation against being subject to a decision with legal or significant effects that is based solely on automated processing.

The National AI Policy 2025 outlines the importance of respecting the right of individuals to human intervention in decisions that directly affect their lives or

⁵⁰⁶⁴ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Ministerial Decision No. 34/2024 Executive Regulations of the Personal Data Protection Law* (Feb. 4, 2024), <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/regulations-72/executive-regulations-of-the-personal-data-protection-law-1035>

⁵⁰⁶⁵ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁵⁰⁶⁶ Sultanate of Oman, *Royal Decree No. 6/2022 Issuing the Personal Data Protection Law* (Feb. 13, 2022), <https://mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/laws-75/personal-data-protection-law-1034>

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rights.⁵⁰⁶⁷ The policy further requires entities using AI to ensure that systems are transparent in their decision-making mechanisms. These provisions are yet to be enacted as law.

AI Surveillance

In an effort to reduce road accidents and improve response times, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) implemented a comprehensive monitoring network composed of AI-supported cameras throughout the nation.⁵⁰⁶⁸ Beyond detecting common violations, the ROP confirms that AI is also being used to track repeat offenses and offenders to uncover behavioral insights and promote targeted enforcement. Although ROP's stance on the use of AI to monitor traffic violations is clear, there is no concrete evidence indicating whether these enforcement mechanisms will be expanded to cover other offenses.

EdTech

Oman's Ministry of Education (MOE) deployed 4,000 Microsoft 365 Copilot licenses across the nation's urban and rural schools to ensure equitable access to AI-powered tools.⁵⁰⁶⁹ Additionally, every student from fifth grade onwards has received access to Oman's local AI tutor Mudarris, a learning companion that adapts to each student's learning pace and style, provides 24/7 support in Arabic and English, and offers emotional support and motivation.⁵⁰⁷⁰ So far, the initiative has received positive feedback: statistics show improvements in math scores, increased science fair participation, and more female students joining coding clubs.⁵⁰⁷¹ However, the long-term consequences and role of AI in emotional support are still unclear.

⁵⁰⁶⁷ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁶⁸ The Arabian Stories, *Exclusive: Royal Oman Police to Target Unruly Drivers, Focus on Repeat Offenders in Delivery Sector with AI Cameras* (Jul. 27, 2025), <https://www.thearabianstories.com/2025/07/27/tas-exclusive-royal-oman-police-to-target-unruly-drivers-focus-on-repeat-offenders-in-delivery-sector-with-ai-cameras/>

⁵⁰⁶⁹ Mark Bowen, *Ministry of Education Oman Launches AI-powered Classroom Transformation Supported by Microsoft* (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.intelligentcio.com/me/2025/09/11/ministry-of-education-oman-launches-ai-powered-classroom-transformation-supported-by-microsoft/>

⁵⁰⁷⁰ Layla Al-Zadjali, *Back to School 2025: How Oman's EdTech Revolution is Transforming Every Classroom* (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://aiinoman.com/blog/back-to-school-2025-omans-edtech-revolution-transforms-classrooms>

⁵⁰⁷¹ Ibid

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Environmental Impact of AI

Oman currently has no AI-specific environmental regulation. However, the General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems provides that entities should “promote the use of AI systems in achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment by improving energy efficiency, avoiding the depletion of natural resources, and reducing pollution of all kinds.”⁵⁰⁷² AI-related infrastructure such as data centers, large-scale machine learning operations, or AI-driven industrial automation falls under Oman’s general environmental legal regime, particularly the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Law and its executive regulations governing emissions control, environmental permits, and mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments.⁵⁰⁷³

Government strategies such as Oman Vision 2040⁵⁰⁷⁴ position AI as a catalyst for energy efficiency and green innovation, signaling support for renewable-powered data infrastructure and green AI practices. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology launched the Green AI Alliance to establish a “first-of-its-kind regional initiative supporting AI development while preserving the environment,”⁵⁰⁷⁵ along with the Digital Triangle Project, which features green data centers, toward the end of 2025.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Oman is not a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and has not taken an independent stance on lethal autonomous weapons in major international fora.⁵⁰⁷⁶ However, as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab Group at the United Nations, Oman is associated with calls for a legally binding treaty to regulate or prohibit autonomous weapons systems.

⁵⁰⁷² Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁷³ Sultanate of Oman, *Royal Decree No. 114/2001 Issuing the Law on Environmental Protection and Pollution Control* (Nov. 14, 2001), https://www.vertic.org/media/NationalLegislation/Oman/OM_La_w_Conservation_Environment_114-2001.pdf

⁵⁰⁷⁴ Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, *Sustainable Environment* (Jan. 1, 2026), <https://www.oman2040.om/pillar/4?lang=en>

⁵⁰⁷⁵ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Launch of COMEX 2025: Announcement of the Green Artificial Intelligence Alliance and Unveiling of the “AI Designated Zone” and “Digital Triangle” Projects* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://mtcit.gov.om/media-4/news-announcements-11/news-85/launch-of-comex-2025-announcement-of-the-green-artificial-intelligence-alliance-and-unveiling-of-the-ai-designated-zone-and-digital-triangle-projects-461>

⁵⁰⁷⁶ Automated Decision Research, *Oman* (Oct. 9, 2025), https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/oman/

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At the 79th UN General Assembly First Committee in October 2024, Oman reaffirmed its commitment to ethical oversight in emerging defense technologies by voting in favor of Draft Resolution L.77 on lethal autonomous weapons systems. This vote reflected Oman's broader concern about the destabilizing effects of such technologies on regional security and its insistence on maintaining meaningful human control in the use of force, consistent with international humanitarian law. Oman's position builds on the country's support for Resolution 78/241 at the 78th General Assembly, emphasizing the humanitarian, legal, and ethical implications of autonomous weapons.⁵⁰⁷⁷ By consistently aligning with resolutions that prioritize accountability and human oversight, Oman has positioned itself as a regional advocate for responsible innovation in defense technologies and a supporter of multilateral efforts to mitigate the risks of automation in warfare.

AI Literacy

Human capacity development is one of the main pillars of Oman's General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems with plans to:⁵⁰⁷⁸

- Invest in education and training to build local AI expertise,
- Integrate AI curricula across all educational levels, and
- Support professional training and certification programs.

The National Program of AI and Advanced Digital Technologies includes provisions to equip graduates from local higher education institutions with the necessary skills to support the adoption of AI.⁵⁰⁷⁹ The Makeen initiative, which aims to equip Omani youth with in-demand modern digital skills such as AI, big data, programming, and application development, provides multiple specialized hands-on training programs dedicated to AI and its sub-fields.⁵⁰⁸⁰ Ministry employees also participated in workshops to increase awareness on the use of AI tools.⁵⁰⁸¹

⁵⁰⁷⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2023* (Dec. 28, 2023),

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

⁵⁰⁷⁸ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁷⁹ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *The National Program for AI and Advanced Digital Technologies* (Jan. 1, 2026),

<https://prod.mtcit.gov.om/ITAPortal/Pages/Page.aspx?NID=292589&PID=200683>

⁵⁰⁸⁰ Omanuna, *Makeen* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.oman.om/en/home-top-level/eparticipation/makeen>

⁵⁰⁸¹ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *Workshops to Raise Awareness Among Ministry Employees* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://mtcit.gov.om/media-4/events-competitions-10/award-83/workshops-to-raise-awareness-among-ministry-employees-315>

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Human Rights

Oman has affirmed its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) was established in 2008 under Royal Decree No. 124/2008 as an independent national entity focused on disseminating human rights culture and safeguarding human rights in Oman.⁵⁰⁸² The OHRC has distributed the UDHR to various authorities and civil society institutions, underscoring adherence to the UDHR's principles.⁵⁰⁸³

Nevertheless, Freedom House classified Oman as “Not Free” with a Global Freedom Score of 24/100 in 2025.⁵⁰⁸⁴ Power remains concentrated in the hands of the Sultan and citizens face broad constraints on expression, political participation, and access to justice. In practice, the ruling family retains control over policy and election decisions. Political pluralism is effectively banned, with no independent parties permitted.

OECD AI Principles / G20 AI Guidelines

Oman is not a member of the OECD or the G20 but the national approach to AI demonstrates clear alignment with the principles and guidelines promoted by both groups. For example, the AI Strategy 2025 emphasizes transparency, accountability, explainability, and fairness.⁵⁰⁸⁵ Oman participates in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab Digital Economy frameworks that cite OECD and G20 AI standards as global benchmarks for responsible AI.⁵⁰⁸⁶

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Oman is not a member of the Council of Europe⁵⁰⁸⁷ and did not participate in the negotiations for the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human

⁵⁰⁸² Oman Human Rights Commission, *Establishment of the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC)* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://ohrc.om/en/انشاء-اللجنة/>

⁵⁰⁸³ Oman Human Rights Commission, *Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Joins the International Society in the Celebration of the Human Rights Day* (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://ohrc.om/en/oman-human-rights-commission-ohrc-joins-the-international-society-in-the-celebration-of-the-human-rights-day/>

⁵⁰⁸⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Oman* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/oman>

⁵⁰⁸⁵ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership* (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁸⁶ OECD, *Arab AI Working Group* (Jul. 9, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/arab-ai-working-group-6814>

⁵⁰⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Member States of the Council of Europe* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/members-states>

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Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁵⁰⁸⁸ Oman has not signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty as of date.⁵⁰⁸⁹

UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI

Oman is a member state of UNESCO and has been active in forums and affiliated activities. Omani researchers and institutions have participated in UNESCO AI ethics events, including the 2025 Global Forum.⁵⁰⁹⁰ Oman's General Policy for the Safe and Ethical Use of AI Systems⁵⁰⁹¹ and UNCTAD/CSTD contribution⁵⁰⁹² explicitly reference ethical guidance in the development and use of AI systems. UNESCO selected Oman as a beneficiary country to implement the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence through UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵⁰⁹³ Oman published the report with UNESCO's support in early 2026.⁵⁰⁹⁴

Evaluation

Oman's National AI Strategy, aligned with Oman Vision 2040, promotes the responsible adoption of AI through national programs, strategic initiatives, and ethical policies that support innovation, capacity-building, and trusted AI use across sectors. Oman has leveraged digital engagement and public consultations to ensure inclusive citizen participation in policymaking, incorporating diverse societal perspectives in Oman Vision 2040 and AI policy development. Ongoing initiatives focused on developing human capacity by integrating AI curricula across all educational levels and supporting professional training and certification programs

⁵⁰⁸⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁰⁸⁹ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁵⁰⁹⁰ Oman News Agency, *Oman Participates in Global Forum on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, (Feb. 5, 2024), <https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/115772>

⁵⁰⁹¹ Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, *AI Strategy 2025: Towards Comprehensive Digital Leadership*, (Jun. 1, 2025), <https://test.mtcit.gov.om/library-3/legislations-policies-8/policies-73/ai-strategy-2025-towards-comprehensive-digital-leadership-386>

⁵⁰⁹² H.E. Mr. Yahya bin Salam Al-Mandhari, *The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Advancing Sustainable, Inclusive, Science, and Evidence-Based Solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Its Sustainable Development Goals for Leaving No One Behind* (Apr. 7, 2025), https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162025_s08_hlpf_oman_almandhari_ar.pdf

⁵⁰⁹³ Oman News Agency, *Oman Launches Initiative to Expand Comprehensive Ethical AI Governance* (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/124885/>

⁵⁰⁹⁴ UNESCO Digital Library, *Sultanate of Oman: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2026), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000397446>

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demonstrate efforts to implement the principles and goals outlined in the strategy and policies even while remaining outside OECD, G20, and Council of Europe structures. With the UNESCO RAM published,⁵⁰⁹⁵ along with these initiatives, Oman is taking steps to implement the UNESCO Recommendation.

The Personal Data Protection Law and PDPL executive regulations establish comprehensive safeguards for personal data with oversight. However, algorithmic transparency and the right to contest automated decisions are not yet legally mandated.

⁵⁰⁹⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Pakistan

In 2025, Pakistan finalized the National Artificial Intelligence Policy, creating a framework for AI governance and development aligned with international standards and ethical principles. The Supreme Court ruled on the use of AI in the judicial process, acknowledging the utility of AI tools for addressing a backlog of cases while stressing the necessity of human judgement to make judicial rulings.

National AI Strategy

The Federal Minister of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT) Syed Aminul Haque announced government plans in December 2021 to introduce a national AI policy.⁵⁰⁹⁶ A draft released for public consultation in May 2023⁵⁰⁹⁷ defines the purpose “to create a broad-based awareness of the use of AI-based platforms while keeping privacy at the forefront, upskilling human capital on AI and allied technologies, guiding investment in AI research and development, ensuring ethical and responsible use of AI, and provide a framework for addressing the challenges and risks associated with the socio-economic outfit of the country.”

Pakistan’s Federal Cabinet approved the National AI Policy 2025,⁵⁰⁹⁸ a comprehensive framework establishing six strategic pillars: innovation ecosystem, awareness and readiness, secure AI ecosystem, transformation and evolution, AI infrastructure, and international partnerships. The Policy’s vision explicitly links AI adoption with human rights, rule of law, and inclusion, referencing UNESCO’s Ethics of AI and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The policy establishes a National AI Fund, AI Council, and Policy Implementation Cell to operationalize oversight. The AI Council, including representatives from academia, industry, civil society, and key sectors such as healthcare and agriculture, is tasked with providing strategic direction and overseeing the overall implementation process. The Policy’s implementation framework is aligned with the Digital Pakistan Vision and the Uraan National Transformation Plan (2024–2029), integrating AI development within broader national digital and innovation goals.

⁵⁰⁹⁶ International News, *Centre to Introduce National AI Policy Soon, Says Amin* (Dec. 5, 2021), <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/914203-centre-to-introduce-national-ai-policy-soon-says-amin>

⁵⁰⁹⁷ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *Draft National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (2022), [https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National AI Policy Consultation Draft V1.pdf](https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National%20AI%20Policy%20Consultation%20Draft%20V1.pdf); International Bar Association, *Pakistan’s Draft National AI Policy: Fostering Responsible Adoption and Economic Transformation* (Jul. 6, 2023), <https://www.ibanet.org/Pakistan-draft-national-ai-policy-fostering-responsible-adoption>

⁵⁰⁹⁸ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jul. 25, 2025), [https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National AI Policy.pdf](https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National%20AI%20Policy.pdf)

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The concept of “Digital Pakistan” was first introduced at the state level after a record year of revenues from software exports in 2016–2017.⁵⁰⁹⁹ Official language focused on getting more citizens digitally connected, literate, and brought under the government’s data collection umbrella.⁵¹⁰⁰ A year later, the MoITT issued the 2018 Digital Pakistan Policy.⁵¹⁰¹ This policy includes the need to develop necessary policy frameworks, laws, and rules to enable the creation of a sustainable IT environment, including the enactment of a data protection and privacy law. In December 2019, former Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the Digital Pakistan Vision,⁵¹⁰² setting Pakistan’s digital ambition for the government and the private sector to work toward a digitally progressive and inclusive Pakistan. The Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2024 established the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital,⁵¹⁰³ to serve “as the foundation for the construction of a holistic digital ecosystem with advanced concepts and components for the rapid delivery of next-generation digital services, applications and content.”⁵¹⁰⁴

A few other initiatives also aim for Pakistan to bridge the digital divide. In 2018, the Presidential Initiative for AI and Computing (PIAIC) sought to reshape Pakistan by revolutionizing education, research, and business by adopting the latest technologies. The PIAIC envisioned Pakistan becoming a global hub for AI, data science, cloud-native computing, edge computing, Blockchain, augmented reality, and the internet-of-things.⁵¹⁰⁵

The National Centre of Artificial Intelligence was created in 2018 “to grow the AI industry, aligning with international trends, and solving Pakistan’s problems to boost the knowledge-based economy.”⁵¹⁰⁶ Since 2019, the annual Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Summit⁵¹⁰⁷ brings academic, industry and government representatives

⁵⁰⁹⁹ Ministry of Finance, *Pakistan Economic Survey 2016–2017*, Chapter 13:Transport and Communication, p.221 (2017), https://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/13-Transport_and_Communications.pdf

⁵¹⁰⁰ Apoorva Sudhakar, *Digital Pakistan – Ideas, Potential and Challenges*, NIAS Pakistan Reader (Aug. 17, 2021), https://globalpolitics.in/view_cir_articles.php?url=Pakistan Reader&recordNo=631

⁵¹⁰¹ Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, *Digital Pakistan Policy* (2018), [http://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY\(22-05-2018\).pdf](http://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY(22-05-2018).pdf)

⁵¹⁰² Dawn, ‘Full potential of youth, women will be unleashed,’ Says PM on Launch of Digital Pakistan Vision (Dec. 5, 2019), <https://www.dawn.com/news/1520609/full-potential-of-youth-women-will-be-unleashed-says-pm-on-launch-of-digital-pakistan-vision>

⁵¹⁰³ Dawn, *Cabinet Approves Law to Digitise Services Sector* (Jun. 12, 2024) <https://www.dawn.com/news/1839337>

⁵¹⁰⁴ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, *Digital Pakistan Policy* (May 22, 2018), [https://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY\(22-05-2018\).pdf](https://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY(22-05-2018).pdf)

⁵¹⁰⁵ *Presidential initiative for Artificial Intelligence and Computing (PIAIC)*, <https://www.piaic.org>

⁵¹⁰⁶ National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), <https://ncai.pk/overview/>

⁵¹⁰⁷ Pak AI Summit, *Event Brief* (Mar. 29, 2022), <https://pakaisummit.com/public/archive-22/>

together to discuss the most pressing issues confronting artificial intelligence and ICT in general in Pakistan.

Pakistan was one of the 11 Digital Cooperation Organization member states to sign the Riyadh AI Call for Action Declaration (RAICA) launched during the 2022 Global AI Summit.⁵¹⁰⁸ Endorsement of the RAICA commits Pakistan to identify and address present, emerging, and future humanitarian issues in the field of AI.⁵¹⁰⁹ The declaration highlights seven key pillars through which AI can be used as a tool to benefit lives around the world—bridging the digital divide, empowering underprivileged communities, promoting digital development, ensuring fairness and non-discrimination, driving innovation in AI, combatting climate change in AI, and engaging in international collaboration and cooperation in AI. With a strong human-centered AI, focus, the Declaration refers repeatedly to the promise and potential of AI to transform societies, economies, and humanity's most pressing global issues, including climate change. The Declaration calls explicitly for the creation, adoption and promotion of comprehensive AI ethical guidelines and appeals to signatory countries to work with various stakeholders, from humanitarian organizations to innovative companies, to employ AI to advance universal human rights.

In October 2022, the Government of Pakistan announced the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, with a component of AI collaboration, building on the Sino-Pak strategic relationship through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.⁵¹¹⁰ The former Additional Director-General of the Federal Investigation Agency and founder of Digital Pakistan expressed that Pakistan must collaborate with China to develop AI capabilities, naming cybersecurity as a primary collaborative area. The digital corridor is intended to use AI to improve areas like food security, agricultural development, and green development. A joint statement from 2024⁵¹¹¹ advances the collaboration on AI as the countries agree to “strengthen policy coordination in the field of artificial intelligence, deepen relevant practical cooperation, and jointly seek to promote the development of AI technology.” They also agree to uphold the “principle of attaching equal importance to development and security in AI systems” and express a commitment to build an “open, fair and effective AI governance mechanism through dialogue, consultation and equal cooperation.”

⁵¹⁰⁸ Saudi Press Agency, *Digital Cooperation Organization Adopts Riyadh AI Declaration at the Global AI Summit* (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2383673>

⁵¹⁰⁹ Digital Cooperation Organization, *Riyadh AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration* (Jun. 2024), <https://dco.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Riyadh-AI-Call-for-Action-RAICA-Declaration.pdf>

⁵¹¹⁰ The Tribune, *Pak-China Digital Corridor to Boost IT Cooperation* (Oct. 22, 2022), <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2382841/pak-china-digital-corridor-to-boost-it-cooperation>

⁵¹¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Joint Statement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China* (Oct. 15, 2024), <https://mofa.gov.pk/press-releases/joint-statement-between-the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-and-the-peoples-republic-of-china>; https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202410/t20241016_11508330.html

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Public Participation

In keeping with a culture of regional and neighborhood-based political decision-making, the government of Pakistan does not offer centralized public participation opportunities to citizens per se. However, in an unprecedented first, in 2021 the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications launched an online survey form that provided citizens the opportunity to weigh in on the Digital Pakistan Policy. The Ministry then issued a consultation draft of the 2021 Personal Data Protection Bill.⁵¹¹² Accompanying the draft, the Ministry conducted a road show in the large Pakistani cities and issued press statements to publicize the drafting of the Policy and the accompanying bill.⁵¹¹³

By October 2024, the website of the Ministry presented a list of draft policies under review and provided an email address for receiving feedback in relation to four of them: the Draft National Freelancing Facilitation Policy, the Draft Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Framework”, the Draft Framework for Frequency Spectrum Re-Farming, in addition to the Draft AI Policy already mentioned above.⁵¹¹⁴ The Ministry also provides general contact information for MoITT officials, including telephone numbers and email addresses.⁵¹¹⁵

The UNESCO-led Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Ethical and Inclusive AI Governance held in Islamabad in May 2025 marked the first large-scale consultation since consultations on the National AI Policy 2025.⁵¹¹⁶ Representatives from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector discussed policy implementation and ethical safeguards, emphasizing the need for transparent follow-up mechanisms and sustained citizen engagement in AI governance. Independent experts and civil-society actors observed that while the National AI Policy 2025 introduced consultative principles, the process lacked broad public outreach and

⁵¹¹² Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunications, *Pakistan Personal Data Protection Bill Consultation draft* (2021), [https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/25821_DPA_Bill_Consultation_Draft\(1\).pdf](https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/25821_DPA_Bill_Consultation_Draft(1).pdf)

⁵¹¹³ Business Recorder, *Digital Pakistan Policy 2021 Road Show*, Recorder Report (Mar. 25, 2021), <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40077321>

⁵¹¹⁴ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, *Draft Policies*, <https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/NzUyZGE0MWMtMmYzZC00YmIzLTk2ODUtYmVjNTk1Nzg4MTBm>

⁵¹¹⁵ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, *Contact Us*, <https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/MTBNDNINzItOTJkMi00OTg5LTlmNDgtNDEzZDA1NDIjM2E4>

⁵¹¹⁶ UNESCO Regional Office Islamabad, *Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Ethical and Inclusive AI Governance* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-holds-multi-stakeholder-dialogue-ethical-and-inclusive-ai-pakistan?utm>

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transparency.⁵¹¹⁷ Several analyses published in 2025 recommended establishing permanent participatory mechanisms, such as public comment periods, stakeholder committees, and open consultations, to ensure that citizens' perspectives are meaningfully incorporated into AI policymaking.”

In addition, since 2018, citizens have had access to the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PDU), an online platform offering direct connection between the Government and citizens. One of PDU's initiatives is the Citizen's Portal, an app where citizens can submit and track complaints and make requests directly to the relevant government body. To date, the portal—which is also available as a mobile phone app—registered over 4.9 million complaints, of which over 4.8 million have been resolved. The portal has a participation rate of over 4 million Pakistani citizens. Further, success stories and testimonies are published on the website and promoted through social media. The portal continues to serve as a direct conduit for information flowing between the government and Pakistani citizens.

Language and connectivity are the primary obstacles to participation. While government websites are bilingual, policy documents within the websites are published exclusively in English, with no translation available. As more than 50% of Pakistan's population cannot read or write English, this serves as a major impediment to meaningful public participation from all levels of society.⁵¹¹⁸ Meaningful connectivity and access to the internet, including intentional restrictions over alleged security concerns,⁵¹¹⁹ also represent challenges to public participation. The fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 persons in Pakistan stand at 1.4 and is phenomenally lower than the 30 subscriptions per 100 persons in high-income countries and lower than 4.4 in the lower-middle-income countries.⁵¹²⁰

⁵¹¹⁷ Digital Rights Foundation, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025: Analysis by Digital Rights Foundation* (Aug. 2025), <https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/DRF-Analyses-Pakistans-National-AI-Policy-2025-1.pdf>

⁵¹¹⁸ *Here's How Pakistan Ranks Among World's English Speaking Countries*, Express Tribune (Nov. 19, 2016), <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1236300/heres-pakistan-ranks-among-worlds-english-speaking-countries/>

⁵¹¹⁹ Reuters, *Pakistan Suspends Mobile Data Service Restive Province* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistan-suspends-mobile-data-service-restive-province-2025-08-08/>; Al Jazeera, *Internet: Pakistan's New Political Battleground* (Feb. 22, 2024), <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/2/22/internet-pakistans-new-political-battleground>

⁵¹²⁰ World Bank, *Pakistan: Evaluating Private Capital Mobilization Potential for Resilient Digital Connectivity* (May 16, 2024), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062824080037094/pdf/P18110511eac280ae1af8715b95bc9d719b.pdf>

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Data Protection

The Pakistan Personal Data Protection Bill⁵¹²¹ and the E-Safety Authority Bill 2023⁵¹²² were approved by the cabinet in July 2023. The MoITT stated that the objective of the new legislation is to protect individuals and business communities' data and to provide them with a safe environment.⁵¹²³

The PDPB governs the collection, processing, use, and disclosure of personal data and sanctions against violations of data subjects' rights.⁵¹²⁴ The PDPB provides for rights regarding automated processing, including profiling: A data subject shall have the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling. The PDPB also provides for data subject rights with regard to the processing of personal data in clause 15.⁵¹²⁵ However, the draft mentions a list of caveats including legal compulsions, employment law, inability of data subject to provide consent, medical purposes, even "in order to protect the vital interests of the data subject or another person." These exceptions provide great leeway in the interpretation of the proposed rules and raise concerns as to their potential interpretation.

The PDPB also provides for the establishment of a National Commission for Personal Data Protection of Pakistan within six months after the entry into force of the legislation. The authority is purported to have the same independent status as the Civil Courts: "The Authority shall be competent to decide complaints and pass any order. To decide complaints the Authority shall be deemed to be Civil Court and shall have the same powers as are vested in the Civil Court."⁵¹²⁶ However, due to government and especially military interference and undue pressure on the existing judiciary, concerns arise about the potential lack of independence of this authority,

⁵¹²¹ Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, *Draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023* (2023), [https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final Draft Personal Data Protection Bill May 2023.pdf](https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final%20Draft%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Bill%20May%2023.pdf)

⁵¹²² ProPakistani, *Govt to Regulate Content on Social Media Platforms Via 'e-Safety Bill 2023'* (Aug. 4, 2023), <https://propakistani.pk/2023/08/04/govt-to-regulate-content-on-social-media-platforms-via-e-safety-bill-2023/>

⁵¹²³ Tahir Amin, *Cabinet Likely to Approve 'Personal Data Protection Bill' Today*, Business Recorder (Feb. 15, 2022), <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40154515>

⁵¹²⁴ Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, *Draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023* (2023), [https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final Draft Personal Data Protection Bill May 2023.pdf](https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final%20Draft%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Bill%20May%2023.pdf)

⁵¹²⁵ Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunications. *Personal Data Protection Bill 2021 Consultation Draft: V.25.08.2021* (Aug. 2021), <https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/YjVmNzU0MWMtYzBkMC00Yjg5LTk1ODktOTJiODYzZTY5ZWRRk>

⁵¹²⁶ Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, *Draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023* (2023), [https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final Draft Personal Data Protection Bill May 2023.pdf](https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final%20Draft%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Bill%20May%2023.pdf)

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once it does come into existence. As of November 2025, the PDPB has not passed into law. Hence, the Commission has not yet been formed. There is also no indication, as a matter of public record, when and whether the law will be published in the Official Gazette of Pakistan.⁵¹²⁷ Given the lack of a data protection authority, Pakistan is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁵¹²⁸

The Federal Cabinet also approved the Cloud First Policy and the Social Media Rules in 2022,⁵¹²⁹ a governance instrument toward cloud infrastructure and internal and cross-border data flows.⁵¹³⁰ The Policy references the need for cloud service providers to safeguard data privacy: “CSP (cloud service providers) implement technical and administrative controls to protect data—both stored and in transit. Furthermore, formal engagements with CSP generally define data protection standards and establish SLA (service level agreements) that outline security and privacy measures. The policy also provides data classification guidelines for public sector data, ranging from “open,” “public,” “restricted,” “sensitive/confidential,” to “secret.”

The National Registration and Biometric Policy Framework 2.0 sets uniform rules for the collection, storage, and use of biometric data by public and private entities.⁵¹³¹ The framework requires privacy-by-design, consent-based processing, and ISO/IEC 27001-aligned security controls, and mandates Privacy and Data Protection Impact Assessments before deploying biometric systems. Although not legally binding, it is among Pakistan’s few policies embedding data-protection principles such as data minimization and limited retention. However, the lack of an independent oversight body and NADRA’s centralization of biometric databases heighten risks of mass surveillance and function creep, limiting the policy’s effectiveness without statutory enforcement.

Article 14 of Pakistan’s 1973 Constitution protects the right to privacy in the home. This right has been interpreted to extend to digital communications as well. However, more recent laws allow for this right to be circumvented and called into question. The 2016 Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) includes various data protection- and privacy-related provisions to reduce cyber blackmailing, defamation, and bringing disrepute to natural persons with the use of photoshopped images.

⁵¹²⁷ Ministry of Law and Justice, Publications (2025), <https://molaw.gov.pk/Publications>

⁵¹²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁵¹²⁹ Kalbe Ali, *Federal Cabinet approves Cloud First Policy, Personal Data Protection Bill*, Dawn (Feb. 16, 2022), <https://www.dawn.com/news/1675330>

⁵¹³⁰ Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, *Pakistan Cloud First Policy* (Feb. 2022), [https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Pakistan Cloud First Policy-Final-25-02-2022.pdf](https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Pakistan%20Cloud%20First%20Policy-Final-25-02-2022.pdf)

⁵¹³¹ National Database Registration Authority (NADRA), *National Registration & Biometric Policy Framework Version 2.0* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.nadra.gov.pk/getDownload/12>

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Concerns arise about PECA provisions that grant government agencies access to citizen's private data and restrict citizens' access to their government data. Section 31, for example, allows an authorized agent to require a person to hand over data without producing a court warrant if reasonably required for a criminal investigation. Other provisions are intended to grant the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) and other law enforcement agencies access to the private data of citizens, along with restricting citizens from gaining access to government data. Section 32 of the PECA requires internet service providers to retain specified traffic data for a minimum of one year and subject to the PTA's demands outlined in Section 31. Section 42 outlined that powers are delegated to the government when it comes to sharing information with foreign entities.⁵¹³²

In February 2022, PECA's Ordinance (a series of proposed amendments) passed.⁵¹³³ One of the passed amendments seeks to make the online defamation of authorities, including the military and judiciary, a criminal offense with harsh penalties. Both Human Rights Watch⁵¹³⁴ and Amnesty International⁵¹³⁵ termed it as the latest in a concerted campaign to restrict freedom of expression and stifle dissent. While the PECA already contained broad provisions around the criminalization of the defamation of natural persons, the amendment expanded those provisions to include the government, military, and judiciary redefining what a "person" is considered. Other passed amendments include making defamation a nonbailable offense and increasing its prison term to five years, expanding the definition of those who can initiate criminal proceedings for defamation, among other passed amendments. The amendment made no mention of AI or its use in online or other forms of disinformation.

On February 23, 2022, the Islamabad High Court restrained the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)—the primary investigative body for PECA—from making any arrests under the newly passed Ordinance.⁵¹³⁶ Alongside this investigative restraint, the major opposition parties moved resolutions in the National Assembly to repeal the Ordinance⁵¹³⁷ and the National Commission for Human

⁵¹³² Farieha Aziz, *Pakistan's Cybercrime Law: Boon or Bane?* Heinrich Boll Stiftung (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://www.boell.de/en/2018/02/07/pakistans-cybercrime-law-boon-or-bane>

⁵¹³³ Radio Pakistan, *PECA Amendment Bill & Elections Act Amendment Ordinance in Favour of All: Shibli* (Jan 21, 2022) <https://www.radio.gov.pk/21-02-2022/peca-amendment-bill-elections-act-amendment-ordinance-in-favour-of-all-shibli>

⁵¹³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Pakistan: Repeal Amendment to Draconian Cyber Law* (Feb 28, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/28/pakistan-repeal-amendment-draconian-cyber-law>

⁵¹³⁵ Amnesty.org, *Pakistan: Repeal Amendment to draconian cyber law* (Feb. 28, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/pakistan-repeal-draconian-cyber-crime-law/>

⁵¹³⁶ Ibid

⁵¹³⁷ Express Tribune, *Major Parties Move NA for PECA Ordinance Repeal* (Mar. 3, 2022), <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2346215/major-parties-move-na-for-peca-ordinance-repeal>

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Rights (NCHR) issued a statement⁵¹³⁸ demanding the Ordinance's immediate repeal, expressing serious reservations on the promulgation of the Ordinance, stating it breached the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan⁵¹³⁹ and protected under various international agreements to which Pakistan is a signatory, and violates the democratic process. In April 2022, PECA's Ordinance was struck down by the Islamabad High Court,⁵¹⁴⁰ a verdict lauded by the media⁵¹⁴¹ and human rights organizations⁵¹⁴² for upholding the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Still, on August 20, 2024, the Punjab Provincial Government issued a draft Punjab Cybercrime Control Act 2024.⁵¹⁴³ This proposed legislation incorporates comprehensive provisions for data protection and privacy and aligns with the 2016 PECA, while introducing stricter penalties of up to 15 years for cybercrime offenses.

In 2023, Pakistan issued the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Ordinance, the Official Secrets Amendment Act, 2023, and the E-Safety Authority Bill 2023. The PEMRA amendment lays out the procedures to register and monitor ratings of TV channels as well as elaborating on the definitions of disinformation and misinformation. This law and the way it was adopted, days after being presented in parliament and without deliberation, has garnered criticism and protest from many parties, including media, civil society, and human rights bodies.

Only five days after the promulgation of the PEMRA Ordinance, the Official Secrets Amendment Act, 2023 was signed into law.⁵¹⁴⁴ The President denied having signed this bill into law. This law makes a person guilty of an offense if they "intentionally creates a problem of public order or acts against the state." In addition,

⁵¹³⁸ National Commission for Human Rights, *Statement against the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022* (Feb 26, 2022), https://nchr.gov.pk/press_release/statement-against-the-prevention-of-electronic-crimes-amendment-ordinance-2022/

⁵¹³⁹ National Assembly of Pakistan, *The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan* (Feb. 28, 2012), https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1333523681_951.pdf; https://biblioteka.sejm.gov.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Pakistan_ang_010117.pdf

⁵¹⁴⁰ International Federation of Journalists, *Pakistan: PECA Ordinance Overruled by Islamabad High Court* (Apr 11, 2022), <https://www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/category/press-releases/article/pakistan-peca-ordinance-overruled-by-islamabad-high-court.html>

⁵¹⁴¹ Ibid

⁵¹⁴² Myra Imran, *NCHR Welcomes Govt's Decision to Agree with Demands of Repealing PECA Ordinance*, The News (Mar. 5, 2022), <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/938718-nchr-welcomes-govt-s-decision-to-agree-with-demands-of-repealing-peca-ordinance>

⁵¹⁴³ Punjab Police, *Punjab Cybercrime Control Agency on the Cards* (Aug 20, 2024), <https://punjabpolice.gov.pk/node/19998>; <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1221878-punjab-cybercrime-control-agency-on-the-cards>

⁵¹⁴⁴ The Express Tribune, *Official Secrets, Army Act Amendment Bills become Law* (Aug. 20, 2023), <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2431501/official-secrets-army-act-amendment-bills-become-law>

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if a person “attacks or damages a prohibited place and the purpose of this is to directly or indirectly benefit the enemy,” this is also punishable.

The Social Media Rules were adopted in October 2020.⁵¹⁴⁵ The spirit of these rules bears proximity to the 2016 Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act’s (PECA) Section 20 on the defamation of public institutions.⁵¹⁴⁶ The rules compel social media companies to establish offices within the country, localizing their database servers. They specify a new position of National Coordinator to liaise with these companies and seem to indicate the aspiration of greater control over Pakistani users. AI was not featured in these rules explicitly, though online disinformation was. They were updated and released again a year later.⁵¹⁴⁷ Twitter came under intense state scrutiny when an unhappy public used the platform to express their discontent with the government, which led to further restrictions.⁵¹⁴⁸ Access to Twitter was officially restored in May 2025,⁵¹⁴⁹ while access to other sites such as YouTube⁵¹⁵⁰ and Signal⁵¹⁵¹ were restored earlier though hard to access.

Algorithmic Transparency

Algorithmic transparency is not yet established as a legal right in Pakistan. The Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB) provides for the “right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling”⁵¹⁵² with no further details. In a landmark judgement recognizing AI-assisted judicial processes, the Supreme Court of Pakistan affirmed that “AI use must comply with constitutional

⁵¹⁴⁵ The Gazette of Pakistan, *Notification Part II, S.R.O.1077(I)/2020* (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Social Media Rules.pdf>

⁵¹⁴⁶ Arshad Khan Eesha, *The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016: An Analysis*, LUMS Law Journal, <https://sahsol.lums.edu.pk/node/12862>

⁵¹⁴⁷ The Gazette of Pakistan, *Notification Part II, S.R.O.1077(I)/2020* (Oct. 20, 2020), <https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Social Media Rules.pdf>

⁵¹⁴⁸ Ahmed Abbas, *Pakistan Tightens Restrictions on Social Media Giants*, International Bar Association (Jun. 22, 2022), https://www.ibanet.org/Pakistan-tightens-restrictions-on-social-media-giants#_ednref6

⁵¹⁴⁹ Profit by Pakistan Today, *Twitter/X Restored in Pakistan After Year-Long Ban, PTA Confirms* (May 7, 2025), https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/05/07/twitter-x-restored-in-pakistan-after-year-long-ban-pta-confirms/?utm_source

⁵¹⁵⁰ Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, *YouTube Shut Down in Pakistan* (Jun. 1, 2023), <https://www.pta.gov.pk/category/youtube-shut-down-in-pakistan-713542977-2023-06-01>

⁵¹⁵¹ Kill Switch Timeline in Pakistan, *Netizens Report Inaccessibility to Signal App* (Jul. 26, 2024), <https://www.killswitch.pk/?q=node/185>

⁵¹⁵² Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunications, *Draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill*, Section 29(4) (2023), <https://www.moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Final Draft Personal Data Protection Bill May 2023.pdf>

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guarantees of dignity, fairness, and due process.”⁵¹⁵³ This judicial acknowledgment represents Pakistan’s first formal reference to algorithmic accountability. Although no laws have been implemented, the National AI Policy 2025 frames transparency and human oversight as part of the Secure AI Ecosystem pillar. The government will “mandate lifecycle evaluations and impact assessments” and “implement a framework for auditing AI decision-making, as well as transparency and algorithmic accountability, to be used by third-party auditors, with mechanisms for auditing and redress in cases of unwarranted outcomes.”⁵¹⁵⁴

Smart Surveillance

Two Acts contain concerning provisions on surveillance in Pakistan. The 1996 Act providing for the reorganization of the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) permits the government to authorize any person(s) to intercept calls and messages, or to trace calls through any telecommunication system in the interest of national security or in the apprehension of a person in relation to any offense.⁵¹⁵⁵ Under the 2013 Investigation for Fair Trial Act, a judge has the power to issue a warrant of surveillance or interception, upon the fulfillment of certain conditions.⁵¹⁵⁶

Aside from statutory provisions, some Pakistani software exhibits surveillance state aspects. Hotel Eye is software that combines surveillance technologies and government databases to track hotels and their customers. The software also collects citizens’ data without their consent. Hotel Eye is now mandatory for hotel and private rest house operators throughout Pakistan.⁵¹⁵⁷ Various provinces in Pakistan including Punjab, Balochistan,⁵¹⁵⁸ and Gilgit-Baltistan have reported on the deployment of Hotel Eye for purposes of crime prevention, lauding its efficacy in helping trace, track, and surveil suspected criminals.⁵¹⁵⁹ This widespread use raises concerns regarding surveillance of private citizens, in

⁵¹⁵³ Supreme Court of Pakistan, *Judgment in Constitution Petition No. 1010-L of 2022* (Apr. 2025), https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/downloads_judgements/c.p._1010_1_2022.pdf

⁵¹⁵⁴ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy*, p. 11 (Jul. 25, 2025), https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National_AI_Policy.pdf

⁵¹⁵⁵ Gazette of Pakistan, *The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act*, Section 54 (1996), https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1329727963_180.pdf

⁵¹⁵⁶ Gazette of Pakistan, *The Investigation for Fair Trial Act*, Section 11 (2013), https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1361943916_947.pdf

⁵¹⁵⁷ Punjab Information Technology Board website, *HotelEye*, https://pitb.gov.pk/hotel_eye

⁵¹⁵⁸ UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *Road to Digitization: UNODC Concludes Training on Specialized Software for Balochistan Police* (Mar. 15, 2023), https://www.unodc.org/copak/en/Stories/SP2/road-to-digitization_unodc-concludes-training-on-specialized-software-for-balochistan-police.html

⁵¹⁵⁹ Gilgit-Baltistan Police website, *Hotel Eye*, <https://gbp.gov.pk/hotel-eye/>

particular with regard to gender interactions and in view of discriminatory laws against women still in effect in the country.⁵¹⁶⁰

In the case of the Balochistan province, technical, operational, and training support on the use of Hotel Eye (among other specialized software) was provided very recently by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime⁵¹⁶¹ under the European Union-funded Rule of Law Roadmap (RoLR) Balochistan project.⁵¹⁶²

The Government of Pakistan deployed several tech-related measures during COVID-19 that threaten the right to privacy, such as a track-and-trace system originally developed to track-and-trace possible terrorist activities. The system is opaque and lacks judicial oversight and reportedly combines personal call-monitoring mechanisms and geofence tracking to identify when a person leaves a given geographic location.⁵¹⁶³

Practices of surveillance in public space and use of facial recognition are of concern. A report by Privacy International identified such practices in Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵¹⁶⁴ Privacy International found that the government of Pakistan retrofitted systems, originally designed for counter-terrorism purposes by the Inter-Services Intelligence directorate, for COVID-19 surveillance. The absence of explanation of how the system operates, raised grave concerns among digital rights privacy activists, about tracking and tracing, monitoring and tracking suspected patients through VPN⁵¹⁶⁵.

⁵¹⁶⁰ Pakistan Qanun-e-Shahadat Ordinance 1984, Section 151 (4): “when a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character,” p.66, <https://punjabpolice.gov.pk/system/files/qanun-e-shahadat-order-1984.pdf>; <https://www.adalatonline.pk/laws/qanun-e-shahadat-order/>

⁵¹⁶¹ UN Office on Drugs and Crime Country Office Pakistan, *Road to Digitization: UNODC Concludes Training on Specialized Software for Balochistan Police* (Mar. 15, 2023), https://www.unodc.org/copak/en/Stories/SP2/road-to-digitization_-unodc-concludes-training-on-specialized-software-for-balochistan-police.html

⁵¹⁶² UN Office on Drugs and Crime website, *6th Provincial Steering Committee reinforces a new Rule of Law Roadmap for Balochistan*, Press Release (Feb 28, 2023), <https://www.unodc.org/copak/en/PR/6th-provincial-steering-committee-reinforces-a-new-rule-of-law-roadmap-for-balochistan.html>

⁵¹⁶³ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2021 Report* (2021), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-net/2021>

⁵¹⁶⁴ Privacy International, *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses: Global Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://privacyinternational.org/report/5003/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses-global-lessons-covid-19>

⁵¹⁶⁵ Zuha Siddiqi, *Pakistan Is Using a Terrorism Surveillance System to Monitor the Pandemic*, Slate (Jul. 15, 2020), <https://slate.com/technology/2020/07/pakistan-isi-terrorism-surveillance-coronavirus.html>

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One of China's Belt and Road Initiative's flagship project is the \$63 billion USD China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. China is supporting numerous Safe City projects to allegedly improve security within Pakistan's major urban centers by providing low-interest loans and urging the involvement of Chinese state-owned enterprises. Safe City projects have effectively installed much of the Xinjiang digital security system across numerous Pakistani cities, including Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi, and Gwadar. An example is Lahore's Huawei-built Safe City which uses approximately 8000 high-grade CCTV cameras, 4G wireless connectivity, facial recognition, automated vehicle number plate recognition, multiple tracking options, integrated communication platforms, geographic information systems, and specialized apps for security personnel use. These systems are controlled through a large 10,000-square-meter integrated command, control, and communication center that uses AI, big data, and cloud computing technology.⁵¹⁶⁶

By January 2023, the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA), a government body reporting directly to the Ministry of Interior Affairs and responsible for all identification documents, shared data and images of 4,000 wanted people to a Safe City Islamabad for biometric matching, to lead to their arrest.⁵¹⁶⁷ According to the report, Safe City Islamabad placed a request to NADRA in October 2021 for data on people suspected for serious crimes, including a category of "proclaimed offenders" (referring to individuals who avoided court warrants). By mid-January, Safe City Islamabad announced the arrest of three people and 887 alerts arising from facial recognition across the 106 cameras installed in the capital city.⁵¹⁶⁸ The Safe City Islamabad project continues to be featured in the country's annual budgetary appropriations for its Public Sector Development Program 2022–2023.⁵¹⁶⁹

In January 2023, the NADRA announced the use of an AI-based solution to verify fingerprints/records of senior citizens.⁵¹⁷⁰ The solution aims to supplement the

⁵¹⁶⁶ Peter Layton, *Belt and Road Means Big Data and Facial Recognition, Too*, The Interpreter (Jun. 19, 2020), <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/belt-road-means-big-data-facial-recognition-too>

⁵¹⁶⁷ Chris Burt, *Pakistan ID Authority Shares Data of 4K Wanted People for Biometric Matching*, Biometric Update (Jan. 11, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/pakistan-id-authority-shares-data-of-4k-wanted-people-for-biometric-matching>

⁵¹⁶⁸ Chris Burt, *Biometric Registrations Open for Vehicles and gGuns in Pakistan*, Biometric Update (Jan. 18, 2023), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202301/biometric-registrations-open-for-vehicles-and-guns-in-pakistan>

⁵¹⁶⁹ Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, *Public Sector Development Programme 2022–2023: As Per NEC Directions of 8-6-2022* (Aug. 2020), https://www.pc.gov.pk/uploads/archives/PSDP_2022-23_Final.pdf

⁵¹⁷⁰ Business Recorder, *Verifying fingerprints of senior citizens: Nadra introduces AI-based solution* (Jan. 13, 2023), <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40219926/verifying-fingerprints-of-senior-citizens-nadra-introduces-ai-based-solution>

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physical, biometric verification of fingerprints.⁵¹⁷¹ The project was allocated funding in the Public Sector Development Program 2020–2021⁵¹⁷² and is being developed under the supervision of the National Center of AI at the National University of Science & Technology.⁵¹⁷³

On September 29, 2024, the Punjab Safe City project,⁵¹⁷⁴ a joint project between Punjab Police and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), deployed the AI-powered Face Trace System (FTS) to increase the effectiveness of biometric criminal identification and detention.

EdTech and Children Tracking

Pakistan is one of 49 countries subject of a 2022 study by Human Rights Watch about the use of government-endorsed Ed Tech tools for online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵¹⁷⁵ Based on technical and policy analysis of 163 EdTech products, Human Rights Watch found that governments' endorsements of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children's rights. In the case of Pakistan, the report found that the Muse App developed for K-5 students in Pakistan and used by more than 120,000 students across 1,000 schools by April 2020 targeted children with behavioral advertising. The report also found that the Pakistani government endorsed Apps with the capability to collect the Android Advertising ID and identify, tag, and track billions of users, including children (Muse App, Taleemabad App); collected the WiFi MAC address of children (Muse App); collected aggregate numbers used to trace mobile devices (Taleemabad App); engaged in ID bridging (to bypass privacy controls) (Muse and Taleemabad); and collected WI-Fi SSID, which can be used to infer information about a child's habits and relationships (Taleemabad). Other websites and Apps shared their users' data to Facebook Pixel, which could track every moment of interaction across their platforms (Khan Academy, Learn Smart Pakistan, Sabaq Foundation).⁵¹⁷⁶

⁵¹⁷¹ Chris Burt, *Pakistan Telecom Authority and NADRA to Work Together on Multi-Finger Biometrics*, Biometric Update (Mar 7, 2023) <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202303/pakistan-telecom-authority-and-nadra-to-work-together-on-multi-finger-biometrics>

⁵¹⁷² Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, *Public Sector Development Programme 2020–2021* (Jun. 2020), https://na.gov.pk/uploads/1591967333_830.pdf

⁵¹⁷³ Interview with Dr. Yasar Ayaz conducted by Manail Anis & Matthew Ogbeifun (Mar. 14, 2023), video recording available with the authors

⁵¹⁷⁴ Punjab Police, *Punjab Safe Cities: Enhancing Security and Efficiency* (Sept. 29, 2024), <https://punjabpolice.gov.pk/node/20831>; <https://psca.gop.pk/>

⁵¹⁷⁵ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life?* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

⁵¹⁷⁶ Ibid

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Use of AI by Courts

In April 2023, a judge in a Pakistani court used GPT-4,⁵¹⁷⁷ Open AI's chatbot, to help render a judgment in a case.⁵¹⁷⁸ This decision sparked widespread debate regarding AI's capabilities and the possibility of it replacing legal professionals, including judges. This seems to have been a one-off incident, though, and has not led to a formalization of the use of AI by courts in Pakistan.

Already in 2022, an academic study reported the planned use of artificial intelligence to aid judicial decision-making.⁵¹⁷⁹ Plans to establish this project by the Deep Learning Lab of the National Centers for AI for this purpose were reported on in 2020.⁵¹⁸⁰ The Supreme Court of Pakistan delivered a landmark judgment in April 2025 to recognize AI-assisted judicial processes.⁵¹⁸¹ The court ruled that, given a backlog of cases, "the thoughtful adoption of AI can serve as a viable instrument for access to timely justice and alleviating systemic backlogs." Still, the judge "unequivocally affirmed that AI is not, and must never become, a substitute for judicial decision-making. Adjudication is a constitutional function rooted in legal reasoning, institutional independence, and human empathy, qualities no automated system can replicate."⁵¹⁸²

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Pakistan was one of the first nations to call for a ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems. Since 2013, Pakistan and 30 other countries have called for a ban on fully autonomous weapon systems, which will prohibit weapons systems that lack human control.⁵¹⁸³ The Human Rights Council of Pakistan argued that lethal

⁵¹⁷⁷ Courting the Law, *ChatGPT-4 Used in a Pakistani Judgment as an Experiment* (Apr. 7, 2023), <https://courtingthelaw.com/2023/04/07/laws-judgments-2/chatgpt-4-used-in-a-pakistani-judgment-as-an-experiment>

⁵¹⁷⁸ International Bar Association, *AI in Pakistani Courts of Law* (Jun. 1, 2023), <https://www.ibanet.org/AI-in-Pakistani-courts-of-law>

⁵¹⁷⁹ Uzma Nazir Chaudhry, *Algorithmic Decision-Making in Pakistan: A Challenge to Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination*, Centre for Human Rights, https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/67e8a077db3ffc67e56df264/67ef0c40935ed2d6904abd97_Algorithmic-Decision-Making-in-Pakistan.pdf

⁵¹⁸⁰ Announcement video uploaded to the National Center of Artificial Intelligence – Pakistan Facebook page (Feb. 18, 2023), https://www.facebook.com/ncai.pk/posts/674605906623523/?paipv=0&eav=AfZNCXszVIDHOdy6FdhC4vpD16RhvqTjhW8vIO3wY5DtavQoPD_904pjc-oc7Klu0PY&_rdr

⁵¹⁸¹ Supreme Court of Pakistan, *Judgment in Constitution Petition No. 1010-L of 2022*, pp. 5–18 (Apr. 2025), https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/downloads_judgements/c.p._1010_1_2022.pdf

⁵¹⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 14

⁵¹⁸³ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots. Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (Aug. 10, 2020),

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autonomous weapons systems raise complex moral, ethical, and legal dilemmas. Pakistan delivered a statement on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, representing more than 50 states, alerting about the negative impact of removing human control from the use of force, as this “fundamentally changes the nature of war” and raises the potential for an “accountability gap.” Pakistan has presented multiple calls for a new international ban treaty of LAWS and denounced them as “illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unaccountable as well as destabilizing for international peace and security.”

Despite active participation in every meeting of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons from 2014–2019,⁵¹⁸⁴ Pakistan has not acceded to the Convention. On October 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an official webpage to state Pakistan’s Positions & Policies on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation & Disarmament Related Issues. The ministry reaffirmed the country’s commitment to calling for a legally binding instrument regulating the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) and denounced the use of trans-border unauthorized armed drones outside of international armed conflict.⁵¹⁸⁵

AI Literacy

Pakistan’s National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025 prioritizes AI literacy and skill development as Development Objectives, pledging “to integrate AI education into national curricula and develop specialized training programs to prepare a skilled workforce capable of driving AI innovation.”⁵¹⁸⁶ The Policy operationalizes the objective under the Awareness and Readiness pillar, aiming to equip citizens, students, and public officials with the knowledge needed to understand and engage with AI systems.⁵¹⁸⁷ The Policy calls for nationwide AI education initiatives, integration of AI topics into school and university curricula, and specialized training for regulators and oversight bodies. These measures can strengthen public participation in AI-related policymaking and build institutional capacity for ethical and transparent AI governance.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

⁵¹⁸⁴ Ibid

⁵¹⁸⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Arms Control and Disarmament* (Oct. 23, 2023),

<https://mofa.gov.pk/arms-control-and-disarmament>

⁵¹⁸⁶ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jul. 25, 2025), p. 5, <https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National%20AI%20Policy.pdf>

⁵¹⁸⁷ Ibid, pp. 8–10

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Human Rights

Freedom House's 2025 annual report rates Pakistan as "Partly Free" with a score of 37/100, noting slight improvements in civil liberties and judicial oversight.⁵¹⁸⁸ The report points out that, despite the competitive multiparty political system in the country, Pakistan's military exerts substantial influence over security and other policy issues, intimidation of media outlets, and use of indiscriminate or extralegal use of force to manage religious militancy and attacks on religious minorities and opponents.⁵¹⁸⁹ Relations between military and civilian leaders have grown more contentious in recent years.

Pakistan is rated "Not Free" in Freedom House's 2024 report on global internet freedom.⁵¹⁹⁰ Pakistan frequently blocks content critical of Islam or the military as well as pornography or nudity websites and political and social content. There are also allegations that the Pakistani government uses censorship equipment to block and regulate its citizens' internet access.⁵¹⁹¹ According to another Freedom House report, digital controls tightened even further around the February elections. Mobile phone services and access to social media platforms were suspended nationwide on the day of general elections.⁵¹⁹² In addition, the report claims: "People are frequently prosecuted for their online activities, often receiving harsh sentences," including the death penalty in some cases.

Pakistan is signatory of several human rights conventions.⁵¹⁹³ Pakistan is one of the original signatories of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2008, which also upholds the right to privacy. In 1989, Pakistan adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which include the right to privacy. In 1990, Pakistan signed the Cairo

⁵¹⁸⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Pakistan* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-world/2025>

⁵¹⁸⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Pakistan* (2024),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-world/2024>

⁵¹⁹⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Pakistan* (2024),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-net/2024>

⁵¹⁹¹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2022: Pakistan* (2022),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-net/2022>

⁵¹⁹² Freedom House, *Pakistan at the Polls: February Election Results Reflect an Unexpected Rejection of the Status Quo* (May, 2 2024) <https://freedomhouse.org/article/pakistan-polls-february-election-results-reflect-unexpected-rejection-status-quo>

⁵¹⁹³ Ministry of Human Rights, *Information and Learning Material on Core Human Rights Conventions Ratified by Pakistan* (2022), <https://mohr.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Information and Learning Material on Core Human Rights Convention.pdf>

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Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.⁵¹⁹⁴ In 2004, the country signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR).⁵¹⁹⁵

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in its 2022 Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan,⁵¹⁹⁶ made extensive recommendations⁵¹⁹⁷ regarding the protection and promotion of human rights in Pakistan. These include recommendations on civil and political rights, liberty and security of the person, sexual and gender-based violence, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom from persecution for those criticizing state institutions Pakistan submitted to the OHCHR statements to committees on racial discrimination, human rights, rights of the Child, and committees against torture. The OHCHR issued 18 recommendations for the Government of Pakistan, concluding on the need to take administrative and legislative measures to improve the state of human rights in the country, to be integrated systematically in national implementation and monitoring plans.⁵¹⁹⁸

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Pakistan is not a member of the OECD and has not endorsed the OECD AI principles as a non-member.⁵¹⁹⁹ Pakistan does not submit reports to the OECD AI Policy Observatory in relation to policies, strategies, or activities associated with AI.⁵²⁰⁰ However, the international partnerships and collaboration pillar of the National AI Policy includes measures to adopt international standards, engage in capacity building and talent exchange, and leverage AI for global trade

⁵¹⁹⁴ Privacy International, *The Right to Privacy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*, Stakeholder Report, Universal Periodic Review, 28th Session – Pakistan, https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/UPR28_Pakistan.pdf

⁵¹⁹⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, UN Treaty Body Database*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=131&Lang=EN

⁵¹⁹⁶ OHCHR, *Universal Periodic Review Working Group to commence fourth cycle with holding of its forty-first session from 7 to 18 November 2022* (Nov. 2, 2022), <https://upr-info.org/en/news/fourth-cycle-upr-starts-monday>

⁵¹⁹⁷ OHCHR, *Matrix of Recommendations*, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/upr/sessions/session42/pk/UPR42_Pakistan_Thematic_List_of_Recommendations.doc

⁵¹⁹⁸ OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights. Office of the High Commissioner, Universal Periodic Review: Pakistan* (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/581/81/PDF/G2258181.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵¹⁹⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵²⁰⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD.AI Policy Navigator* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national>

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promotion.⁵²⁰¹ The implementation mechanism section aims to ensure “transparency, accountability and collaboration” and “guarantee responsible, inclusive, and ethical AI development.”⁵²⁰²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Pakistan did not participate in the negotiations on the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁵²⁰³ Pakistan has not signed this first legally binding AI treaty.⁵²⁰⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Pakistan is a UNESCO member since 1949 and therefore one of the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵²⁰⁵ Pakistan was part of the Member States providing input on the first Draft of the Recommendation.⁵²⁰⁶ The National AI Policy includes Ethical Objectives explicitly aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation, including fairness, transparency, and accountability as well as “internationally agreed social, political, environmental, educational, scientific and economic sustainability objectives.”⁵²⁰⁷ Pakistan has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to help prepare AI development aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation.⁵²⁰⁸

Evaluation

Pakistan’s National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025 provides a promising roadmap for AI governance aligned to the international standards, especially the

⁵²⁰¹ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy*, pp. 17–18 (Jul. 25, 2025), https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National_AI_Policy.pdf

⁵²⁰² Ibid, p. 19

⁵²⁰³ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵²⁰⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 17, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁵²⁰⁵ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁵²⁰⁶ UNESCO, *Compilation of Comments Received from Member States on the First Draft of the Recommendation* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000376747>

⁵²⁰⁷ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy*, p. 5 (Jul. 25, 2025), p. 5, https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National_AI_Policy.pdf

⁵²⁰⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵²⁰⁹ Pakistan's endorsement of the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and the 2022 Riyadh AI Call for Action Declaration on ethics of AI gives the country an opportunity to adopt a human-centered approach to AI. The Personal Data Protection Bill is also a positive step towards protecting data subjects' rights, though the bill has not been implemented. The National Registration Biometric Policy Framework approved in 2025 signals progress with oversight standards for AI-based identity verification and privacy-by-design.⁵²¹⁰ The national digital authority established by the Digital Nation Pakistan Act signals the country's movement in a positive direction and sets the tone for the country's commitment to developing AI policy and regulation.⁵²¹¹

However, the widespread use of AI technology for surveillance purposes, coupled with political instability and problems of discrimination against women, minorities and disadvantaged groups, are serious causes for concern. With the country benefitting from burgeoning and tech-savvy young, predominantly urban and rapidly urbanizing population, strengthening civic participation, promoting democratic values, facilitating the development of literacy (including digital literacy), and enabling digital access could go a long way in fostering the adoption of ethical, trustworthy, and human-centric AI and digital policies.⁵²¹²

⁵²⁰⁹ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Jul. 25, 2025), https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National_AI_Policy.pdf

⁵²¹⁰ National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), *National Registration Biometric Policy Framework v2.0* (2025), <https://www.nadra.gov.pk/getDownload/12>

⁵²¹¹ Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, *Digital Pakistan Policy* (May 22, 2018), [https://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY\(22-05-2018\).pdf](https://moib.gov.pk/Downloads/Policy/DIGITAL_PAKISTAN_POLICY(22-05-2018).pdf)

⁵²¹² Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *High-Level Chinese Delegation to Soon Visit Pakistan: PM* (Jun. 11, 2024), <https://www.moib.gov.pk/News/62321>

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Peru

In 2025, Peru progressed on implementing recommendations from the UNESCO RAM report. Regulations on the AI Law were approved, establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework on AI and designating the Government and Digital Transformation Secretariat, which is part of the Presidency of the council of Ministers, as the AI oversight authority.

National AI Strategy

The Government and the Digital Transformation Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (*Secretaría de Gobierno y Transformación Digital de la Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros*) issued Peru's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (*Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial*, ENIA) for the period of 2021–2026.⁵²¹³ Peru's vision is to “accelerate national development while promoting digital inclusion and ensuring the reduction of social gaps.”⁵²¹⁴ The ENIA aims to foster the necessary conditions to take advantage of the opportunities presented by developments in AI and to create value for the private and public sector, while mitigating potential risks.⁵²¹⁵ Key objectives⁵²¹⁶ include adopting ethical guidelines for sustainable, transparent, and replicable use of AI with clear definitions of responsibilities and data protection. Other objectives emphasize training and attracting talent and building data and AI infrastructure to promote AI development and use to boost the country's economy and welfare. Efforts also include building a National AI Innovation Center.

Peru published Law No. 31814 to promote the use of AI for the economic and social development of the country (AI Act) in July 2023.⁵²¹⁷ The law designates the Presidency of the Council of Ministries (*Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros*) as the supervising authority operating through the Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation under the National System of Digital Transformation. The Government approved the Regulations of Law No. 31814 on Artificial Intelligence

⁵²¹³ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2020–2026 First Draft of Peruvian National AI Strategy* (Dec. 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Peru_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2026.pdf

⁵²¹⁴ Ibid, IA Vision, p 52

⁵²¹⁵ Ibid, Purpose of the National Strategy for AI, p. 50

⁵²¹⁶ Ibid., Strategic Objectives, p. 58–81

⁵²¹⁷ Congress of the Republic, *Ley N.º 31814* (Jul. 20, 2023),

<https://www.gob.pe/institucion/congreso-de-la-republica/normas-legales/4565760-31814>

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for the Economic and Social Development of the Country in 2025.⁵²¹⁸ The Supreme Decree approving the AI Law provides a regulatory framework for the development, implementation and use of AI. These entered into force in January 2026.⁵²¹⁹

In addition to Law no. 31814, Emergency Decree No. 007-2020, regulates AI. The Decree approves the Digital Trust Framework, which establishes that “public entities and private sector organizations promote and ensure the ethical use of digital technologies, the intensive use of data, such as internet of things, AI, data science, analytics and big data processing.”⁵²²⁰

Public Participation

The Government and Digital Transformation Secretariat requested consultation from the public and private sectors, civil society, academia, and citizens in the co-design of the National AI Strategy with the purpose of driving the digital transformation of the country for the benefit of all people. Consultation took place from August 5 to August 12, 2020, via Zoom.⁵²²¹ The government presented a draft of the National Strategy and requested additional consultation from the public in 2021. In September and early October 2025, a public consultation was held on a preliminary draft of a 2026–2030 ENIA.⁵²²²

The Peruvian Government and Digital Transformation Lab launched the *Participate Peru* platform to receive suggestions and comments from citizens regarding current and potential regulations. Citizens can also send policy proposals on issues that interest them and make complaints about corruption in the public sector. To report the latter, citizens must provide an email address, where they will receive a report number, which they can then use to inform themselves about the

⁵²¹⁸ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM [Decreto Supremo]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵²¹⁹ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *The Government Approved the Regulations for the Law Promoting the Use of Artificial Intelligence [Gobierno Aprobo el Reglamento de la Ley que promueve el uso de law Inteligencia Artificial]* (Sept. 10, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/noticias/1243553-gobierno-aprobo-el-reglamento-de-la-ley-que-promueve-el-uso-de-la-inteligencia-artificial>

⁵²²⁰ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Emergency Decree No. 007-2020 [Decreto de Urgencia]* (Jan. 9, 2020), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/395322-007-2020>

⁵²²¹ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Co-Design Strategies for National Digital Transformation Policy and Strategy [Estrategias de Co-Diseño para la Política y Estrategia Nacional de Transformación Digital]* (Mar. 12, 2023), <https://www.gob.pe/10522-estrategias-de-co-diseno-para-la-politica-y-estrategia-nacional-de-transformacion-digital>

⁵²²² Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Proposal for the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2026–2030 [Propuesta de la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial 2026–2030]* (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/informes-publicaciones/7190386-propuesta-de-la-estrategia-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial-2026-2030>

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status of their complaint.⁵²²³ The Government and Digital Transformation Secretariat held public consultations on the draft Regulation of Law No. 31814 from May 2 to June 1, 2024, addressing AI risk classification.⁵²²⁴ A revised draft, released on November 25, 2024, introduced AI content labeling and security measures, with public input open until December 6, 2024.⁵²²⁵

The Peruvian Government also launched a public request for commentary on implementing the RAM methodology in the country on October 10, 2024. The request focused on the challenges, opportunities, and proposals to improve the current panorama of the AI ecosystem in Peru, emphasizing six thematic axes: health, education, productivity, data governance and cybersecurity, environment, and regulatory approaches.⁵²²⁶ Submission of opinions on the draft amendment to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act was open from November 25, 2024, to December 7, 2024.⁵²²⁷

Data Protection

The Personal Data Protection Law passed in 2011 guarantees the fundamental right to personal data protection provided in Article 2, paragraph 6 of the Peruvian Constitution.⁵²²⁸ The law was amended in 2017 to provide Peruvians with an updated level of data protection.⁵²²⁹ The law covers personal data, automated or not, regardless of the medium, regardless of the form or modality of their creation,

⁵²²³ Gob.Pe, *Participa Peru*, <https://www.gob.pe/participa>

⁵²²⁴ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *First Consultation on Draft Regulation of Law no. 31814 Promoting the Use of AI for the Economic and Social Development of the Country Including Cybersecurity Measures* [Enviar aportes para la elaboración del Reglamento de Inteligencia Artificial] (May. 3, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/63061-enviar-aportes-para-la-elaboracion-del-reglamento-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁵²²⁵ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *New Draft Regulation of Law No. 31814 Promoting the Use of AI for the Economic and Social Development of the Country* [Nuevo proyecto de Reglamento de la Ley de Inteligencia Artificial] (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/informes-publicaciones/6197119-nuevo-proyecto-de-reglamento-de-la-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁵²²⁶ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Submit Contributions for the Implmenetation of the RAM Methodology for Artificial Intelligence* [Enviar aportes para la implementación de la metodología RAM para la inteligencia artificial] (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.gob.pe/73222-enviar-aportes-para-la-implementacion-de-la-metodologia-ram-para-la-inteligencia-artificial>

⁵²²⁷ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Submit contributions for the new Draft Regulations of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Law* [Presentar Aportes para el Nuevo Proyecto del Reglamento de la Ley de Inteligencia Artificial] (Jan. 7, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/76586-presentar-aportes-para-el-nuevo-proyecto-del-reglamento-de-la-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial-ia>

⁵²²⁸ Hunton Privacy Blog, *English Translation of Peru's Law for Personal Data Protection Released* (Aug. 16, 2011), <https://www.hunton.com/privacy-and-information-security-law/english-translation-of-perus-law-for-personal-data-protection-released>

⁵²²⁹ Caseguard.com, *New Found Privacy Regulations for Peruvian Citizens* (Nov. 10. 2021), <https://caseguard.com/articles/new-found-privacy-regulations-for-peruvian-citizens/>

formation, storage, organization and access.⁵²³⁰ The law established various principles that data controllers and processors must comply with when processing personal data,⁵²³¹ including legality, purpose, proportionality, quality, security, and an adequate level of protection.

The National Personal Data Protection Authority (*Autoridad Nacional de Protección de Datos Personales*, ANPD) was established in 2011 within the Ministry of Justice to enforce and impose sanctions for violations of the law. Sanctions include administrative and monetary penalties against parties who are found to have violated the provisions of the law.⁵²³² The ANPD hears, investigates, and resolves complaints lodged by the data subjects for the violation of the rights granted to them and issues provisional and/or corrective measures, as established in the regulation. The ANPD is also responsible for recommending any minor or major amendments to the data protection law to ensure it keeps up with both technological advancements and potential legal challenges.

The ANPD established a National Register of Personal Data Protection, which keeps a public record of all the data processors and the type of data being collected on Peruvian residents. The ANPD is also required to publish a yearly report on the state of data protection in the country as well as recommendations for organizations on how to better adhere to the Peruvian legislation related to data protection.⁵²³³

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (*Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos*) published a new draft regulation, Law on Protection of Personal Data,⁵²³⁴ on August 25, 2023, which aims to modernize the existing framework. Under the regulation, which was approved in 2024,⁵²³⁵ data controllers are required to notify the ANPD within 48 hours of a security incident affecting personal data. The regulation mandates Data Protection Impact Assessments in specific cases, requiring organizations to preemptively evaluate risks in their data processing activities and

⁵²³⁰ Hunton Privacy Blog, *English Translation of Peru's Law for Personal Data Protection Released* (Aug. 16, 2011), <https://www.hunton.com/privacy-and-information-security-law/english-translation-of-perus-law-for-personal-data-protection-released>

⁵²³¹ Ibid

⁵²³² Dataguidance.com, *Peru - Data Protection Overview* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/peru-data-protection-overview>

⁵²³³ Securiti, *Peru's Data Protection Law* (Apr. 26, 2022), <https://securiti.ai/peru-data-protection-law/>

⁵²³⁴ Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, *Resolución Ministerial No. 0270-2023-JUS* (Aug. 25, 2023), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minjus/normas-legales/4574374-0270-2023-jus>

⁵²³⁵ Diario Oficial El Peruano, *Supreme Decree approving the Regulation of Law No. 29733, Personal Data Protection Law [Decreto Supremo No. 016-2024-JUS que aprueba el Reglamento de la Ley no. 29733, Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]*, Normas Legales (Nov. 30, 2024), <https://epdoc2.elperuano.pe/EpPo/VistaNLSE.asp?Referencias=MjM0OTY1My0xMjAyNDExMzA>

implement necessary organizational or security measures. The introduction of the right to data portability allows individuals to receive their personal data in a structured format and transfer it between service providers, encouraging both innovation and secure data transfer practices under the control of the data subject. The updates align with international norms seen in international standards such as the EU GDPR.

The new regulation's requirement for a designated representative,⁵²³⁶ either within or outside Peru, to act as a contact between the ANPD and foreign companies processing Peruvian citizens' data enables the ANPD to enforce data protection standards even when data is handled abroad. This provision is crucial in maintaining oversight and accountability in cross-border data transfers, a common regulatory challenge.

The regulation also includes provisions for safeguarding minors' personal data, especially on social media and digital platforms.⁵²³⁷ Organizations processing data of minors are required to take extra precautions to protect the rights of children in any digital service context. This focus aligns with global concerns about children's privacy and security in digital spaces.

The ADNP is a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (*Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos*, RIPD), which comprises 16 data protection authorities from 12 countries. The ANPD adopted RIPD Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States,⁵²³⁸ a series of guiding principles and rights for the protection of personal data were recognized, that can be adopted and developed by the Ibero-American States in their national legislation to guarantee a proper treatment of personal data and to have homogeneous rules in the region. The guiding principles are legitimation, lawfulness, loyalty, transparency, purpose, proportionality, quality, responsibility, safety and confidentiality. Controllers must also guarantee data subjects' right of access, right to correction, right to cancellation, right to opposition, right not to be subject to automated individual decisions, right to portability of personal data, and right to limitation of treatment of personal data. ANPD has also adopted RIPD General

⁵²³⁶ Ibid, Art. VII

⁵²³⁷ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Resolución Ministerial N.º 0270-2023-JUS* (Aug. 25, 2023), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minjus/normas-legales/4574374-0270-2023-jus>

⁵²³⁸ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (2017), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/standars-for-personal-data.pdf>.

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Recommendations for AI-related data processing⁵²³⁹ and Specific Guidelines for complying with these principles in AI projects.⁵²⁴⁰

The RIPD data protection authorities initiated a coordinated action regarding OpenAI's ChatGPT on the basis that the chatbot may entail risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the processing of their personal data. Concerns regarding the risk of misinformation. The action acknowledges: "ChatGPT does not have knowledge and/or experience in a specific domain, so the precision and depth of the response may vary in each case, and/or generate responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones."⁵²⁴¹

The Peruvian Data Protection Authority has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2012 but has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁵²⁴² the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁵²⁴³ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁵²⁴⁴ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁵²⁴⁵ Peru's AI Act establishes privacy of personal data as a guiding principle, requiring technical, organizational and legal measures to preserve data security throughout AI

⁵²³⁹ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-recomendaciones-generales-tratamiento-datos-ia>

⁵²⁴⁰ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

⁵²⁴¹ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Las autoridades de la Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos Personales inician una acción coordinada en relación con el servicio ChatGPT* [Spanish only] (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

⁵²⁴² Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵²⁴³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁵²⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁵²⁴⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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development, implementation and use. Article 26 mandates compliance with current data protection regulations, with oversight by the ANDP.⁵²⁴⁶

Peru's AI Act establishes two new governance roles. The Personal Data Officer (*Oficial de Datos Personales*, ODP) ensures proper data processing in AI systems, while the Data Governance Officer (*Oficial de Gobierno de Datos*, OGD) promotes data quality and sharing to avoid bias. Violations are subject to the sanctioning regime under Law No. 29733, the Personal Data Protection Law.⁵²⁴⁷

Algorithmic Transparency

Peru's Data Protection Law does not contain a general right of algorithmic transparency and does not explicitly state the right to receive information about automated-decision systems or to object to a decision based solely on automatic data processing methods.⁵²⁴⁸ However, Article 23 on the rights of the data subject provides for the right not to be subjected to a fully automated decision with legal effects or affecting them significantly in some situations. The data subject also has the right to obtain information processed about him in publicly or privately administered databases, the way his data were compiled, the reasons for their compiling, and at whose request the compiling was done, as well as the transfers made or planned to be made of such data.⁵²⁴⁹

This framework now operates in parallel with the AI Act, which introduced transparency, explainability, and accountability standards for automated systems.⁵²⁵⁰ and risk-based classification of AI systems aligned with OECD principles and EU legislation. Article 25 details obligations for AI developers and implementers, requiring them to inform users in clear and accessible language about the system's purpose, functions, and decision-making capabilities, to label AI-generated content

⁵²⁴⁶ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵²⁴⁷ Congreso de la República, *Law No. 29733 Personal Data Protection Law [Ley N.º 29733 de Protección de Datos Personales]* (Jul. 3, 2011), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/congreso-de-la-republica/normas-legales/243470-29733>

⁵²⁴⁸ ICLG.com, *Data Protection Laws and Regulations in Peru 2022–2023*, <https://iclg.com/practice-areas/data-protection-laws-and-regulations/peru>

⁵²⁴⁹ Hunton Privacy Blog, *Law for Personal Data Protection* (Jun. 9, 2010), https://www.huntonprivacyblog.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/migrated/Peru%20Data%20Protection%20Law%20July%2028_EN%20_2.pdf

⁵²⁵⁰ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

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where relevant, and to provide explanations when AI decisions significantly affect individuals' rights.

These requirements mark one of the most comprehensive algorithmic transparency provisions in Latin America. While enforcement mechanisms and contestability procedures are still in early development, Peru's AI Act provides a legal foundation for algorithmic accountability. The Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation is mandated to issue Algorithmic Transparency Guidelines and conduct oversight of compliance across sectors beginning in 2026.⁵²⁵¹

These requirements implement the RIPD Specific Guidelines for data protection in Artificial Intelligence Projects, "The information provided regarding the logic of the AI model must include at least basic aspects of its operation, as well as the weighting and correlation of the data, written in a clear, simple and easily understood language, it will not be necessary to provide a complete explanation of the algorithms used or even to include them. The above always looking not to affect the user experience."⁵²⁵²

While Peru's National AI Strategy⁵²⁵³ highlights the development of a registry of AI algorithms in the public sector, and datasets used in use cases under its strategic objective of ethics, it remains unclear whether the registry will be publicly available.

Use of AI in Public Administration

The current AI National Strategy highlights AI's potential value creation not only for the private sector, but also for the public sector, which must meet the new demands of a digital citizenship.⁵²⁵⁴ However, large economic groups have been the main driver of adoption of AI in Peru with fewer attempts made by the public sector. The Peruvian Public Sector AI Status Survey conducted in January 2021⁵²⁵⁵ revealed that only 39 out of 488 public institutions use AI. Common uses include prediction of criminal acts, facial recognition, risk management and virtual assistants with most of this use attributed to local governments.

⁵²⁵¹ Ibid

⁵²⁵² Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RED), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects*, p. 17 (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/documentos/guia-orientaciones-especificas-proteccion-datos-ia>

⁵²⁵³ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (ENIA)* (2024), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Peru_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2026.pdf

⁵²⁵⁴ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (ENIA)* (2024), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Peru_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2026

⁵²⁵⁵ Ibid

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The Presidency of the Council of Ministers launched the program TranformaGob⁵²⁵⁶ in October 2024 to train government officials on AI and its use in Public Administration. The program stems from a collaboration of the Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the organization Asuntos del Sur, and the National Foundation for Democracy (NED). 534 Public Servants from 25 Local governments signed up for the program and 19 projects for digital innovation involving Artificial Intelligence were presented. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers announced in September 2025 that over 5,000 public servants from 170 public entities had been trained through a Capacity Building Program for Government and Digital Transformation. The training focused upon the use of new digital tools, including Artificial Intelligence, to optimize processes, improve services, and leverage technology for the benefit of citizens⁵²⁵⁷

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Peru approved the principles in the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in late 2023.⁵²⁵⁸ The guiding principles include: human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection. The Charter calls on member states to create policies and laws to require the assessment of the impact of AI systems on human rights and freedoms and the registration of algorithms to “anticipate risks, prevent undesirable effects and ensure its proper implementation.”⁵²⁵⁹ Peru’s AI Act aligns with the principles and risk classification proposed in the CLAD Charter, including establishing prohibited uses or red lines.

⁵²⁵⁶ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Programa Internacional TransformaGob* (Jun. 3, 2024), <https://www.gob.pe/49835-programa-internacional-transformagob>

⁵²⁵⁷ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *PCM Trained More Than 5,000 Public Servants in Digital Transformation during 2025 [PCM Capacitó a más de 5000 Servidores Públicos en Transformación Digital Durante el 2025]* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/noticias/1242451-pcm-capacito-a-mas-de-5000-servidores-publicos-en-transformacion-digital-durante-el-2025>

⁵²⁵⁸ Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

⁵²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 10

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Facial Recognition

Peru has deployed facial recognition technology across various sectors. On July 14, 2022, Peru's Victoria Municipality was sanctioned by the Personal Data Protection Authority (ANPD) for not complying with security measures in the use of surveillance cameras.⁵²⁶⁰ The sanction followed an investigation initiated as a result of a complaint filed by civil society organizations Access Now and Hiperderecho in 2019 regarding the existence of facial recognition cameras in Victoria, which the organizations alleged were processing biometric data in contravention of Peru's Personal Data Protection Law. Although the investigation concluded that facial recognition software was not in use, and the cameras were used only to record and store images and videos to identify criminal activity reported to the National Police of Peru, the Authority sought to put corrective measures in place to address dangers that may arise in future because of the personal data captured and stored in the municipality's biometric system.⁵²⁶¹

Additionally, the director of ANPD administered a fine⁵²⁶² to the municipality for failing to add safeguards in place to secure the images captured and for failing to provide information on how the images would be stored, and which entities could access them. The resolution also found that the municipality's conduct fell short of provisions in the Personal Data Protection Law relating to verification and management procedures for personal information. The municipality had 55 days to put in place appropriate documentation concerning the management of privileges and periodic verification of those privileges for the processing of personal data carried out within the video surveillance system.

The ANPD announced in October 2020 that it had launched an investigation into the National University of San Marcos, following a complaint alleging that the personal data of applicants was inadequately processed, and biometric data was collected. In the event that facial recognition technology was used in the university's admissions process, the ANPD would administer a fine in accordance with the Personal Data Protection law.⁵²⁶³ At the time of publishing, the ANPD has yet to release a final report on this investigation.

⁵²⁶⁰ Power Singh Inc, *Peru: Municipality Sanctioned for Illegitimate Use of Personal Data in Video Surveillance System* (Jul. 28, 2022), <https://powersingh.africa/2022/07/28/peru-municipality-sanctioned-video-surveillance/>

⁵²⁶¹ Power Singh Inc, *Peru: Municipality Sanctioned for Illegitimate Use of Personal Data in Video Surveillance System* (Jul. 28, 2022), <https://powerlaw.africa/2022/07/28/peru-municipality-sanctioned-video-surveillance/>

⁵²⁶² Ibid

⁵²⁶³ Data Guidance, *Peru: APDP Investigates University for Alleged Inadequate Processing of Personal Data and Biometric Data Collection* (Oct. 6, 2020), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/peru-apdp-investigates-university-alleged-inadequate>

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RecFaces announced in 2024 that its Id-Guard facial recognition solution would be implemented at Jorge Chávez International Airport in Lima, Peru. This major airport, which handles over 20 million passengers annually, will use the technology to enhance security by monitoring potential threats and suspicious individuals. The implementation aims to strengthen the overall security structure while simplifying work processes for security personnel and could have implications for customs control, privacy protection, and border processing of citizens, tourists, migrants, and asylum seekers.⁵²⁶⁴ Peru's National Superintendency of Migration officially implemented the system in January 2025.⁵²⁶⁵

Peru has experienced both advancements and concerns in its adoption of biometric and AI-driven identification technologies. In May 2024, *Worldcoin* launched biometric enrolment in the country, aiming to expand digital identity verification in Latin America. The ANDP conducted an audit/inspection visit and has initiated an investigation into the scanning and collection of people's iris data in exchange for cryptocurrencies.⁵²⁶⁶

The Peruvian National Identification and Civil Status Registry (*Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil*, RENIEC), which issues the country's digital forms of identification faced criticism and internal strikes over repeated failures in its biometric verification systems.⁵²⁶⁷ In February 2025, RENIEC selected the Swiss company Tech5 to develop its new facial biometrics platform, signaling the government's continued investment in digital ID infrastructure.⁵²⁶⁸

Bitel, a telecom in Peru, invested significantly in smart city initiatives, notably in Trujillo's District Municipality of Salaverry, deploying advanced facial

⁵²⁶⁴ Bianca González, *RecFaces Id-Guard Boosts Security at Jorge Chávez International Airport in Peru*, Biometric Update (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202404/recfaces-id-guard-boosts-security-at-jorge-chavez-international-airport-in-peru>

⁵²⁶⁵ Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones, *Immigration officials announced pre-registration to expedite immigration control at the new Jorge Chávez International Airport* [Migraciones anunció el prerregistro para agilizar el control migratorio en el nuevo Aeropuerto Internacional Jorge Chávez] (Jan. 10, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/migraciones/noticias/1088656-migraciones-anuncio-el-prerregistro-para-agilizar-el-control-migratorio-en-el-nuevo-aeropuerto-internacional-jorge-chavez>

⁵²⁶⁶ Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, *MINJUSDH Oversees the Collection of Personal Data by Worldcoin* [MINJUSDH supervisa la recopilación de datos personales por Worldcoin] (Jun. 3, 2024), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minjus/noticias/965604-minjusdh-supervisa-la-recopilacion-de-datos-personales-por-worldcoin>

⁵²⁶⁷ Biometric Update, *Peru's Digital ID under Magnifying Glass after National Identification Registry Hit by Criticism* (May 10, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202405/perus-digital-id-under-magnifying-glass-after-national-identification-registry-hit-by-criticism>

⁵²⁶⁸ TECH5, *RENIEC Peru Selects TECH5's Biometric Capture and Matching Technologies for Citizen Authentication Services*, Press releases (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://tech5.ai/reniec-peru-selects-tech5s-technologies/>

recognition and AI-powered surveillance systems aimed at enhancing public safety, urban services, and traffic management.⁵²⁶⁹ The project integrates a Video Management System (VMS) and an intelligent operations center (IOC) software to enable real-time data analysis and response. Bitel's collaboration with the Municipality of Lima also introduced a \$500,000 smart city system utilizing facial recognition to bolster crime detection and response. Further pilots in cities like Chota and Moche reflect a broader trend of adopting biometric surveillance technologies to address public security challenges. However, these implementations raise critical concerns about compliance with Peru's Personal Data Protection Law, emphasizing the need for robust safeguards and transparent data management practices to protect citizens' rights.

Disinformation

Peru signed the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Buenos Aires Declaration in January 2023, through which the 33 countries pledged to deepen integration, climate action, democratic institutions, and multilateralism.⁵²⁷⁰ The signatories recognized disinformation and the visible increase in cyber-attacks, including those through artificial intelligence and the use of algorithms, as generating risks to the stability of the essential infrastructure of States and companies and to the well-being of individuals. Furthermore, the signatories agreed that disinformation on social networks can create parallel realities and induce political radicalization, creating a threat to democratic values and the rule of law, all leading to the need to expand cooperation and coordination among States to advance in the fight against disinformation and illegal content on the Internet.⁵²⁷¹

The COVID-19 pandemic and the fake news “infodemic” that it created presented a real challenge for Peru as it was among the top 15 countries in the world in reported COVID-19 cases and second in Latin America, only after Brazil.⁵²⁷² The excessive and unfounded disinformation that spread on social media in Peru and other countries hindered an appropriate public health response.

The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene highlighted the Peruvian government's response to the spread of disinformation and stated that

⁵²⁶⁹ Abhidshek Jadhav, *Bitel Launches Smart City Project in Peru, Aims to Reduce Crime Rates and Streamline Services*, Biometric Update (Mar. 19, 2024),

<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202403/bitel-launches-smart-city-project-in-peru>

⁵²⁷⁰ CELAC Summit, *Declaration of Buenos Aires* (Jan. 24, 2023),

https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/prensa/declaracion_de_buenos_aires_version_final.pdf

⁵²⁷¹ Ibid

⁵²⁷² American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, *The Peru Approach against the COVID-19 Infodemic: Insights and Strategies* (May 20, 2020),

<https://www.ajtmh.org/view/journals/tpmd/103/2/article-p583.xml>

disinformation about COVID-19 that occurred at the beginning of the pandemic became almost non-existent after the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MJDH) of Peru announced on April 8, 2020 via Twitter that “persons who share fake news and misinform others to obtain a benefit or to perturb the public tranquility can be sanctioned with a prison sentence.” The Ministry urged people to share only official information, accompanied by the hashtag “Don’t Spread #FakeNews.” It further indicated that those who create and/or share false information to benefit themselves or cause perjury to others will receive a 2- to 4-year prison sentence, and if the fake news causes panic and perturbs the public tranquility, the sentence may be 3–6 years. Peru became the first country in Latin America to implement prison sentences for creating and disseminating fake news.

To evaluate the legitimacy of MJDH’s statement, the organization Enfoque Derecho interviewed Peruvian lawyers. In conversation with César Landa, professor of Constitutional Law of the Catholic University of Peru and former President of the Constitutional Court, he concluded: “In this sense, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, given that we are facing a situation of danger and threat, the dissemination of untruthful information is not a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of expression or information.” Landa stressed that “such ‘news’ seeks to generate distress and disrupt public order. Thus, this type of information, which is practically inciting crime rather than protest, is obviously condemned by our constitutional legal system.”⁵²⁷³ This approach was widely applauded, as it appeared to result in a dramatic drop in fake news accounts.⁵²⁷⁴

Peru’s AI Act incorporates provisions to control disinformation generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) through article 25 based on the obligation to indicate or make visible the labeling of the content or services generated by AI.⁵²⁷⁵ Article 23 forbids the introduction of AI actions intended or designed to enable or facilitate the persuasive or manipulative automated control of the user’s behavior through deceptive means intended to circumvent the overlays of the user’s cognitive, and emotional socio-economic weaknesses.

⁵²⁷³ Marina Pita, *Disinformation During the Pandemic and Latin America’s Regulatory Response*, p.9, UNESCO (2021), https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377721_eng

⁵²⁷⁴ American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, *The Peru Approach against the COVID-19 Infodemic: Insights and Strategies* (May 20, 2020), <https://www.ajtmh.org/view/journals/tpmd/103/2/article-p583.xml>

⁵²⁷⁵ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

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Environmental Impact of AI

Peru has demonstrated support for the ethical, responsible, and human-centric use of AI in favor of global goals such as clean water, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, and life on land⁵²⁷⁶ through commitments to climate action in the CELAC Buenos Aires Declaration⁵²⁷⁷ and through sponsorship of the UN Resolution on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI.⁵²⁷⁸ Peru explicitly incorporated environmental sustainability as one of the guiding principles of AI governance through the AI Act.⁵²⁷⁹ The AI Act promotes the use of AI for sustainable development, including climate resilience, biodiversity monitoring, and efficient resource management, while encouraging responsible use of energy-intensive AI infrastructure.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

At the 77th UN General Assembly First Committee meeting in October 2022, Peru joined 69 other countries to endorse a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems. Peru stated that “Progress in military technology towards increasing autonomy has led us to a scenario where machines have the power and discretion to put an end to human life. This is morally unacceptable, but still uncertain in legal terms. LAWS are of great concern to humanity; they call for a legal and political response, which is urgent, from the international community. For Peru there is no other way than establishing legally binding prohibitions. Regulation through a new treaty is the most effective way of dealing with the increasing uncertainty about what is or is not acceptable for the increasingly complex systems of autonomous weapons.”⁵²⁸⁰

The joint statement addressed the need for “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations, and constraints.” “We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including

⁵²⁷⁶ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The 17 Goals*, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

⁵²⁷⁷ CELAC Summit, *Declaration of Buenos Aires* (Jan. 24, 2023), https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/prensa/declaracion_de_buenos_aires_version_final.pdf

⁵²⁷⁸ United Nations Press, Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, General Assembly Adopts Landmark Resolution on Steering Artificial Intelligence towards Global Good, Faster Realization of Sustainable Development (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12588.doc.htm>

⁵²⁷⁹ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵²⁸⁰ Fully Automated Research, *Peru*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/peru/

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through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force,”⁵²⁸¹ declared the States. Peru voted in support of the December 2023 UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems. Resolution 78/241 stressed the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems” and requested a report of members’ views on LAWS.⁵²⁸² Peru’s submission to the report reiterated the need for international legal instruments to regulate autonomous weapon systems.⁵²⁸³

Peru endorsed the Belén Communiqué in February 2023,⁵²⁸⁴ along with 30 other countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. The Communiqué calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force. On this occasion, Peru issued a statement affirming the country’s commitment to multilateralism, disarmament, and non-proliferation, with the defense of international law—including international human rights law—as well as with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.⁵²⁸⁵

Peru also endorsed the summary by the Chair of the 2024 Vienna Conference Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation in April 2024.⁵²⁸⁶ The Chair’s Summary highlighted the commitment to “work with urgency and with all interested stakeholders for an international legal

⁵²⁸¹ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGI/L/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁵²⁸² United Nations, *UN General Assembly* (Dec 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

⁵²⁸³ Gobierno de Perú, *Opinión de la República del Perú con respecto a los Sistemas de Armas Autónomos, en atención a la resolución 78/241 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas*, (May 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Peru-SP.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Peru-SP.pdf)

⁵²⁸⁴ *Communiqué of the Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

⁵²⁸⁵ Regional Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean States on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Peru Statement* (Feb. 24, 2023), https://conferenciaawscostarica2023.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Peru-Draft_Statement_Peru_en-Costa-Rica_24Feb23_rev-1.pdf

⁵²⁸⁶ Federal Ministry, European and International Affairs, *List of Associated States* (Oct. 11, 2024), <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/conventional-arms/autonomous-weapons-systems/2024-vienna-conference-on-autonomous-weapons-systems/list-of-associated-states>

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instrument to regulate autonomous weapons systems.”⁵²⁸⁷ The Vienna Conference hosted representatives from more than 144 states, UN international and regional organizations, academia, industry, parliamentarians, and civil society to discuss the challenges and legal, ethical, and humanitarian implications of AWS and potential avenues to address them.

Peru’s AI Act permits AI systems for national defense and security when systems comply with principles of fundamental rights protection, non-discrimination, security, proportionality, reliability, oversight and accountability.⁵²⁸⁸ The Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation coordinates with the Ministry of Defense on AI-based systems development for national security and defense.

AI Literacy

The National Strategy for AI highlights digital literacy, including preparation for and training in AI, as a key priority.⁵²⁸⁹ A Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment by USAID noted a number of contrasts in Peru’s digital ecosystem, highlighting both sustained advances in digital literacy but also challenges around digital divides.⁵²⁹⁰

The Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation launched a National Digital Talent Platform, offering a range of free AI training from 2023.⁵²⁹¹ The Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion that CAPACÍTA-T, the free job-training platform, would implement courses on Artificial Intelligence.⁵²⁹² The 2025

⁵²⁸⁷ Federal Ministry, European and International Affairs, *Humanity at the Crossroads Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation*, 2024 Vienna Conference (Apr. 30, 2024), https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/AWS_2024/Chair_s_Summary.pdf

⁵²⁸⁸ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵²⁸⁹ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2020–2026 First Draft of Peruvian National AI Strategy* (Dec. 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Peru_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2026.pdf

⁵²⁹⁰ USAID, *Peru Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment (DECA)* (Jul. 9, 2022), <https://www.digitaldevelopment.org/library/peru-digital-ecosystem-country-assessment-deca/>

⁵²⁹¹ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *National Digital Talent Programme* (2023), <https://www.gob.pe/talentodigital>

⁵²⁹² Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *MTPE: CAPACÍTA-T Strengthens Its Virtual Training Offer with English Courses and Announces Upcoming Training in Artificial Intelligence (MTPE: CAPACÍTA-T Fortalece su Oferta de Capacitación Virtual con Cursos de Inglés y Anuncia Próxima Formación en Inteligencia Artificial)* (Feb. 2, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/mtpe/noticias/1101385-mtpe-capacita-t-fortalece-su-oferta-de-capacitacion-virtual-con-cursos-de-ingles-y-anuncia-proxima-formacion-en-inteligencia-artificial>

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Regulations for the AI Law include digital literacy and AI skills across all stages of personal development as a guiding principle, enabling individuals to make informed decisions around their use of AI. This includes teacher training and the creation of research and development laboratories in universities and innovation centers.⁵²⁹³ The Inter-American Development Bank is also providing funding for the Peruvian Digital Transformation with Equity project, which aims to promote digital citizenship, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized communities.⁵²⁹⁴ The draft National AI Strategy 2026–2030⁵²⁹⁵ proposes to continue these efforts by identifying three priority issues in relation to digital literacy moving forward: access, quality of training and relevance of training, and closing equity gaps.

Human Rights

Peru has ratified 12 of the 14 UN human rights treaties, conventions, and protocols based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁵²⁹⁶ Freedom House rated Peru as “Partly Free” with a score of 67/100 with 28/40 for political rights and 39/60 for civil liberties in 2025.⁵²⁹⁷ According to Freedom House, Peru’s government system facilitates peaceful transfers of power though public trust in the system weakened due to corruption scandals. The ousting of President Pedro Castillo in 2022 triggered large-scale, even violent protests that impacted Peru’s governing institutions. Indigenous groups face difficulties due to discrimination and a lack of political representation.

In 2022, Transparency International scored Peru at 36/100 on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and ranked the country 105 out of 180 countries for being able to stop corruption.⁵²⁹⁸ Peru’s score has fallen steadily since 2022, reaching

⁵²⁹³ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo]* (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵²⁹⁴ Inter-American Development Bank, *Digital Transformation with Equity* (Dec. 4, 2023), <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/PE-L1281>

⁵²⁹⁵ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Proposal for the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2026–2030 [Propuesta de la Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial 2026-2030]* (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/informes-publicaciones/7190386-propuesta-de-la-estrategia-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial-2026-2030>

⁵²⁹⁶ UN Human Rights, *UN Treaty Database: Peru*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=136&Lang=EN

⁵²⁹⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Peru* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/peru/freedom-world/2025>

⁵²⁹⁸ Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index* (2022), <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022/index/per>

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30/100 and ranking 130 of 182 countries in 2025.⁵²⁹⁹ The CPI is the most widely used global corruption ranking in the world. It measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Peru, alongside 41 other countries, adopted the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence in 2019, continue to support the AI Principles as updated in 2024.⁵³⁰⁰ Peru's collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank's fAIr LAC initiative aligns with OECD AI Principle 2.5 regarding international co-operation for trustworthy AI.⁵³⁰¹ OECD recognized the fAIr LAC initiative's aim to promote the responsible and ethical use of AI and improve the public services e.g., education, health, and social protection, in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries.⁵³⁰² The OECD, in partnership with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) assessed Peru's draft National AI Strategy in 2021 as part of a report on the Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean.⁵³⁰³

The OECD recognized Peru's progress implementing the OECD Recommendation at a Ministerial Meeting in 2024.⁵³⁰⁴ The Report highlighted the advance in AI capabilities with the founding of a National Centre for Innovation and AI as part of a broader initiative to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government to promote research, development, and innovation in AI. The Report also recognized that Peru is actively linking its data policies with AI strategies, focusing on the creation of platforms and data infrastructure to centralize public sector data.

Peru's AI Act embeds principles including transparency, accountability, human oversight, and sustainability principles into the governance framework to

⁵²⁹⁹ Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index 2025* (2025),

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025/index/per>

⁵³⁰⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (Accessed Mar. 12, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁵³⁰¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *International Co-operation for Trustworthy AI (Principle 2.5)* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/ai-principles/P14>

⁵³⁰² OECD, *State of implementation of the OECD AI Principles*, p. 76 (Jun. 2021),

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/lcd40c44->

<en.pdf?expires=1679145707&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=4A7E8011553F4B626AD9EF4C04ACCDE1>

⁵³⁰³ OECD, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1787/1f334543-en>

⁵³⁰⁴ OECD, *Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, Report on the Implementation of the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence* (2024), [https://one.oecd.org/document/C/MIN\(2024\)17/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/C/MIN(2024)17/en/pdf)

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promote AI use and tasks the Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation with issuing ethical and algorithmic-transparency guidelines. With the AI Act, Peru is one of the first Latin American countries to operationalize OECD-level standards through binding rules.⁵³⁰⁵

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Peru contributed to the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law as a non-member state.⁵³⁰⁶ This first legally binding international treaty on AI⁵³⁰⁷ opened for signature by members and non-members on September 5, 2024. Peru has not signed the treaty.⁵³⁰⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

In November 2021, Peru, alongside 192 other states, adopted the Recommendation on Ethics of AI.⁵³⁰⁹ Peru signed the 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence⁵³¹⁰ as part of the Regional Council supported by UNESCO and CAF. The Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, sustainability, and privacy and data protection.⁵³¹¹

⁵³⁰⁵ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM PCM [Decreto Supremo N.º 115-2025-PCM]* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcm/normas-legales/7133522-115-2025-pcm>

⁵³⁰⁶ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵³⁰⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225)*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=225>

⁵³⁰⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁵³⁰⁹ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁵³¹⁰ Cumbre Ministerial y de Altas Autoridades de América Latina y el Caribe, *Declaración de Santiago “Para promover una inteligencia artificial ética en América Latina y el Caribe”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

⁵³¹¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>

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UNESCO and Peru signed an agreement in May 2024 to implement the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), which is a key tool intended to help Member States implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵³¹² This was followed by the launch of an industry consultation in October 2024, seeking inputs on the challenges, opportunities and proposals to improve the AI ecosystem in Peru, which takes reference from the UNESCO RAM methodology of assessing readiness for AI.⁵³¹³ UNESCO's profile on Peru,⁵³¹⁴ based on the RAM report, highlighted Peru's "early and significant normative advances in AI governance" with the general-scope AI law enacted in 2023 and established as a "comprehensive regulatory framework for the responsible development and use of AI"

UNESCO's 2025 consolidated report on implementation of the Recommendation indicates that Peru had submitted a report on its, using a UNESCO questionnaire mirroring the RAM.⁵³¹⁵

Evaluation

Peru's Supreme Decree No. 115-2025-PCM provides a regulatory framework for the responsible development, implementation, and use of AI in Peru with an aim to foster AI for sustainable development. The comprehensive AI framework, which underwent a process of public consultation, and the designation of the Secretariat of Government and Digital Transformation as the national authority complements the modernized data protection regime under the National Data Protection Authority (ANDP) to provide protections for citizens' privacy. These developments and international collaboration mark progress toward implementing the OECD AI Principles and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Signing the Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law would elevate Peru's national progress on an international stage. The country's record on corruption remains a concern, especially around the rule of law.

⁵³¹² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵³¹³ Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, *Enviar aportes para la implementación de la metodología RAM para la inteligencia artificial* (Oct. 10, 2024), <https://www.gob.pe/73222-enviar-aportes-para-la-implementacion-de-la-metodologia-ram-para-la-inteligencia-artificial>

⁵³¹⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Perú* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/peru>

⁵³¹⁵ UNESCO, *Consolidated Report on the Implementation by Member States of the 2021 Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396134>

Philippines

In 2025, the president approved the National AI Strategy for the Philippines while the public consulted on national standards for AI Literacy in information and communications technology. The country also continued to participate in international discussions on AI governance such as UNESCO meetings at the AI Action Summit.

National AI Strategy

Two Philippines executive offices, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), developed roadmaps for AI development and governance for the Philippines in 2019–2021, with updates in 2024–2025. The DTI National AI Strategy aims to make the Philippines a regional AI “powerhouse” and Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence.⁵³¹⁶ The updated National AI Strategy Roadmap 2.0 (NAISR 2.0) emphasizes the integration of recent technological advancements, including Generative AI, and addresses concerns such as ethics and governance.⁵³¹⁷ The NAISR 2.0 established the Center for AI Research (CAIR) as the nation’s first AI hub aimed at promoting socio-economic research and development (R&D) to improve the citizens’ lives and enhance the country’s competitiveness in science and technology. The Philippines aspires to increase R&D spending to 1% of GDP, focusing on upskilling and reskilling the workforce to meet the future demands of AI-driven economies.

The Philippines Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) led the development of the DOST roadmap and sectoral plan for AI and information and communications technology.⁵³¹⁸ DOST’s updated National AI Strategy for the Philippines (NAIS-PH) “envision[s] a unified national strategy where AI powers inclusive innovation, strengthens governance, uplifts communities, and drives globally competitive industries.” The strategy phases five strategies through 2028: infrastructure, workforce, innovation,

⁵³¹⁶ Department of Trade and Industry, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for the Philippines* (2020), <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/items/5b963765-4f82-4604-bb92-bff03ebbac5a>; Kris Crismundo, *DTI Eyes PH as AI Powerhouse in Region*, Philippine News Agency (May 5, 2021), <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1139198>

⁵³¹⁷ Othel V. Campos, *DTI Launches National AI Strategy Roadmap*, Manila Standard (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://manilastandard.net/?p=314467323>; Department of Trade and Industry, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Roadmap 2.0* (Feb. 2025), https://erikalegara.com/uploads/NAISR2.0_July2024.pdf

⁵³¹⁸ Philippines Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development, *Artificial Intelligence and Information & Communications Technology: Roadmapping Executive Report* (Aug. 2020), <http://projects.pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/roadmaps/AIICT.pdf>

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ethics and policy, and deployment.⁵³¹⁹ The DOST developed the NAIS-PH through over two months of consultation with experts from government agencies, the private sector, and academia.⁵³²⁰

The Filipino Congress has introduced several bills since 2021 to regulate the development and use of AI and to protect and prepare citizens to live and work with AI systems. All remain with related committees, including Science and Technology, Information and Communications Technology, Labor and Workforce, and Education and Culture.⁵³²¹ The first Artificial Intelligence Development Act in the House of Representatives provided guidance for establishing a national strategy to develop AI and create a National Center for AI Research.⁵³²² The bill sought to support and institutionalize the DTI's first Artificial Intelligence Roadmap. The updated NAISR 2.0 and Center for AI Research in 2024–2025 achieved this goal through the executive departments.

Bills introduced in the Senate⁵³²³ and House of Representatives⁵³²⁴ in 2024 and 2025 align broadly on AI governance with proposals to create one or two entities to advise government, companies, and public on the economic impacts of AI systems, maintain a registry, establish a code of ethics, and serve as the regulatory and supervisory authority over AI development, application, and use. A council or board would also advise on policymaking. The Senate and House of Representatives bills also converge with minor differences on Guiding Principles, which align with the OECD AI Principles, and an AI Bill of Rights for every Filipino, including Right to

⁵³¹⁹ Allan Mauro V. Marfal, *DOST Builds on “AI” National Strategy*, Philippine Information Agency (May 8, 2025), <https://pia.gov.ph/news/dost-builds-on-ai-national-strategy/>

⁵³²⁰ Samaya Dharmaraj, *The Philippines: President Approves Comprehensive AI Roadmap*, OpenGov Asia (May 22, 2025), <https://archive.opengovasia.com/2025/05/22/the-philippines-president-approves-comprehensive-ai-roadmap/>

⁵³²¹ For example, see House of Representatives, *Congressional Record: Plenary Proceedings of the 20th Congress, First Regular Session: House of Representatives*, Vol. 1, no. 2 (Jul. 29, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov.ph/legislative-documents/congressional-records/>

⁵³²² Senate of the Philippines Legislative Resources, *House Bill No. 10457: An Act Establishing a National Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies, Creating for this Purpose the National Center for Artificial Intelligence Research, and for Other Purposes*, 18th Congress of the Republic (Nov. 9, 2021), <https://ldr.senate.gov.ph/bills/house-bill-no-10457-18th-congress-republic>

⁵³²³ Senate of the Philippines, *Senate S No. 852, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation Act* (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/4741843421!.pdf>

⁵³²⁴ House of Representatives of the Philippines, *House Bill No. 2827, An Act Establishing a Regulatory Framework for a Robust, Reliable and Trustworthy Development, Application, and Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Jul. 31, 2025), https://docs.congress.hrep.online/legisdocs/basic_20/HB02827.pdf

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protection against unsafe and ineffective AI systems, Right against algorithmic discrimination, Right to Privacy, Right to Know, and Right to Remedy.⁵³²⁵

Public Participation

There is some evidence of a public consultation process in the development and implementation of the country's national AI policies, largely through in-person meetings and consultations. Government agency websites do not have full-text policies or strategies such as the National AI Strategy for the Philippines or Roadmap 2.0 readily accessible, though this difficulty could be the result of technology failures. The Philippines is progressing on the Open Government Partnership Action Plan to improve public oversight and participation across the government.⁵³²⁶

Pursuant to the Inclusive Innovation Strategy, the Department of Trade and Industry hosted a virtual session open to the public to “bring together participants from the government, industries, and academia not only to deliberate on matters of common interest concerning AI but more so to bring everyone into the fold as we embrace and adapt to our new economic realities.”⁵³²⁷

The National Privacy Commission's website includes opportunities for the public to vocalize data-related concerns through its AskPRIVA tool and includes contact information to file complaints or to contact relevant authorities.⁵³²⁸

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology hosted a public consultation and released a Joint Memorandum Draft to discuss guidelines to ensure responsible use of AI in the government in April 2024.⁵³²⁹ The event sought to “gather valuable inputs from various stakeholders, ensuring the promotion of responsible use of AI in government agencies while prioritizing transparency, fairness, and accountability.”

⁵³²⁵ *Senate S No. 852, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation Act*, Chapters II–III, <https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/4741843421!.pdf>; *House Bill No. 2827, An Act Establishing a Regulatory Framework for a Robust, Reliable and Trustworthy Development, Application, and Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems*, Chapters II–III, https://docs.congress.hrep.online/legisdocs/basic_20/HB02827.pdf

⁵³²⁶ Open Government Partnership, *Philippines Action Plan Review 2023–2027* (Dec. 13, 2024), https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/philippines-action-plan-review-2023-2027/#_edn5

⁵³²⁷ Department of Trade and Industry, *Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges for Philippine Industries* (Oct. 22, 2021), <https://www.dti.gov.ph/dti-archives/dti-news-archived/dti-artificial-intelligence-opportunities-challenges-ph-industries>

⁵³²⁸ National Privacy Commission, *AskPriva*, <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/askpriva/>

⁵³²⁹ Department of Information and Communications Technology, *DICT and CSC leads JMC Consultation on AI Guidelines in Government* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://ictstatistics.dict.gov.ph/dict-csc-leads-jmc-consultation-on-ai-guidelines-in-the-government/>

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Most recently, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) conducted a public consultation on the proposed National ICT Competency Standards (NICS) for AI Literacy.⁵³³⁰

Data Protection

The Philippines established the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (DPA) “to protect the fundamental human right of privacy, of communication while ensuring free flow of information to promote innovation and growth.” The Act also ensures that “personal information in information and communications systems in the government and in the private sector are secured and protected.”⁵³³¹ Rule XIII of the DPA IRR imposes penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for violations of the Data Privacy Act.⁵³³²

The Act mandated the creation of the National Privacy Commission, an independent body, “To administer and implement the provisions of [the Data Privacy Act of 2012], and to monitor and ensure compliance of the country with international standards set for data protection.”⁵³³³ The Commission was established in March 2016 and is required to make rules, provide advice and guidance, and public education, in addition to its compliance, monitoring, and enforcement duties.⁵³³⁴ By 2018, the NPC had “a total of 23,081 registered Data Protection Officers (DPOs). The number of privacy-related cases the agency received increased by 145% from 2017 to 2018.”⁵³³⁵

The NPC issued the Advisory on the Adoption of International Data Protection Standard based on ISO/IEC standards in 2022,⁵³³⁶ recommending adoption for information and communication technology (ICT) systems or services where privacy controls are required for personal data processing. The framework

⁵³³⁰ Philippine Information Agency, *DICT Holds Public Consultation on Proposed NICS for AI Literacy* (Jul. 3, 2025), <https://pia.gov.ph/news/dict-holds-public-consultation-on-proposed-nics-for-ai-literacy/>

⁵³³¹ National Privacy Commission, *Republic Act 10173, Data Privacy Act of 2012*, Section 1 (Aug. 15, 2012), <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/data-privacy-act/#1>

⁵³³² National Privacy Commission, *NPC Circular No. 2022-01, Guidelines on Administrative Fines* (Aug. 8, 2022), <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/NPC-CIRCULAR-NO.-2022-01-GUIDELINES-ON-ADMINISTRATIVE-FINES-dated-08-AUGUST-2022-w-SGD.pdf>

⁵³³³ *Republic Act 10173, Data Privacy Act of 2012*, Section 7, <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/data-privacy-act/#7>

⁵³³⁴ *Ibid*, Section 1

⁵³³⁵ National Privacy Commission, *NPC Eyes Fully Digital PH by 2040* (Sept. 19, 2018), <https://privacy.gov.ph/npc-eyes-fully-digital-ph-by-2040/>

⁵³³⁶ National Privacy Commission, *Advisory on the Adoption of International Data Protection Standard No. 2021-001 ISO/IEC 29100* (Jul. 19, 2021), https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ISO-IEC_Standard_Adoption_ISOIEC29100_prcel.pdf

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aligns with international privacy principles including Consent and choice; Purpose legitimacy and specification, Collection limitation, Data minimization, Use, retention, and disclosure; Accuracy and quality; Openness, transparency, and notice; Individual participation and access; Accountability; Information security; and Privacy compliance.

The National Privacy Commission has also provided various guidelines on the protection of personal data related to digital technologies. The Guideline on Deceptive Design Patterns clarifies for information controllers data subject's rights to consent and general privacy principles regarding deceptive design patterns and their impact on lawful personal data processing.⁵³³⁷ The NPC issued additional guidelines in 2024, including on the application of the DPA to personal data used to train AI systems.⁵³³⁸

The NPC co-sponsored the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) 2018 Resolution on AI and Ethics,⁵³³⁹ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability,⁵³⁴⁰ and 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition.⁵³⁴¹ However, the NPC did not endorse the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁵³⁴²

⁵³³⁷ National Privacy Commission, *Guidelines on Deceptive Design Patterns* (Nov. 7, 2023), https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NPC-Advisory-No.-2023-01-Guidelines-on-Deceptive-Design-Patterns_7Nov23.pdf

⁵³³⁸ National Privacy Commission, *Guidelines on Personal Data Processing Based on Section 13 (F) of the Data Privacy Act of 2012* (Aug. 12, 2024), <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NPC-Advisory-No.-2024-02-Personal-Data-Processing-Based-on-Section-13-f.pdf>; National Privacy Commission, *NPC Advisory No. 2024 – 04: Guidelines on the Application of Republic Act no. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (DPA), Its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and the Issuances of the Commission to Artificial Intelligence Systems Processing Personal Data* (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Advisory-2024.12.19-Guidelines-on-Artificial-Intelligence-w-SGD.pdf>

⁵³³⁹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵³⁴⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁵³⁴¹ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁵³⁴² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

The Philippines has no national AI legislation guaranteeing algorithmic transparency, though the Data Privacy Act (DPA) mandates “adherence to the principles of transparency, legitimate purpose, and proportionality.”⁵³⁴³ The DPA also includes provisions related to transparent automated processing. Notably, Section 16 provides the right for citizens to be informed whether personal information is being or has been processed, with the right to information regarding the “Methods utilized for automated access, if the same is allowed by the data subject, and the extent to which such access is authorized,” and the right “to access, correction, as well as the right to complain to the Commission.”⁵³⁴⁴

The Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act (or Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act n. 11927) launched in 2023 addresses algorithmic transparency, including the right to refuse AI-driven evaluations and to request an alternative method.⁵³⁴⁵ The NPC Guidelines on the application of the DPA of 2012 to AI Systems Processing Personal Data provide for algorithmic transparency by requiring organizations deploying AI systems to clearly disclose the nature, purpose, and extent of personal data processing; explain the factors and methods influencing automated decisions; and provide mechanisms for human oversight and redress.⁵³⁴⁶

The National Privacy Commission updated the requirement on registration of automated decision-making systems in the NPC Circular No. 2022-04.⁵³⁴⁷ The Circular establishes the framework for the registration of data processing systems in the Philippines and imposes other requirements to ensure that personal information controllers (PICs) and personal information processors (PIPs) keep a record of their data processing activities, make information about data processing systems operating in the country accessible to both the Commission and data subjects, and promote transparency and public accountability in the processing of personal data.

⁵³⁴³ *Republic Act 10173, Data Privacy Act of 2012*, Section 11, <https://privacy.gov.ph/data-privacy-act/#w11>

⁵³⁴⁴ *Ibid*, Section 16

⁵³⁴⁵ Inter-Agency Council, *Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act n. 11927* (Nov, 15, 2023), <https://neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/RA-11927-IRR-SIGNEDv2-1.pdf>;

⁵³⁴⁶ National Privacy Commission, *NPC Advisory No. 2024 – 04: Guidelines on the application of republic act no. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (dpa), its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and the issuances of the Commission to Artificial Intelligence systems processing personal data* (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Advisory-2024.12.19-Guidelines-on-Artificial-Intelligence-w-SGD.pdf>

⁵³⁴⁷ National Privacy Commission, *NPC Circular 2022-04: Registration of Data Processing Systems and Notifications Regarding Automated Decision-Making* (Dec. 5, 2022), <https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Circular-2022-04-1.pdf>

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Separate but closely aligned AI Regulation Bills, both of which include provisions establishing a right against algorithmic discrimination, are making their way through the Philippines House of Representatives⁵³⁴⁸ and the Senate.⁵³⁴⁹

Biometric Identification

The government is in the process of registering all Filipino citizens in its national ID system, re-branded as the National ID System (formerly PhilSys) in 2025 to encourage public acceptance.⁵³⁵⁰ The system collects biometric data, including a front-facing photograph, iris scan, and fingerprints. Infants will initially be registered using a photograph with full biometrics captured from age five. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) announced that 84 million citizens registered for the national digital ID under PhilSys, which has been used in 100 million transactions for public and private services as of early 2025.⁵³⁵¹

Law enforcement in the Philippines has also implemented and encouraged the use of real-time facial recognition software to identify “persons with Warrants of Arrest, High-Value Targets, and members of communist terror groups evading law enforcers.”⁵³⁵² According to Crizaldo Nieves, the regional director of the Cagayan Valley Police, all police will eventually have smartphones that enable real-time tracking, and “appropriate awards [will be given] to the first 10 police stations that will affect an arrest through this technology.”⁵³⁵³

Environmental Impact of AI

In response to the growing environmental concerns associated with AI and digital technologies, the Philippines is actively pursuing a “twin transition” that

⁵³⁴⁸ House of Representatives, *House Bill No. 2827, an Act establishing a regulatory framework for a robust, reliable and trustworthy development, application, and use of Artificial Intelligence systems*, (Jul. 31, 2025), https://docs.congress.hrep.online/legisdocs/basic_20/HB02827.pdf

⁵³⁴⁹ Senate, *Senate Bill No. 852 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation Act* (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/47418434211.pdf>

⁵³⁵⁰ Philippine Statistics Authority, *PhilSys Rebrands to National ID for Broader Public Acceptance* (Feb. 2025), <https://rss003.psa.gov.ph/content/philsys-rebrands-national-id-broader-public-acceptance>

⁵³⁵¹ Lu-Hai Liang, *Philippines DICT Leader Reveals Successes in ‘Challenging’ Digital ID Journey*, Biometric Update (Mar. 11, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202503/philippines-dict-leader-reveals-successes-in-challenging-digital-id-journey>

⁵³⁵² Artemio Dumlao, *Cagayan Valley Cops Roll Out Facial Recognition System vs Crime* (Oct. 21, 2020), <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/10/21/2051265/cagayan-valley-cops-roll-out-facial-recognition-system-vs-crime>

⁵³⁵³ Ibid

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encompasses both digital transformation and environmental sustainability.⁵³⁵⁴ Recognizing these intertwined challenges, the Philippine government prioritizes sustainable consumption and production patterns to ensure that technological advancement does not come at the expense of environmental health, according to policies reflected in the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028 and the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document. In addition, the University of the Philippines, a public university, has published its own Principles for Responsible and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, which incorporate references to environmental sustainability. AI should be evaluated in terms of its impacts on sustainability. AI models and tools must minimize risks to the environment. Developers should use computing resources more efficiently.

In addition, there have been growing concerns around the significant energy usage by AI data centers. The Philippines faces an increasing demand for energy-intensive data processing infrastructure, which further accentuates the need for sustainable practices within the AI sector. The substantial growth in data center operations, driven by AI developments, emphasizes the urgency of adopting energy-efficient technologies and leveraging renewable energy sources to mitigate potential environmental impacts.⁵³⁵⁵ As a consequence, the Department of Energy (DoE) asked hyperscale data center developers to submit their plans to draw power from renewable sources to properly gauge the industry’s demand, noting that all (government entities) are subject to energy audit within the current year and every three (3) years thereafter,” according to the DoE’s Administrative Order No. 15.⁵³⁵⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The Philippines supports a legally binding treaty to ban autonomous weapons systems that violate international humanitarian law and require countries to regulate other systems to ensure “meaningful human control is retained” across the lifecycle in the UN, such as the Secretary-General Report on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS),⁵³⁵⁷ and Group of Government Experts (GGE) under the

⁵³⁵⁴ Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), *Green and Digital: Managing the Twin Transition toward Sustainable Development* (Sept. 19, 2023), <https://pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/green-and-digital>

⁵³⁵⁵ BusinessWorld, *Energy Department Seeking to Gauge Major Data Centers’ Renewable Energy Needs* (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/02/25/577716/energy-dept-seeking-to-gauge-major-data-centers-re-needs/>

⁵³⁵⁶ Department of Energy, *Implementing Guidelines of Administrative Order No. 15* (2024), <https://legacy.doe.gov.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/issuances/AO15%20IG.pdf>

⁵³⁵⁷ Republic of the Philippines, *Philippines Input 78/241, Statement on Disarmament and International Security Issues*, United Nations General Assembly First Committee, Seventy-Ninth Session (2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Philippines-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Philippines-EN.pdf)

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framework of the UN Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁵³⁵⁸ The Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated the call for a rights-based governance regime on LAWS in the Human Rights Council.⁵³⁵⁹ The Secretary of Foreign Affairs called on the UN Security Council to assist in developing guiding principles on the military use of AI, citing the Security Council’s “distinct capability to adopt measures that could prevent the exploitation of AI.”⁵³⁶⁰

Domestically, the Philippines has taken steps to define LAWS and prohibit their use. The House draft Artificial Intelligence Act introduced in September 2024 defines LAWS as “weapons that use artificial intelligence to identify, select, and kill human targets without human intervention.” The Act also prohibits LAWS, stating that “It shall be unlawful for any person to use any AI system that shall cause unnecessary, unjustifiable and indiscriminate moral or pecuniary damage to individuals. The use of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), creation and proliferation of ‘deep fake’ videos, as well as any misuse of AI systems, are hereby prohibited.”⁵³⁶¹

AI Literacy

The Philippines government has supported AI literacy and worker development through private-public partnerships and coordinated efforts through the Development Academic of the Philippines and the Smarter Philippines through Data Analytics, Research and Development, Training and Adoption (SPARTA) program launched in 2022.⁵³⁶² In 2025, the Philippines launched a nationwide initiative on detailed plan by the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) to “boost AI literacy and prepare young Filipinos for the demands of an increasingly AI-driven global

⁵³⁵⁸ Philippines News Agency, *PH, 10 Others Propose Draft Treaty on Autonomous Weapon Systems* (Jul. 27, 2022), <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179967>

⁵³⁵⁹ Department of Foreign Affairs, *Philippines Pushes for Rights-Based Governance Regime on New and Emerging Technologies* (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/news-from-our-foreign-service-postsupdate/36271-philippines-pushes-for-rights-based-governance-regime-on-new-and-emerging-technologies>

⁵³⁶⁰ Department of Foreign Affairs, *UNSC High-Level Open Debate on Artificial Intelligence and International Peace and Security: Addressing the Complexities, Multifaceted Impacts, and Responsible Use, Philippine Statement*, 80th Session of the UNGA (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://dfa.gov.ph/authentication-functions/337-sfa-speeches-and-statements/37214-uns-c-high-level-open-debate-on-artificial-intelligence-and-international-peace-and-security-addressing-the-complexities-multifaceted-impacts-and-responsible-use-philippine-statement>

⁵³⁶¹ House of Representatives, *HB 10944, Artificial Intelligence Act*, (Sept. 18, 2024), https://docs.congress.hrep.online/legisdocs/basic_19/HB10944.pdf

⁵³⁶² Development Academy of the Philippines, *Smarter Philippines through Data Analytics R&D, Training and Adoption* (2022), <https://sparta.dap.edu.ph/>

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economy.”⁵³⁶³ The Department of Education (DepEd) partnered with Microsoft to scale AI-powered tools across public schools in an effort to enhance personalized learning and equipping students and teachers with digital competencies.⁵³⁶⁴

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) conducted a public consultation in July 2025 on the proposed National ICT Competency Standards (NICS) for AI Literacy, signaling a structured approach to embedding AI skills in national frameworks.⁵³⁶⁵ The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) hosted a UNESCO-led AI Literacy Training in November 2025 aimed at improving civil servants’ digital competencies.⁵³⁶⁶ The training responded to findings in the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) that civil servants’ limited digital competencies hindered their ability to leverage the potential of AI.

Human Rights

The Philippines has adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁵³⁶⁷ However, the country’s human rights implementation record is highly contested. Freedom House ranks the country as “Partly Free” in the Freedom in the World report, earning a middling score of 58/100.⁵³⁶⁸ The report explains that the “rule of law and application of justice is haphazard and heavily favor political and economic elites” in the country.

Amnesty International reported instances of harassment, detention, unjust charges, and extrajudicial executions of human rights defenders and political activists, as well as other human rights violations.⁵³⁶⁹ The Human Rights Defenders

⁵³⁶³ Presidential Communications Office, *Gov’t, Private Sector to Undertake AI Training for Students* (Jun. 26, 2025), https://pco.gov.ph/news_releases/govt-private-sector-to-undertake-ai-training-for-students/

⁵³⁶⁴ Microsoft, *DepEd and Microsoft Expand AI-Powered Literacy Initiatives across the Philippines* (Jul. 1, 2025), <https://news.microsoft.com/source/asia/2025/07/01/depd-and-microsoft-expand-ai-powered-literacy-initiatives-across-the-philippines/>

⁵³⁶⁵ Philippine Information Agency, *DICT Holds Public Consultation on Proposed NICS for AI Literacy* (Jul. 3, 2025), <https://pia.gov.ph/news/dict-holds-public-consultation-on-proposed-nics-for-ai-literacy/>

⁵³⁶⁶ Department of Science and Technology, *DOST Partners with UNESCO for AI Literacy Training* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/86-2025-news/4267-dost-partners-with-unesco-for-ai-literacy-training.html>

⁵³⁶⁷ Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo, *Behind a Common Cause: Advancing with Resolve, Finding Strength in Synergy* (Mar. 2008), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session7/HLS/Philippines-E.pdf>

⁵³⁶⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Philippines* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/philippines/freedom-world/2025>

⁵³⁶⁹ Amnesty International, *Philippines 2024* (2025), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/philippines/report-philippines/>

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Protection Act, enacted in 2025 to safeguard activists and provide legal frameworks against unjust arrests and extrajudicial killings represents a step towards addressing some of these violations.

The SIM Registration Act enacted in 2022 required users to register all mobile subscriber identity module (SIM) cards with public telecommunications entities. Privacy advocates raised concerns about the potential for abuse of the massive data collection mandated by the new regulation.⁵³⁷⁰

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, the Philippines participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁵³⁷¹ The Philippines thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible for the good of all.

The Philippines took part in sideline meetings at the Paris AI Action Summit in February 2025. The AI Action Summit 2025 moved from an exclusive focus on safety to one on “action.”⁵³⁷²

OECD / G20 Principles

The Philippines is a member of neither the OECD nor the G20, and the national AI roadmap makes little direct mention of the OECD or G20 AI principles. However, as part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Philippines participates in the OECD Southeast Asian Regional Programme and has adopted the OECD AI Principles. A joint memorandum on principles and guidelines for an ethical and trustworthy use of AI in the government cites the country’s commitment to the OECD principles that “AI should be innovative and trustworthy

⁵³⁷⁰ Congress of the Philippines, *RA 11934* (Jul. 25, 2022),

<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2022/10oct/20221010-RA-11934-FRM.pdf>

⁵³⁷¹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁵³⁷² Department of Science and Technology, *DOST’s Solidum Highlights PH Pivot to Advance AI at UNESCO* (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://www.dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/86-2025-news/3927-dost-s-solidum-highlights-ph-pivot-to-advance-ai-at-unesco.html>

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and respect human rights and democratic values.”⁵³⁷³ Despite having no official endorsement of these international principles,⁵³⁷⁴ comments from leaders and provisions from AI roadmap embody a commitment to OECD principles for human rights, inclusive growth, and transparency.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law was opened for signature by member and non-member States on September 5, 2024.⁵³⁷⁵ The Philippines did not participate in the elaboration of the treaty and will be eligible to accede to the treaty only after it enters into force.⁵³⁷⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a member of UNESCO, the Philippines adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in November 2021.⁵³⁷⁷ The Philippines completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵³⁷⁸ The report highlights the country’s initiatives in capacity building and addressing the skills gap as well as initiatives to create a legal and regulatory framework for AI and digital governance.⁵³⁷⁹ The report cites the Philippines participation in global discussions as a positive sign. DOST Secretary Solidum’s statement at the UNESCO ministerial meetings on AI Governance at the AI Action Summit exemplified this commitment,

⁵³⁷³ Department of Information And Communications Technology, *Joint Memorandum on the Principles and Guidelines for the Ethical and Trustworthy Use of AI In the Government* (Apr.18, 2024), https://ictstatistics.dict.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/DRAFT-COPY_JMC-on-the-Principles-for-an-Ethical-and-Trustworthy-Use-of-Artificial-Intelligence-AI-in-Government.pdf

⁵³⁷⁴ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵³⁷⁵ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵³⁷⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Dec. 28, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁵³⁷⁷ UNESCO, *UNESCO Adopts First Global Standard on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 8, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-first-global-standard-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁵³⁷⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵³⁷⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Philippines*, Key Insights (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/philippines>

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Solidum emphasized the importance of integrating AI policy goals into national policies and acknowledged the importance of UNESCO's assessment function.⁵³⁸⁰

Evaluation

The Philippines continues to make strides in national AI policy, following through on commitments made in response to the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵³⁸¹ AI is in use across several initiatives in the country, including law enforcement,⁵³⁸² healthcare,⁵³⁸³ autonomous vehicles, infrastructure, and data processing.⁵³⁸⁴ The diligent work of the Philippines National Privacy Commission on domestic issues and at the Global Privacy Assembly provides a strong base for the protection of fundamental rights and democratic values.

⁵³⁸⁰ Department of Foreign Affairs, *Philippines Participates in UNESCO Discussions on AI Readiness* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/news-from-our-foreign-service-postsupdate/36166-philippines-participates-in-unesco-discussions-on-ai-readiness>

⁵³⁸¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵³⁸² Artemio Dumlao, *Cagayan Valley Cops Roll Out Facial Recognition System vs Crime* (Oct. 21, 2020), <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/10/21/2051265/cagayan-valley-cops-roll-out-facial-recognition-system-vs-crime>

⁵³⁸³ OpenGov Asia, *The Philippines' DOST Launches New AI Programmes* (Apr. 13, 2021), <https://archive.opengovasia.com/2021/04/13/the-philippines-dost-launches-new-ai-programmes/>; Newsbytes, *DOST Rolls Out Technologies for AI National Roadmap* (Jun. 24, 2021), <https://newsbytes.ph/2021/06/24/dost-rolls-out-technologies-for-ai-national-roadmap/>

⁵³⁸⁴ Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development, *DOST-PCIEERD Launch 9 New AI R&D Projects* (Apr. 8, 2021), <https://pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/news/latest-news/422-dost-pcieerd-launch-9-new-ai-r-d-projects>

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Poland

In 2025, Poland launched the AI Policy 2030, an update to the 2020 version. Legislation to implement the EU AI Act passed through public consultation and is moving through the legislature while the AI Development and Security Commission, the national AI authority became operational.

National AI Strategy

The Polish Council of Ministers⁵³⁸⁵ adopted the Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland in 2020⁵³⁸⁶ to support and complement the work of the EU and the OECD in AI. The 2020 Policy establishes goals and actions for Poland in the field of AI in the short-term (until 2023), medium-term (until 2027), and long-term (after 2027) along six key thematic areas: AI and society; AI and innovative companies; AI and science; AI and education; AI and international cooperation; and AI and the public sector. The Ministry of Digital Affairs (*Ministerstwo Cyfryzacji*) released a draft of an updated Artificial Intelligence Development Policy in Poland until 2030 (AI Policy 2030),⁵³⁸⁷ which builds on the 2020 Policy for the Development of AI. The draft AI Policy 2030 provides guidelines for the development of an AI ecosystem where AI is trustworthy and implemented under the principles of safety and explainability. The draft policy also prescribes for AI development and deployment under ethical standards, the protection of privacy and consumer rights, and prohibition of discrimination.

The 2020 Polish strategy provides strategic guidance and identifies some key policy initiatives to develop a holistic AI ecosystem.⁵³⁸⁸ The main objectives are: Reforming the educational system and providing lifelong learning opportunities in AI-related fields; Encouraging growth and innovation of AI companies through dedicated support in AI research, including the provision of sufficient financial

⁵³⁸⁵ Komitet Rady Ministrów do Spraw Cyfryzacji (KRMC). The KRMC is an auxiliary body of the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister. The Council of Ministers serves as Poland's Cabinet with the Prime Minister acting as the President of the Council of Ministers.

<https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/sklad-rady-ministrow>

⁵³⁸⁶ Service of the Republic of Poland, *Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland [Polityka dla rozwoju sztucznej inteligencji w Polsce od roku 2020]* (Dec. 2020), <https://www.gov.pl/web/ai/polityka-dla-rozwoju-sztucznej-inteligencji-w-polsce-od-roku-2020>

⁵³⁸⁷ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *New AI Policy [Nowa Polityka AI]* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/nowa-polityka-ai---dolacz-do-konsultacji-i-pomoz-wspoltworzyc-przyszlosc-cyfrowej-Polski>

⁵³⁸⁸ Service of the Republic of Poland, *Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland [Polityka dla rozwoju sztucznej inteligencji w Polsce od roku 2020]* (Dec. 2020), <https://www.gov.pl/web/ai/polityka-dla-rozwoju-sztucznej-inteligencji-w-polsce-od-roku-2020>

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resources; Increasing national and international partnerships in AI; Creating a data ecosystem with trustworthy and high-quality data and increased data exchange mechanisms. The Polish Council of Ministers Committee for Digital Affairs oversees steering the implementation of the strategy and evaluating its implementation on a yearly basis.

The Polish strategy was drafted based on the 2018 Assumptions to AI Strategy in Poland.⁵³⁸⁹ The Assumptions states that Poland's approach to ethical and legal issues with AI should: be proactive in creating ethical standards and legislation; be inclusive and cooperative; consider the specific circumstances in Poland; be flexible; instate consistent supportive measures; engage in discussion and consultation; and be firm in response to violations of ethical and legal standards. The primary goals to be achieved listed in the Assumptions include developing transparent and effective mechanisms ensuring the protection of fundamental rights, gaining understanding of the social effects of AI, setting ethical standards, and creating high-quality legislation. The Assumptions identify dignity; freedom (described as including freedom to understand processes with which individuals interact and the making of free and independent decisions); privacy and data protection; equality; and justice as key fundamental rights and values for the development of a legal and ethical approach to AI in Poland. The Assumptions call for the development of an ethical impact assessment mechanism, particularly for AI projects supported by public funds and an oversight entity to monitor for rights protection.

To that end, in January 2022, an inter ministerial task force was established for the implementation of the AI Policy. The tasks of the Team included: giving opinions on implementation plans submitted by each minister, conducting ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation work of the AI Policy and Preparing proposals for recommendations for the Council of Ministers Committee for Digital Affairs.⁵³⁹⁰ In February 2024, the Council of Ministers Committee for Digital Affairs set an advisory council for AI development with representatives from different stakeholders, to organize regular consultations with social partners and experts on AI issues, and to report on the progress and outcomes of the strategy.⁵³⁹¹

⁵³⁸⁹ Ministry for Digital Affairs, *Assumptions for the AI Strategy in Poland* (Nov. 9, 2018), <https://www.gov.pl/attachment/1a3fba75-c9f9-4aff-96d8-aa65ce612eab>

⁵³⁹⁰ Service of the Republic of Poland, *Establishment of a Task Force for the Implementation of the AI Policy* (Apr. 19, 2022), <https://www.gov.pl/web/ai/powolanie-zespołu-zadaniowego-do-spraw-realizacji-polityki-ai>

⁵³⁹¹ Council of Ministers Committee for Digital Affairs, *Decision No. 1/2024 of the Head of the Task Force for Breakthrough Technologies on the establishment of the Working Group "PL/AI Artificial Intelligence for Poland"* (Feb. 9, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/krmc/decyzja-nr-12024-kierownika-zespołu-zadaniowego-do-spraw-technologii-przelomowych-ws-utworzenia-grupy-roboczej-plai-sztuczna-inteligencja-dla-polski>

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Article 30 of the Polish Constitution—which protects the inherent and inalienable dignity of the person—forms the basis of the Policy approach. While Poland recognizes the importance of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and international human rights treaties in providing a foundation for ethical principles, the Policy suggests that Article 30 of the Polish Constitution provides broader protection.

The Polish government introduced a draft act to amend the act on the national cybersecurity systems. The amendments strengthen protection against AI-powered cyber threats and address emerging risks to enhance resilience in both the public and private sectors. The mandate risk management protocols and reporting for critical entities, which will enhance AI-based threat detection and response capabilities across various sectors. Additionally, increased supervisory powers enable more effective AI-driven monitoring, analysis, and intervention strategies, fostering a resilient cybersecurity environment that can rapidly address emerging threats in public and private sectors.⁵³⁹² As of November 2025, the act continues in the legislative process.

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Poland applies the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁵³⁹³ Poland established national oversight structures for DSA enforcement in 2025.⁵³⁹⁴ The President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) was temporarily designated as Digital Services Coordinator in May 2025, charged with monitoring compliance by online platforms and address systemic risks such as algorithmic amplification and disinformation.⁵³⁹⁵ After amendments by deputies in the Sejm and Senate, legislation to implement the digital services act was passed to the President for signature at the end of 2025.⁵³⁹⁶ The new legislation names the UKE

⁵³⁹² Service of Republic of Poland, *Draft Act Amending the Act on the National Cybersecurity System and Some Other Acts* (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/projekt-ustawy-o-zmianie-ustawy-o-krajowym-systemie-cyberbezpieczenstwa-oraz-niektorych-innych-ustaw3>

⁵³⁹³ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 27, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁵³⁹⁴ Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), *Digital Services Act* (2026), <https://uke.gov.pl/en/digitalservices/>

⁵³⁹⁵ Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), *President of UKE Appointed Coordinator for Digital Services* (Jun. 4, 2025), <https://uke.gov.pl/en/digitalservices/ews/president-of-uke-appointed-coordinator-for-digital-services,5.html>

⁵³⁹⁶ Sejm, *Government Bill Amending the Act on the Provision of Electronic Services and Certain Other Acts [Rządowy projekt ustawy o zmianie ustawy o świadczeniu usług drogą elektroniczną oraz*

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competent authority charged with overseeing the DSA in most cases with the Chairman of the National Broadcasting Council in charge of that sector.⁵³⁹⁷

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Poland is bound by the EU AI Act.⁵³⁹⁸ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.⁵³⁹⁹

After a round of public consultations through 2024, Poland issued an updated draft Act on AI to implement the EU AI Act in February 2025.⁵⁴⁰⁰ The updated draft expands composition for the Artificial Intelligence Development and Security Commission, charged as the market surveillance authority body for AI systems, to include representatives from specialized public institutions and strengthen the body's independence by limiting the number of ministerial representatives and having the Commission Chair appointed by the Sejm (deputies), rather than Prime Minister, and approved by the Senate. The updated draft would also create regulatory sandboxes and limit the circumstances for on-site inspections.⁵⁴⁰¹ The draft Act on AI Systems is still subject to further legislative steps. Still, the Commission on the Development and Security of Artificial Intelligence became operational in 2025 with a mandate to

niektórych innych ustaw], print no. 1757 (2025),

<https://www.sejm.gov.pl/sejm10.nsf/PrzebiegProc.xsp?nr=1757>

⁵³⁹⁷ Sejm, *Act of 18 December 2025 Amending the Act on the Provision of Services by Electronic Means and Certain Other Acts [USTAWA z dnia 18 grudnia 2025 r. o zmianie ustawy o świadczeniu usług drogą elektroniczną oraz niektórych innych ustaw]* (Dec. 18, 2025),

[https://orka.sejm.gov.pl/opinie10.nsf/nazwa/1757_u/\\$file/1757_u.pdf](https://orka.sejm.gov.pl/opinie10.nsf/nazwa/1757_u/$file/1757_u.pdf)

⁵³⁹⁸ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act)* (Jul. 7, 2024),

<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

⁵³⁹⁹ European Commission, *AI Act Enters into Force* (Aug. 1, 2024),

https://commission.europa.eu/news/ai-act-enters-force-2024-08-01_en

⁵⁴⁰⁰ Service of Republic of Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Draft Act on Artificial Intelligence Systems, as Amended after Public Consultations* (Feb. 11, 2025),

<https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/projekt-ustawy-o-systemach-sztucznej-inteligencji-ze-zmianami-po-konsultacjach-spoecznych>

⁵⁴⁰¹ Ibid

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coordinate conformity assessments, oversee AI system compliance, and liaise with EU authorities under the AI Act framework.⁵⁴⁰²

Public Participation

Documents relating to Poland's development of its AI policy are accessible on the internet through the public archive's website of the Government Legislation Centre.⁵⁴⁰³ The process that led to the drafting of the Assumptions to AI Strategy in Poland involved the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, from science, business, social organizations and public administration.⁵⁴⁰⁴ According to the government website, 46 entities took part in the consultation on the subsequent draft Policy document, the Artificial Intelligence Development Policy in Poland for 2019–2027.⁵⁴⁰⁵ The Ministry of Digital Affairs received approximately 1,000 proposals for change from nearly 200 individuals and representatives of science, business, local government, and non-governmental organizations and held consultation meetings in Warsaw, Katowice, and Łódź for the updated draft Artificial Intelligence Development Policy until 2030 (2030 AI Policy).⁵⁴⁰⁶ The Ministry published a summary of the consultations.⁵⁴⁰⁷

The Ministry of Digital Affairs has conducted consultations on the implementation of the EU AI Act, first, focusing on prohibited AI systems under Article 5.⁵⁴⁰⁸ Following these discussions, the Ministry published a revised national draft Act on AI Systems in February 2025, incorporating key measures such as

⁵⁴⁰² Traple, *New Technologies (2026) — Legislation and Regulation in Poland and the European Union (A to Z)* (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.traple.pl/en/new-technologies-2026-legislation-and-regulation-in-poland-and-the-european-union-a-to-z/>

⁵⁴⁰³ Government Legislation Centre, *Government Legislative Process* (Nov. 8, 2024), <https://legislacja.rcl.gov.pl/lista?pSize=0&applicantId=38#list>

⁵⁴⁰⁴ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Artificial Intelligence - Poland 2118* [Sztuczna Inteligencja - Pols] (Nov. 9, 2018), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/sztuczna-inteligencja-polska-2118>

⁵⁴⁰⁵ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Public Consultations on the Project "Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland for 2019–2027"* (Aug. 21, 2019), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/konsultacje-spoeczne-projektu-polityki-rozwoju-sztucznej-inteligencji-w-polsce-na-lata-2019--2027>

⁵⁴⁰⁶ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *New AI Policy*, <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/nowa-polityka-ai---dolacz-do-konsultacji-i-pomoz-wspoltworzyc-przyszlosc-cyfrowej-Polski>

⁵⁴⁰⁷ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Summary of Public Consultations on the Draft Artificial Intelligence Development Policy until 2023* [Podsumowanie konsultacji społecznych projektu Polityki rozwoju sztucznej inteligencji do 2030r], <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/podsumowanie-konsultacji-spoecznych-projektu-polityki-rozwoju-sztucznej-inteligencji-do-2030-r>

⁵⁴⁰⁸ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *The Ministry of Digital Affairs Invites You to Participate in the Work on the Implementation of the AI Act* [Ministerstwo Cyfryzacji zaprasza do udziału w pracach nad wdrożeniem AI Act] (Sept. 16, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/ministerstwo-cyfryzacji-zaprasza-do-udzialu-w-pracach-nad-wdrozeniem-ai-act>

regulatory sandboxes, financial support, remote supervision, and a leniency mechanism.⁵⁴⁰⁹ This new version was issued after assessing the over-2,000 comments, opinions, and proposals submitted for the consultation by non-governmental organizations; experts in the innovation, research, science, and culture sectors; and ministries, offices, public institutions, and local governments.

Data Protection

As an EU Member State, Poland applies the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).⁵⁴¹⁰ The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.”⁵⁴¹¹

The Polish Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) entered into force with the GDPR in 2018, replacing the previous Personal Data Protection Act of 29 August 1997. Poland’s 2019 GDPR Implementation Act amended Polish sectoral laws, such as labor, consumer protection, insurance, banking or telecommunication laws, to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

Poland transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED),⁵⁴¹² to ensure “that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”⁵⁴¹³ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.⁵⁴¹⁴

⁵⁴⁰⁹ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Draft Act on Artificial Intelligence Systems, as Amendments after Public Consultations [Projekt Ustawy o systemach sztucznej inteligencji ze zmianami po konsultacjach społecznych]* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfrizacja/projekt-ustawy-o-systemach-sztucznej-inteligencji-ze-zmianami-po-konsultacjach-spoecznych>

⁵⁴¹⁰ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

⁵⁴¹¹ European Commission, *Legal Framework for Data Protection in the EU*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁵⁴¹² *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/oj/eng>

⁵⁴¹³ European Commission, *Legal Framework for Data protection in the EU*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁵⁴¹⁴ European Parliament and Council of the European Union, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with*

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The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

Poland is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe’s Convention 108⁺ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁵⁴¹⁵

The Polish data protection authority is called the Office of Personal Data Protection (*Urząd Ochrony Danych Osobowych*, UODO).⁵⁴¹⁶ In December 2022, President of the Personal Data Protection Office approved the first Polish code of conduct⁵⁴¹⁷ compliant with the GDPR. The code of conduct, developed by the Federation of Healthcare Employers’ Unions (FZPOZ), concerns the protection of personal data processed in small medical facilities. The Polish supervisory authority granted accreditation to RS Jamano, which will act as a monitoring body for the application of the code. The Polish DPA stated, “the purpose of the code of conduct is to ensure the protection of the personal data of patients and other persons in healthcare facilities. Certainly, the adopted code of conduct will not only help medical facilities to comply with the requirements of the GDPR but also raise awareness of data protection among patients. Raising awareness and broadening of knowledge of the role of personal data protection and building appropriate attitudes among both controllers and citizens is a process in which the Personal Data Protection Office is actively involved.”

The Polish UODO is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002. The DPA co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence⁵⁴¹⁸ and the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI

regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/680/oj/eng>

⁵⁴¹⁵ Council of Europe, Convention 108 + and Protocols (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁵⁴¹⁶ Personal Data Protection Office (UODO), *About Us* (2025), <https://uodo.gov.pl/en>

⁵⁴¹⁷ Polish Data Protection Authority, *The First Polish Code of Conduct Compliant with the GDPR Approved* (Dec. 12, 2022), <https://uodo.gov.pl/en/553/1325>

⁵⁴¹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

Accountability.⁵⁴¹⁹ However, it did not endorse the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology⁵⁴²⁰ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁵⁴²¹

In March 2019, the Polish DPA fined Bisnode, a digital marketing company, €220,000 for not notifying data subjects it had acquired their personal data through data scraping methods. The data protection authority ordered the company to reach out directly to these individuals, stating that a notice on its website would not be sufficient notification. It is to be noted that the company had reached out to 679,000 persons whose email addresses it had access to but did not reach out directly to the data subjects in relation to the 5.7 million other records, which it had estimated would cost it €8 million.⁵⁴²²

The Polish Council of Ministers adopted the Draft Act on Data Management in October 2025,⁵⁴²³ aligning Polish law with EU data management regulations in the EU Data Governance Act (DGA). by establishing regulatory frameworks, designating responsible entities, and ensuring procedural compliance and data reuse for public sector data. The approach centers on regulating only those areas where the EU explicitly allows or requires Member State intervention. The Ministry of Digital Affairs will serve as the central information point for accessible data resources, supporting data re-use under DGA guidelines. To ensure compliance and proper oversight, the draft law designates the Minister of Digital Affairs as the primary appeals body for decisions on protected data re-use and the President of the Office for Personal Data Protection as the authority for data brokerage services and registration of data altruism organizations. These roles ensure that public sector data access, data brokerage, and data altruism activities comply with DGA standards.⁵⁴²⁴

⁵⁴¹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁵⁴²⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁵⁴²¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁵⁴²² Szymon Sieniewicz, *Data Protected: Poland*, Linklaters (Aug. 2022), <https://www.linklaters.com/en/insights/data-protected/data-protected---poland>

⁵⁴²³ Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland, *Draft Act on Data Management [Projekt ustawy o zarządzaniu danymi]*, UC67, Government Decisions (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/projekt-ustawy-o-zarzadzaniu-danymi3>

⁵⁴²⁴ Service of Republic of Poland, *Draft Act on Data Management* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/projekt-ustawy-o-zarzadzaniu-danymi2>

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Algorithmic Transparency

Poland is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Poles have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁵⁴²⁵

The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems⁵⁴²⁶ specifies that “contestation should include an opportunity to be heard, a thorough review of the decision and the possibility to obtain a non-automated decision. This right may not be waived, and should be affordable and easily enforceable before, during and after deployment, including through the provision of easily accessible contact points and hotlines.”⁵⁴²⁷

In 2019, while taking steps to implement the GDPR, Poland provided all banking customers with the right to an explanation regarding their creditworthiness assessment when applying for a loan.⁵⁴²⁸ STIR—*System Teleinformatyczny Izby Rozliczeniowej*—is a government tool that analyses information collected by financial institutions to detect illegal activity. If suspicion arises, the financial institution can block a flagged account for 72 hours at the request of the tax authorities.⁵⁴²⁹ However, in practice, concerns have arisen over the years regarding financial institutions' non-compliance with legal requirements.⁵⁴³⁰ For instance, they often fail to provide timely, clear, and sufficient insight into their decision-making processes.”

On the other hand, algorithms are used by Polish courts to aid in their decision-making, such as when assessing cases or rendering judgments. While some believe AI will transform the justice system, others are concerned about the impact on judge's decisions as well as the lack of transparency and critical evaluation.⁵⁴³¹

⁵⁴²⁵ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24 (2018), <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

⁵⁴²⁶ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=09000016809e1154>

⁵⁴²⁷ *Ibid*

⁵⁴²⁸ Panoptykon Foundation, *The Right to Explanation of Creditworthiness Assessment—First Such Law in Europe* (Jun. 12, 2019), <https://en.panoptykon.org/right-to-explanation>

⁵⁴²⁹ Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society 2020* (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/poland/>;

⁵⁴³⁰ Algorithm Watch, *In Poland, a Law Made Loan Algorithms Transparent. Implementation Is Nonexistent* (Jan. 6, 2021), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/poland-credit-loan-transparency/>

⁵⁴³¹ Alina Yanchur, “All rise for the honorable AI”: *Algorithmic Management in Polish Electronic Courts*, Algorithm Watch (May 27, 2024), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/polish-electronic-courts/#>

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Unemployment Scoring System

In 2014, an unemployment scoring system was introduced in Poland. The profiling system was dividing unemployed people into three categories based on their responses to a series of questions asked during a computer-based interview.⁵⁴³² In a report on the issue, the NGO, Panoptykon, described the process as the computer system calculating the “employment potential” of a given person on the basis of the provided answers.⁵⁴³³ The amount of assistance the individual received was determined by their categorization. The Polish data protection supervisory authority expressed reservations regarding the use of profiling in this context. In particular, the DPA raised concerns regarding the protection of personal data and the absence of a transparent procedure to facilitate appeals.⁵⁴³⁴ In addition, concerns were raised by the Polish Supreme Audit Office (*Najwyższa Izba Kontroli*) and the Human Rights Commissioner. Eventually, Poland’s Constitutional Court found the system to be in breach of the Polish Constitution. The system was abolished by the end of 2019.⁵⁴³⁵

Use of AI in Judicial Decisions

Poland began an online arbitration court that incorporates AI techniques in 2020. Ultimately, *Polish Science* reports, “artificial intelligence will automatically prepare a ready draft judgment together with justification, processing for this purpose the data and positions of the parties collected in the course of the proceedings.”⁵⁴³⁶ The Ultima Ratio judgment has the same legal force as a decision before a common court.⁵⁴³⁷ The main legal issue raised by Ultima Ratio and other online arbitration tools is whether it is compatible with Article 47 of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court.

⁵⁴³² Jędrzej Niklas, Karolina Sztandar-Sztanderska, Katarzyna Szymielewicz, *Profiling the Unemployed in Poland: Social and Political Implications of Algorithmic Decision Making*, Fundacja Panoptykon, p. 11 (2015), https://panoptykon.org/sites/default/files/leadimage-biblioteka/panoptykon_profiling_report_final.pdf

⁵⁴³³ Ibid, p. 12

⁵⁴³⁴ Ibid, pp. 9, 33–37

⁵⁴³⁵ Jędrzej Niklas, *Poland: Government to Scrap Controversial Unemployment Scoring System*, AlgorithmWatch (Apr. 16, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/poland-government-to-scrap-controversial-unemployment-scoring-system/>

⁵⁴³⁶ Polish Science, *Ultima Ratio—The First Online Court of Arbitration in Poland to Implement Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 2, 2020), <https://polishscience.pl/en/ultima-ratio-the-first-online-court-of-arbitration-in-poland-to-implement-artificial-intelligence/>

⁵⁴³⁷ Warsaw Business Journal, *Online Arbitration as Remedy for Closed Common Courts and Pandemics* (Mar. 16, 2020), <https://wbj.pl/online-arbitration-as-remedy-for-closed-common-courts-and-pandemics/post/126416>

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The implementation of Ultima RATIO since 2024 has not shown desired results. In late 2024 the company partnered with Microsoft to create virtual legal assistants.⁵⁴³⁸ Another company, ENOIK,⁵⁴³⁹ has developed an AI-supported arbitration court specializing in payment disputes for entrepreneurs.

Environmental Impact of AI

Poland has included the government's commitment to sustainable objectives into its 2035 Digitization Strategy and policy documents on AI. The draft Digitization Strategy until 2035 sets specific objectives to be reached within this timeframe, and one of them concerns the support for sustainable development in connection with the green energy transition and broader EU goals.⁵⁴⁴⁰ Similarly, Poland's National AI Strategy recommends the implementation of trustworthy AI systems that enhance positive social change and support sustainable development as well as ecological responsibility.⁵⁴⁴¹

The Policy for the Development of AI in Poland fosters an AI ecosystem based on OECD principles such as inclusive and sustainable growth and well-being.⁵⁴⁴² The document highlights the opportunity offered by AI to positively impact the energy sector as well as climate and the environment at large by allowing the integration and stabilization of renewable energy sources and the efficient management of energy consumption.⁵⁴⁴³ Environmental protection, water retention, agriculture, and therefore land use are mentioned among the sectors for which the development of AI-based solutions is encouraged.⁵⁴⁴⁴ Although a dedicated action plan for implementing environmental sustainability objectives is not yet present in Poland's AI regulatory framework, the inclusion of sustainability goals within the

⁵⁴³⁸ Alina Yanchur, "All Rise for the Honorable AI": Algorithmic Management in Polish Electronic Courts (May 27, 2024), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/polish-electronic-courts/>

⁵⁴³⁹ ENOIK, *About Us: The First Arbitration Court in Poland Using AI* [O nas: Pierwszy w Polsce sąd arbitrażowy wykorzystujący AI] (2026), <https://enoik.pl/#about-us>

⁵⁴⁴⁰ Service of Republic of Poland, *Digitization Strategy of Poland until 2035* [Strategia Cyfryzacji Polski do 2035 roku] (Oct. 29, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/strategia-cyfryzacji-polski-do-2035-roku>

⁵⁴⁴¹ Ministry of Digital Affairs, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, and Chancellery of the Prime Minister, *Artificial Intelligence Development Policy in Poland* (Aug. 20, 2019) <https://www.gov.pl/attachment/a8ea194c-d0ce-404e-a9ca-e007e9fbc93e>

⁵⁴⁴² Monitor Polski Official Journal of the Republic of Poland, *On the Establishment of the "Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland from 2020"* (Dec. 28, 2020), <https://monitorpolski.gov.pl/M2021000002301.pdf>

⁵⁴⁴³ Ibid

⁵⁴⁴⁴ Ibid

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country's policy documents on AI establishes a positive foundation for advancing these objectives.

AI Literacy

The AI Policy 2030 identifies the need for capacity building in developing AI experts as well as digital competencies in students and workers as one of the challenges to seizing the potential of AI.⁵⁴⁴⁵ The policy frames Education, Training, and Competencies as part of the AI Ecosystem, noting that “it is crucial to continually raise public awareness, which will reduce unfounded fears and promote responsible and ethical use of AI.” (22) The Digital Transformation of Education Policy passed in 2025 defined the goals and outlined changes to core curriculum to prepare primary and secondary students and teachers to use artificial intelligence.⁵⁴⁴⁶ However, the plan appears to focus on using AI rather than sociotechnical implications.⁵⁴⁴⁷

The Ministry of National Education (*Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej*) reported a number of initiatives in the 2025–2026 school year to promote digital skills,⁵⁴⁴⁸ including education to address disinformation. Teaching training is a key component of these programs. The education ministry also links to a Ministry of Digital Affairs website where information to combat disinformation is available to a wider audience.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Poland was among the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such

⁵⁴⁴⁵ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *New AI Policy [Nowa Polityka AI]*, p. 9, (2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/nowa-polityka-ai---dolacz-do-konsultacji-i-pomoz-wspoltworzyc-przyszlosc-cyfrowej-Polski>

⁵⁴⁴⁶ Ministry of National Education, *C2.2 Reforming the Foundations for the Digital Transformation of the Education System [C2.2. Reforma podstaw transformacji cyfrowej systemu edukacji]* (Jul. 7, 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/c22-reforma-podstaw-transformacji-cyfrowej-systemu-edukacji>

⁵⁴⁴⁷ Ministry of National Education, *Draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers on the Establishment of the “Digital Transformation of Education Policy” [Projekt uchwały Rady Ministrów w sprawie ustanowienia „Polityki Cyfrowej Transformacji Edukacji”]* (Aug. 6, 2024), <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/projekt-uchwaly-rady-ministrow-w-sprawie-ustanowienia-polityki-cyfrowej-transformacji-edukacji>

⁵⁴⁴⁸ Ministry of National Education, *Safety Starts at School—Education Protects against Disinformation [Bezpieczeństwo zaczyna się w szkole - edukacja chroni przed dezinformacją]* (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/bezpieczenstwo-zaczyna-sie-w-szkole---edukacja-chroni-przed-dezinformacja>

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as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁵⁴⁴⁹

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Poland voted in favor of resolution L.56⁵⁴⁵⁰ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states.⁵⁴⁵¹ The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems. The report should analyze ways to address the challenges and concerns autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.

Poland participated in the REAIM international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the Summit, Government representatives, including Poland, agreed on a joint call for action stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁵⁴⁵² Poland also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁵⁴⁵³

The Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024 in Seoul, South Korea was a follow-up to the inaugural summit held in The Hague in 2023. The event aimed to forge a global consensus on the responsible development and use of AI in military applications. The “Blueprint for Action” adopted at the summit

⁵⁴⁴⁹ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, *First Committee, Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁵⁴⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct.12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁵⁴⁵¹ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly, Stop Killer Robots* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁵⁴⁵² Responsible AI in the Military domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁵⁴⁵³ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-arms-control-deterrence-and-stability/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy>

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provides a roadmap for setting guidelines on AI use in the military including emphasizing transparency, accountability, and human oversight. Poland is one of the 63 countries that endorsed the Blueprint for Action.⁵⁴⁵⁴

Human Rights

Poland is a member of the European Union and Council of Europe and is, accordingly, committed to the upholding of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, Poland has acceded to international human rights treaties. The Polish Constitution also grants basic rights to citizens and includes prohibitions against discrimination.⁵⁴⁵⁵

Poland is considered “Free” with a score of 82/100 in the Freedom House 2025 Freedom in the World Report.⁵⁴⁵⁶ The coalition government elected in 2023 has been working to restore judicial independence and bring Poland’s policies in line with European Union standards following the dominance of the socially conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party since 2015.⁵⁴⁵⁷ The EU ended the procedure for rule of law scrutiny in light of the country’s commitment to reinvigorate democracy. Nevertheless, concerns remain over Poland’s political transition as the new government’s action plan has not been fully implemented yet, highlighting the need to continue monitoring the status of rule of law and fundamental rights.⁵⁴⁵⁸ Poland’s ranking in the World Press Freedom Index improved from 47th to 31st place in 2025.⁵⁴⁵⁹ Recent efforts to integrate AI into journalism, such as using AI-generated presenters to attract younger audiences, have faced public resistance, however.⁵⁴⁶⁰ Concerns have been raised about the ethical implications of AI and potential threats

⁵⁴⁵⁴ REAIM 2024, *REAM Blueprint for Action*, DigWatch (Sept. 10, 2024), [https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-reaim-blueprint-for-action#REAM Blueprint for Action](https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-reaim-blueprint-for-action#REAM%20Blueprint%20for%20Action)

⁵⁴⁵⁵ *The Constitution of the Republic of Poland*, Article 32 (Apr. 2, 1997), <https://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm>

⁵⁴⁵⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Poland* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/poland/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁴⁵⁷ European Council on Foreign Relations, *The Long Shadow of the Populists: Donald Tusk’s First 100 Days* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://ecfr.eu/article/the-long-shadow-of-the-populists-donald-tusks-first-100-days/>

⁵⁴⁵⁸ Human Rights Watch, *European Commission Prematurely Ends Rule of Law Scrutiny of Poland* (May 30, 2024), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/30/european-commission-prematurely-ends-rule-law-scrutiny-poland>

⁵⁴⁵⁹ Reporters Without Borders, *World Press Freedom Index* (2025), <https://rsf.org/en/country/poland>

⁵⁴⁶⁰ Associated Press, *Poland’s Media Landscape Shifts as Radio Station Faces AI-Driven Transformation* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/poland-media-radio-ai-bba6beb01d523c6727d650c69da14960>

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to human rights, particularly due to the spread of misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and low-quality content resulting from reliance on AI tools.

In 2020, the Presidency of the Council of the EU failed to secure unanimous support from the Member States for its conclusions on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the AI context.⁵⁴⁶¹ Poland objected to the inclusion of “gender equality.” Poland was the only member state in the European Union to oppose the resolution on AI and fundamental rights.⁵⁴⁶² Although Ambassador Andrzej Sadoś said that Poland will work to support the conclusions in the future, he also stated that: “The Treaties refer to equality between women and men, similar to the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The meaning of ‘gender’ is unclear; the lack of definition and unambiguous understanding for all member states may cause semantic problems. Neither the Treaties nor the Charter of Fundamental Rights use the term ‘gender.’”⁵⁴⁶³

The position occurs in the context of the Polish government opposition to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.⁵⁴⁶⁴ While consensus was not reached as regards the Presidency’s conclusions, the Presidency stressed that the core elements of the conclusions, anchoring the Union’s fundamental rights and values in the age of digitalization, fostering the EU’s digital sovereignty and actively participating in the global debate on the use of artificial intelligence with a view to shaping the international framework, were shared by all delegations.⁵⁴⁶⁵

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As a member of the OECD, Poland is committed to the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence and references the OECD principles in its AI Policy document. Poland further supports the OECD AI Principles as part of the Global Partnership on

⁵⁴⁶¹ European Council, *Artificial Intelligence: Presidency Issues Conclusions on Ensuring Respect for Fundamental Rights* (Oct. 21, 2020), <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/21/artificial-intelligence-presidency-issues-conclusions-on-ensuring-respect-for-fundamental-rights/>;

⁵⁴⁶² Warsaw Business Journal, *Poland Rejects Artificial Intelligence because of Gender* (Oct. 29, 2020), <https://wbj.pl/poland-rejects-artificial-intelligence-because-of-gender/post/128788>

⁵⁴⁶³ Samuel Stolton, *Poland Rejects Presidency Conclusions on Artificial Intelligence, Rights*, Euroactiv (Oct. 26, 2020), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/poland-rejects-presidency-conclusions-on-artificial-intelligence-rights/>

⁵⁴⁶⁴ Eline Schaart, *Poland to Withdraw from Treaty on Violence against Women*, Politico (Jul. 25, 2020), <https://www.politico.eu/article/poland-to-withdraw-from-istanbul-convention-treaty-on-violence-against-women/>

⁵⁴⁶⁵ Council of the European Union, *Presidency Conclusions - The Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Context of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Change* (Oct. 21, 2020), <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46496/st11481-en20.pdf>

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AI (GPAI),⁵⁴⁶⁶ a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and is built around a “commitment to the shared values reflected in the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence by adherence thereto.”

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Poland contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁵⁴⁶⁷ Poland is party to the treaty through the European Union endorsement but has not acted independently to sign or ratify the treaty.⁵⁴⁶⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Poland is a member of the UNESCO and endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics.⁵⁴⁶⁹ Attention to upskilling the population and students to live and work in a world with generative AI and other emerging technology, such as education against disinformation aligns with policy actions to implement the Recommendation. The AI Policy 2030 also includes strategies for strengthening AI governance and ethical oversight.⁵⁴⁷⁰ Poland’s preparation to implement UNESCO’s Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) signals progress on achieving these governance objectives.⁵⁴⁷¹

Evaluation

Poland’s development in AI governance reflects both promising strides and areas requiring refinement. The introduction of the draft law to incorporate the EU

⁵⁴⁶⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁵⁴⁶⁷ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Opens First Ever Global Treaty on AI for Signature* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-opens-first-ever-global-treaty-on-ai-for-signature>

⁵⁴⁶⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Jan. 18, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁵⁴⁶⁹ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁵⁴⁷⁰ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *New AI Policy[Nowa Polityka AI]* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/nowa-polityka-ai---dolacz-do-konsultacji-i-pomoz-wspoltworzyc-przyszlosc-cyfrowej-Polski>

⁵⁴⁷¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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AI Act into national legislation signifies Poland's commitment to align with EU standards, as indicated by the Committee on Development and Security of Artificial Intelligence to oversee and regulate AI applications. This framework provides a structured approach to managing high-risk AI, engaging with stakeholders, and ensuring compliance. The AI Policy 2030 signals further progress in line with Poland's commitments to uphold human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law as a member of the EU, the Council of Europe, and the OECD, and commitments to the UNESCO Recommendation on AI ethics.

The Polish government has made notable progress in reinforcing data protection and cybersecurity, with amendments to the national cybersecurity system and a new data management act addressing critical aspects of AI-related data and security. Since 2024, the country has also made notable strides to enhance citizens' fundamental rights. Completion of the UNESCO RAM will help identify areas of weakness to ensure commercial objectives do not overshadow the protection of rights as Poland seeks to develop and integrate AI technology.

Portugal

In 2025, Portugal furthered efforts toward implementing the EU AI Act with the designation of ANACOM as the market surveillance authority and contact for enforcement. This follows designation in January 2025 of 14 agencies as supervisory authorities. Updates to the AI Guide and the National AI Agenda advanced Portugal's efforts to instill transparency, robustness, fairness, and accountability in AI innovation and development.

National AI Strategy

Portugal released its national artificial intelligence (AI) strategy under the name AI Portugal 2030 in February 2019.⁵⁴⁷² The strategy is promoted by the technical coordination of the National Initiative Digital Competencies e.2030 program (Portugal INCoDe.2030),⁵⁴⁷³ in cooperation with the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (*Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia*, FCT), the National Innovation Agency (*Agência Nacional de Inovação*), the Living Science Academy, and the Agency for Administrative Modernization (*Agência para a Modernização Administrativa*, AMA). The FCT, which monitors digital and AI strategy,⁵⁴⁷⁴ submitted a portfolio with updates to AI Portugal 2030 and drafts of a National Data Strategy and National Web 3.0 Strategy in 2024.⁵⁴⁷⁵

AI Portugal 2030 features a human-centered approach. “Portugal’s AI Strategy will be based on the fundamental principle of not compromising the dignity of citizens, strongly anchored by the promotion of wellbeing, fairness and quality of life.”⁵⁴⁷⁶ The promotion of a better society should be encompassed by “strong ethical guidelines” protecting “the fundamental rights of citizens and core values.”⁵⁴⁷⁷

⁵⁴⁷² XXI Governo Constitucional, *AI Portugal 2030: Portuguese National Initiative on Digital Skills [Estratégia Inteligência Artificial 2030]*, pp. 4–5, 10 (Feb. 2019), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc21/comunicacao/documento?i=estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-2030>

⁵⁴⁷³ Portugal INCoDe.2030 is an integrated public policy initiative dedicated to strengthening digital skills. It aims to increase the knowledge, qualifications and skills of the population, as well as to improve Portugal's positioning and competitiveness in the international context. Five lines of action have been defined to achieve these goals: inclusion, education, qualification, specialization, and research. INCoDe.2030, *Quem Somos* (2025), <https://www.incode2030.gov.pt/>

⁵⁴⁷⁴ AI Portugal 2030, p. 35

⁵⁴⁷⁵ APDC – Digital Business Community, *Government Advances for Public Consultation the Strategies for AI, Data, and Web 3.0 [Governo avança para consulta pública para as estratégias da IA, dados e Web 3.0]* (May 16, 2024), <https://www.apdc.pt/noticias/atualidade-nacional/governo-avanca-para-consulta-publica-para-as-estrategias-da-ia-dados-e-web-3-0>

⁵⁴⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 15

⁵⁴⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

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AI Portugal 2030 proposes 3 action areas to realize objectives including human development: Inclusion and education to ensure the population has knowledge and skills to use the tools and understand their risks and threats as well as benefits; Qualification and specialization to train the workforce to identify opportunities and deploy solutions following safe and ethical standards; and Research for “building trust through data curation in order to avoid biases assuring transparency in the way judgements are made promoting accountability and explainability.”⁵⁴⁷⁸ AI Portugal 2030 stresses the importance of ensuring that AI is made ethical-by-design to protect against disruption and “actually improve society and democracy.”

As part of the efforts to implement AI Portugal 2030’s objective to ensure the ethical use of AI,⁵⁴⁷⁹ the Agency for Administrative Modernization (*Agência para a Modernização Administrativa*, AMA) updated the Guide for Ethical, Transparent and Accountable AI in Public Administration (AI Guide, *GuIA*) in 2025. The updated AI Guide targets both public and private entities and emphasizes five key principles of responsible AI—transparency, robustness, universality, sustainability, and thorough testing—and aligns national practice with the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, addressing current and future AI risks, including those posed by agentic AI. A complementary online tool provides a self-assessment questionnaire to evaluate AI system risk levels.⁵⁴⁸⁰ The 2025 version also aims to “ensure the protection of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, with the operationalization of these concepts in the way AI services are thought, designed, and provided, both in the public and private sectors.”⁵⁴⁸¹ The AI Guide realized one part of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of Public Administration 2021–2026.⁵⁴⁸²

National Digital Strategy

Portugal launched the National Digital Strategy in December 2025 as part of a commitment to a future where digital technology elevates every citizen and

⁵⁴⁷⁸ AI Portugal 2030, pp. 9–13

⁵⁴⁷⁹ Ibid, p. 32

⁵⁴⁸⁰ Agência para a Modernização Administrativa (AMA), *Guide for Artificial Intelligence, [GuIA para a Inteligência Artificial]*, v.1.2 (Jun. 30, 2025), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/f610e9a3-39a4-443d-ac5e-b28de0673964/>

⁵⁴⁸¹ Agência para a Modernização Administrativa (AMA), *Guide for an Ethical, Transparent, and Responsible Artificial Intelligence [GuIA para uma Inteligência Artificial Ética, Transparente e Responsável na Administração Pública]*, Version 1.1, p. 6 (Jul. 2022), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/95bcaf56-87ba-446b-9f0b-ab06e1549aa0/>

⁵⁴⁸² Presidência do Conselho de Ministros, *Strategy for the Digital Transformation in Public Administration, 2021–2026 [Estratégia para a Transformação Digital da Administração Pública 2021–2026]* (Sept. 10, 2021), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/ae192db5-bf90-44ec-b8f4-2cfbac6e1678/>

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business.⁵⁴⁸³ The Strategy aims to establish a National Digital Agency and introduced a National AI Agenda for public consultation in early 2025. Seven principles guide the Strategy: trust and transparency; security and protection; ethics; inclusion and equality; environmental sustainability; collaboration; and efficiency.⁵⁴⁸⁴ The four key dimensions structuring the Strategy—People, Business, Government, and Infrastructure—align with the EU Digital Decade 2030.

The Strategy highlights the key role AI will play in Portugal’s digital future, impacting healthcare, agriculture, and education as well as other sectors. The Strategy’s aim is to promote the adoption of AI and emerging technologies while ensuring their safe, ethical, and beneficial use for society.⁵⁴⁸⁵

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Portugal applies the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁵⁴⁸⁶ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. Signatories commit to actions to demonetize the dissemination of disinformation, ensure the transparency of political advertising, empower users, enhance cooperation with fact-checkers, and provide researchers with better access to data.

The Portuguese government designated the National Communication Authority (*Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*, ANACOM) as Digital Services Coordinator (DSC).⁵⁴⁸⁷ As DSC, ANACOM sits on the European Board for Digital Services.⁵⁴⁸⁸ This designation, however, does not give ANACOM formal powers such as the imposition of sanctions for DSA noncompliance.

A working group under ANACOM with two other competent authorities—the Regulator for Social Communication (*Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social*, ERC) and the General Inspectorate for Cultural Activities (*Inspeção-Geral das Atividades Culturais*, IGAC)—will oversee the legal and regulatory changes

⁵⁴⁸³ República Portuguesa, *Portugal Digital Strategy*, <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=%3d%3dBQAAAB%2bLCAAAAAAABAAzNDExMQIA5ua1dQUAA%3d>

⁵⁴⁸⁴ Ibid, p. 12

⁵⁴⁸⁵ Ibid, p. 5

⁵⁴⁸⁶ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>

⁵⁴⁸⁷ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *Decreto-Lei n.º 20-B/2024, de 16 de fevereiro*, Diário da República n.º 34/2024, 1º Suplemento, Série I de 2024-02-16 (Feb. 16, 2024), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1773664>

⁵⁴⁸⁸ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *Competent Authorities* (Jun. 5, 2024), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?categoryId=431210>

necessary to ensure the application of the DSA.⁵⁴⁸⁹ The group released draft strategic guidelines and objectives for the triennial period 2025–2027,⁵⁴⁹⁰ which are currently under review.⁵⁴⁹¹

The XXIV Constitutional Government committed to implement the DSA and the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation and vowed to “encourage the development of codes of conduct by political parties and agents” with “mechanisms to monitor and report cases of disinformation and fake news, namely through the use of generative artificial intelligence.”⁵⁴⁹² ANACOM subsequently issued a statement informing citizens on opportunities to report illegal or harmful content or disinformation in the context of the European Parliament elections 2024.⁵⁴⁹³ ERC also launched an awareness campaign on the risks of disinformation.⁵⁴⁹⁴

Prior to these efforts, the European Commission opened infringement procedures against Portugal and five other EU countries, stating that “despite designating their Digital Services Coordinators, Cyprus, Czechia and Portugal still have to empower them with the necessary powers and competences to carry out their tasks, including the imposition of sanctions in cases of non-compliance.”⁵⁴⁹⁵ A second round of communication from the Commission in October 2024, stated that “despite exchanges since April, these Member States have still not empowered their designated Digital Service Coordinators, to implement the Digital Services Act.” In

⁵⁴⁸⁹ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *Despacho n.º 1747/2024, de 15 de fevereiro*, Diário da República n.º 33/2024, Série II de 2024-02-15 (Feb. 15, 2024), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1773490>

⁵⁴⁹⁰ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *Plano Plurianual de Atividades 2025-2027: Consulta pública sobre as orientações estratégicas e objetivos* (Jul. 2024), https://www.anacom.pt/streaming/Documento_consulta_plano_2025_2027.pdf?contentId=1791587&field=ATTACHED_FILE

⁵⁴⁹¹ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *ANACOM Publishes for Public Consultation Its Strategic Guidelines and Objectives for 2025–2027* (Aug. 22, 2024), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1792952>

⁵⁴⁹² República Portuguesa, *Programa XXIV Governo Constitucional*, p. 90 (Apr. 10, 2024), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/gc24/programa-do-xxiv-governo-pdf.aspx>

⁵⁴⁹³ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *Eleições para o Parlamento Europeu 2024: O que fazer se identificar conteúdos ilegais ou desinformação em linha* (Jun. 6, 2024), <https://anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1787665>

⁵⁴⁹⁴ Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social, *ERC lança campanha de sensibilização para os riscos da desinformação no período eleitoral* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.erc.pt/pt/a-erc/noticias/erc-lanca-campanha-de-sensibilizacao-para-os-riscos-da-desinformacao-no-periodo-eleitoral/>

⁵⁴⁹⁵ European Commission, *Commission Calls on Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia to Designate and Fully Empower their Digital Services Coordinators under the Digital Services Act, Shaping Europe’s Digital Future* (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-calls-cyprus-czechia-estonia-poland-portugal-and-slovakia-designate-and-fully-empower>

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case of continued non-compliance, the Commission “may refer the Member States to the Court of Justice of the European Union.”⁵⁴⁹⁶

EU AI Act

As an EU member State, Portugal is bound by the EU AI Act.⁵⁴⁹⁷ The Portuguese Ministry of Youth and Modernization named 14 governmental agencies charged with the protection of fundamental rights under Article 77 of the EU AI Act.⁵⁴⁹⁸

The Minister of Infrastructure and Housing and Secretary of State for Digitalisation announced the Government’s decision to appoint the National Communication Authority (*Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações*, ANACOM) as the supervisory authority and primary contact point for the EU AI Act in September 2025 at the ANACOM annual conference.⁵⁴⁹⁹ The Secretary highlighted ANACOM’s long-standing experience as a technology market regulator and its dialogue-based approach with stakeholders as decisive factors in this designation. In closing remarks, ANACOM’s Chairwoman confirmed the institution’s commitment to ensuring the ethical, safe, and transparent adoption of AI in line with the European framework, protecting fundamental rights, and supporting innovation.⁵⁵⁰⁰

Portugal’s National Data Protection Commission (*Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, CNPD) has also supported implementation of the EU AI Act. CNPD’s 2025 Activity Plan outlines key actions related to the governance of AI such

⁵⁴⁹⁶ European Commission, *October Infringements Package: Key Decisions*, Section 9, Digital Economy (Oct. 3, 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_24_4561

⁵⁴⁹⁷ European Parliament, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonized rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act)*, Official Journal of the European Union L 2024/1689 (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

⁵⁴⁹⁸ Nuno Braga, *Government Selects Responsible Entities for the Protection of Fundamental Rights from AI* [*Governo seleciona entidades responsáveis pela proteção dos direitos fundamentais na IA*], *Sapo: O Jornal Económico* (Nov. 1, 2024), <https://jornaleconomico.sapo.pt/noticias/governo-seleciona-entidades-responsaveis-pela-protecao-dos-direitos-fundamentais-na-ia/>

⁵⁴⁹⁹ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *ANACOM 2025 Conference Concludes with a Commitment to AI Regulation Based on Innovation, Security and Respect for Fundamental Rights* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1817258>

⁵⁵⁰⁰ Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), *ANACOM Conference, Artificial Intelligence: The Challenges of Innovation and Regulation, Conclusions* (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?categoryId=435183>

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as strengthening capacities and improving training as well as increasing the effectiveness of sanctioning activities.⁵⁵⁰¹

Finally, since 2024, the Agency for Administrative Modernization (*Agência para a Modernização Administrativa*, AMA) has been part of the EU AI Board, which “helps coordinate the national competent authorities responsible for enforcing the Regulation, and it collects and shares technical and regulatory expertise, but also best practices.”⁵⁵⁰²

Portugal’s support for an EU-led framework for promoting innovation while managing risks began with the country’s contributions to a position paper with 13 other member states calling for regulation in 2020.⁵⁵⁰³

Public Participation

AI Portugal 2030 clearly acknowledges that “the opacity often seen around the implications of AI may be an obstacle for the wider society to make sense of it and take part in the dialogue” and emphasized the need to integrate diverse perspectives from specialists and the whole population “to take part in the debate and to get involved in designing AI.”⁵⁵⁰⁴ The definition and adoption of AI Portugal 2030 incorporated feedback from several public discussions and exemplifies a multisectoral approach that brings together representatives from research, academia, companies, and public administration.⁵⁵⁰⁵

In this spirit, the Portuguese Government coordinated public participation on the National Artificial Intelligence Agenda for three months in early 2025.⁵⁵⁰⁶ The consultation sought feedback from companies, public entities, associations, and expertise as well as three public sessions coordinated by the AMA.

⁵⁵⁰¹ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados, *Plano Anual de Atividades para o Ano de 2025*, p. 7 (Jul. 30, 2024), https://www.cnpd.pt/media/1d5eggad/cnpd_plano-anual-de-atividades-2025.pdf

⁵⁵⁰² European Commission, *AI Board* (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-board>

⁵⁵⁰³ Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, *Innovative and Trustworthy AI: Two Sides of the Same Coin* (Oct. 8, 2020), <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/pr-eu-brussels/documents>

⁵⁵⁰⁴ República Portuguesa, XXI Governo Constitucional, *AI Portugal 2030: Portuguese National Initiative on Digital Skills [Estratégia Inteligência Artificial 2030]*, p. 15 (Feb. 2019), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc21/comunicacao/documento?i=estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-2030>

⁵⁵⁰⁵ *Ibid*, pp. 4–5, 10

⁵⁵⁰⁶ República Portuguesa, XXIV Governo, *Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Agenda Begins This Week [Auscultação para a Agenda Nacional de Inteligência Artificial inicia-se esta semana]* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc24/comunicacao/noticia?i=auscultacao-para-a-agenda-nacional-de-inteligencia-artificial-inicia-se-esta-semana>

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The AMA's AI Guide reflected a similar process, bringing “into public discussion the need to establish the pillars of regulation, supervision, leadership, and governance, develop a code of ethics, and foster regulation and laws that provide guidance and support for technological developments.”⁵⁵⁰⁷ Recognizing that the related risk assessment app is an “evolving platform” and should gather contributions from its users, AMA also allows users to report any errors or elements that may benefit its development.⁵⁵⁰⁸

Consultations extend across sectors. The Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security and the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training consulted the public on the Green Paper on the Future of Work in 2021.⁵⁵⁰⁹ Financial and business institutions, including the Portuguese Securities and Exchange Commission (*Comissão do Mercado de Valores Mobiliários*, CMVM)⁵⁵¹⁰ and Business Council of the Center/Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Center (CEC/CCIC), also sought diverse perspectives on the responsible use of AI and data across their sectors.⁵⁵¹¹

Data Protection

Portugal upholds the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).⁵⁵¹² Portugal is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified

⁵⁵⁰⁷ Agência para a Modernização Administrativa (AMA), *Guide for Ethical, Transparent, and Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration [Guia para a Inteligência Artificial Ética, Transparente e Responsável na Administração Pública]*, Version 1.1, p. 7 (Jul. 2022), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/95bcdf56-87ba-446b-9f0b-ab06e1549aa0/>

⁵⁵⁰⁸ *Ibid*, p. 58

⁵⁵⁰⁹ Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento (GEP) and Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional (IEFP), *Green Paper on the Future of Work 2021* (Mar. 2022), https://www.gep.mtsss.gov.pt/pesquisa/-/journal_content/56/10182/198145?p_p_auth=r3lnTvvT

⁵⁵¹⁰ Comissão do Mercado de Valores Mobiliários (CMVM), *CMVM Releases Document about Artificial Intelligence for Public Consideration and Consultation [CMVM submete à discussão pública documento de reflexão e consulta sobre Inteligência Artificial]* (Aug. 27, 2023), <https://www.cmvm.pt/PInstitucional/Content?Input=A4A6047CD1EAAF1DDF8AD4F33A26B51A566B7FE96E5BC6A59A69BE1A5789DF24>

⁵⁵¹¹ CEC/CCIC - Business Council of the Center/Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Center, *Consultas Públicas Painel Sobre Inteligência Artificial e Contratos Inteligentes 2024* (Aug. 2, 2024), <https://cec.org.pt/blog/2024/08/02/consultas-publicas-painel-sobre-inteligencia-artificial-e-contratos-inteligentes-2024/>

⁵⁵¹² EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* (Jan. 7, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁵⁵¹³

The Portuguese Data Protection Law of 2019 adapts Portuguese law to the GDPR.⁵⁵¹⁴ The law names the National Commission for Data Protection (*Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, CNPD) the national authority for data protection. The CNPD issued a decision in September 2019 to disregard parts of the PDPL that do not comply with the GDPR.⁵⁵¹⁵

Portugal transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED), which prohibits any decision based solely on automated processing and of profiling that results in discrimination,⁵⁵¹⁶ with Law no. 59/2019.⁵⁵¹⁷

The CNPD issued formal opinions stressing strong data-protection safeguards in 2025.⁵⁵¹⁸ A key opinion on Portugal's Digital Services Act (DSA) implementation bill challenged the proposed sole authority of the telecom regulator (ANACOM), asserting CNPD's authority over all personal data processing. Additionally, the CNPD scrutinized the cybersecurity bill (NIS2 transposition), warning that its legal basis for processing personal data, particularly sensitive data, was insufficiently defined and lacked adequate data protection safeguards.

As a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (*Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos*, RIPD), which comprises 16 data protection authorities from 12 countries, the CNPD endorsed the General

⁵⁵¹³ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁵⁵¹⁴ Assembleia da República, *Law [Lei] No. 58/2019*, Diário da República no. 151/2019, Series I de 2019-08-08, pp. 3–40 (Aug. 8, 2019), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/lei/58-2019-123815982>

⁵⁵¹⁵ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD), *Deliberação 494/2019: Revoking some norms of Law 58/2019 in concrete cases [Desaplicação, na apreciação de casos concretos, de algumas normas da Lei 58/2019]*, History of Decisions (Sept. 2019), <https://www.cnpd.pt/decisoes/historico-de-decisoes/?year=2019&type=&ent=>

⁵⁵¹⁶ EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁵⁵¹⁷ Assembleia da República, *Law [Lei] No. 59/2019*, Diário da República no. 151/2019, Series I de 29-08-08, pp. 41–68 (Aug. 8, 2019), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/lei/59-2019-123815983>

⁵⁵¹⁸ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados, *PARECER/2025/46* (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.cnpd.pt/umbraco/surface/cnpdDecision/download/123249>

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Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence⁵⁵¹⁹ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.⁵⁵²⁰

The CNPD is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002. The CNPD co-sponsored the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability.⁵⁵²¹ However, the CNPD did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁵⁵²² the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁵⁵²³ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁵⁵²⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Portugal is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Portuguese citizens have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁵⁵²⁵ Likewise, the Council of Europe 2020 Recommendation stresses that the right to contest a decision “may not be waived, and should be affordable and easily enforceable before, during and after

⁵⁵¹⁹ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai-en.pdf>

⁵⁵²⁰ Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

⁵⁵²¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁵⁵²² Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵⁵²³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁵⁵²⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁵⁵²⁵ See Article 15 and Article 22 of the GDPR, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679>; Article 9 c) of Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

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deployment, including through the provision of easily accessible contact points and hotlines.”⁵⁵²⁶

AI Portugal 2030 also considers that AI-based systems must be able to explain their decisions, on top of promoting a high level of adaptability and accountability of their decision-making, advancing accountability and fairness. To face “societal challenges brought by AI,” AI Portugal 2030 recognizes that “AI systems will make important and critical decisions autonomously” and that “society will demand transparency (the ability to explain the decisions) and auditability (the ability to trace the flow of decisions and actions from humans to algorithm) in order to promote safety and ethical principles, including privacy protection and fairness.”⁵⁵²⁷

The Portuguese Charter of Human Rights in the Digital Age further protects citizens with the provision that “decisions with a significant impact on recipients that are taken by the use of algorithms must be communicated to interested parties, being susceptible to appeal and audit, as provided by law.”⁵⁵²⁸

Use of AI in Public Administration

The XXV Constitutional Government formed in 2025 announced a comprehensive State reform and modernization plan guided by four principles: simplification, digitalization, coordination, and accountability. The reform does not aim to reduce the State’s functions but to restore its efficiency and responsiveness through greater transparency, merit, and innovation.⁵⁵²⁹ The government program outlines specific actions to accelerate the digital transformation of services, emphasizing the responsible integration of artificial intelligence. Rather than simple technological adoption, the program requires a fundamental redefinition of bureaucratic processes to ensure that citizens and businesses are placed at the center of public service delivery.

⁵⁵²⁶ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁵⁵²⁷ XXI Governo Constitucional, *AI Portugal 2030: Portuguese National Initiative on Digital Skills [Estratégia Inteligência Artificial 2030]*, p. 35 (Feb. 2019), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc21/comunicacao/documento?i=estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-2030>

⁵⁵²⁸ Assembleia da República, *Lei No. 27/2021, Carta Portuguesa de Direitos Humanos na Era Digital [Portuguese Charter on Human Rights in the Digital Age]*, , Article 9(2) (May 17, 2021), <https://files.dre.pt/1s/2021/05/09500/0000500010.pdf>

⁵⁵²⁹ República Portuguesa, XXV Governo Constitucional, *Programa XXV Governo Constitucional*, pp. 15–20 (2025), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=%3d%3dBQAAAB%2bLCAAAAAAABAAzNDE1MAEA4Ox4%2bQUAAAA%3d>

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A Council of Ministers Resolution in July 2024 established the Council for Digital in Public Administration (CDAP) to advance digital transformation and streamline Portugal's Public Administration. The CDAP is tasked with developing, monitoring, and updating the National Digital Strategy and its action plans to promote standardization, modernization, and reduced bureaucracy in public services.⁵⁵³⁰ With a mandate until December 31, 2028, the CDAP must produce regular progress reports and a final activity report. Its operations are supported by the Agency for Administrative Modernization (*Agência para a Modernização Administrativa*, AMA) and aligned with the Public Administration Forum.

The CDAP continued efforts from the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of Public Administration 2021–2026.⁵⁵³¹ The Strategy established the assessment of all ongoing artificial intelligence projects for ethics and responsibility as one of the objectives. The 2024 report noted progress on most objectives in the first three years and recommended a review and update to the AI Guide to facilitate the development of emerging technologies in public services as well as the development of similar guides for data and machine learning.⁵⁵³²

The Guide for Ethical, Transparent and Accountable AI in Public Administration (AI Guide) highlights Portugal's attention to the impact of AI systems and applications on human rights, and the importance of regulation to address them.⁵⁵³³ The Guide specifies that “the values and principles should be respected by all actors during the life cycle of AI systems, should be promoted through continuous evaluation and evolution of existing laws, regulations, and various international guidelines, notably in relation to human rights, and be aligned with the goals of social, political, environmental, educational, scientific, and economic sustainability.”⁵⁵³⁴ The AI Guide puts respect for privacy, the inviolability of human

⁵⁵³⁰ Presidência do Conselho de Ministros, *Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 94/2024* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/94-2024-873371754>

⁵⁵³¹ Presidência do Conselho de Ministros, *Resolution no. 131/2021 Approving the Strategy for Digital Transformation of Public Administration, 2021–2026* [Resolução do Conselho de Ministro no. 131/2021: Aprova a Estratégia para a Transformação Digital da Administração Pública 2021–2026] (Sept. 10, 2021), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/ae192db5-bf90-44ec-b8f4-2cfbac6e1678/>

⁵⁵³² Presidência do Conselho de Ministros, *Strategy for Digital Transformation of Public Administration, 2021–2026, Mid-Term Report* [Estratégia para a Transformação Digital da Administração Pública 2021–2026, Relatório Intercalar] (Mar. 2024), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/7e248a7f-6a7f-44f4-88e5-77d8d9fe1967/>

⁵⁵³³ Agência para a Modernização Administrativa (AMA), *Guide for Ethical, Transparency, and Responsible AI in Public Administration* [Guia para a Inteligência Artificial Ética, Transparente e Responsável na Administração Pública], Version 1.1 (Jul. 2022), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/95bcaf56-87ba-446b-9f0b-ab06e1549aa0/>

⁵⁵³⁴ Ibid, p. 40

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rights, and social equity at the center of safeguards the government must establish in using AI systems and includes an app for risk monitoring and mitigation.

Portugal participates in the Latin American Centre of Administration for Development (*Centro Latino Americano de Administración para el Desarrollo*, CLAD) and supports the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service.⁵⁵³⁵ The Charter provides tools for implementation and a common framework for member states to adapt their AI policy strategies and laws for the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI in public administration. Guiding principles include human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; privacy and protection of personal data; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection.

Use of AI in COVID-19 Response

The National Commission for Data Protection (*Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, CNPD) issued a deliberation in 2020 against the Smart Crowd system the Portuguese government intended to deploy to monitor Portuguese beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic. The system collected images and processed them with machine learning (ML) technology to inform users about the occupancy level of a particular beach. The Portuguese Agency for Environment (APA) requested the to analyze the system.

The CNPD deliberation acknowledged that “people on beaches are particularly exposed, and therefore the capture of images is likely to lead to improper use with direct repercussions on their private lives.”⁵⁵³⁶ The CNPD found that the explanation of the rationality of the algorithm did not demonstrate sufficient measures against the possible application of factors that may generate discrimination.

Biometric Surveillance

The National Commission for Data Protection (*Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, CNPD) decided in March 2024 to suspend the collection of biometric data on the iris, eyes and face carried out by the Worldcoin Foundation. The decision sought to safeguard the fundamental right to the protection of personal data, especially that of minors. More than 300,000 people in Portugal had already

⁵⁵³⁵ Centro Latino Americano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (2024), <https://clad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CIIA-EN-03-2024.pdf>

⁵⁵³⁶ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD), *Resolution 2020/251* (Jun. 3, 2020), <https://www.cnpd.pt/umbraco/surface/cnpdDecision/download/121802>

provided their biometric data to receive the cryptocurrency called Worldcoin in 2024.⁵⁵³⁷

Criticism by the CNPD and civil society organizations led to amendments to a legislative proposal aimed at regulating the use of video surveillance for security purposes in 2021.⁵⁵³⁸ The draft Article 18 authorized the collection of biometric data for an analytical management system but established that the system “may not allow the reversal, decoding and digitalized reproduction of the image of the biometric characteristic.”⁵⁵³⁹ Civil society organizations European Digital Rights (EDRi) and the CNPD criticized the proposal’s “sweeping measures which would permit the constant video and biometric mass surveillance of each and every person.”⁵⁵⁴⁰ The CNPD found that the provision “represents a restriction of citizens’ fundamental rights, without complying with the rule of law, even as regards the essential clarity and transparency regarding the provision of these restrictions.”⁵⁵⁴¹ Violating these rights, the CNPD argued, breached requirements in the Portuguese Constitution as well as obligations under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Law 95/2021 passed after several significant changes to the initial wording to ensure the installation of these systems follows several additional principles of use and general obligations, including limited uses, proportionality, prohibitions against capturing images affecting the privacy of intimate and private life, and additional authorization requirements to install fixed cameras.⁵⁵⁴²

In 2022, the Legislative Assembly of the Azores Region (*Assembleia Legislativa, Região Autónoma dos Açores*) requested the CNPD to issue an opinion on a proposed regional amendment to Law 95/2021.⁵⁵⁴³ The proposal aimed to

⁵⁵³⁷ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD), *CNPD Suspends the Collection of Biometric Data by Worldcoin [CNPD suspende recolha de dados biométricos da Worldcoin]* (Mar. 26, 2024), https://www.cnpd.pt/media/bzwb5k5j/comunicado-de-imprensa_cnpd-suspende-recolha-de-ddos-da-worldcoin_26-mar%C3%A7o-2024.pdf

⁵⁵³⁸ Assembleia da República, *Law [Lei] no. 95/2021* (Dec. 29, 2021), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/lei/95-2021-176714548>; for details about the Proposal approval process, see

<https://www.parlamento.pt/ActividadeParlamentar/Paginas/DetalheIniciativa.aspx?BID=121083>

⁵⁵³⁹ Portuguese Parliament, *Law Proposal 111/XIV/2*, Article 18 (Sept. 2021),

<https://www.parlamento.pt/ActividadeParlamentar/Paginas/DetalheIniciativa.aspx?BID=121083>

⁵⁵⁴⁰ European Digital Rights (EDRi), *Letter re. Serious Fundamental Rights Concerns about Proposed Portuguese Video Surveillance Law 111/XIV/2* (Nov. 15, 2021), <https://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EDRi-Civil-Society-letter-to-Portuguese-Parliament-on-proposed-video-surveillance-law.pdf>.

⁵⁵⁴¹ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD), *Opinion 2021/143*, para 140 (Nov. 4, 2021), <https://www.cnpd.pt/umbraco/surface/cnpdDecision/download/121933>

⁵⁵⁴² Assembleia da República, *Law [Lei] no. 95/2021* (Dec. 29, 2021), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/lei/95-2021-176714548>

⁵⁵⁴³ Governo Regional, Região Autónoma dos Açores, *Law Proposal 15/XII, First Amendment to Law no. 95/2021, of December 29, which regulates the use and access by the security forces and*

extend the purposes of Article 3 to allow for the installation and use of systems for the protection and conservation of marine environments and the conservation and recovery of marine living resources. The CNPD recommended that the capture be prohibited as required and that a specific regime be established for the use of drones for this specific purpose, with the exclusion of the coastal zone. The proposal has not yet been voted on by the Legislative Assembly of the Azores Region.⁵⁵⁴⁴

Use of AI in Education

The Portuguese government has strengthened the national approach to AI in education through initiatives presented at the Web Summit 2025, emphasizing three pillars: digital infrastructure, people-focused digital capacity-building, and the ethical use of technology.⁵⁵⁴⁵ The National Artificial Intelligence Agenda currently under consultation will integrate AI into education through the deployment of Amália, Portugal's large-scale Portuguese-language model, as an AI tutor to support personalized learning, guide students, and improve navigation of digital public services. This initiative aligns with national objectives to enhance digital literacy and build an AI-ready population.

The National Education Council (*Conselho Nacional de Educação*, CNE) issued a recommendation on the problems and scenarios of using AI technology in exams and admission to higher education, noting that while automating tasks may be useful, “special care must be taken to ensure that they do not increase social inequalities or reproduce prejudices. The concerns not only stem from bias in the data, but also from the people developing the systems.”⁵⁵⁴⁶ The recommendation calls attention to key questions such as “what level of transparency should be guaranteed? What risks are possible, arising from prejudices and addictions that last over time? How to minimize their existence?”⁵⁵⁴⁷

services and by the ANEPC to surveillance systems for capturing, recording and processing images and sound [Anteproposta de Lei, Primeira Alteração à Lei [...] que regula a utilização e o acesso pelas forças e serviços de segurança e pela Autoridade Nacional de Emergência e Proteção Civil a sistemas de vigilância para captação, gravação e tratamento de imagem e som] (Nov. 2021), http://base.alra.pt:82/4DACTION/w_pesquisa_registro/3/3467

⁵⁵⁴⁴ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPd), *Parecer/2023/2* (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://www.cnpd.pt/umbraco/surface/cnpdDecision/download/122041>

⁵⁵⁴⁵ República Portuguesa, *Government Presents Strategy for an Artificial Intelligence at the Service of People at the Web Summit [Governo Apresenta na Web Summit Estratégia Para Uma Inteligência Artificial ao Serviço das Pessoas]* (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc25/comunicacao/noticia?i=governo-apresenta-na-web-summit-estrategia-para-uma-inteligencia-artificial-ao-servico-das-pessoas>

⁵⁵⁴⁶ Conselho Nacional de Educação, *Recomendação n.º 2/2024*, Diário da República n.º 62/2024, Série II de 2024-03-27 (Mar. 27, 2024), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/recomendacao/2-2024-857575004>

⁵⁵⁴⁷ Ibid

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These findings build from CNE's State of Education 2022 (2023 edition) report that included AI and its place in education and training as one of five key problem areas that "should be considered in the development of public education policies."⁵⁵⁴⁸ The report states that "Ethical issues, which were barely mentioned in the early days, are now unavoidable and extremely pertinent. The reasons are legitimate fears that the autonomy of students and teachers will be compromised, that data will be collected and diverted to other purposes, and that AI will introduce additional biases into educational decisions, increasing the inequalities that already exist."⁵⁵⁴⁹ The CNE calls for: a long-term strategy; training for educators and administrators focused on ethical as well as technological issues, including data management; and an AI training framework that reinforces the significance of public spaces and social learning. The CNE recommendations and annual report are substantively linked with the work and guidance on AI in education by the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and the OECD.

Portugal's progress on the digital and AI learning follows attention to setting up systems for protecting children and other users during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Commission for Data Protection (*Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados*, CNPD) issued guidance for the use of technologies supporting distance learning in April 2020.⁵⁵⁵⁰ The CNPD offered "a set of legal obligations and good practices that mitigate the risks to privacy and prevent discrimination against students and professionals," threats the commission saw increased given the automated collection of information.⁵⁵⁵¹ The obligations and practices include requiring student consent to be subjected to automated decision-making as well as transparency around how algorithms work and a right to human intervention.⁵⁵⁵²

⁵⁵⁴⁸ Conselho Nacional de Educação, *Publication of the State of Education 2022: Characterizing, Analyzing, and Evaluating the Portuguese Educational and Formative System* [*Publicação Estado da Educação 2022: Caracterizar, analisar e avaliar a evolução do sistema educativo e formativo português*] (Feb. 2, 2024), <https://www.ate.pt/publicacao-estado-da-educacao-2022-caracterizar-analisar-e-avaliar-a-evolucao-do-sistema-educativo-e-formativo-portugues/>

⁵⁵⁴⁹ Conselho Nacional de Educação, *Estado da Educação 2022*, p. 94 (Dec. 2023), https://www.cnedu.pt/content/EE_2022/Seccoes/EE2022_3ResultadosSistema-QualificarMaisQualificarMelhor.pdf

⁵⁵⁵⁰ Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD), *Guidelines for Utilizing Supporting Technologies in Distance Learning* [*Orientações para utilização de tecnologias de suporte ao ensino à distância*] (Apr. 8, 2020), https://www.cnpd.pt/media/q0jha0dk/orientacoes_tecnologias_de_suporte_ao_ensino_a_distancia.pdf

⁵⁵⁵¹ Ibid, p. 2

⁵⁵⁵² Ibid, pp. 4-5

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Use of AI in the Health Sector

The 2019 Health Data Strategy “sets out the vision, key areas and principles for secondary use of data, advanced analytics and artificial intelligence to improve the Portuguese population’s health.”⁵⁵⁵³ One of the key areas identified in the Strategy concerns the legal and ethical framework that should apply to the use of a data-driven national health service, endorsing a “strong commitment to the foundational values of the NHS and the rule of law, as well as to the ethical principles set out in the European Commission Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI.”⁵⁵⁵⁴ The Strategy aims to promote trust and confidence in information technology by ensuring compliance with laws and ethical principles, including those that protect against bias and discrimination. The Strategy advocates for the creation of an internal Health Information and Technology Ethics Board to ensure accountability with these principles and frameworks.⁵⁵⁵⁵ Such a Board, however, has not yet been created.

An initiative with WHO/Europe and the Portuguese Ministry of Health and National Health Service (SNS) aims to create practical solutions to make health systems stronger and more resilient, improving early disease detection, predictive modelling, hospital efficiency, and equitable access to care through responsible and ethical use of AI. Portuguese Minister of Health Ana Paula Martins highlighted that investing in AI for health means investing in stronger, more resilient systems, while WHO Regional Director Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge commended Portugal’s leadership as a model for safe and equitable AI implementation across the European Region.⁵⁵⁵⁶

In addition, in February 2025, the Shared Services of the Ministry of Health (*Serviços Partilhados do Ministério da Saúde*, SPMS) and National Health Services (*Serviço Nacional de Saúde*, SNS) published a White Paper on the impacts of AI and related regulation in health.⁵⁵⁵⁷ The document analyses the implications of the EU AI

⁵⁵⁵³ Shared Services of the Ministry of Health (SPMS), Advanced Analytics and Intelligence Unit Information Systems Department, *From Big Data to Smart Health, Putting Data to Work for the Public’s Health*, p. 4 (Dec. 2019),

https://web.archive.org/web/20250827215504/https://www.spms.min-saude.pt/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Data-Strategy_VERSAOFINAL_07.01.2020.pdf

⁵⁵⁵⁴ Ibid, p. 18

⁵⁵⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁵⁵⁶ World Health Organization (WHO), *Health, Humanity and AI: Building a Responsible Future, Regional Dialogue* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2025/09/25/default-calendar/health--humanity-and-ai--building-a-responsible-future.-regional-dialogue>

⁵⁵⁵⁷ Serviços Partilhados do Ministério da Saúde (SPMS) and Serviço Nacional de Saúde (SNS), *White Paper: Inteligência Artificial na Saúde em Portugal: Regulamentação, Impactos e Perspetivas de Futuro* (Feb. 2025), https://web.archive.org/web/20250318233021/https://www.spms.min-saude.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/White-Paper_Inteligencia-Artificial-na-Saude-em-Portugal_-Final2-1.pdf

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Act for Portugal's health system and outlines national and international AI initiatives already in progress. The White Paper identifies high-risk applications such as diagnostic and robotic surgery systems and stresses the importance of robust data governance, risk management, transparency, human oversight, and cybersecurity throughout the AI lifecycle. The report concludes with recommendations to ensure ethical, transparent, and effective integration of AI in health services, emphasizing accountability, interoperability, and compliance with the GDPR and the forthcoming European Health Data Space framework.⁵⁵⁵⁸

Use of AI in Labor Relations

Portuguese public institutions have been working to address the impact of AI systems on work and labor. The 2022 Green Paper on the Future of Work points out ways “to use artificial intelligence to minimize new risks, ensuring privacy and data protection, and also to take advantage of new technologies as a way of eliminating bureaucracy and ensuring greater effectiveness in the relationship between the State and citizens and businesses.”⁵⁵⁵⁹ However, the paper also highlights the risks of AI automation displacing workers, particularly the disproportionate impact on young people and women, as well as concerns over the potential for AI to reinforce algorithmic gender bias and discrimination.⁵⁵⁶⁰ The Green Paper acknowledges risks of worker surveillance in automated management and recommends public policies to promote transparency and responsibility in the use of algorithms “to ensure the protection of privacy and personal data, equality and non-discrimination (see specific points for further details), ethics, transparency and the explainability of algorithm-based systems, both in the selection of job applicants and in the performance of the work contract and the monitoring of the worker's professional activity.”⁵⁵⁶¹

The National Assembly (*Assembleia da República*) introduced amendments to the Portuguese Labor Code⁵⁵⁶² in 2023 to integrate the use of algorithms and artificial intelligence in the scope of the law.⁵⁵⁶³ Changes allow for collective labor agreements in relation to AI use and provide that “The worker or job seeker has the

⁵⁵⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁵⁵⁹ Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento (GEP) and Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional (IEFP), *Green Paper on the Future of Work 2021*, p. 10 (Mar. 2022), http://www.gep.mtsss.gov.pt/documents/10182/79392/livro_verde_do_trabalho_2021_EN.pdf/7e63e982-8a4e-45a1-bc0c-ad707fbbe1b2

⁵⁵⁶⁰ Ibid, pp. 77–78

⁵⁵⁶¹ Ibid, pp. 169–170

⁵⁵⁶² Assembleia da República, *Código do Trabalho*, Diário da República n.º 30/2009, Série I de 2009-02-12, Consolidated version (Nov. 2, 2024), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/legislacao-consolidada/lei/2009-34546475>

⁵⁵⁶³ Assembleia da República, *Lei n.º 13/2023*, Diário da República n.º 66/2023, Série I de 2023-04-03 (Apr. 3, 2023), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/lei/13-2023-211340863>

right to equal opportunities and treatment with regard to access to employment, training and promotion or professional career and working conditions” including “in the case of decision-making based on algorithms or other artificial intelligence systems.”⁵⁵⁶⁴ The labor code also confirms the right of workers (individual and collective) to receive information from their employers about “the parameters, criteria, rules and instructions on which algorithms or other artificial intelligence systems are based that affect decision-making on access to and maintenance of employment, as well as working conditions, including profiling and control of professional activity.”⁵⁵⁶⁵

The 2024 Program of the XXIV Constitutional Government also mentions the role of AI in the labor market, noting the need “to reform the education and vocational training system in order to bring it into line with the needs and potential of the Portuguese economy and its business fabric, to create an environment where universities and companies can connect, and to prepare the national workforce for the technological transformations underway and the fundamental changes in the future of work.”⁵⁵⁶⁶ The 2025 government program further advances these goals, promoting skills development, digital inclusion, and the adaptation of work organization to new technologies.⁵⁵⁶⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

Portugal leverages AI to enhance environmental sustainability, such as in combating illegal fishing by identifying marine areas with high fish populations and determining species abundance in specific zones. Portugal plans a national pact centered on sustainable development that includes leveraging AI for climate management as well as decarbonization.⁵⁵⁶⁸ Additionally, Portugal uses AI algorithms to analyze and control waste management, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem preservation.⁵⁵⁶⁹ These efforts continued with the first National Strategy

⁵⁵⁶⁴ Ibid, Article 3, Article 24

⁵⁵⁶⁵ Ibid, Articles 106, 424, 466

⁵⁵⁶⁶ República Portuguesa, *Programa XXIV Governo Constitucional*, p. 37 (Apr. 10, 2024), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/gc24/programa-do-xxiv-governo-pdf.aspx>

⁵⁵⁶⁷ República Portuguesa, *XXV Governo Constitucional, Programa XXV Governo Constitucional* (2025), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=%3d%3dBQAAAB%2bLCAAAAAAABAAzNDE1MAEA4Ox4%2bQUAAAA%3d>

⁵⁵⁶⁸ República Portuguesa, *A Country of Sustainable Development [Um País de desenvolvimento sustentável]* (Apr. 16, 2024), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc24/comunicacao/noticia?i=um-pais-de-desenvolvimento-sustentavel>

⁵⁵⁶⁹ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On*, p. 33 (Oct. 2023), https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2023/10/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_b9f13b5c/835641c9-en.pdf

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for Intelligent Territories (NSST) as a Living-in.EU signatory.⁵⁵⁷⁰ However, Portugal has not implemented regulation to protect against the environmental impact of developing and deploying AI systems.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Portugal has consistently advocated for restrictions on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and the need for human control in statements to the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). In 2019, Portugal's statement stressed "The human-machine interaction must be designed and programmed in such a way that ensures that the persons responsible for supervising the use of LAWS are fully accountable for the effects of that use and are able to immediately interrupt an initiated attack should they decide to do so."⁵⁵⁷¹ The country proposed the GGE compile existing norms and principles in International Law into a reference document to aid in future negotiations for a convention on LAWS.⁵⁵⁷² The nation continued this emphasis on human control and accountability in comments on 11 guiding principles on LAWS in a 2020 meeting of the GGE on Emerging Technologies in the Area of LAWS within the CCW.⁵⁵⁷³

Portugal has also advocated for rules to ensure compliance with International Law through "human responsibility and accountability in the use of force" in the UN General Assembly.⁵⁵⁷⁴ Portugal supported a resolution (L.56) emphasizing "urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems," at the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023.⁵⁵⁷⁵ In a contribution to the UN Secretary-General's report in

⁵⁵⁷⁰ Living.in.eu, *Portugal Launches Its First National Smart Territories Strategy* (Jan. 11, 2024), living-in.eu/news/portugal-launches-its-first-national-smart-territories-strategy-0

⁵⁵⁷¹ CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, *Statement by Portugal*, pp. 1–2 (Mar. 25, 2019), [https://unoda-documents-library.s3.amazonaws.com/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_\(2019\)/PT%2B%2BStatement%2BGGE%2BLAWS%2B25MAR19.pdf](https://unoda-documents-library.s3.amazonaws.com/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_(2019)/PT%2B%2BStatement%2BGGE%2BLAWS%2B25MAR19.pdf)

⁵⁵⁷² Ibid, pp. 2–3

⁵⁵⁷³ UNODA, *Commentaries by Portugal on "Operationalising All Eleven Guiding Principles at a National Level"* (Aug. 2020), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200831-Portugal1.pdf>

⁵⁵⁷⁴ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate—Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁵⁵⁷⁵ UN General Assembly, 78th session, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons*, UN Digital Library (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4033027>

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response to L.56, Portugal focused on the social and humanitarian impact of LAWS and the need for new prohibitions and regulations guided by international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to prevent the effects of displacement, injury and death of civilians, and destruction of civilian objects.⁵⁵⁷⁶

Portugal has also participated in international summits on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain (REAIM). At the end of the 2023 Summit, Portugal endorsed a joint call for action stressing “the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁵⁵⁷⁷ Portugal also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁵⁵⁷⁸ In the outcome document for the REAIM 2024 in Seoul titled Blueprint for AI Action, Portugal committed to specific actions over the next year to ensure the responsible use of AI in defense.⁵⁵⁷⁹

AI Literacy

AI Portugal 2030 promoted fostering digital and AI literacy skills through an informed and inclusive approach through initiatives such as the Academia Portugal Digital, the Aledu platform by FCT, and the National Council of Education’s recommendations on AI ethics and bias prevention.⁵⁵⁸⁰ This multidimensional model combines education, civic participation, and ethics to ensure that citizens, public officials, and professionals are equipped to thrive in an AI-enabled society. The National Digital Strategy advances these policies,⁵⁵⁸¹ creating a Digital Skills Pact to guarantee that all citizens, regardless of geography or social condition, gain access to

⁵⁵⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, pp. 20–21 (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

⁵⁵⁷⁷ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁵⁵⁷⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁵⁵⁷⁹ Republic of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

⁵⁵⁸⁰ XXI Governo Constitucional, *AI Portugal 2030: Portuguese National Initiative on Digital Skills [Estratégia Inteligência Artificial 2030]* (Feb. 2019), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc21/comunicacao/documento?i=estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-2030>

⁵⁵⁸¹ Governo Digital, *National Digital Strategy [Estratégia Nacional Digital]*, Estratégias (Jun. 18, 2025), <https://digital.gov.pt/estrategias/estrategia-digital-nacional>

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training in digital and AI-related skills.⁵⁵⁸² The Pact aims to train more than two million citizens in basic and advanced digital skills by 2030.⁵⁵⁸³

Portugal was among the countries identified as having developed specific AI curricula for the purpose of enabling citizens to “recognize AI in their environments, understand its benefits and potential challenges, and be empowered to advocate for safe, beneficial and transparent AI technologies”⁵⁵⁸⁴ in a UNESCO report on mapping government-endorsed AI curricula. The representative for Portugal stated, “We have a clear vision of the impact of technology in the future, and the need for a workforce and citizens who relate to technology in a healthy way.”⁵⁵⁸⁵

Human Rights

Freedom House rates Portugal as Free with a score of 96/100. Freedom House defines Portugal as “a parliamentary democracy with a multiparty political system and regular transfers of power between rival parties” in which “civil liberties are generally protected.”⁵⁵⁸⁶

Portugal is party to the most important international legal instruments for the protection and defense of human rights.⁵⁵⁸⁷ Parliament adopted the Portuguese Charter of Human Rights in the Digital Age in May 2021 with the aim of promoting the free exercise of human rights and social inclusion in the digital environment.⁵⁵⁸⁸ Article 9 of the Charter concerns the use of AI and establishes that it “must be guided by respect to fundamental rights, ensuring a fair balance between the principles of explainability, security, transparency and accountability, taking into account the

⁵⁵⁸² República Portuguesa, XXV Governo Constitucional, *Programa XXV Governo Constitucional* (2025), <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=%3d%3dBQAAAB%2bLCAAAAAAABAAzNDE1MAEA40x4%2bQUAAAA%3d>

⁵⁵⁸³ República Portuguesa, *Action Plan for 2025–2026 of the National Digital Strategy* (Jun. 18, 2025), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/bd942a11-1c21-4698-9e9d-8e8a63674087/;Plano de Ação 2025-2026 da Estratégia Digital Nacional>], <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/82a2ef4e-bbfa-447f-bfa7-3ade154dab13/>

⁵⁵⁸⁴ UNESCO, *K-12 AI Curricula: A Mapping of Government-Endorsed AI Curricula*, p. 22 (Sept. 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380602>

⁵⁵⁸⁵ Ibid

⁵⁵⁸⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Portugal* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/portugal/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁵⁸⁷ Ministry of Foreign Relations, *Human Rights*, <https://portaldiplomatico.mne.gov.pt/en/foreign-policy/human-rights>

⁵⁵⁸⁸ Portuguese Parliament, *Lei No. 27/2021, Carta Portuguesa de Direitos Humanos na Era Digital [Portuguese Charter on Human Rights in the Digital Age]* (May 17, 2021), <https://files.dre.pt/1s/2021/05/09500/0000500010.pdf>

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circumstances of each specific case and establishing procedures to avoid bias and discrimination.”⁵⁵⁸⁹

Portugal continues to take action to protect human rights in the use of AI in the public sector. A joint initiative with the Council of Europe and Portuguese government seeks to equip public authorities, regulators, and civil society organizations with tools to identify and mitigate algorithmic discrimination and promote gender equality in AI use. The program includes a training course with six modules based on the Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and the EU AI Act. The modules were developed in cooperation with Portugal’s Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (*Comissão para a Cidadania e a Igualdade de Género, CIG*).⁵⁵⁹⁰

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Portugal is a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁵⁵⁹¹ The OECD Survey on the implementation of the OECD AI Principles in 2021 took note of the Portuguese policy approach to AI.⁵⁵⁹²

Various Portuguese policy initiatives are inspired by and acknowledge the OECD AI Principles. This is the case of AI Portugal 2030, the AI Guide,⁵⁵⁹³ and the SPMS Health Data Strategy.⁵⁵⁹⁴ The Guide to Artificial Intelligence in the Public

⁵⁵⁸⁹ Ibid, Article 9(1)

⁵⁵⁹⁰ Council of Europe, *Portuguese Stakeholders Equipped with Tools to Promote Anti-discrimination by Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems* (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/-/portuguese-stakeholders-equipped-with-tools-to-promote-anti-discrimination-by-artificial-intelligence-ai-systems>

⁵⁵⁹¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (Mar. 11, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁵⁵⁹² OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies*, p. 31 (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://www.oecd.org/digital/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-1cd40c44-en.htm>

⁵⁵⁹³ Agência para a Modernização Administrativa (AMA), *Guia para a Inteligência Artificial Ética, Transparente e Responsável na Administração Pública*, p. 21 (Jul. 2022), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/95bc56-87ba-446b-9f0b-ab06e1549aa0/>

⁵⁵⁹⁴ Shared Services of the Ministry of Health (SPMS), Advanced Analytics and Intelligence Unit Information Systems Department, *From Big Data To Smart Health, Putting Data To Work For The Public’s Health*, p. 4 (Dec. 2019), https://web.archive.org/web/20250827215504/https://www.spms.min-saude.pt/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Data-Strategy_VERSAOFINAL_07.01.2020.pdf

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Administration increases accountability requiring the documentation of the robust and safe operation of AI systems.⁵⁵⁹⁵

Portugal furthers the OECD principle of international collaboration through active regional leadership in governance initiatives such as the D9+ Ministerial Meeting on Digital Transformation. The Lisbon Declaration follows the October 2025 D9+ highlights shared goals among members—Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Czechia, and Sweden—to advance cooperation on artificial intelligence, regulatory simplification, and digital competitiveness through a unified and human-centred approach to digital governance.⁵⁵⁹⁶

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Portugal contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. In August 2024, 24 EU delegations, including Portugal, voted in favor of adopting the Convention. In a statement to the Council Secretariat, the Portuguese Republic affirmed its commitment to adopt the treaty.⁵⁵⁹⁷ However, the country has not taken action independently from the EU.⁵⁵⁹⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Portugal has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.⁵⁵⁹⁹ Portugal's efforts to develop ethical guidelines for the use of AI and the commitment

⁵⁵⁹⁵ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On*, p. 44 (Oct. 2023), https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2023/10/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_b9f13b5c/835641c9-en.pdf

⁵⁵⁹⁶ D9+ PT 2025, *Ministerial Declaration* (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://bo.digital.gov.pt/api/assets/etic/fea15032-7a84-4ec0-997d-ae3c0d8f273c/>; Agência para a Reforma Tecnológica do Estado (ARTE), *D9+ Ministerial Meeting in Lisbon Approves Lisbon Declaration [Cimeira Ministerial D9+ aprova Declaração de Lisboa]* (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://digital.gov.pt/noticias/cimeira-ministerial-d9-aprova-declaracao-de-lisboa>

⁵⁵⁹⁷ Council of the European Union, *Council Decision on the Signing, on Behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law – Adoption*, pp. 4-5 (Aug. 29, 2024), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/CM-3871-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

⁵⁵⁹⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁵⁵⁹⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

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to ethical-by-design systems and preparing citizens for a world with AI reflect progress on implementation of the Recommendation.

Still, Portugal has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to support the implementation of the Recommendation.⁵⁶⁰⁰

Evaluation

Portugal has demonstrated a strong commitment to international AI governance frameworks, particularly through its support of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁵⁶⁰¹ Portugal has established legislation such as the Charter on rights in the digital environment and policies such as the labor code demonstrate a commitment to transparency, fairness, and human oversight in the use of AI systems aligned with the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI as well as the nation's commitments to rights as a member of the EU and Council of Europe.

Portugal exemplifies public consultation in developing AI policies; however, documentation of the evolution of policies remains difficult to locate.

In terms of AI oversight, Portugal enhanced its institutional framework by establishing the Council for Digital in Public Administration (CDAP). This oversight structure includes setting strategic objectives, defining clear actions, and developing implementation and evaluation metrics, providing a robust governance framework for AI in the public sector.⁵⁶⁰² The National Data Protection Commission (CNDP) is bolstering its AI oversight capabilities, focusing on data protection within AI systems, with plans to further enhance its role in 2025.⁵⁶⁰³ The country has also named fourteen agencies tasked with supervising fundamental rights in the use of AI systems.⁵⁶⁰⁴ The Portuguese Government designation of ANACOM as the market

⁵⁶⁰⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub

⁵⁶⁰¹ Council of the European Union, *Council Decision on the Signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law – Adoption*, pp. 4–5 (Aug. 29, 2024), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/CM-3871-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

⁵⁶⁰² Presidency of the Council of Ministers, *Resolução do Conselho de Ministros n.º 94/2024 [Resolution of the Council of Ministers]*, *Diário da República* (Jul. 25, 2024), <https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/94-2024-873371754>

⁵⁶⁰³ National Data Protection Commission (CNDP), *Plano Anual de Atividades para o Ano 2025*, (Jul. 30, 2024), https://www.cnpd.pt/media/1d5eggad/cnpd_plano-anual-de-atividades-2025.pdf

⁵⁶⁰⁴ Nuno Braga, *Government Designates Entities Responsible for the Protection of Fundamental Rights in AI [Governo seleciona entidades responsáveis pela proteção dos direitos fundamentais na*

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surveillance authority in compliance with the EU AI Act has not yet been made official on the EU website.

IA], Sapo (Nov. 1, 2024), <https://jornaleconomico.sapo.pt/noticias/governo-seleciona-entidades-responsaveis-pela-protecao-dos-direitos-fundamentais-na-ia/>

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Puerto Rico

In 2025, Puerto Rico's legislature passed an AI Bill that would have created an AI Office, only to have it vetoed by the Governor. Other legislation remains in committee. The Department of Education updated guidance on using AI tools for student learning.

National AI Strategy

Puerto Rico (or officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) is a self-governed unincorporated territory of the United States. Laws are proposed and ratified without U.S. approval, but Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens subject to most federal laws without representation by voting members of Congress. Puerto Rico is a sub-national administrative division overseen by the U.S. government. Puerto Rico follows the U.S. position on AI, explained further in the U.S. section of this report.

Puerto Rico's Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS), established by law in 2019,⁵⁶⁰⁵ formulates and coordinates public policy related to the Puerto Rican Government's information and technology infrastructure and innovation. The Government framed innovation as a key to economic development and technology as a key to "achieve efficiencies in the administration of the government apparatus, render services more expeditiously, and improve service quality." PRITS Circular 2023–002 provided guidance to and a process for government agencies to integrate artificial intelligence in their services.⁵⁶⁰⁶ Under the guidance, PRITS must approve government use of AI technology to guard against "possible risks to privacy, individual rights, civil liberties, and security" and promote public trust in government technology.⁵⁶⁰⁷

Puerto Rico's governor pocket vetoed (*veto de bolsillo*)⁵⁶⁰⁸ a bill passed by the Senate and House (*Cámara*) that would have specified the PRITS's role to

⁵⁶⁰⁵ Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget, *Act No. 75, Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service Act PRITS* (Jul. 25, 2019), <https://bvirtualogp.pr.gov/ogp/Bvirtual/leyesreferencia/PDF/2-ingles/75-2019.pdf>

⁵⁶⁰⁶ Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service, *Circular 2023–002: Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Governmental Technology* [Carta circular Núm. 2023–002: Integración de Inteligencia Artificial en la Tecnología Gubernamental (Apr. 12, 2023), <https://docs.pr.gov/files/prits/Cartas/CC2023-002%20Inteligencia%20Artificial.pdf>

⁵⁶⁰⁷ Ibid, Propósito

⁵⁶⁰⁸ Office of Legislative Services, *House Bill to amend [the Law of the PRITS] to Declare and Establish the Government Policy on the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence Capacities by Government Agencies* [Proyecto de Cámara (PC0347) Para enmendar los Artículos [...] conocida como la "Ley de la Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service" a los fines de declarar y establecer la política pública del Gobierno de Puerto Rico sobre el desarrollo y

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establish public policies on the use and development of artificial intelligence by Government agencies. A bill to establish an Artificial Intelligence Law for the Government of Puerto Rico,⁵⁶⁰⁹ which would establish an AI Officer for the Government under PRITS passed through the Senate in 2025 and debated in an executive session of the House Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence in March 2026. The House presented another Senate bill, which would grant voters the right to know if any election campaign material was generated in part or whole by AI tools,⁵⁶¹⁰ to a public audience in March 2026 before voting commenced.

Public Participation

The website of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives serves as an interactive space designed to engage citizens directly in public decision-making and legislative processes, promoting greater democratic participation and governmental transparency.⁵⁶¹¹

The University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras (UPRRP) has established the Puerto Rican Public Opinion Laboratory (LabPOP) to address the historical lack of current public opinion data on key political and social issues in Puerto Rico.⁵⁶¹² With a \$724,347 grant from NSF's Build and Broaden program, LabPOP will conduct its first comprehensive national survey in January, employing 60 students. The two-year project will focus on examining public perceptions of U.S.-Puerto Rico relations.

utilización de capacidades de inteligencia artificial por parte de las agencias de Gobierno; y para otros fines relacionados] (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://sutra.oslpr.org/medidas/153927>

⁵⁶⁰⁹ Office of Legislative Services, *Senate Bill to Create the Artificial Intelligence Law of the Government of Puerto Rico [Proyecto del Senado (PS0068) para crear la “Ley de Inteligencia Artificial del Gobierno de Puerto Rico”]* (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://sutra.oslpr.org/medidas/152457>

⁵⁶¹⁰ Office of Legislative Services, *Senate Bill (PS0101) [...] to include as a right of the voter knowing if any promotion, announcement, or communication was generated in part or in whole through the use of or by Artificial Intelligence; and to add the definition of “Artificial Intelligence” [...] para fines de incluir como derecho del elector conocer si cualquier propaganda, anuncio o comunicado fue generado parcial o completamente mediante la utilización o por medio de Inteligencia Artificial; y añadir la definición de “Inteligencia Artificial”]* (Mar. 10, 2026), <https://sutra.oslpr.org/medidas/152532>

⁵⁶¹¹ House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, *Official Page of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico* [Spanish] (Oct. 2024), <https://www.camara.pr.gov/>

⁵⁶¹² Universidad de Puerto Rico, *Puerto Rican Public Opinion Research Lab Based on Rio Piedras Campus Receives Grant to Realize Its First Survey* (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.upr.edu/laboratorio-puertorriqueno-de-opinion-publica-de-la-upr-recinto-de-rio-piedras-recibe-subvencion-para-realizar-su-primer-encuesta-nacional/>

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Data Protection

The right to privacy is a fundamental right enshrined in Section 8 of Puerto Rico's Bill of Rights.

U.S. federal data protection regulations apply in Puerto Rico,⁵⁶¹³ though Puerto Rico has also implemented additional regulations. The existing U.S. legislation was created as an instrument of customer protection, in terms of establishing obligations and procedures when data breaches are detected and providing consumers with common privacy rights including the right to know, opt-out rights, and increased control over the sharing of personal information.⁵⁶¹⁴ Puerto Rico has also passed the Citizen Information of Data Banks Security Act,⁵⁶¹⁵ a breach notification and data disposal law.⁵⁶¹⁶

There is currently no data protection authority (DPA) in Puerto Rico. However, a new cybersecurity law (Act 40) mandates the creation of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) under the Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service (PRITS).⁵⁶¹⁷ The Cybersecurity Act aims to create a framework prioritizing government data security to foster innovation, development, and sustainable economic growth through collaborative mandates and an expanded role for cybersecurity within the government. Act 40 also mandates the establishment of an Officer of Cyber Incident Evaluation under PRITS. PRITS developed a Cybersecurity Plan⁵⁶¹⁸ prior to Act 40 to “proactively design, implement, and maintain cutting edge cybersecurity measures that prioritize the protection of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico’s infrastructure and its citizens’ data” and “bolsters

⁵⁶¹³ US Office of Privacy and Open Government, *Privacy Laws, Policies, and Guidance* (Accessed Mar. 10, 2025), <https://www.commerce.gov/opog/privacy/privacy-laws-policies-and-guidance>

⁵⁶¹⁴ One Trust, *Data Guidance by Jurisdiction*, <https://www.dataguidance.com/jurisdiction/puerto-rico>

⁵⁶¹⁵ Biblioteca Virtual, *Law on Informing Citizens about the Security of Data Storage [Ley de Información al Ciudadano sobre la Seguridad de Bancos de Información, Núm. 111]* (Jun. 19, 2008), <https://bvirtualogp.pr.gov/ogp/Bvirtual/leyesreferencia/PDF/111-2005.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁶ Davis Write Tremaine LLP, *Laws of Puerto Rico Annotated: Citizen Information of Data Banks Security Act*, <https://www.dwt.com/files/Uploads/Documents/Publications/PuertoRico%20Security%20Breach.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁷ Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service, *Ley de Ciberseguridad del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico* (Jan. 18, 2024), <https://docs.pr.gov/files/prits/Leyes/Ley%20N%C3%BAm.%2040-2024%20Ley%20de%20Ciberseguridad%20del%20Estado%20Libre%20Asociado%20de%20Puerto%20Rico.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁸ Gobierno de Puerto Rico, *Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Cybersecurity Plan* (Sept. 2023), <https://docs.pr.gov/files/PRITS-Cybersecurity/Grant-Program-Portal/Full-Plan/Cybersecurity%20Plan%20-%20Edited.pdf>

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economic and social prosperity, fully capitalizing on emerging technologies as an engine for progress.”⁵⁶¹⁹

Puerto Rico has no independent representation in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)⁵⁶²⁰ and, like the United States, has endorsed no AI-related GPA resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

There is no legislation, currently in force or pending, addressing algorithmic transparency. An earlier form of the 2025 bill vetoed by the Government specified policies for government agencies using AI algorithms. The Bill notes challenges from AI for “ethics, privacy, information security, and respect for human rights.”⁵⁶²¹

Digitization of Public Administration

Act 75 of 2017 established the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) to promote public policy on the preparation, management, development, coordination and effective interagency integration of innovation and the technological and information infrastructure of the Government of Puerto Rico.⁵⁶²² PRITS has been contributing to Puerto Rico’s digital transformation through several platforms such as CESCO Digital,⁵⁶²³ which enables vehicle and license renewal and payment of fines; VACU ID,⁵⁶²⁴ a smart health card capturing COVID vaccines; and IDEAL,⁵⁶²⁵ a platform that digitizes documents, certificates, and information held by the state on citizens, and serves as a citizen information portal provides government data to citizens to promote transparency.⁵⁶²⁶ IDEAL

⁵⁶¹⁹ Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service, *Cybersecurity, Plan Overview* (2026), <https://www.cybergrant.pr.gov/#PlanOverview>

⁵⁶²⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁵⁶²¹ Office of Legislative Services, *Proyecto de Cámara (PC2027)* (Mar. 5, 2024), <https://sutra.oslpr.org/medidas/146755>

⁵⁶²² Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service, *Delinean agenda tecnológica para el Gobierno de Puerto Rico* (Jan.11, 2022) <https://www.prits.pr.gov/comunicados/delinean-agenda-tecnologica-para-el-gobierno-de-puerto-rico>.

⁵⁶²³ Servicios al Conductor (Cesco), <https://www.cesco.pr.gov>

⁵⁶²⁴ Vacu ID, <https://www.vacuid.pr.gov>

⁵⁶²⁵ IDEAL, <https://www.prits.pr.gov/ideal>

⁵⁶²⁶ Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service Innovation, *Technological Agenda Outlined for the Government of Puerto Rico* (Nov. 1, 2022), <https://www.prits.pr.gov/comunicados/delinean-agenda-tecnologica-para-el-gobierno-de-puerto-rico>

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(*Identidad Electrónica de Acceso en Línea*, Electronic Identity for Online Access) was formalized by law in 2025.⁵⁶²⁷

PRIT reported in March 2024 that 11 government agencies succeeded in digitizing their data.⁵⁶²⁸ The Puerto Rican government is continuing to migrate all government documents online to automate the administrative processes for citizens

AI in Public Administration

As a part of the Civil Service Reform, Puerto Rico through the Office of Human Resource Administration and Transformation (OARTH) and the Financial Oversight Management Board launched an AI pilot project for talent recruitment on March 11, 2024.⁵⁶²⁹ The project aims to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the government's hiring process, pairing the candidates with the best role using the AI technology whilst minimizing biases.⁵⁶³⁰ Several government agencies have participated in the project, such as PRITS and the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE).⁵⁶³¹

Smart Port

In February 2023, a California-based artificial-intelligence company announced that it would invest in the Port of Ponce, which serves Puerto Rico's second city, to transform it into a "smart port of the future." The company plans to "develop autonomous inspection systems, computer-assisted surveillance systems, and digital receipt registries that will track and monitor container movement."⁵⁶³²

⁵⁶²⁷ Office of Legislative Services, *PS 343, Ley 117* (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://sutra.oslpr.org/SutraFiles/anejos/153851/Ley%20117-2025.pdf>

⁵⁶²⁸ Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service, *Directo de PRITS detalla esfuerzos que han propiciado la transformación digital en el Gobierno de Puerto Rico* (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://www.prits.pr.gov/comunicados/director-de-prits-detalla-esfuerzos-que-han-propiciado-la-transformacion-digital-en-el-gobierno-de-puerto-rico>

⁵⁶²⁹ Microjuris al Día, *Nueva plataforma para reclutamiento en las agencias públicas utilizando la inteligencia artificial* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://aldia.microjuris.com/2024/03/11/nueva-plataforma-para-reclutamiento-en-las-agencias-publicas-utilizando-la-inteligencia-artificial/>

⁵⁶³⁰ Financial Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico, *New Hiring Platform Expedites Recruitment at Government Agencies* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://oversightboard.pr.gov/new-hiring-platform-expedites-recruitment-at-government-agencies/>

⁵⁶³¹ Financial Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico, *Civil Service Reform: Transforming Education in Puerto Rico through Improved Hiring and Talent Management* (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://oversightboard.pr.gov/civil-service-reform-transforming-education-in-puerto-rico-through-improved-hiring-and-talent-management/>

⁵⁶³² Jim Wyss, *AI Trial to Turn Sleepy Puerto Rico Port Into Model for Future*, Bloomberg (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-02-16/supply-chains-latest-scale-ai-to-transform-puerto-rico-port-into-ai-test-site>

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Facial Recognition

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) implemented the Simplified Arrival process at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, Puerto Rico. This process uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are required for admission into the United States.⁵⁶³³ The U.S. CBP implemented a biometric facial recognition system for Royal Caribbean cruise passengers in Puerto Rico in 2025. As in U.S. airports, passengers are allowed to use alternative identification methods and the collected photos of the passengers are deleted immediately after the debarkation.⁵⁶³⁴

Livescan systems are also in use at 130 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Application Support Centers across the United States and in Puerto Rico. One such system, Idemia Identity & Security North America, has a contract with USCIS through 2027. USCIS checks fingerprint biometrics collected by Idemia Livescan and decides on the application after they are submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM).⁵⁶³⁵

Environmental Impact of AI

Puerto Rico itself has not created new policy on the environmental impact of AI and is bound by U.S. federal actions. The Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act of 2024 introduced in the United States⁵⁶³⁶ in 2024 would have established a framework for the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to “assess AI’s environmental footprint and create a standardized system for tracking energy use and emissions” and provide transparency of the AI industry.⁵⁶³⁷ Despite endorsements by civil society groups including Greenpeace USA, Friends of

⁵⁶³³ U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, *CBP Introduces Simplified Arrival at SJU in San Juan, Puerto Rico* (Mar. 26, 2021), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-introduces-simplified-arrival-sju-san-juan-puerto-rico>

⁵⁶³⁴ U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, *CBP and Royal Caribbean Implement Biometric Facial Comparison Technology for Cruise Passengers in Puerto Rico* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-and-royal-caribbean-implement-biometric-facial-comparison>

⁵⁶³⁵ Chris Burt, *Idemia NA fingerprint biometrics contract for US immigration extended, upgrade coming* (Nov. 3, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202211/idedia-na-fingerprint-biometrics-contract-for-us-immigration-extended-upgrade-coming>

⁵⁶³⁶ US Congress, *Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act of 2024*, 118th Congress (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3732/text>

⁵⁶³⁷ Greenpeace, *Greenpeace USA Endorses Bill to Assess AI Environmental Impact* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/greenpeace-usa-endorses-bill-to-assess-ai-environmental-impact/>

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the Earth Action, and CAIDP,⁵⁶³⁸ acts in both the Senate and House⁵⁶³⁹ were referred to relevant committees and never acted on in the 2023–2024 session.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

As a commonwealth of the United States, Puerto Rico does not have representation to the United Nations and cannot vote on resolutions.

AI Literacy

The Digital Equity Plan⁵⁶⁴⁰ developed under the Puerto Rico Broadband Program aims to advance digital equity so that “All Puerto Ricans, regardless of their background or location, have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to thrive in the digital world and fully participate in modern society.” The aims to create a “digital skills and literacy initiative that builds on existing best practices, is culturally relevant in its programming and materials, and includes applications of digital use to outcomes in education, healthcare, and economic development”⁵⁶⁴¹ as one of the key activities to address the digital divide.

Puerto Rico’s Department of Education Guide for Using Artificial Intelligence in Student Learning aims to foster schools as “spaces where students learn to use these technologies in an ethical, secure, critical, and creative manner.”⁵⁶⁴² The Guide proposes a SENSE model—Security, Ethics, Narrative, Synergy, and Evaluation—as part of the ethical and pedagogical framework to integrate AI “as a tool supporting learning, without replacing judgement, critical thinking, or human creativity.”⁵⁶⁴³

⁵⁶³⁸ Massachusetts Senator Office, *Markey, Heinrich, Eshoo, Beyer Introduce Legislation to Investigate, Measure Environmental Impacts of Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-heinrich-eshoo-beyer-introduce-legislation-to-investigate-measure-environmental-impacts-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁶³⁹ US Congress, *H.R. 7197—Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act of 2024* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7197/text>

⁵⁶⁴⁰ Smart Island and Government of Puerto Rico, *Digital Equity Plan* (Mar. 11, 2024), [https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/Documentos/PRBB_EquityPlan_R-2%20-%201210%20\(1\).pdf](https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/Documentos/PRBB_EquityPlan_R-2%20-%201210%20(1).pdf)

⁵⁶⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 5

⁵⁶⁴² Subsecretaría para Asuntos Académicos y Programáticos, *Guide for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Student Learning [Guía para el uso de la inteligencia artificial en el aprendizaje estudiantil]* (2025), https://dedigital.dde.pr/pluginfile.php/148925/mod_resource/content/13/MANUAL%20DE%20LA%20AI%20PARA%20ESTUDIANTES_FINAL_.pdf [says Machine translation], so

⁵⁶⁴³ Subsecretaría para Asuntos Académicos y Programáticos, *Guide for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Student Learning [Guía para el uso de la inteligencia artificial en el aprendizaje estudiantil]* (2025),

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Human Rights

As an unincorporated territory of the United States, Puerto Ricans have limited representation in the federal government. The U.S. House of Representatives consists of 435 members serving two-year terms. Puerto Rico is represented by one elected delegate in the House who can perform most legislative functions but cannot participate in floor votes⁵⁶⁴⁴ and has no representation in the Senate. Puerto Rico has no electoral college votes in U.S. presidential elections.⁵⁶⁴⁵ Puerto Ricans in the United States may register to vote and participate in elections on the mainland.

Puerto Rico does not receive a separate ranking from Freedom House. Even though the United States scored 84/100 in 2025,⁵⁶⁴⁶ with wide civil liberties including a robust freedom of expression, the Freedom House report claims that in recent years U.S. democratic institutions have gradually weakened, with “mistreatment and dysfunction in the criminal justice and immigration systems, harmful policies on immigration and asylum seekers, and growing disparities in wealth, economic opportunity, and political influence.” This affects Puerto Rico as an unincorporated territory. According to Freedom House report in 2016, access to justice is difficult for those who lack resources to pay legal fees and speak Spanish as their primary language, with federal court proceedings being conducted in English.⁵⁶⁴⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As an unincorporated territory of the United States, Puerto Rico does not independently adopt international agreements such as the OECD AI Principles/G20 AI Guidelines but is party to the agreement under the U.S. endorsement.⁵⁶⁴⁸

Puerto Rico has initiated strategies to implement the OECD AI principles through initiatives such as the Digital Equity Plan⁵⁶⁴⁹ and the PRITS Circular Letter

https://dedigital.dde.pr/pluginfile.php/148925/mod_resource/content/13/MANUAL%20DE%20LA%20AI%20PARA%20ESTUDIANTES_FINAL_.pdf [says Machine translation], so

⁵⁶⁴⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: United States* (Feb. 2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-states/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁶⁴⁵ National Archives and Records Administration, *About the Electors, Electoral College Information* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/electors#qualifications>

⁵⁶⁴⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-states/freedom-world/2024>

⁵⁶⁴⁷ UNHCR, *Freedom in the World 2016: Puerto Rico* (Sept. 28, 2016),

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/57f4d8d126.html>

⁵⁶⁴⁸ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵⁶⁴⁹ Smart Island and Government of Puerto Rico, *Digital Equity Plan* (Mar. 11, 2024), [https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/Documentos/PRBB_EquityPlan_R-2%20-%201210%20\(1\).pdf](https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/Documentos/PRBB_EquityPlan_R-2%20-%201210%20(1).pdf)

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ot guide trustworthy AI in the public sector.⁵⁶⁵⁰ The Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust released a strategic document titled *Leveraging AI for Economic Development and Shaping the Future in Puerto Rico* in September 2024.⁵⁶⁵¹ This strategy outlines initiatives to integrate AI across various sectors, including healthcare, smart cities, sustainable agriculture, education, and disaster management. The plan emphasizes ethical AI development, transparency, and inclusivity, reflecting OECD principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The United States signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law when it opened on September 5, 2024.⁵⁶⁵² Puerto Rico is subject to the treaty through the U.S. signature.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

The United States rejoined UNESCO in 2023, after leaving in 2018.⁵⁶⁵³ Although the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence was established in the interim, the United States accepted the Recommendation on return.

Despite having no independent membership to UNESCO, Puerto Rico has engaged the organization to contribute to international dialogues on ethical AI and development. For example, the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) signed a collaborative agreement with UNESCO to “broaden the horizons of research on AI” and to address “the impact that this represents for society in all areas”⁵⁶⁵⁴ following the first International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education, hosted at the UPR Rio de Piedras Campus. The Department of Education guidance for integrating AI in student learning aligns with the human-centered principles in UNESCO guidance on AI competencies for teachers and students.

⁵⁶⁵⁰ Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service, *Circular 2023–002: Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Governmental Technology* [Carta circular Núm. 2023–002: Integración de Inteligencia Artificial en la Tecnología Gubernamental (Apr. 12, 2023), <https://docs.pr.gov/files/prits/Cartas/CC2023-002%20Inteligencia%20Artificial.pdf>

⁵⁶⁵¹ Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust, *Leveraging AI for Economic Development and Shaping the Future in Puerto Rico* (Sept. 2024), <https://prsciencetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Puerto-Rico-AI-Strategy-PRSTRT.pdf>

⁵⁶⁵² Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁵⁶⁵³ UNESCO, *Member States* (Accessed Mar. 10, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

⁵⁶⁵⁴ Odotonline, “*This is for Puerto Rico*”: *Artificial Intelligence Coalition Outlines its Work Route* (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://www.odotonline.org/this-is-for-puerto-rico-artificial-intelligence-coalition-outlines-its-work-route/>

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The United States, including Puerto Rico, has not initiated the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to facilitate implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation.⁵⁶⁵⁵

Evaluation

The example of the Smart Port of Ponce might point to Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States, becoming a testbed for AI. However, the lack of a national AI strategy, comprehensive data protection law, and data protection authority raises concerns about the protection of Puerto Ricans' fundamental rights in the age of AI. Bills in the House and Senate have attempted to address the dearth of protections, including in data protection, only to stall in committees or, in the case of the 2025 AI Bill, be vetoed.

In a recent column, Roberto López Davila, a member of the Puerto Rican judiciary, asked: “When will Puerto Rico join other countries and begin its journey toward the elaboration of its own national AI strategy for these technologies not only to provide economic and industrial benefits but also to contribute to the improvement of the daily life and well-being of the whole Puerto Rican society? It should be a strategy that puts fundamental rights, respect for the rule of law and democratic institutions at its core, considering the risks that AI entails. In a context in which AI applications are gradually being deployed in the country, some of them for uses that are particularly concerning, calling for a national AI strategy has never been more urgent.”⁵⁶⁵⁶

⁵⁶⁵⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵⁶⁵⁶ Roberto L. López Dávila, *COLUMNA – Ante la inteligencia artificial y valores democráticos*, Microjuris.com (Mar. 13, 2023), <https://aldia.microjuris.com/2023/03/13/columna-ante-la-inteligencia-artificial-y-valores-democraticos/>

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Qatar

In 2025, Qatar launched the Digital Inclusion Index to measure access and skills in support of the Qatar Digital Agenda and the financial sector moved forward on draft regulations and training frameworks. The country also hosted the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, which culminated with the Doha Declaration on AI and Human Rights.

National AI Strategy

The Government of Qatar released a National Strategy for AI in October 2019. The aim of the strategy is to provide a realistic view of AI technologies and their potential in the 21st century. The strategy was developed from a blueprint produced by Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).⁵⁶⁵⁷

The AI strategy sets two goals for Qatar:⁵⁶⁵⁸ 1) Qatar must become capable of producing world-class AI applications in areas of national interest and have a business environment enabling the use of AI as a driver for innovation. 2) Qatar must be an efficient consumer of AI, with a properly educated citizenry, sound laws, and ethical guidelines. Each of 6 pillars features components to build an inclusive AI framework.⁵⁶⁵⁹ Pillars focus on recruiting and developing AI talent, data access, infrastructure, and building an AI-augmented knowledge economy.

As part of Pillar 6, which focuses on Ethics and Public Policy, Qatar's AI strategy emphasizes the importance of robust guidelines to ensure AI aligns with ethical principles and societal norms.⁵⁶⁶⁰ To fulfill this commitment, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) released Artificial Intelligence in Qatar—Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Development and

⁵⁶⁵⁷ HBKU, *Minister of Transport and Communications Announces Qatar's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Developed by HBKU's Qatar Computing Research Institute* (Oct. 19, 2019), <https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/news/qitcom-qcri-hbku>

⁵⁶⁵⁸ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar* (2019), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2025/02/national_artificial_intelligence_strategy_for_qatar_2019_en.pdf

⁵⁶⁵⁹ Ibid; Ashraf Abounnaga et al., *AI-Enabled Future for Qatar and the Region*, Communications of the ACM 64, no. 4, 59–61 (Apr. 2021), <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2021/4/251345-an-ai-enabled-future-for-qatar-and-the-region/fulltext>

⁵⁶⁶⁰ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar*, pp. 14–15 (2019), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2025/02/national_artificial_intelligence_strategy_for_qatar_2019_en.pdf

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Deployment.⁵⁶⁶¹ This document emphasizes human-centered AI principles, including transparency, system robustness, and alignment with Qatari cultural values. The guidelines encourage responsible AI development focused on public benefit, security, and ethical deployment, reinforcing adherence to both international standards and local norms. Implementation of the ethical guidelines remains advisory rather than binding.

Qatar’s artificial intelligence (AI) committee launched in 2021⁵⁶⁶² to ensure that the National AI Strategy is implemented with proper mechanisms and oversight. The AI Committee acts as a connecting bridge between the ministries and relevant authorities to develop plans and programs “for preparing human cadres in the field of artificial intelligence applications.” The committee sits under the MCIT and includes representatives from the MCIT, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar National Research Fund, and Qatar Development Bank.⁵⁶⁶³

In addition to the overarching ethical framework set by the MCIT, Qatar’s National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) introduced sector-specific ethical AI guidelines.⁵⁶⁶⁴ These guidelines are designed to strengthen transparency, privacy, and security within AI applications in critical sectors such as healthcare, finance, and education. The NCSA guidelines provide targeted standards that address the specific regulatory and ethical requirements of each sector, reinforcing Qatar’s commitment to responsible AI deployment as outlined in the national AI strategy. In the financial sector, Qatar Central Bank issued comprehensive guidelines in September 2024 to regulate AI use, emphasizing transparency, operational efficiency, and customer security.⁵⁶⁶⁵ These guidelines are part of Qatar’s broader FinTech strategy, aligning with international standards to ensure ethical AI deployment in finance.

⁵⁶⁶¹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence in Qatar—Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Development and Deployment* (Mar. 2024), https://prod16-assets.sprinklr.com/prod16-cdata/DAM/160136/33fb390b-d120-47f2-8708-532dcb1e15c3-1252740832/MCIT_National_AI_Strategy_-_AI.pdf

⁵⁶⁶² Hukoomi, *Cabinet Approves Draft Decision Setting Up Artificial Intelligence Committee* (Mar. 4, 2021), <https://hukoomi.gov.qa/en/news/cabinet-approves-draft-decision-setting-up-artificial-intelligence-committee>

⁵⁶⁶³ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence Committee* (2025), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/artificial-intelligence-committee/?csrt=11876465378606195374>

⁵⁶⁶⁴ National Cyber Security Agency, *AI Guidelines – Ethical Development and Deployment* (Mar. 2024), <https://www.ncsa.gov.qa/sites/default/files/2024-02/AI-Guide-en-V6.pdf?csrt=17839479512700623602>

⁵⁶⁶⁵ Qatar Central Bank, *Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for the Financial Sector* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.qcb.gov.qa/en/Pages/FinancialTechnology.aspx>

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The AI strategy underlies Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (NDS-3) for 2024–2030,⁵⁶⁶⁶ which highlights AI as a pivotal sector for driving economic diversification and innovation. Complementing this, the MCIT launched the National Digital Agenda 2030 in 2024 to provide a roadmap to advance Qatar's digital economy, emphasizing innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable development.⁵⁶⁶⁷

Through recent guidelines and sector-specific standards, Qatar is signaling a commitment to ethical, human-centered AI practices that align with both international standards and national development priorities.

Public Participation

Qatar's National Development Strategy has set goals of developing modern public sector institutions, efficient and transparent delivery of services, and larger space for civil society.⁵⁶⁶⁸ Relatedly, the national Digital Government 2020 strategy identifies open government as a key strategic objective, and recognizes Open Data, e-Participation, and related policies as key initiatives.⁵⁶⁶⁹ The Open Data Policy of 2014 requires government agencies to ensure that their data is published using an open format both technically and legally. The e-Participation Policy established in 2015 requires the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to promote e-Participation between government agencies and the public.⁵⁶⁷⁰

Qatar has enhanced the GaaS (Government as a service) initiatives, with an array of citizen Digital Government services such as Metrash, Hukoomi, Baladiya/Oun. These applications aim to facilitate Inter/Intra Government Departmental transfer of data to create a modern and efficient public sector. There are 1,400 Hukoomi Services, with 650 services that aim to show higher efficiency,

⁵⁶⁶⁶ National Planning Council, *Third National Development Strategy, 2024–2030* (2025),

<https://www.npc.qa/en/planning/nds3/Pages/default.aspx>; for PDF,

https://www.npc.qa/en/planning/nds3/Documents/QNDS3_EN.pdf

⁵⁶⁶⁷ Qatar News Agency, *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Launches Digital Agenda 2030* (Feb. 27, 2024), <https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-02/27/0088-ministry-of-communications-and-information-technology-launches-digital-agenda-2030>

⁵⁶⁶⁸ General Society for Development Planning, *Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022* (Sept. 2018), <https://www.npc.qa/en/planning/Documents/nds2/NDS2Final.pdf>

⁵⁶⁶⁹ Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, *Qatar e-Government 2020 Strategy* (2020), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/sites/default/files/qatar-e-government-2020-strategy-en_0.pdf

⁵⁶⁷⁰ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *E-Participation Policy* (Apr. 2015), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/11/p003_eparticipation_v1.0.2_en_v3-2_2.pdf?csrt=2507209873283014317

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transparency, and openness of the government.⁵⁶⁷¹ This degree of interaction garnered Qatar the 2024 United Nations e-Gov benchmark as a “high level of interaction index.”⁵⁶⁷²

The MCIT initiated a public consultation in 2024 to gauge digital inclusivity among citizens and residents.⁵⁶⁷³ While the survey was not specifically focused on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, it aimed to gather valuable insights into how Qatar's population interacts with modern technologies. However, no institutionalized public consultation processes specifically addressing artificial intelligence policies or algorithmic decision-making have been developed, and civil society does not formally participate in AI governance due to existing restricted civic participation and limited inclusion of third sector actors in Qatar.⁵⁶⁷⁴

Data Protection

Qatar adopted law 13 Concerning Personal Data Privacy Protection (PDPPL) in 2016.⁵⁶⁷⁵ Qatar became the first Gulf Cooperation Council member state to issue an applicable Data Protection Law, supplemented with a set of regulatory guidelines issued by the Compliance and Data Protection Department. The guidelines incorporate concepts from EU data protection legal frameworks providing further clarity for compliance purposes.

The PDPPL defines the rights of individuals to the processing of their data within “the framework of transparency, honesty, and respect of human dignity.”⁵⁶⁷⁶ Chapter 4 establishes special permissions required to process Personal Data of Special Nature, namely ethnic origin, children, health, physical or psychological condition, religious creeds marital relations, and criminal offenses.

The National Cyber Governance and Assurance Affairs body under the National Cyber Security Agency oversees the PDPPL, including offering guidance,

⁵⁶⁷¹ Thales Group, *Hukoomi: eGovernment Services in Qatar*,

<https://www.thalesgroup.com/en/markets/digital-identity-and-security/government/customer-cases/qatar-egov>

⁵⁶⁷² United Nations, *E-Government Survey 2024* (2024),

https://desapublications.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/2024-10/Print%20Version%20E-Government%20Survey%202024%2011_10_2024.pdf

⁵⁶⁷³ Marhaba Qatar, *MCIT Invites Public Participation in Digital Inclusivity Survey* (May 24, 2024),

<https://marhaba.qa/mcit-invites-public-participation-in-digital-inclusivity-survey/>

⁵⁶⁷⁴ Elayah M, Al-Sayyed N, *Digital Governance in Qatar: Navigating the Paradox of Digital Bureaucracy* (Jan. 2, 2026), <https://doi.org/10.1108/DPRG-09-2025-0320>

⁵⁶⁷⁵ Compliance and Protection Department, *Law No. 13 of 2016, Personal Data Privacy Protection* (2016), [https://compliance.qcert.org/sites/default/files/library/2020-11/Law No. %2813%29 of 2016 on Protecting Personal Data Privacy - English.pdf](https://compliance.qcert.org/sites/default/files/library/2020-11/Law%20No.%2813%29%20of%202016%20on%20Protecting%20Personal%20Data%20Privacy%20-%20English.pdf)

⁵⁶⁷⁶ *Ibid*, Chapter Two

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promoting good practice, investigating complaints, monitoring compliance, and supporting enforcement as necessary.⁵⁶⁷⁷

The Ministry of Transport and Communications was the authority designated in Article 20 of Decree-Law No 8 of 2016 to propose legislation, policies, and standards necessary to regulate government information technology systems, transactions, and services to enable government agencies to achieve their digital transformation objectives.⁵⁶⁷⁸ Restructuring created a Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to oversee digital transformation⁵⁶⁷⁹ and “supervise, regulate, and develop the sector of Information and Communications Technology.”⁵⁶⁸⁰ The MCIT created a Data Management Policy to regulate data protection in government services in 2015.⁵⁶⁸¹ The MCIT oversaw the related Open Data Portal until the function was taken over by the National Planning Council in 2023.⁵⁶⁸² The Ministry released guidelines in 2021 to “help the target audience; individuals, regulated entities and stakeholders, understand their respective responsibilities, rights and practices” related to the data privacy protection law.⁵⁶⁸³

The Qatar Central Bank provides guidance for the protection of data in the financial sector. The Central Bank guidance on Artificial Intelligence noted that Providers of High-Risk AI Systems may process personal data only in compliance with the PDPPL and “to the extent that it is strictly necessary for the purposes of ensuring Bias monitoring, detection, and correction.”⁵⁶⁸⁴

The Qatar Financial Centre, a financial services free zone in Qatar, updated its Data Protection Regulations and Rules (originally issued in 2005), to align with international data protection laws, such as the GDPR in 2021.⁵⁶⁸⁵ Key changes include removing mandatory notification for sensitive data processing, requiring that

⁵⁶⁷⁷ National Cyber Security Agency, *National Cyber Governance and Assurance Affairs, Personal Data Privacy* (2025), <https://assurance.ncsa.gov.qa/en/privacy?cst=75190470011708430>

⁵⁶⁷⁸ Qatar Open Data Portal, *Open Data Licensing Policy*, Legal Mandate (2024), <https://www.data.gov.qa/pages/license/>

⁵⁶⁷⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *About Us: What We Do* (2024), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/about-us/what-we-do/?cst=2507209873283014317>

⁵⁶⁸⁰ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Data Management Policy*, Version 1.0.1 (Apr. 2015), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/11/p001_data_management_v.1.0.2_en_v2-2_1.pdf

⁵⁶⁸¹ Ibid

⁵⁶⁸² Qatar Open Data Portal, *About the Portal* (2024), <https://www.data.gov.qa/pages/about/>

⁵⁶⁸³ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *MOTC Releases Guidelines on Personal Data Privacy Protection Law* (Jan. 31, 2021), <https://mot.gov.qa/en/news/motc-releases-guidelines-personal-data-privacy-protection-law>

⁵⁶⁸⁴ Qatar Central Bank, *Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for the Financial Sector* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.qcb.gov.qa/en/Pages/FinancialTechnology.aspx>

⁵⁶⁸⁵ Data Guidance. *Qatar: QFC Updates Its Data Protection Law in Line with the GDPR* (Mar. 2022), <https://www.dataguidance.com/opinion/qatar-qfc-updates-its-data-protection-law-line-gdpr>

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consent is freely given and easily withdrawn, and expanding the definition of sensitive data to include criminal records. The new regulations also introduce accountability principles, data protection by design, and Data Protection Impact Assessments for high-risk processing. The QFC Data Protection Office can impose penalties up to \$1.5 million per infringement.

The Qatar National Cyber Security Agency became a member of the Global Privacy Assembly in 2024.⁵⁶⁸⁶ The agency did not sponsor any of the earlier resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

Qatar's Personal Data Privacy Protection Law does not include explicit rights regarding automated decision-making or algorithmic profiling, leaving individuals without formal mechanisms to challenge or seek explanation of AI-driven decisions. The Qatar Financial Centre updated provisions in 2021 offer some protection in the financial sector. The National Cyber Security Agency Guidelines for Secure Adoption and Usage of Artificial Intelligence highlight the importance of transparency and explainability along with human oversight in automated decision-making with regular references to the GDPR.⁵⁶⁸⁷ However, these guidelines are voluntary. Additionally, no technical documentation, evaluation criteria, or performance transparency have been published for AI systems already deployed by government entities, such as the job nationalization allocation algorithm.

The Technical Office of the Ministry of Labour of Qatar began using data algorithms in job localizations as an initiative supported by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)⁵⁶⁸⁸ and two corporate partners in 2023.⁵⁶⁸⁹ The algorithm recommends the percentage of Qatari employees given a firms' absorptive capacity,⁵⁶⁹⁰ tailoring the nationalization %

⁵⁶⁸⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Accreditation Resolution* (Oct. 2024),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Resolution-on-accreditation-members-GPA-2024.pdf>

⁵⁶⁸⁷ National Cyber Security Agency, *Guidelines for Secure Adoption and Usage of Artificial Intelligence*, Version 1.0 (2024), <https://www.ncsa.gov.qa/sites/default/files/2024-02/AI-Guide-en-V6.pdf>

⁵⁶⁸⁸ UNESCWA, *Building National Capacities on Big Data Policies and Applications in Qatar* (Dec. 14, 2021), <https://www.unescwa.org/news/building-national-capacities-big-data-policies-and-applications-qatar>

⁵⁶⁸⁹ The Peninsula, *Ministry of Labor Launches Electronic System to Develop Nationalization Program Data in Private Sector* (Feb. 6, 2023), <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/06/02/2023/ministry-of-labor-launches-electronic-system-to-develop-nationalization-program-data-in-private-sector>

⁵⁶⁹⁰ Ministry of Labor Qatar, *Ministry of Labour Innovates a First of Its Kind Nationalization AI Algorithm/Model* (Feb. 6, 2023), <https://x.com/MOLQTR/status/1622548471231270912/photo/1>

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based on the company's capital, number of employees, average salaries, and activity. The algorithm provides recommendations for up-skilling to candidates and develops statistics. The support of ESCWA to the Ministry of Labor and the Digital Transformation Unit includes creating the model, which is based on ESCWA's Skills Monitor.⁵⁶⁹¹ There is no disclosure about the specifics of the model and the extent of the complexity, accuracy, or reliability of the algorithm.

Facial Recognition

Qatar used AI to manage crowds during the 2022 FIFA World Cup and to control stadium conditions such as temperature.⁵⁶⁹² The "connected stadium" concept implemented during the event⁵⁶⁹³ included facial recognition receiving input from 22,000 security cameras installed at stadiums.⁵⁶⁹⁴ Data was set to predict crowd patterns based on the movement of people. All people attending the FIFA World Cup in Qatar were required to download the Hayya app⁵⁶⁹⁵ to enter stadiums and use public transportation.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology launched the National Digital Authentication and Trust Services Strategy⁵⁶⁹⁶ in January 2025. The program includes a unified digital ID system⁵⁶⁹⁷ designed to enhance information security through a unified authentication platform. The platform has specific

⁵⁶⁹¹ Doha Directory, *Electronic System Based on AI Launched; Aims to Develop Data Related to the Nationalization Program in the Private Sector* (Feb. 7, 2023), <https://www.doha.directory/electronic-system-based-on-ai-launched-aims-to-develop-data-related-to-the-nationalization-program-in-the-private-sector/1052/n>

⁵⁶⁹² Osama Bin Javid, *AI at World Cup 2022 to Check Crowds, Control Climate*, Al Jazeera (Nov. 13, 2022), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/13/eye-in-the-sky-ai-at-world-cup-to-check-crowds-control-climate>

⁵⁶⁹³ Hazar Kilani, *Artificial Intelligence to Help Control Crowds and Climate at Qatar World Cup*, Doha News (Nov. 15, 2022), <https://dohanews.co/artificial-intelligence-to-help-control-crowds-and-climate-at-qatar-world-cup/>

⁵⁶⁹⁴ Chris Burt, *Qatar Equips 15,000 Cameras with Facial Recognition for Soccer World Cup 2022*, Biometric Update (Aug. 18, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202208/qatar-equips-15000-cameras-with-facial-recognition-for-soccer-world-cup-2022>

⁵⁶⁹⁵ Al Jazeera, *What is a Hayya Card and Why Do You Need it for World Cup 2022?* *Qatar World Cup 2022 News* (Oct. 26, 2022), <https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2022/10/26/no-hayya-no-entry-fifa-world-cup-2022>

⁵⁶⁹⁶ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Launches the National Digital Authentication and Trust Services Strategy 2024–2026* (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/news/ministry-of-communications-and-information-technology-launches-the-national-digital-authentication-and-trust-services-strategy-2024-2026-2/>

⁵⁶⁹⁷ Biometric Update, *Qatar's Trust Services Strategy Provides for Creation of Unified Digital ID* (Jan 14, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202501/qatars-trust-services-strategy-provides-for-creation-of-unified-digital-id>

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biometric capabilities (including facial recognition) incorporated into related government digital identity applications like the QDI app, supporting seamless access to electronic services. The unified digital ID can be accessed through a centralized digital government portal and aligns with Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030, providing seamless interoperability across government ministries, departments, and agencies while prioritizing the protection of personal data and privacy.

Biometric Identification

In 2007, Qatar rolled out biometric-enabled national ID cards and developed an ambitious digital government program.⁵⁶⁹⁸ In 2011, the Ministry of Interior introduced smart card services for expatriates.⁵⁶⁹⁹ These smart cards are of compulsory use as e-gate cards, storing biometric data (e.g. fingerprints and eye scan) on a chip. Residents can also use the smart cards for immigration control. Relevant information is protected under the Data Protection Law.

The Ministry of Interior launched the Qatar Digital Identity application in 2024.⁵⁷⁰⁰ The Qatar Digital Identity application provides digital versions of ID cards and documents, allowing users to access electronic services, through biometric data, without the need for physical documents. The application can be obtained on the Ministry of Interior's website or downloaded from Google Play.

Qatar Central Bank introduced new e-KYC regulations requiring financial institutions to implement advanced biometric technologies.⁵⁷⁰¹ The technologies combine the traditional OTP mechanism with another factor of authentication, such as PIN code, password, or secure biometrics.

Environmental Impact of AI

Qatar's National Vision 2030 addresses five major challenges facing the country, including environmental management.⁵⁷⁰² Environmental protection and development is a central theme. The Vision emphasizes the need to establish legal

⁵⁶⁹⁸ Thales Group, *National ID Cards in Qatar: From ID to Digital Government* (2022), <https://www.thalesgroup.com/en/markets/digital-identity-and-security/government/customer-cases/qatar-id>

⁵⁶⁹⁹ Ananda Shakespeare. *MEED. National Identity Card in Qatar* (Jun. 5, 2014), <https://www.meed.com/national-identity-card-in-qatar/>

⁵⁷⁰⁰ Qatar New Agency, *Minister of Interior Launches Qatar Digital Identity Application* (Oct. 29, 2024), <https://www.qna.org.qa/en/newsbulletins/2024-10/29/0048-minister-of-interior-launches%C2%A0qatar-digital-identity-application>

⁵⁷⁰¹ Qatar Central Bank, *Information and Cyber Security Regulation for Payment Service Providers* (Apr. 2022), [https://www.qcb.gov.qa/Documents/InformationSecurity/Information and Cyber Security Regulation for PSPs.pdf](https://www.qcb.gov.qa/Documents/InformationSecurity/Information%20and%20Cyber%20Security%20Regulation%20for%20PSPs.pdf)

⁵⁷⁰² Government Communication Office, *Qatar National Vision 2030* (2024), <https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/about-qatar/national-vision2030/>

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frameworks and environmental institutions to safeguard the country's environmental heritage and stresses the importance of raising citizens' awareness of their role in protecting the environment.⁵⁷⁰³ However, there are no specific guidelines or established authorities to concretely implement this vision and address issues such as AI data center energy consumption among others.

Qatar's National AI Strategy highlights the potential for AI technology to facilitate national priorities such as food security but does not address the environmental costs of developing AI systems.⁵⁷⁰⁴

AI Literacy

MCIT has moved beyond strategy to practice with teacher- and learner-facing activities for AI literacy. In January 2025, MCIT launched the Digital Inclusion Index (2024)⁵⁷⁰⁵ to track equitable access and skills. MCIT's Teaching & Learning Forum 2025⁵⁷⁰⁶ featured hands-on AI training sessions for educators on classroom use and critical thinking. The GovAI Program⁵⁷⁰⁷ continues to seed public-sector AI projects with an end-to-end adoption path that includes training for civil servants. In parallel, national cultural institutions are running AI workshops during the 2025–2026 school year to demystify chatbots and provide practical AI experience for students.⁵⁷⁰⁸

Human Rights

Qatar has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Qatar is signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

⁵⁷⁰³ National Planning Council, *Qatar National Vision 2030* (2025),

<https://www.npc.qa/en/qnv/pages/default.aspx#environmenttab>

⁵⁷⁰⁴ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar*, p. 13 (2019), https://www.mcit.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2025/02/national_artificial_intelligence_strategy_for_qatar_2019_en.pdf

⁵⁷⁰⁵ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Launches the Digital Inclusion Index* (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/news/ministry-of-communications-and-information-technology-launches-the-digital-inclusion-index-report-2024/>

⁵⁷⁰⁶ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Highlights the Role of Technology in Education during the Teaching and Learning Forum 2025* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/news/the-ministry-of-communications-and-information-technology-highlights-the-role-of-technology-in-education-during-the-teaching-and-learning-forum-2025/>

⁵⁷⁰⁷ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *GovAI Program*, <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/artificial-intelligence-committee/govai-program/>

⁵⁷⁰⁸ National Museum of Qatar, *School Programmes at the AI Digital Centre*, <https://nmoq.org.qa/en/learn/ai-digital-centre/school-offerings/>

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(ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (2018).⁵⁷⁰⁹

Freedom House rates Qatar as “Not Free” with a score of 25/100 in 2025.⁵⁷¹⁰ The report highlights “Political parties are not permitted, and public participation in the political arena is extremely limited. While Qatari citizens are among the wealthiest in the world, most of the population consists of noncitizens with no political rights, few civil liberties, and limited access to economic opportunity.”

The Qatar Constitution is based on Sharia Law. The substantive list of rights (or protections) reside in Part 3: Public Rights and Duties, including equality of citizens in rights and duties (Art. 34); equality of “all persons” before the law and without discrimination “whatsoever” on “grounds of sex, race, language or religion” (Art. 35); protection against unlawful arrest or detention (Art. 36); protection of privacy (Art. 37); the right to elect and be elected (Art. 42); the right of assembly (Art. 44) and of association (Art. 45); freedom of expression (Art. 48); freedom of religion (Art. 50).⁵⁷¹¹

Qatar held a constitutional referendum on in November 2024, amending amongst other provisions, Article (77) ending Qatar’s 2021 experiment with elections for the Shura Council, the country’s advisory legislative body. Through the referendum, citizens were asked to vote away their right to elect members of the Shura Council in the name of national unity, rather than extending voting rights to naturalized citizens or allowing them to run for office. The amendments stripped all citizens of these rights.⁵⁷¹²

Media reports cite issues with human rights in Qatar, associated with deaths of migrant workers since Qatar was awarded World Cup hosting rights.⁵⁷¹³ Qatar has taken steps in passing laws to protect migrant workers, including adjustments in their minimum wage and living conditions.⁵⁷¹⁴

⁵⁷⁰⁹ See Declaration by the State of Qatar, 32 *International Review of the Red Cross* 100–100 (1992)

⁵⁷¹⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Qatar* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/qatar/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁷¹¹ State of Qatar, *The Constitution* (2004), <https://www.gco.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GCO-Constitution-English.pdf>

⁵⁷¹² International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, *Stability or Elections: A Look into Qatar’s 2024 Constitutional Referendum* (Nov. 7, 2024), <https://www.idea.int/blog/stability-or-elections-look-qatars-2024-constitutional-referendum>.

⁵⁷¹³ The Guardian, *Revealed: 6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since World Cup awarded* (Feb. 23, 2021), <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/feb/23/revealed-migrant-worker-deaths-qatar-fifa-world-cup-2022>

⁵⁷¹⁴ Amnesty International, *Qatar: New Laws to Protect Migrant Workers Are a Step in the Right Direction* (2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/qatar-annoucement-kafala-reforms/>

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The World Bank's Doing Business project, which also makes projections on the Strength of legal rights index (0–weak to 12–strong), scored Qatar as 1.⁵⁷¹⁵ Qatar's international cooperation with multilateral entities (i.e. UNESCO, UN Development Programmes, World Bank, and others) are set to support the country in “measur[ing] progress towards the national and international development goals, human rights protection, transparency and the fight against corruption.”⁵⁷¹⁶

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination applauded Qatar in April 2024 for creating a memorial for enslaved Africans. The Committee discussed eliminating of the Kafala system and mandatory HIV testing for migrant workers.⁵⁷¹⁷ The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) of Qatar concluded its landmark International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: Opportunities, Risks, and Visions for a Better Future⁵⁷¹⁸ with the adoption of the Doha Declaration on AI and Human Rights.⁵⁷¹⁹ The declaration outlines bold recommendations to safeguard human rights in the age of AI and promote ethical and inclusive development of emerging technologies⁵⁷²⁰. The declaration calls for integrating human rights principles into every stage of AI development, deployment, and governance to ensure that AI technologies promote human dignity, autonomy, inclusivity, and accountability.

The Doha declaration also calls for effective monitoring and reporting of cyberattacks and AI-enabled threats targeting female politicians, human rights defenders, and activists.⁵⁷²¹ It stresses the urgent need for legal protections, victim

⁵⁷¹⁵ World Bank, *Data: Qatar, Strength of Legal Rights Index—Qatar* (Sept. 16, 2021), <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IC.LGL.CRED.XQ?locations=QA>

⁵⁷¹⁶ General Society for Development Planning, *Qatar's Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022*, <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/knowledge/Documents/NDS2Final.pdf>

⁵⁷¹⁷ UN Humans Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Applaud Qatar's Memorial for Enslaved Africans, Raise Questions on Mandatory HIV Testing for Migrant Workers and the Kafala System* (Nov 9, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2024/04/experts-committee-elimination-racial-discrimination-applaud-qatars-memorial-enslaved>

⁵⁷¹⁸ UNDP Arab States, *Doha Hosted Groundbreaking International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights* (May 29, 2025), <https://www.undp.org/arab-states/press-releases/doha-hosted-groundbreaking-international-conference-artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights>

⁵⁷¹⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *MCIT Main Partners in Organizing the International Conference on AI and Human Rights* (May 25, 2025), <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/news/mcit-main-partners-in-organizing-the-international-conference-on-ai-and-human-rights/>

⁵⁷²⁰ International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, *Doha Declaration on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights*, National Human Rights Committee (May 27–28, 2025), <https://nhrcfinyal.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/AI-and-HR-Final-Declaration.pdf>

⁵⁷²¹ Qatar News Agency, *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights Concludes with Doha Declaration* (May 29, 2025), <https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news->

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support mechanisms, and capacity-building for stakeholders to counter AI-enabled harassment and discrimination.

The Qatar Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Use of AI⁵⁷²² explicitly call for avoiding the perpetuation of bias and discrimination in AI systems, enabling reporting and redress mechanisms for impacted groups.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Qatar is not a member of the OECD and did not endorse the OECD AI principles.⁵⁷²³ The country has not submitted reports to OECD AI Observatory on AI initiatives.⁵⁷²⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Qatar did not participate in negotiations for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law⁵⁷²⁵ and has not signed this first legally binding international AI treaty.⁵⁷²⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Qatar is a member state of UNESCO since 1972,⁵⁷²⁷ and was one of the 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵⁷²⁸ With The recent adoption of the Artificial Intelligence in Qatar – Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Use, the Qatari Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

[details?id=international-conference-on-artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights-concludes-with-doha-declaration&date=29/05/2025](https://www.oecd.org/en/press/2024/05/artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights-concludes-with-doha-declaration&date=29/05/2025)

⁵⁷²² Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence in Qatar—Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Development and Deployment* (2024), https://prod16-assets.sprinklr.com/prod16-cdata/DAM/160136/33fb390b-d120-47f2-8708-532dcb1e15c3-1252740832/MCIT_National_AI_Strategy_-_AI.pdf

⁵⁷²³ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵⁷²⁴ OECD.AI, *National AI Policies & Strategies* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national>

⁵⁷²⁵ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁷²⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 25, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁵⁷²⁷ UNESCO, *Member States: Qatar* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/qa>

⁵⁷²⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

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has provided guidelines for AI system users, aiming to promote the ethical use of AI.⁵⁷²⁹ These guidelines outline six key principles: safeguarding personal and organizational data, complying with relevant laws and regulations, ensuring the well-being of individuals and society, assuming accountability, acknowledging AI's capabilities and limitations, and do not use AI systems to perpetuate bias.

These principles closely align with the UNESCO Recommendations, which include concepts such as Do No Harm, Fairness and non-discrimination, Safety and security, Right to Privacy and Data Protection, and Responsibility and accountability. This alignment can be seen as Qatar's ongoing efforts to implement the UNESCO Recommendations. However, further steps and concrete actions are needed to fully integrate the UNESCO Recommendations such as completing the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵⁷³⁰

Evaluation

Qatar is a forward-looking nation with a digital transformation agenda, to propel economic development and sustainability and build a path toward a knowledge-based economy. The formulation of the national AI strategy positions Qatar in a leading space in the Gulf region. Qatar's endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI might provide the country with an opportunity to develop a trustworthy AI approach to policy developments in the field. The enactment of the Data Protection Law (DPL) of 2016 signals the commitment of the country to develop data governance rules, which needs to be furthered by a commitment to algorithmic transparency sustained by an independent supervisory authority. Qatar has made measurable progress in AI literacy through MCIT programs, national forums, civil-service training pathways, and school-level AI workshops. These efforts support the growth of digital skills and responsible use of AI tools among educators, students, and public-sector employees.

⁵⁷²⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *Artificial Intelligence in Qatar—Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Use* (2024), https://prod16-assets.sprinklr.com/prod16-cdata/DAM/160136/2a1a28c1-5405-40f3-8860-f1004f217f09-254242868/MCIT_-_National_AI_Strategy_-_pdf

⁵⁷³⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

Romania

In 2025, Romania continued progress on creating a governance framework aligned with the National AI Strategy and EU AI Act, despite missing the August deadline to designate a supervisory authority. The country supported further discussions on a normative framework on LAWS in the UN General Assembly.

National AI Strategy

Romania's government approved the National AI Strategy 2024–2027 in July 2024.⁵⁷³¹ The strategy aims to foster innovation and guide AI adoption “under conditions of respect for human rights and the promotion of excellence and trust in AI.”⁵⁷³² The strategy acknowledges the need for an AI governance framework and intends to align Romanian governance with European and other international standards. The National AI Strategy sets for a vision of “trustworthy and excellent AI, a driver of economic growth and social well-being in Romania”⁵⁷³³ built on fundamental pillars: trust, excellence, respect for human rights, economic growth, and social well-being. The vision relies on safe and reliable AI developed under state supervision to ensure “the responsible and ethical use of technology” and to direct AI development for economic growth. By contributing to global norms and standards and following an ethical and responsible approach, the Romanian strategy “aims to shape the national evolution of AI to promote economic progress, social well-being and democratic values, stability, and national security.” Responsibility for implementing the National AI Strategy is distributed across Romanian ministries with the Ministry of Education and Research (formerly Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Digitisation) and the Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and tourism (MEDAT) leading the initiative.

The 2024 strategy builds on the 2019 AI strategy,⁵⁷³⁴ which shared a similar mission and alignment with European guidelines for AI adoption.⁵⁷³⁵

⁵⁷³¹ Government of Romania, *National Strategy in the Field of Artificial Intelligence 2024–2027* [*Strategia națională în domeniul inteligenței artificiale 2024–2027*] (Jul. 11, 2024), https://www.mcid.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/20240723_SNIA_2024-2027.pdf

⁵⁷³² Ibid, p. 4

⁵⁷³³ Ibid, p. 8

⁵⁷³⁴ Ministry for Communications and Information Society, *Romania in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Strategy for the Development and Adoption of AI Technology at a Country Level* (2019), https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jQ1_xscTEbR5QZNHfhPPPjY62fDb4/view

⁵⁷³⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Romania's National AI Strategy* (2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/romaniass-national-ai-strategy-3795>

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EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Romania is directly bound by EU Digital Services Act.⁵⁷³⁶ Romania formally implemented the Digital Services Act through Law No. 50/2024,⁵⁷³⁷ which was published in March 2024. The National Authority for Management and Regulations in Communications (ANCOM) was designated as the country's national digital services coordinator, the central body responsible for supervision and enforcement.⁵⁷³⁸

EU AI Act

Romania's public authorities to supervise or enforce the obligations for protecting fundamental rights, including the right to non-discrimination, in relation to the use of high-risk AI systems are as follows:⁵⁷³⁹

- The People's Advocate (Ombudsman)
- National Authority for Consumer Protection
- National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men
- National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD)
- The National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing (ANSPDCP)
- National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption
- Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity / Labor Inspection
- The National Audiovisual Council
- The Permanent Electoral Authority

However, Romania has not yet designated a notifying and market surveillance authority as national competent authorities in accordance with Art 70 of the EU AI Act.⁵⁷⁴⁰

⁵⁷³⁶ European Union, *Digital Services Act* (2025), https://www.eu-digital-services-act.com/Digital_Services_Act_Articles.html

⁵⁷³⁷ Portal Legislativ, *Law No. 50 of March 18, 2024 on the Establishment of Measures for the Application of Regulation (EU) 2022/2.065 (Digital Services Act)*, Official Gazette no. 232 (Mar. 19, 2024), <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/280106>

⁵⁷³⁸ ANCOM, *Digital Services* (Mar. 19, 2024), https://www.ancom.ro/en/print/digital-services_7084

⁵⁷³⁹ Government of Romania, *Romanian Authority for Digitization* (Nov 13, 2024), <https://www.adr.gov.ro/lista-autoritatilor-publice-nationale-care-supravegheaza-sau-asigura-respectarea-obligatiilor-in-temeiul-dreptului-uniunii-care-protejeaza-drepturile-fundamentale-in-conformitate-cu-art-77-al-regula/>

⁵⁷⁴⁰ European Commission, *Market Surveillance Authorities under the AI Act, Single Points of Contact* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/market-surveillance-authorities-under-ai-act#1720699867912-2>

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Public Participation

Romanian laws require transparency and citizen participation in government decision-making⁵⁷⁴¹ and free access to information of public interest.⁵⁷⁴² Keeping with these legal requirements, the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania and the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca jointly coordinated the early-stage public consultation of the Strategic Framework for the Adoption and Use of Innovative Technologies in Public Administration 2021–2027.⁵⁷⁴³ Public consultations were held in 2021 and 2022, involving participation from the public, private, and academic sectors.⁵⁷⁴⁴

In early 2024, the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization (MCID) published the National Strategy in the Field of Artificial Intelligence (SN-IA) 2024–2027 for open consultation prior to the government approval in July 2024.⁵⁷⁴⁵

Additionally, the MCID established the Scientific and Ethics Council in Artificial Intelligence to advise the Romanian Government and national authorities on responsible and ethical use of AI.⁵⁷⁴⁶ The Council is made up of “50% women, approximately 1/3 from the diaspora, have diverse experience, from senior researchers and founders of top institutions abroad, to researchers with a rapidly developing career, who are asserting themselves and building the AI environment in Romania and globally,” suggesting an emphasis on ensuring broad representation.⁵⁷⁴⁷

⁵⁷⁴¹ Parliament, *Law no. 52/2003 (republished) of 01/21/2003 on decisional transparency in public administration* (2003), https://arf.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Law-52-2003r1_en.pdf

⁵⁷⁴² Romanian Parliament, *Law no. 544/2001 of 10/12/2001 on free access to information of public interest* (2001), https://arf.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Lege-544-2001_en.pdf

⁵⁷⁴³ Authority for the Digitalization of Romania, *ADR Launches Public Consultation Process on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Romania [ADR lansează procesul de consultare publică privind utilizarea inteligenței artificiale în România]* (Jul. 14, 2021), <https://www.adr.gov.ro/en/articole/adr-lanseaza-procesul-de-consultare-publica-privind-utilizarea-inteligenței-artificiale-in-romania>

⁵⁷⁴⁴ Ibid; Petre Barac, *ADR and UTCN Organized a Public Consultation on the First National Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Apr. 5, 2022), The Diplomat Bucharest, <https://www.thediplomat.ro/2022/04/05/adr-and-utcn-organized-a-public-consultation-on-the-first-national-artificial-intelligence-strategy/>

⁵⁷⁴⁵ Ministry of Education and Research, *MCID Published the Updated Version of the National Strategy in the field of Artificial Intelligence 2024–2027 in Decision-Making Transparency* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.mcid.gov.ro/mcid-a-publicat-in-transparenta-decizionala-versiunea-actualizata-a-strategiei-nationale-in-domeniul-inteligenței-artificiale-2024-2027-15744/>

⁵⁷⁴⁶ Ministry of Education and Research, *Romania has a Scientific and Ethics Council in Artificial Intelligence* (May 24, 2023), <https://mcid.gov.ro/romania-are-un-consiliu-stiintific-si-de-etica-in-inteligenta-artificiala-11413/>

⁵⁷⁴⁷ Ibid; Ministry of Education and Research, *Scientific and Ethics Council in Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.research.gov.ro/sistemul-de-cercetare/organisme-consultative/consiliu-stiintific-si-de-etica-in-inteligenta-artificiala/>

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Data Protection

Romania is bound by the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679—GDPR), which introduced accountability-based mechanisms such as Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), records of processing activities, and mandatory breach notification obligations.⁵⁷⁴⁸ To operationalize the GDPR, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Communications, in coordination with the National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, enacted Law No. 190/2018 in July 2018,⁵⁷⁴⁹ introducing specific national derogations. The law provides safeguards for high-risk processing, including genetic, biometric, and health data (Art 3), regulates the use of national identification numbers such as the Personal Numeric Code (Art 4), and sets proportionality rules for employee monitoring and background checks (Art 5).⁵⁷⁵⁰ It also establishes tailored limitations for public-sector entities, capping fines for state institutions more narrowly than for private controllers.

Law No. 102/2005 establishes and regulates the structure and enforcement powers of the Romanian National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, which is responsible for supervising both the GDPR and national data protection rules.⁵⁷⁵¹ Romania's National Supervisory Authority joined the Global Privacy Assembly in 2006.⁵⁷⁵² Romania did not sponsor or endorse the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁵⁷⁵³ 2020

⁵⁷⁴⁸ EUR-Lex, *Consolidated Text: Regulation (EU) 2016/679 [...] on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679>

⁵⁷⁴⁹ National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing, Press Release (Jul. 31, 2018), https://www.dataprotection.ro/?lang=en&page=Legea_nr_190_2018; Monitored Oficial, *Legea nr. 190/2018 on measures implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/679 [privind măsuri de punere în aplicare a Regulamentului (UE) 2016/679 privind protecția persoanelor fizice în ceea ce privește prelucrarea datelor cu caracter personal]*, Official Gazette No. 651/26.07.2018 (Jul. 2018), <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/FormaPrintabila/00000G26X9XW0O8Q3N10YHT59H3R90PQ>

⁵⁷⁵⁰ PrivacyOne, *Law No. 190/2018 on the measures for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/679*, Unofficial translation (Oct. 2025), <https://privacyon.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Romanian-GDPR-implementation-law-English-translation.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵¹ National Supervisory Authority for the Processing of Personal Data, *Law no. 102/2005 on the set up, organisation and functioning of the National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing - Republished* (2005), <https://www.dataprotection.ro/servlet/ViewDocument?id=172>

⁵⁷⁵² Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁵⁷⁵³ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), [file:///Users/ayoder/Desktop/2026 Index Master-](file:///Users/ayoder/Desktop/2026%20Index%20Master-)

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Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁵⁷⁵⁴ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁵⁷⁵⁵ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.⁵⁷⁵⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Romanian citizens are granted the rights to algorithmic transparency and contestability through the GDPR.⁵⁷⁵⁷ The GDPR requires individuals be informed when automated decision-making is used, to receive meaningful information about the logic involved, and provides the right not to be subject to decisions based solely on automated processing that produce significant legal or personal effects. The GDPR also grants the right to obtain human intervention and to contest such decisions.

Additionally, Romania has signed and ratified Convention 108+,⁵⁷⁵⁸ which reinforces these protections by ensuring that individuals' views are considered before any solely automated decision is made and that they can obtain information on the underlying processing logic.

Use of AI in Public Administration

The Agency for Financing Rural Investments (AFIR) has been using AI to “help farmers apply for European Union funds” since 2022.⁵⁷⁵⁹ The agency has reportedly processed financing requests worth 5.32 billion euros (\$5.75 billion) from more than 50,000 farmers, companies, and local institutions—saving an estimated

Subs/ https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁵⁷⁵⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵⁷ European Union, *GDPR*, (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

⁵⁷⁵⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Oct 7, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

⁵⁷⁵⁹ Luiza Ilie, *Romanian State Agency Turns to AI to Help Farmers Tap EU Funds* (Mar. 25, 2024), Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/romanian-state-agency-turns-ai-help-farmers-tap-eu-funds-2024-03-25/>

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784 days of document searches. The efficiency marks a positive development for Romania, which has lagged behind other European countries in providing digital public services for citizens and businesses.⁵⁷⁶⁰ AFIR's adoption of AI could strengthen Romania's ability to leverage the EU development funds more effectively and demonstrates the broader potential for AI to enhance efficiency across the country's public administration.

Use of AI in Elections

In December 2024, Romania's Constitutional Court annulled the presidential election, citing vote manipulation through non-transparent and unlawful use of digital technologies and AI during the campaign.⁵⁷⁶¹ The ruling underscores the misuse of AI undermines electoral processes and the governance challenge of safeguarding the integrity and stability of democratic elections.

Environmental Impact of AI

As an EU member state, Romania is bound by the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/1791), that requires "large data centres with an installed IT power demand of at least 500 kW" to publish annual energy consumption reports (Art 12).⁵⁷⁶² The National AI Strategy doesn't explicitly address AI's impact on the environment.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Romania is a high contracting party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁵⁷⁶³ and a member of the CCW Eastern Europe Group (EEG).⁵⁷⁶⁴ Romania has implicitly aligned with the European Union (EU) support

⁵⁷⁶⁰ Eurostat, *Digital Public Services for Citizens and Businesses (isoc_ciegi_ac)*, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/isoc_ciegi_ac_custom_15335971

⁵⁷⁶¹ Stephen McGrath, *Romania's Far-Right Presidential Candidate Denounces Canceled Vote at Closed Polling Station* (Dec. 8, 2024), AP News, <https://apnews.com/article/georgescu-romania-elections-9e64a5420df7314f07d34644b5cbeaa9>; Constitutional Court of Romania, *Decision No. 32 of 6 December 2024 on the annulment of the electoral process for the election of the President of Romania in 2024*, Official Gazette, Part I, No. 1231 (Dec. 6, 2024), https://www.ccr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Hotarare_32_2024.pdf

⁵⁷⁶² European Union, *Directive (EU) 2023/1791 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj>

⁵⁷⁶³ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁵⁷⁶⁴ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

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for an international treaty on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), as in a 2020 EU statement at the UN General Assembly First Committee supporting a “normative and operational framework” on autonomous weapons systems.⁵⁷⁶⁵ The EU submission to the 2024 UN Secretary-General Report on LAWS⁵⁷⁶⁶ reiterated the need for a normative framework and stressed that “human beings must make the decisions with regard to the use of lethal force, exert control over the lethal weapons systems that they use and remain accountable for decisions over the use of force in order to ensure compliance with international law.”

Romania has not made a definitive, independent statement on the use of LAWS. However, Romania voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution on the implications of AI in the military domain in 2025.⁵⁷⁶⁷ The Resolution calls for sharing perspectives on the report of the Secretary-General and “existing and emerging normative proposals and next steps.”

AI Literacy

Romania’s National AI Strategy aims to increase the basic level of understanding of the population on the benefits, use, and regulation of AI through the pre-university education system.⁵⁷⁶⁸ Beyond the education system, the Strategy includes initiatives for bootcamp-like courses on the benefits, risks, and use of AI tools. The Strategy promotes several national level programs aimed at fostering general AI literacy for the public and upskilling the workforce. The AI Strategy cites the Strategy for the Digitalization of Education in Romania, 2021–2027 as a model with pillars on developing relevant skills for digital transformation and a high-performing education ecosystem. The Strategy identifies AI as a tool that could help with the second pillar. For skills, the strategy focuses on high-school mathematics and computer science specializations. Initiatives include “courses and public information campaigns for the general population targeting different social and professional categories to explain the basic technological concepts, benefits and risks of AI applications.”⁵⁷⁶⁹

⁵⁷⁶⁵ UN General Assembly First Committee, *EU General Statement* (Oct. 9 2020), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com20/statements/9Oct_EU.pdf

⁵⁷⁶⁶ UN Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, p. 118 (May 25, 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059475?v=pdf>

⁵⁷⁶⁷ UN Meetings and Press Releases, *General Assembly Adopts More than 60 Resolutions, Decisions of Its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)* (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://press.un.org/en/2025/ga12736.doc.htm>

⁵⁷⁶⁸ Government of Romania, *National Strategy in the Field of Artificial Intelligence 2024-2027 [Strategia națională în domeniul inteligenței artificiale 2024–2027]*, p. 77 (Jul. 11, 2024), https://www.mcid.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/20240723_SNIA_2024-2027.pdf

⁵⁷⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 41

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Human Rights

Romania has ratified most of the universal and European human rights treaties.⁵⁷⁷⁰ Under Article 20 of the Constitution of Romania, these international human rights instruments guide the interpretation of constitutional rights, and—where domestic legislation conflicts with them—the international standards prevail unless Romanian law offers more favorable protection.⁵⁷⁷¹

Freedom House rates Romania as “Free” with a score of 82/100 for political rights and civil liberties.⁵⁷⁷² Constitutional protections for civil liberties, including freedom of expression, assembly, and political participation bolster the score. Systemic corruption, businesses’ manipulation of media for political interests, and discrimination against people from ethnic and religious minority groups remain problems.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Romania endorsed the OECD AI Principles as a Non-Member in 2019.⁵⁷⁷³ Romania’s National AI Strategy aligns with the OECD AI Principles and G20 AI Guidelines by promoting ethical AI development, data protection, and trustworthy AI systems.⁵⁷⁷⁴ Romania is also implementing the EU AI Act, ensuring high-risk AI systems meet human oversight, explainability, and risk assessment requirements, which aligns with OECD and G20 recommendations.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Romania participated in negotiations for the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law as a member of the European Union and Council of Europe.⁵⁷⁷⁵ Romania is party to the treaty

⁵⁷⁷⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Human Rights, A Priority of Romanian Foreign Policy [Drepturile omului, o prioritate a politicii externe românești]*, <https://www.mae.ro/node/3133>

⁵⁷⁷¹ Monitorul Oficial, *Constitution of Romania* (1991, revised 2003), <https://www.constitutiaromaniei.ro>

⁵⁷⁷² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Romania* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/romania/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁷⁷³ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁵⁷⁷⁴ Government of Romania, *National Strategy in the Field of Artificial Intelligence 2024-2027 [Strategia națională în domeniul inteligenței artificiale 2024-2027]* (Jul. 11, 2024), https://www.mcid.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/20240723_SNIA_2024-2027.pdf

⁵⁷⁷⁵ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/t/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

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through the EU signature but has not yet signed or ratified the treaty on the national level.⁵⁷⁷⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a UNESCO Member State, Romania has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.⁵⁷⁷⁷ Romania's National AI Strategy addresses ethical AI principles and the attention to preparing citizens to benefit from AI technology through literacy and workforce training, along with the vision to employ AI for social as well as economic well-being align with the Recommendation's underlying values. The country is not listed as one of the countries implementing the Readiness Assessment Methodology.⁵⁷⁷⁸

Evaluation

Romania's National AI Strategy sets out a framework to foster innovation while embedding safeguards around human rights, transparency, and managing risks associated with AI. While Romania has identified authorities for fundamental rights oversight, the is still working to officially designated the market surveillance and notifying authorities mandated by the EU AI Act, creating uncertainty around future enforcement. Romania has endorsed notable global frameworks—including the OECD AI Principles, the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—and adheres to EU and UN standards. It has not signed the Council of Europe AI Treaty.

Romanian citizens benefit from strong data protections through the application of the GDPR and the country's ratification of Convention of 108+, ensuring rights to algorithmic transparency. The National AI Strategy emphasizes enhancing AI Literacy, with commitments to integrate AI education into school curricula, expand public information campaigns, and support workforce adjustment through national reskilling programs. This strategy addresses Romania's digitalization gap and positions AI adoption as a way to strengthen efficiency, as demonstrated by the AI-enabled improvements at the Agency for Financing Rural Investments (AFIR). Overall, Romania's AI policies and practices reflect strong

⁵⁷⁷⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 25, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-bytreaty&treaty=225>

⁵⁷⁷⁷ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-statesadopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁷⁷⁸ Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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normative alignment with democratic AI governance principles but challenges to consistent, effective implementation.

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Russia

In 2025, Russia amended the National AI Strategy and extended through 2030. The country created a working group to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework on artificial intelligence as federal laws on experimental legal regimes for digital innovations, including AI, entered into force.

National AI Strategy

Russian president Vladimir Putin famously said, in a 2017 address to students in Moscow, “Artificial intelligence is the future not only of Russia but of all of mankind. There are huge opportunities, but also threats that are difficult to foresee today. Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world.”⁵⁷⁷⁹ Putin then stated that it is better to avoid a monopoly on the sector and promised that if Russia became the leader in developing AI, then Russia will share their technology with the rest of the world, just as they share their atomic and nuclear technology today. Later, Putin suggested that “the nuclear arms control treaties of the Cold War could be a guide” for addressing the social impacts of advances in areas such as artificial intelligence.⁵⁷⁸⁰

Russia's national strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) was announced in October 2019.⁵⁷⁸¹ The strategy defines the goals and primary objectives of the development of artificial intelligence as well as the measures aimed at its use for protecting national interests and implementing strategic national priorities, including those in the field of scientific and technological development. President Putin amended the Strategy by Decree in February 2024.⁵⁷⁸² The amendments aim to promote the development and application of AI technologies in Russia with a focus on sectors such as healthcare, education, industry, and defense. The strategy sets a target of increasing the readiness of critical industries to implement AI to 95% by

⁵⁷⁷⁹ Radina Gigova, *Who Vladimir Putin thinks will rule the world*, CNN (Sept. 2, 2017), <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/01/world/putin-artificial-intelligence-will-rule-world/index.html>

⁵⁷⁸⁰ Reuters, *What Did Putin Say on War and Peace, WW3 and AI?* (Feb 9, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-did-putin-say-war-peace-ww3-ai-2024-02-09/>

⁵⁷⁸¹ President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Russian Federation* [Translation of 2019 version] Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Oct. 28, 2019), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Decree-of-the-President-of-the-Russian-Federation-on-the-Development-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-the-Russian-Federation-.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸² President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on "On Amendments to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of October 10, 2019. No. 490 "On the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Russian Federation" and the National Strategy approved by this Decree,"* Artificial Intelligence of the Russian Federation (Feb. 15, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202402150063>

2030, up from 12% in 2022, and aims to increase annual spending on AI to RUB 850 billion. The strategy also addresses challenges such as a lack of computing power, personnel shortages, and new types of threats in the field of information security.

The goals of the development of AI in the Russian Federation include the improvement of the well-being and quality of life of the population, national security and rule of law, and sustainable competitiveness of the Russian economy,⁵⁷⁸³ including leading positions the world over in the field of AI. The primary objective of the Russian development of AI is to support scientific AI research, engineering AI software development, data quality, hardware availability, qualified personnel and integrated system to extend Russian artificial intelligence technology market.

In the strategy,⁵⁷⁸⁴ the basic principles of the development and use of artificial intelligence technologies include the protection of human rights and liberties, security, transparency, technological sovereignty, innovation cycle integrity, reasonable thrift, and support for competition in the field of artificial intelligence. The strategy imagines AI technologies to improve the standard of living by bolstering the quality of healthcare services, education services, and provision of public and municipal services, as well as the reduction of the cost of these services.⁵⁷⁸⁵

In 2020, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Development of Regulatory Relations in the Field of Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Technologies by 2024.⁵⁷⁸⁶ The main purpose of the Decree is to set forth basic approaches to transforming the regulatory framework in the Russian Federation to enable the development and use of such technologies across various economic sectors while upholding citizens' rights and protecting the security of individuals, the public and the state. The Decree also enshrines some important principles. It clearly defines the need for accountability for possible negative consequences of using AI. The Decree also defined a human-centric approach, which asserts that the ultimate goal of the development of artificial intelligence and robotics technologies, guided by regulatory influence, is to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms

⁵⁷⁸³ President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Russian Federation [Translation of 2019 version]* Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Oct. 28, 2019), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Decree-of-the-President-of-the-Russian-Federation-on-the-Development-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-the-Russian-Federation-.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸⁴ Ibid

⁵⁷⁸⁵ Ibid

⁵⁷⁸⁶ Garant, *Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 2129-r On Approval of the Concept for the Development of Regulation of Relations in the Field of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technologies for the Period up to 2024 [Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 19 августа 2020 г. № 2129-р Об утверждении Концепции развития регулирования отношений в сфере технологий искусственного интеллекта и робототехники на период до 2024 г.]* (Aug. 27, 2020), <https://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/74460628/#1000>

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guaranteed by Russian and international law and to improve the well-being and quality of life of citizens.

Russia enacted amendments to the law requiring legal entities and individual entrepreneurs participating in “experimental legal regimes” in the field of digital innovations to insure against civil liability for harm caused to the life, health, or property of others during implementation of the experimental legal regime, including harm resulting from the use of AI technologies.⁵⁷⁸⁷

President Putin addressed the 17th Congress of the Russian Geographical Society in October 2025, urging AI developers to draw on the Society's collections to ground AI models in Russia's culture, history, and values. Putin cautioned that relying on foreign AI models leads to technological and ideological dependence and the erosion of sovereignty.⁵⁷⁸⁸ His instructions to the government, Sberbank, Yandex, and other organizations to develop proposals for domestic generative AI models and an electronic component base and to draft a national plan for AI implementation across the economy and social sphere align with this initiative. His instructions also required all ministries and agencies to report comprehensively on AI use across the economy, social sphere, and regions by March 2026.⁵⁷⁸⁹

President Putin established the Presidential Commission on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in February 2026, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office, to coordinate federal and regional AI development and implementation and to address key risks arising from AI systems.⁵⁷⁹⁰

Digital Economy in Russia

Russian government has put high priority and already achieved some remarkable accomplishments in Digital Transformation. A key strategic objective formulated by its leadership in the May 2018 Presidential Decree (The Decree on the National Goals and Strategic National Development Tasks of the Russian Federation

⁵⁷⁸⁷ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law No. 169-FZ On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Experimental Legal Regimes in the Sphere of Digital Innovations in the Russian Federation"* [Федеральный закон от 08.07.2024 № 169-ФЗ "О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон "Об экспериментальных правовых режимах в сфере цифровых инноваций в Российской Федерации"] (Jul. 8, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202407080020>

⁵⁷⁸⁸ President of Russia, *The 17th Congress of the Russian Geographical Society* (Oct. 23, 2025), <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/78274>

⁵⁷⁸⁹ Presidency of Russia, *Instructions following the AI Journey International Conference* (Nov. 2025), <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/78992>

⁵⁷⁹⁰ Presidency of Russia, *Presidential Commission on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies Established* (Feb. 2026), <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/councils/by-council/1050/79224>

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until 2024)⁵⁷⁹¹ is that policymakers must build on the country's traditional industrial strengths, develop new technology processes for fast implementation in all the main competitive domains and continuously tackle any obstacles.⁵⁷⁹²

President Putin enacted a new decree in 2024 updating the national development goals through 2030.⁵⁷⁹³ The 2024 decree identifies digital transformation of state and municipal governance, the economy, and the social sphere as a standalone national development goal and directs the government to develop a new national project on the Data Economy and Digital Transformation of the State.

The Russian government has centered the development of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in pursuing digital innovation. Two recent resolutions introduce experimental legal frameworks for the advancement of UAS in designated areas. Resolution No. 185⁵⁷⁹⁴ establishes an experimental regime in Innopolis, Tatarstan, aimed at fostering digital innovation through the development and testing of UAS technologies within a regulated environment. Resolution No. 641⁵⁷⁹⁵ extends this experimental regime to Moscow. This expansion aims to apply similar principles to a larger urban environment, exploring the potential integration of UAS within a highly populated city. Both resolutions underscore Russia's commitment to digital innovation by testing UAS in diverse environments, addressing regulatory needs, and setting the stage for broader adoption of drone technology in urban and innovative hubs.

President Putin issued instructions in March 2025, directing the Government and Roscosmos to coordinate satellite infrastructure and airspace frameworks for UAS development, expand experimental legal regimes for drone testing, and advance

⁵⁷⁹¹ President of Russia, *The President signed Executive Order on National Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Russian Federation through to 2024* (May 7, 2018), <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/57425>

⁵⁷⁹² World Bank Group, *Competing in Digital Age: Policy Implications for the Russian Federation* (Sept. 2018), <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/860291539115402187/pdf/Competing-in-the-Digital-Age-Policy-Implications-for-the-Russian-Federation-Russia-Digital-Economy-Report.pdf>

⁵⁷⁹³ Official Publication of Legal Acts, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 309 On the National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030 and for the Future up to 2036* [Указ Президента Российской Федерации от 7 мая 2024 г. № 309 «О национальных целях развития Российской Федерации на период до 2030 года и на перспективу до 2036 года»] (May 7, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202405070015>

⁵⁷⁹⁴ Government of the Russian Federation, *Resolution N° 185* (Feb. 17, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202402190024>

⁵⁷⁹⁵ Government of the Russian Federation, *Resolution N° 641* (May 23, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202405240044>

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a national project on unmanned aviation systems in cooperation with the National Technology Initiative.⁵⁷⁹⁶

Due to limitations on funding related to COVID-19 and sanctions, the funding available for development of AI projects was reduced. Moreover, the findings of 2021 research suggest that Russia's AI strategy had in many ways been stifled by the country's poor climate for innovation and investment, as well as budget cuts due to COVID-19.⁵⁷⁹⁷ IntelliNews announced in 2023 that the military invasion of Ukraine caused Russia to slash support for the development of AI technologies more than 10-fold.⁵⁷⁹⁸

AI Strategy for Russian Start-ups

Russia aims to increase the start-up ecosystem and many companies have been helped by the traditional hard science education in the country.⁵⁷⁹⁹ This report breaks down the importance of Artificial Intelligence in Russian startups, with a large number of startups active in AI. At the same time, the war with Ukraine has had a dramatic effect on the Russian IT industry. It has led to many IT professionals to leave the country, thus impacting the AI industry in the country.⁵⁸⁰⁰ However, the Russian government has sought avenues to reverse drawbacks of the war by promoting international cooperation. President Putin issued instructions directing the government and Sberbank to deepen cooperation with China on AI research and development in 2024.⁵⁸⁰¹ At the AI Journey 2024 conference, Putin also announced the launch of the BRICS AI Alliance Network, positioning Russia to chair its secretariat and lead a multilateral AI cooperation framework among BRICS nations and other interested states.⁵⁸⁰²

⁵⁷⁹⁶ Presidency of Russia, *Instructions Following the Meeting on Developing Unmanned Aircraft Systems* (Mar. 19, 2025), <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/76506>

⁵⁷⁹⁷ Stephanie Petrella, Chris Miller, Benjamin Cooper, *Russia's Artificial Intelligence Strategy: The Role of State-Owned Firms*, Orbis, Volume 65, Issue 1, pp. 75-100, (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orbis.2020.11.004>

⁵⁷⁹⁸ IntelliNews, *Russia to Slash AI Development Support* (Jan. 19, 2023), <https://www.intelinews.com/russia-to-slash-ai-development-support-267359/?source=russia>

⁵⁷⁹⁹ GMIS, *Artificial Intelligence: A Strategy for Russian start-up* (Jun. 11, 2019), <https://cms-files.gmisummit.com/static/pdf/49b5cf7a114d5c6871f90c099ffa8258>

⁵⁸⁰⁰ Johannes Wachs, *Digital Traces of Brain Drain: Developers during the Russian Invasion of Ukraine* (Sept. 2, 2022) <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2209.01041.pdf>

⁵⁸⁰¹ President of Russia, *Instructions Following the Journey to the World Artificial Intelligence Conference* (Dec. 30, 2024), <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/76218>

⁵⁸⁰² President of Russia, *AI Journey Conference* (Dec. 11, 2024), <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/75830>

AI Legislation

The Government of Russia is establishing a national Center for the Development of AI to coordinate model solutions and provide expert and methodological support across government entities.⁵⁸⁰³ Russia's 2020 law to regulate the conditions for developing and implementing AI technologies⁵⁸⁰⁴ though an amendment to the bill disallows foreign firms from applying to participate in the experimental regime. In addition to Russian firms whose share of participating in foreign legal entities registered in offshore zones amounts to 50 percent or more.⁵⁸⁰⁵

Russia is developing AI regulation in the fields of autonomous vehicles and healthcare. In the area of autonomous vehicles, the Russian Government issued a regulation on highly automated vehicles on public roads in 2018 to allow the testing of autonomous vehicles.⁵⁸⁰⁶ In 2020, Russia adopted the concept of road safety with autonomous vehicles on public roads and in 2021, the Russian government began developing measures for the testing of highly automated vehicles on public roads.⁵⁸⁰⁷ In the area of healthcare, Russia established Rules for registering AI systems as medical software devices to simplify AI system registration procedures.⁵⁸⁰⁸

The Russian Government supports the initiative on autonomous vehicle development. In 2022, the Russian Government adopted regulation No. 1849⁵⁸⁰⁹ on

⁵⁸⁰³ Government of Russia, *The Government of Russia Is Establishing a Center for the Development of Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 11, 2025), <https://i-regions.ru/eng/press-sluzhba/novosti/the-government-of-russia-is-establishing-a-center-for-the-development-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁸⁰⁴ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law of 24.04.2020 № 123-FZ "On conducting an experiment to establish special regulations in order to create the necessary conditions for the development and implementation of artificial intelligence technologies [...] and amending Articles 6 and 10 of the Federal Law "On Personal Data" ["О проведении эксперимента по установлению специального регулирования в целях создания необходимых условий для разработки и внедрения технологий искусственного интеллекта в субъекте Российской Федерации - городе федерального значения Москве и внесении изменений в статьи 6 и 10 Федерального закона "О персональных данных"]* (Apr. 24, 2020), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202004240030>

⁵⁸⁰⁵ CNA, *Artificial Intelligence in Russia*, Issue 7, p. 2 (Jul. 31, 2020), <https://www.cna.org/reports/2020/07/artificial-intelligence-in-russia-issue-7>

⁵⁸⁰⁶ Library of Congress, *Russia: Government Begins Testing Driverless Cars* (Jan. 18, 2019), <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2019-01-18/russia-government-begins-testing-driverless-cars/>

⁵⁸⁰⁷ International Information Group (Interfax), *Russia to Test Fully Autonomous Vehicles on Public Roads in 2021–2024* (Mar. 15, 2021), <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/71342/>

⁵⁸⁰⁸ WEBIOMED, *On the rules for registering software as a medical device in Russia* (Oct. 02, 2020), <https://webiomed.ru/en/blog/on-the-rules-for-registering-software-as-a-medical-device-in-russia/>

⁵⁸⁰⁹ CIS Legislation, *Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of October 17, 2022, No. 1849* [unofficial translation] (Sept. 21, 2024), <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=145114>

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"On establishing an experimental legal regime in the field of digital innovation and approval of the Program of experimental legal regime in the field of digital innovation for the operation of highly automated vehicles for the implementation of the initiative 'Unmanned logistics corridors.'" The regulation provides definition of automatic driven system, automatic control mode and unmanned cargo transportation; establishes procedures and requirements for operators of vehicles, describes risks.⁵⁸¹⁰

Digital Rights Law and AI Regulation

According to the OECD, Russia's Digital Rights Law, which came into force in October 2019, introduced several new legal concepts, including digital rights, e-transactions, smart contracts, and big data.⁵⁸¹¹ The law aimed to enable the development of an efficient legal framework of digital economy in Russia, reflecting current digital technologies and challenges including big data and AI.

Russia's national AI strategy includes a draft legal framework on AI Technologies and Robotics that focuses on eliminating excessive legal barriers. The initiative aims to give guidance for regulators and is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Development.⁵⁸¹²

Considering that AI technology is mainly used by state authority in Russia as a means of digital authoritarianism, the new initiative on the development of AI technology for the public authority needs to be drafted. Thus, in October 2022 the Russian State Duma passed in the first reading a bill regulating the development of artificial intelligence and information technologies by means of concession agreements and agreements on public-private and municipal-private partnership.⁵⁸¹³

The Federation Council formed a working group under its Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building in January 2025 to develop a national AI regulatory framework by reviewing international processes.⁵⁸¹⁴ The State Duma

⁵⁸¹⁰ Ibid

⁵⁸¹¹ Government of Russia, Official Internet Portal for Legal Information, Federal Law of 18.03.2019 No. 34-FZ "On Amendments to Parts One, Two and Article 1124 of Part Three of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation [GT], <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001201903180027>

⁵⁸¹² President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on Amendments to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of October 10, 2019 No. 490 "On the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Russian Federation" and the National Strategy approved by this Decree* (Feb. 15, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202402150063>

⁵⁸¹³ Tass, *The State Duma Passed in the First Reading a Bill on the Development of Artificial Intelligence with the Help of PPPs* (Oct. 19, 2022), <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/16099497>

⁵⁸¹⁴ Official Internet Portal for the Activities of the Federation Council, *The SF Has Created a Working Group to Improve Legislation in the Field of AI* (Jan. 28, 2025),

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established an inter-factional working group to develop legislation on the use of AI in April 2025.⁵⁸¹⁵ The Ministry of Digital Development and Mass Communications completed public consultations in September 2025, on a proposed experiment to use generative AI in public administration and began preparing a draft regulation for Cabinet approval.⁵⁸¹⁶

Data Protection

There are many laws in Russia that regulate the processing of personal data, including the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Council of Europe Convention 108+, and federal law.⁵⁸¹⁷ The Law on Personal Data of 2006 is the most comprehensive federal law and sets out broad rights and responsibilities associated with the collection and use of personal data.⁵⁸¹⁸ The Roskomnadzor, Russia's data protection agency, interprets the federal law and brings enforcement actions.

Russia is moving to update and expand its national data protection law.⁵⁸¹⁹ A draft law on the Protection of Consumer Rights would limit the ability of companies to collect personal data from consumers, unless there is a legal basis or the data is necessary for the transaction. A proposed law in the Duma would expand penalties for breach of personal data confidentiality and infringement of personal data anonymization rules. This proposal was enacted through Federal Law No. 420-FZ of November 30, 2024, which entered into force on May 30, 2025, significantly increasing administrative fines for personal data violations and tightening data

https://senatinform.ru/news/v_sf_sozdali_rabochuyu_gruppu_po_sovershenstvovaniyu_zakonodatelstva_v_oblasti_ii/

⁵⁸¹⁵ BRICS Competition Law & Policy Center, *Russia's State Duma Forms Working Group to Regulate AI* (Apr. 9, 2025), <https://www.bricscompetition.org/news/russias-state-duma-forms-working-group-to-regulate-ai>

⁵⁸¹⁶ Library of Congress Global Legal Monitor, *Russian Federation: Government Identifies Areas for Use of AI in Public Administration* (Jan. 2, 2026), <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2026-01-02/russian-federation-government-identifies-areas-for-use-of-ai-in-public-administration/>

⁵⁸¹⁷ *Constitution of the Russian Federation* (Articles 23 and 24), <http://archive.government.ru/eng/gov/base/54.html>

⁵⁸¹⁸ Roskomnadzor, *Federal Law of 27 July 2006 N 152-FZ on Personal Data*, https://eng.rkn.gov.ru/personal_data/protecting_the_rights_of_personal_data_subjects/; also see DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws in Russia* (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/?t=law&c=RU>

⁵⁸¹⁹ Olga Novinskaya, *Recent changes in personal data regulation in Russia*, *International Lawyers Network* (Nov. 12, 2020), <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/recent-changes-in-personal-data-58095/>.

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localization requirements for organizations processing Russian citizens' personal data using foreign infrastructure.⁵⁸²⁰

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law establishing guidelines for processing depersonalized personal data in August 2024.⁵⁸²¹ This legislation permits the transfer of facial images and voice recordings of Moscow residents in a depersonalized format for further processing, without requiring the individual's consent. The law authorizes the Ministry of Digital Development (Минцифры) to define personal data categories that, once anonymized, can be grouped by specific characteristics, provided they remain non-identifiable.

The law excludes the formation of datasets from biometric information, and data security will be overseen by the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Federal Service for Technical and Export Control (FSTEC). In Moscow, this law also introduces changes for an AI technology experiment, allowing regional authorities to use depersonalized facial images and voice recordings to enhance municipal and state administration. However, strict limitations prevent data use if it risks harming individuals, the environment, or national security. The law took effect on September 1, 2025, following further guidelines from Roskomnadzor on data anonymization standards. Updated data localization provisions of the Law on Personal Data of 2006 entered into force in July 2025,⁵⁸²² requiring all infrastructure elements involved in the collection, storage, and processing of personal data of Russian citizens be located within Russia. The amendment extended the obligation beyond servers alone to all processing infrastructure.

Algorithmic Transparency

The Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted an Opinion that considered the cessation of Russia's membership to the Council of Europe (CoE) under Article 8 of the Statute on March 15, 2022.⁵⁸²³ However, Russia's ratification

⁵⁸²⁰ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law No. 420-FZ On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation* (Nov. 30, 2024), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202411300011>

⁵⁸²¹ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law No. 233-FZ on Amendments to the Federal Law "on Personal Data" and the Federal Law "on Conducting an Experiment to Establish Special Regulation in order to Create the Necessary Conditions for the Development and Implementation of Artificial Intelligence Technologies"* (Aug. 8, 2024), <http://actual.pravo.gov.ru/content/content.html#pnun=0001202408080031>

⁵⁸²² Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law No. 23-FZ on Amendments to the Federal Law "On Personal Data" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation* (Feb. 28, 2025), <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202502280034>

⁵⁸²³ Council of Europe, *The Russian Federation is excluded from the Council of Europe* (March 16, 2022) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/the-russian-federation-is-excluded-from-the-council-of-europe>

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of Convention 108 remains valid as a non-member state.⁵⁸²⁴ Russian data protection law does broadly provide rights of access and transparency to the data subject in automatic decision-making,⁵⁸²⁵ and Russia signed but has not ratified CoE Convention 108+.⁵⁸²⁶

Facial Recognition

Russia is moving rapidly to deploy AI-based face surveillance across the country, often with government funding that goes to business associates of President Putin. According to the *Moscow Times*, more than 43,000 Russian schools will be equipped with facial recognition cameras ominously named “Orwell.”⁵⁸²⁷ The system will be integrated with face recognition developed by NTechLab, a subsidiary of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s associate Sergei Chemezov’s Rostec conglomerate. NTechLab has already deployed facial recognition technology in Moscow to identify criminal suspects across a network of almost 200,000 surveillance cameras. “Critics have accused the technology of violating citizens’ privacy and have staged protests against the system by painting their faces,” reported *Moscow Times*.

Kommersant daily reported in September 2020 that CCTV cameras with facial recognition software, already used in Moscow, will be installed by the regional authorities in public spaces and at the entryway of apartment buildings in 10 pilot cities across Russia with the purported aim of protecting public safety.⁵⁸²⁸ Moscow authorities are also planning to expand the use of this technology, installing CCTV cameras with facial recognition software in trams and underground trains.

Human Rights Watch said “The authorities’ intention to expand the use of invasive technology across the country causes serious concern over the potential threat to privacy. Russia’s track record of rights violations means that the authorities should be prepared to answer tough questions to prove they are not undermining

⁵⁸²⁴ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 108* (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=108>

⁵⁸²⁵ DataGuidance, *Russia — Privacy Overview* (Jun. 21, 2025), <https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/russia-privacy-overview>

⁵⁸²⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁵⁸²⁷ *Moscow Times*, *Russia to Install ‘Orwell’ Facial Recognition Tech in Every School – Vedomosti* (Jun. 16, 2020), <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/06/16/russia-to-install-orwell-facial-recognition-tech-in-every-school-vedomosti-a70585>

⁵⁸²⁸ *Kommersant*, *Regions Will Recognize by Sight: Moscow Video Surveillance System Will Be Launched in Ten More Cities* (Sept. 25, 2020), <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4503379>

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people's rights by pretending to protect public safety.”⁵⁸²⁹ HRW also stated that Russian national security laws and surveillance practices enable law enforcement agencies to access practically any data in the name of protecting public safety.

Earlier in 2020, Amnesty International criticized Russia's plans to broaden the use of widespread facial-recognition systems, saying their expected deployment during public gatherings will “inevitably have a chilling effect” on protesters.⁵⁸³⁰

The face detection system has been used for tracking conscripts in Moscow as stated on BBC in October 2022. According to a recent study by the information and analytical agency *TelecomDaily*, more than 13 million CCTV cameras existed in Russia in 2020.⁵⁸³¹ The face detection systems are spread over the Russian regions. When it came to the number of cameras per 1,000 people, Russia also ranked third, after the United States and China.⁵⁸³² As BBC noted, the Moscow Unified Data Center (UDChD), which is connected to the facial recognition system, is planning to transfer data from other regions of Russia to collect and systematize personal data.⁵⁸³³

The facial recognition surveillance has been used to limit public expression. In 2022, police detained at least 43 people in the Moscow metro, clearly fearing protests. Among them were journalists and activists, whose photos were clearly marked in the system in a special way. In this case, as soon as the right person enters the station, the system reports this to law enforcement agencies.⁵⁸³⁴

Leaked government budget documents in 2024 confirmed a 12 billion rouble plan to centralize all surveillance camera data nationwide into a unified Video Stream Processing Center using NTechLab software, with the stated purpose of identifying “destructive and disloyal behavior.”⁵⁸³⁵ Through Decree No. 1510 in November 2024, the Russian government established an experimental biometric border control program requiring all foreign nationals entering Russia to provide facial images and

⁵⁸²⁹ Human Rights Watch, *Russia Expands Facial Recognition Despite Privacy Concerns - Lack of Accountability, Oversight, Data Protection* (Oct. 2, 2020),

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/02/russia-expands-facial-recognition-despite-privacy-concerns>

⁵⁸³⁰ Radio Free Europe, *Watchdog Warns About 'Chilling Effect' Of Russia's Use Of Facial-Recognition Technology* (Jan. 31, 2020), <https://www.rferl.org/a/watchdog-warns-about-chilling-effect-of-russia-s-use-of-facial-recognition-technology/30410014.html>

⁵⁸³¹ RadioFreeEurope, *We See You! How Russia Has Expanded Its Video-Surveillance System* (Jan. 19, 2021), <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-video-surveillance/31052482.html>

⁵⁸³² Ibid

⁵⁸³³ BBC, *From the Subway to the Front. How Moscow Authorities Monitor "Dodgers" with the Help of Facial Recognition System* (Oct. 24, 2022), https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-63346138?ocid=wsrussian.social.in-app-messaging.telegram..russiantelegram_.edit

⁵⁸³⁴ BBC, *Anger, Fear and Silhouettes. Moscow Mayor's Office Reveals Algorithms That Recognize People by Their Faces* (Aug. 22, 2022), <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-62658404>

⁵⁸³⁵ Biometric Update, *Leaked Documents Reveal Details on Russia's Upcoming Surveillance System* (Apr. 2, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202404/leaked-documents-reveal-details-on-russias-upcoming-surveillance-system>

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fingerprints.⁵⁸³⁶ The requirements extended to all Russian border crossing points from June 30, 2025. Lithuania's State Security Department confirmed in October 2025 that Russia is developing a centralized video surveillance system integrating facial recognition and AI tools, with plans to connect all public surveillance into a unified data system by 2030.⁵⁸³⁷

AI for Censorship

Roskomnadzor, a Russian agency founded to establish telecom licensing requirements, has become an online censorship authority monitoring online protest activities since 2020.⁵⁸³⁸ In every Russian region, local branches of Roskomnadzor trace “points of tension,” or events that could cause public discontent. Their primary goal is to identify local troublemakers whose names they then share with the Federal Security Services (FSB) and the Interior Ministry to ensure they are punished.

Independent investigative stories and the Russian pro-government business daily Kommersant have reported that Roskomnadzor is experimenting with the use of AI to enhance its control and censorship of online information. Specifically, the agency is testing AI technologies to refine its monitoring of news and information on Runet (the Russian Internet). This could lead to increasingly sophisticated censorship techniques that go beyond the current systems, which mainly focus on searching for prohibited keywords on the Internet and social media platforms.⁵⁸³⁹

President Putin signed Federal Law No. 303-FZ in August 2024, requiring Roskomnadzor to maintain a register of all bloggers and influencers with more than 10,000 followers, prohibiting unregistered accounts from advertising or monetizing content, and mandating that social networks and messaging platforms provide user information to Roskomnadzor or the FSB upon request.⁵⁸⁴⁰ In 2026, Roskomnadzor

⁵⁸³⁶ Library of Congress Global Legal Monitor, *Russian Federation: New Border Crossing Rules Implemented* (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2025-11-13/russian-federation-new-border-crossing-rules-implemented>

⁵⁸³⁷ State Security Department of the Republic of Lithuania and Defence Intelligence and Security Service, *National Threat Assessment 2025* (Mar. 7, 2025), <https://kam.lt/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-GR-ENG-02-21-El-be-uzraso.pdf>

⁵⁸³⁸ Moscow Times, *How the Kremlin Quietly Built Russia's Surveillance State* (Nov. 18, 2022), <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/11/12/how-the-kremlin-quietly-built-russias-surveillance-state-a79307>

⁵⁸³⁹ Reporters without Borders, *RSF Is Concerned about Russia's Media Regulator Experiments with AI Use in Censorship* (May 27, 2024), <https://rsf.org/en/rsf-concerned-about-russia-s-media-regulator-experiments-ai-use-censorship>

⁵⁸⁴⁰ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information, *Federal Law No. 303-FZ On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Information, Information Technologies and the Protection of Information" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation* [Федеральный закон от 08.08.2024 № 303-ФЗ "О внесении изменений в Федеральный закон "О связи" и отдельные законодательные акты

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plans to launch a dedicated AI-powered internet traffic filtering system, with the government allocating 2.27 billion rubles for its development.⁵⁸⁴¹

Environmental Impact of AI

Russia and Russian organizations have made commitments to evaluating environmental impacts of AI in local initiatives. Russia's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence establishes that an effective system for assessing the results of implementing AI technologies should include the evaluation of economic, social, ethical, environmental, and institutional outcomes.⁵⁸⁴² Furthermore, the AI Alliance Russia Code of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence states that AI actors must not allow the use of AI technologies to cause harm to human life and/or health, the property of citizens and legal entities, or the environment. Any use, including the design, development, testing, integration, or operation of an AI system capable of purposefully causing harm to the environment, human life and/or health, or the property of citizens and legal entities, is prohibited.⁵⁸⁴³

President Putin issued instructions directing the government to draft a data center infrastructure action plan from 2025 to 2030, identifying nuclear, coal, and hydroelectric power as the primary energy sources for AI infrastructure development.⁵⁸⁴⁴ At the AI Journey 2025 conference, Putin noted that data center electricity consumption will more than triple this decade, positioning nuclear power as Russia's strategic advantage for powering AI systems.⁵⁸⁴⁵

Prime Minister Mishustin signed the Energy Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2050, which addresses environmental impact reduction through modern environmental standards and energy-saving incentives. The Strategy signed in 2025 creates a framework that also incorporates the digitalization of the energy sector and growing AI-related energy consumption.⁵⁸⁴⁶

Российской Федерации] (Aug. 8, 2024),

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202408080127>

⁵⁸⁴¹ Center for Countering Disinformation, *Russia to Launch AI-Powered Internet Censorship System in 2026* (Sept. 5, 2025), <https://united24media.com/latest-news/russia-to-launch-ai-powered-internet-censorship-system-in-2026-to-strengthen-information-control-15178>

⁵⁸⁴² President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 490*, Section 5111, subparagraph n (Oct. 10, 2019), <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/44731/page/5>

⁵⁸⁴³ AI Alliance Russia, *AI Ethics Code* (2022), https://a-ai.ru/ethics_EN/AI_Ethics_Code.pdf

⁵⁸⁴⁴ President of Russia, *Instructions following the AI Journey International Conference* (Nov. 2025), <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/78992>

⁵⁸⁴⁵ President of Russia, *AI Journey International Conference* (Nov. 19, 2025), <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/78498>

⁵⁸⁴⁶ Government of Russia, *Energy Strategy of the Russian Federation until 2050* (Apr. 12, 2025), <http://government.ru/docs/52959/>

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In the international debate about Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Russia officially opposes a ban on LAWS and limitations on the development of weaponized AI. In 2019, the Russian delegation at the UN Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS stated that human control over the operation of [LAWS] is “an important limiting factor,” but that “specific forms and methods of human control should remain at the discretion of States.”⁵⁸⁴⁷ Russia has continued to oppose international regulation of LAWS. Russia was one of only three states voting against the December 2, 2024 UN General Assembly resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.⁵⁸⁴⁸ At the 2024 CCW GGE sessions, Russia reiterated that calls to limit or ban LAWS are premature and explicitly stated it would not agree to a legally binding instrument.⁵⁸⁴⁹

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that Russia has already begun producing “weapons of the future” such as combat robots that are “capable of fighting on their own,” just like those shown in science-fiction movies.⁵⁸⁵⁰ Moreover, Russia has actively used LAWS in Ukraine since February 2022. As Stop Killer Robot stated, Russia has used “one-way attack drone which carries an explosive payload of approximately 36kg/80lb, has a flight range of approximately 2500km, and possesses autonomous flight capabilities.”⁵⁸⁵¹ Russia has also publicized the use of loitering munitions, particularly the KUB-BLA and the Lancet. The use of the KUB-BLA raised concerns about the deployment of an “AI-based autonomous weapon” because

⁵⁸⁴⁷ Group of Governmental Experts of Russian Federation, *Potential opportunities and limitations of military uses of lethal autonomous weapons systems, section 7* (Mar. 15, 2019), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2019/gge/Documents/GGE.2-WP1.pdf>

⁵⁸⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://www.un.org/disarmament/laws/>; American Society of International Law, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems & International Law: Growing Momentum Towards a New International Treaty* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/29/issue/1>

⁵⁸⁴⁹ Reaching Critical Will, *CCW Report* (2025), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/ccw/2025/laws/ccwreport/17475>

⁵⁸⁵⁰ Anna Nadibaidze, *Russia's Perspective on Human Control and Autonomous Weapons: Is the Official Discourse Changing?* (Jun. 3, 2021), <https://www.autonorms.eu/russias-perspective-on-human-control-and-autonomous-weapons-is-the-official-discourse-changing-2/>; Tass: Russian News Agency, *Russia Launches Serial Production of Combat Robots* (May 21, 2021), <https://tass.com/science/1292483>

⁵⁸⁵¹ Catherine Connolly, *Loitering Munitions with Autonomous Capabilities Used in Ukraine*, Stop Killer Robots (Oct. 17, 2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/loitering-munitions-with-autonomous-capabilities-used-in-ukraine/>

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the system was reportedly capable of “real-time recognition and classification of detected objects” using AI, or as some have put it, identify targets using AI.⁵⁸⁵²

AI Literacy

Russia’s National AI Strategy identifies increasing public awareness of AI as a strategic objective, specifically directing efforts toward informing the public and organizations of the benefits and safety of AI technologies and the availability of training and retraining programs.⁵⁸⁵³ The strategy mandates introducing AI-related educational modules at all educational levels and creating professional retraining programs to equip individuals with knowledge and skills in fields relevant to AI development.⁵⁸⁵⁴

Russia’s AI literacy initiatives, however, are primarily oriented toward technical workforce development rather than responsible use or civic participation in AI policy. The Talent and Success Foundation, operating under the President, administers free online courses in AI and programming basics for students in grades 7 through 11, with at least 100,000 school children participating between 2022 and 2024.⁵⁸⁵⁵ In 2025, the Ministry of Digital Development selected 22 universities to train AI specialists as part of a 2025 to 2030 national talent pipeline effort.⁵⁸⁵⁶

There is no dedicated national framework for AI literacy in the sense of responsible use, digital citizenship, or public participation in AI policy discussions. Russia has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology, which includes evaluation of public awareness and civic engagement dimensions of AI governance.⁵⁸⁵⁷

⁵⁸⁵² Zachary Kallenborn, *Russia May Have Used a Killer Robot in Ukraine. Now What?* Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://thebulletin.org/2022/03/russia-may-have-used-a-killer-robot-in-ukraine-now-what/>

⁵⁸⁵³ President of the Russian Federation, *Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Russian Federation*, section 44(g) and section 45 (Oct. 10, 2019), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Decree-of-the-President-of-the-Russian-Federation-on-the-Development-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-the-Russian-Federation-.pdf>

⁵⁸⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁸⁵⁵ Government of Russia, *Decree on Subsidies for AI and Programming Education for Schoolchildren* (Aug. 2022), <https://www.cna.org/our-media/newsletters/ai-and-autonomy-in-russia/issue-45>

⁵⁸⁵⁶ Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of Russia, *Training in Artificial Intelligence*, TAdviser (Sept. 18, 2025), https://tadviser.com/index.php/Article:Training_in_artificial_intelligence

⁵⁸⁵⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Human Rights

Russia is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Russia ceases to be a Party to the European Convention on Human Rights on September 16, 2022.⁵⁸⁵⁸ Also, as noted, since March 15, 2022, Russia is no longer a member of the Council of Europe, but ratification of the original Convention 108 is still valid. And a recent decision from the European Court of Human Rights, *Zakharov v. Russia*, found that Russia’s legislation on surveillance “does not provide for adequate and effective guarantees against arbitrariness and the risk of abuse.”⁵⁸⁵⁹

Freedom House rates Russia as “Not Free” with a score of 12/100 for political rights and civil liberties in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.⁵⁸⁶⁰ According to Freedom House, “Power in Russia’s authoritarian political system is concentrated in the hands of President Vladimir Putin. With subservient courts and security forces, a controlled media environment, and a legislature consisting of a ruling party and pliable opposition factions, the Kremlin manipulates elections and suppresses genuine opposition. Rampant corruption facilitates shifting links among state officials and organized crime groups.” Authorities have intensified restrictions on individual rights and liberties to stifle dissent over the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Moreover, as Human Rights Watch reports, the Russian Supreme Court ordered the closure of Memorial, Russia’s most prominent human rights organizations: International Memorial Society and Memorial Human Rights Center for violations of the “foreign agents” law. The liquidation was finalized in February 2022, when the Supreme Court rejected their respective appeals. Moreover, in late December 2021, Russian authorities blocked the website of OVD-Info, a human rights watchdog focusing on freedom of assembly. In April 2022, Russian authorities revoked the registration of 15 foreign NGOs and foundations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, forcing them to close their offices in Russia.⁵⁸⁶¹

⁵⁸⁵⁸ European Stability Initiative (ESI), *Why Russia Had To Be Expelled from the Council of Europe* (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://www.esiweb.org/proposals/why-russia-had-be-expelled-council-europe>

⁵⁸⁵⁹ European Court of Human Rights, *Roman Zakharov v. Russia*, No. 47143/06 (Dec. 4, 2015), <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre?i=001-159324>; Paul De Hert and Pedro Cristobal Bocos, *Case of Roman Zakharov v. Russia: The Strasbourg follow up to the Luxembourg Court’s Schrems judgment*, Strasbourg Observers (Dec. 23, 2015), <https://strasbourgobservers.com/2015/12/23/case-of-roman-zakharov-v-russia-the-strasbourg-follow-up-to-the-luxembourg-courts-schrems-judgment/>

⁵⁸⁶⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Russia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/russia/freedom-world/2025>

⁵⁸⁶¹ Human Rights Watch, *Russian Federation, Events of 2022*, (Jan. 2023), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/russia#981f12>

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Meanwhile, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) documented violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHL) by the belligerent parties in relation to the treatment of prisoners of war and persons hors de combat.⁵⁸⁶²

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Russia, a member of the G20, endorsed the G20 AI Principles at the G20 Ministerial in 2019.⁵⁸⁶³ Russia has not endorsed the OECD principles as updated in 2024.⁵⁸⁶⁴ The first OECD State of Implementation report on the principles acknowledged Russia's alignment with the principles in formulating a national AI strategy, developing legal frameworks such as the concept for regulations on developing robotics, and facilitating innovation through developments such as sandboxes.⁵⁸⁶⁵ However, Russia's profile on the OECD AI Policy Observatory is no longer available.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, commonly referred to as the Council of Europe AI Treaty, was opened for signatures on September 5, 2024.⁵⁸⁶⁶ However, Russia has not signed this first legally binding AI Treaty.⁵⁸⁶⁷

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Russia voted for the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, although it has not implemented it entirely. At least 17 executive bodies associated with the Russian Federation and more than 330 Russian organizations belong to the

⁵⁸⁶² OHCHR, *42nd Periodic Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine* (Dec. 1, 2024–May 31, 2025), <https://ukraine.ohchr.org/en/Report-on-the-Human-Rights-Situation-in-Ukraine-1-December-2024-31-May-2025>

⁵⁸⁶³ G20 Information Centre, *G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting* (Jul. 22, 2020), <https://g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0722.html>

⁵⁸⁶⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁵⁸⁶⁵ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies*, OECD Digital Economy Papers (Jun. 18, 2021), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles_1cd40c44-en.html

⁵⁸⁶⁶ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁸⁶⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

AI Alliance Network and adopted the AI Code of Ethics.⁵⁸⁶⁸ The Code which was developed by the Alliance Russia's Commission on AI Ethics, is non-binding and voluntary.⁵⁸⁶⁹

Russia has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁵⁸⁷⁰ The RAM is a tool designed to help countries evaluate their preparedness to implement AI ethically and responsibly aligned to UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.⁵⁸⁷¹

Evaluation

Russia's development of a National AI Strategy, which has been amended to expand its definitional framework to include generative AI models and to direct all federal bodies towards alignment with national AI priorities; further the principles of transparency, security, and accessibility; endorsement of the G20 AI Principles; efforts to develop laws for digital rights and regulation of AI; establishment of the Presidential Commission on the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies to coordinate federal and regional implementation; and initiatives to involve the public in AI policy development, are positive steps forward. The adoption of an AI Ethics Code by more than 17 executive bodies associated with the Russian Federation and more than 330 Russian organizations, indicates a level of commitment to the ethical use of AI.

However, the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) in the war in Ukraine; Russia's continued opposition to legally binding international restrictions on LAWS; lack of robust measures to limit surveillance and protect human rights; rapid adoption and centralization of facial recognition technology in public spaces, including a biometric border control program expanded to all border crossing points in 2025; and use of AI to execute more sophisticated censorship and control of news and information on Runet (the Russian Internet), all raise concerns about the future implications of Russia's AI program.

⁵⁸⁶⁸ AI Alliance Network, *Our Members* (2025), <https://aianet.org/members/>

⁵⁸⁶⁹ AI Alliance Russia, *AI Code of Ethics* (2022), https://a-ai.ru/ethics_EN/index.html

⁵⁸⁷⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵⁸⁷¹ UNESCO, *Readiness Assessment Methodology: A Tool of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 28, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/readiness-assessment-methodology-tool-recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

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Rwanda

In 2025, Rwanda made progress in capacity building, a key part of the National AI Policy, through Data Protection Office programs and collaboration with Day of AI Rwanda. Rwanda continued to participate in international efforts to promote ethical, inclusive, and trustworthy AI, including hosting the Global AI Summit on Africa in Kigali and signing the resulting Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence.

National AI Strategy

Rwanda, with Vision 2050, aspires to increase the quality of life for citizens and develop modern infrastructure⁵⁸⁷² by strengthening capacity, service delivery, and accountability of public institutions; increasing citizens' participation and engagement in development; and strengthening justice and rule of law. The National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) was the first medium-term strategy to implement the Vision 2050 from 2017–2024.⁵⁸⁷³ The National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) runs from 2024–2029 and focuses on job creation, economic growth, and climate resilience.⁵⁸⁷⁴ The government pledges to establish legal frameworks that spur economic development and instill fairness, transparency, and accountability across institutions.

Rwanda's National AI Policy adopted in 2023 marked progress on these transformation strategies.⁵⁸⁷⁵ The National AI Policy encompasses six priority areas: 1) 21st-century skills and high AI literacy, 2) Reliable infrastructure and compute capacity, 3) Robust Data Strategy, 4) Trustworthy AI adoption in the public sector, 5) Widely beneficial AI adoption in the private sector, and 6) Practical AI Ethical

⁵⁸⁷² Republic of Rwanda, *Vision 2050* (2015),

[http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Minecofin/Publications/REPORTS/National Development Planning and Research/Vision 2050/English-Vision 2050_Abridged version WEB_Final.pdf](http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Minecofin/Publications/REPORTS/National_Development_Planning_and_Research/Vision_2050/English-Vision_2050_Abridged_version_WEB_Final.pdf)

⁵⁸⁷³ Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, *7 Years Government Programme: National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) 2017–2024* (Dec. 16, 2020),

<https://www.minecofin.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=12464&token=206d23b5640d50ee08ce4db3a852e5f60f9902ed>

⁵⁸⁷⁴ Office of the Prime Minister, *Summary of the 5-Year Government Program/Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2:2024–2029)* (Aug. 23, 2024),

<https://www.gisagara.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=105584&token=fb04d3feca2d4a8b86889206e625abc3535e80e2>

⁵⁸⁷⁵ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *National AI Policy*, p. 2 (Apr. 20, 2023),

[https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial Intelligence Policy 1 .pdf](https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial_Intelligence_Policy_1.pdf); see also, Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *Artificial Intelligence Background* (2025), <https://www.minict.gov.rw/ai-policy>

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Guidelines. The National AI Policy would establish the Responsible AI Office (RAI Office) under MINICT to drive, monitor, and evaluate the implementation plan. The RAI Office will also coordinate the implementation across public and private stakeholders and institutions, champion responsible AI nationally, and advocate Rwanda perspectives in regional and global fora.⁵⁸⁷⁶

The National AI Policy resulted from Rwanda's Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT) participation in National AI Policy Stakeholders Workshops with The Future Society (TFS) and GIZ FAIR Forward.⁵⁸⁷⁷ The Future Society also supported the development of AI ethical guidelines and a practical implementation strategy fit for the local context.⁵⁸⁷⁸ For implementation, Rwanda has the support of GIZ FAIR Forward—Artificial Intelligence for All,⁵⁸⁷⁹ a global initiative of the German Development Cooperation, working with Rwanda and four other countries to lay the foundations for developing local AI, to strengthen local skills and knowledge in AI; remove barriers of entry to developing AI, and to develop AI policy frameworks on ethical AI, data protection and privacy.⁵⁸⁸⁰

Cooperation with GIZ FAIR Forward includes an AI Policy Maker network with Ministries of ICT and regulatory authorities from other African countries and India to exchange knowledge and skills and AI policy experiences.⁵⁸⁸¹ The FAIR Forward project also supports the formulation of ethical guidelines for the use of AI, under the responsibility of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA). The guidelines aim to support AI developers in Rwanda on risk management to protect against harms and threats of these systems.

Other institutions contributing to the development of human-centric AI initiatives include the Rwanda Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), centers on applying local knowledge to empower global change,⁵⁸⁸² and the Centre

⁵⁸⁷⁶ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *The National AI Policy*, p. 5 (Apr. 27, 2023), [https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial Intelligence_Policy_1.pdf](https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial_Intelligence_Policy_1.pdf)

⁵⁸⁷⁷ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Rwanda, National AI Policy: Stakeholders Workshops* (2021), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/national-ai-policy-stakeholder-workshops-2538>

⁵⁸⁷⁸ The Future Society, *The Development of Rwanda's National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Aug. 31, 2020), <https://thefuturesociety.org/2020/08/31/development-of-rwandas-national-artificial-intelligence-policy/>

⁵⁸⁷⁹ GIZ, *FAIR Forward—Artificial Intelligence for All* (2025), <https://www.giz.de/expertise/html/61982.html>

⁵⁸⁸⁰ Timon Bucher, *FAIR Forward: A Summary* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://toolkit-digitalisierung.de/en/fair-forward/>

⁵⁸⁸¹ Digital Transformation Center Rwanda [DigiCenter], *How Rwanda's AI Policy Helps to Shape the Evolving AI Ecosystem* (Oct. 11, 2021), <https://digicenter.rw/how-rwandas-ai-policy-helps-to-shape-the-evolving-ai-ecosystem/>

⁵⁸⁸² Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, *About Us* (2025), <https://c4ir.rw/>

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of Excellence in the areas of Digitalization and AI (CoE), for R&D investment and building human capacity and preparation for transition into future of work.⁵⁸⁸³

Rwanda has also taken concrete steps to align the country's efforts to the African Union vision to build a continental digital transformation strategy.⁵⁸⁸⁴ The Government of Rwanda has legislated a national AI strategy to equip government agencies and other stakeholders in the country to empower AI developers, citizens, and users and support the beneficial and ethical adoption of AI.⁵⁸⁸⁵ Rwanda adopted the Continental Data Policy Framework under the recommendation of the African Union's Digital Transformation strategy.⁵⁸⁸⁶ Rwanda furthered this progress with adoption of the Digital Trade Protocol to the African Continental Free Trade Area in February 2024, which requires member states to “facilitate the adoption and regulation of emerging and advanced technologies, subject to their legitimate public policy objectives and essential security interest” and “develop governance frameworks for the ethical, trusted, safe, and responsible use of emerging and advanced technologies.”⁵⁸⁸⁷

Public Participation

Rwanda has yet to develop a systematic process for public consultation on matters of AI policy. Consultations have taken place in workshops and meetings.

The Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), in partnership with Rwanda Utilities and Regulatory Authority and the Rwanda Information Society Authority, engaged relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society in the development of the National AI Policy.⁵⁸⁸⁸ The first workshop in September 2020 brought together civil society, private sector leaders, academics, and

⁵⁸⁸³ Rwanda Development Board, *The Government of Rwanda Announces the Establishment of a Center of Excellence in the Areas of Digitalization and AI* (Nov. 25, 2020), <https://rdw.gov.rw/the-government-of-rwanda-announces-the-establishment-of-a-center-of-excellence-in-the-areas-of-digitalization-and-ai/>

⁵⁸⁸⁴ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸⁵ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *The National AI Policy* (Apr. 27, 2023), [https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial Intelligence Policy 1 .pdf](https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial_Intelligence_Policy_1.pdf)

⁵⁸⁸⁶ African Union, *AU Data Policy Framework* (Feb. 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42078-doc-DATA-POLICY-FRAMEWORKS-2024-ENG-V2.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸⁷ African Union, *Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Digital Trade* (Feb. 18, 2024), <https://au-afcfta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/EN - PROTOCOL-ON-DIGITAL-TRADE-clean.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸⁸ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *The National AI Policy* (Apr. 27, 2023), [https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial Intelligence Policy 1 .pdf](https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Artificial_Intelligence_Policy_1.pdf)

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government representatives to identify and prioritize AI opportunities, risks, and socio-ethical implications. A Second Collective Intelligence Workshop took place in 2021 (online due to COVID-19) to discuss seven categories of AI policy.⁵⁸⁸⁹

In 2024, the National Cyber Security Authority and GIZ Rwanda hosted a workshop for stakeholders in the data governance ecosystem to brainstorm collaboration opportunities in data protection and privacy. The workshop identified areas of collaboration in skills development, awareness creation, and the use of artificial intelligence to advance data protection and privacy knowledge in Rwanda.⁵⁸⁹⁰

Data Protection

In 2019 Rwanda signed⁵⁸⁹¹ and ratified the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention).⁵⁸⁹² In June of that same year Rwanda adopted the Child Online Protection Policy (COP Policy) to mitigate against risks and harms and to deliver a framework that meets children's needs and fulfills their rights. This enactment makes Rwanda one of the first countries to adopt such protections.⁵⁸⁹³ The country had also been part of an initiative of UNICEF that aligned to policy guidance of AI for children.⁵⁸⁹⁴ The African Union (AU), of which Rwanda is a part, approved the African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy in May 2024.⁵⁸⁹⁵ The Policy establishes key principles such as children's right to safety, privacy, and online participation, and covers the full

⁵⁸⁸⁹ The Future Society, *Rwanda's National AI Policy: Stakeholder Workshop* (Feb. 25, 2021), <https://thefuturesociety.org/rwandas-national-ai-policy-stakeholder-workshop/>

⁵⁸⁹⁰ National Cyber Security Authority, *NCSA and GIZ Host Stakeholder Meeting on Data Protection and Privacy* (May 31, 2024), <https://cyber.gov.rw/updates/article/ncsa-and-giz-host-stakeholder-meeting-on-data-protection-and-privacy-1/>

⁵⁸⁹¹ African Union, *List of Countries which have Signed, Ratified/Acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Mar. 25, 2022).

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-AFRICAN%20UNION%20CONVENTION%20ON%20CYBER%20SECURITY%20AND%20PERSONAL%20DATA%20PROTECTION.pdf)

⁵⁸⁹² African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://dig.watch/resource/african-union-convention-on-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection-african-union>

⁵⁸⁹³ Ministry of ICT & Innovation, *Rwanda Child Online Protection Policy* (Jun. 2019), [https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Policies/Child Online Policy.pdf](https://www.minict.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/minict_user_upload/Documents/Policies/Child%20Online%20Policy.pdf)

⁵⁸⁹⁴ UNICEF, *Policy Guidance on AI for Children: Pilot Testing and Case Studies* (2025), <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/policy-guidance-ai-children>

⁵⁸⁹⁵ African Union (AU), *The African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy* (Feb. 14–15, 2024), [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/43798-doc-African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy Feb 2024.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/43798-doc-African%20Union%20Child%20Online%20Safety%20and%20Empowerment%20Policy%20Feb%202024.pdf)

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range of children's rights as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN in 2021, and reinforced in 2023.⁵⁸⁹⁶

In 2021, pursuant to the Malabo Convention, the Ministry of Justice published a law on the protection of personal data and privacy (DPP Law).⁵⁸⁹⁷ The DPP Law established principles of lawfulness, fairness and transparency, purpose limitation, and accuracy, requiring personal data protection impact assessments. Article 3 of the Privacy Law establishes privacy as a “fundamental right.”⁵⁸⁹⁸ The Guide on Contractual Provisions for Processing of Personal Data, released in 2024, outlines mandatory requirements for data processing agreements under the law.⁵⁸⁹⁹ The Privacy Law seeks to safeguard fundamental rights to privacy by regulating the processing of data and providing the individual with rights over their data.⁵⁹⁰⁰ The law establishes systems of accountability and clear obligations for those who control the processing of personal data.

While the legislation did not establish an independent data protection agency, there were provisions for a supervisory authority, defined as a public authority in charge of cybersecurity. The National Cyber Security Authority (NCSA) was established in 2017⁵⁹⁰¹ and became operational in 2020.⁵⁹⁰² A 2018 law on the prevention and punishment of cybercrimes applies to cybercrimes committed within Rwanda or having effect there.⁵⁹⁰³ Rwanda introduced a second National Cyber

⁵⁸⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children* (Nov. 8, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n23/342/80/pdf/n2334280.pdf>

⁵⁸⁹⁷ Republic of Rwanda, *Law No. 058/2021 of 13/10/2021 Relating to the Protection of Personal Data and Privacy*, Official Gazette (Oct. 15, 2021), https://cyber.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/NCSA/Documents/Laws/OG_Special_of_15.10.2021_A_makuru_bwite.pdf

⁵⁸⁹⁸ National Cyber Security Authority, *Rwanda Passes New Law Protecting Personal Data* (Oct. 21, 2021), <https://cyber.gov.rw/updates/article/rwanda-passes-new-law-protecting-personal-data-1/>

⁵⁸⁹⁹ Data Protection and Privacy Office, *Guide on Contractual Provisions for Processing of Personal Data* (Apr. 2024), <https://dpo.gov.rw/fileadmin/DPO/ComplianceTools/Guide-On-Contractual-Provisions-For-Processing-Of-Personal-Data.pdf>

⁵⁹⁰⁰ Julius Bizimungu, *Rwanda Moves to Tighten Data Protection, Privacy*, New Times (Nov. 6, 2020), <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-moves-tighten-data-protection-privacy>

⁵⁹⁰¹ Republic of Rwanda, *Law No. 26/2017 of 31 May 2017 which Establishes NCSA*, Official Gazette No. 31/05/21 (May 31, 2017), <https://cyber.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=193&token=388512d958cb10ce563a7d2629169b38bdcdafdf>

⁵⁹⁰² National Cyber Security Authority, *About*, <https://cyber.gov.rw/about/>

⁵⁹⁰³ National Cyber Security Authority, *Law No. 60/2018 of 22/8/2018 on Prevention and Punishment of Cyber Crimes* (Aug. 22, 2018), <https://cyber.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=70&token=8a1cd43626bfcc2b99fba277aca01e6f2aaa1788>

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Security Strategy for the period 2024–2029, which identifies the cybersecurity concerns raised by AI.⁵⁹⁰⁴

On March 31, 2022, the National Cyber Security Authority launched the Data Protection Office (DPO).⁵⁹⁰⁵ The role of the DPO is to generate awareness of the Data Protection and Privacy Law and lead activities to ensure the law is followed. Those activities include registering processors and controllers, conducting audits, conducting investigations, and refining best practices to uphold the law. The office is also tasked with ongoing learning and research to keep pace with developments and advancements in the data protection ecosystem of control.

Rwanda’s National Data Sharing Policy establishes legal, technical, and operational standards for secure and responsible data exchange among public institutions.⁵⁹⁰⁶ The policy operationalizes provisions of the Data Protection and Privacy Law, complementing the oversight and enforcement mandate of the Data Protection and Privacy Office (DPO) in ensuring data is processed and shared in compliance with national privacy safeguards and accountability frameworks.

The DPO began an important national awareness campaign to help citizens understand the data protection and privacy afforded to them by the DPP Law. Campaigns cover basic data literacy topics (e.g., terms and definitions), risk mitigation topics (e.g., misinformation, helping seniors stay safe online, children’s data protections), and a series of topics on individual data rights. The office has developed several partnerships to expand the reach of its messaging within schools, public transportation areas, and local townships. For example, the first Data Privacy Day and Safer Internet Day took place in 2023.⁵⁹⁰⁷ Safer Internet Day 2024 took

⁵⁹⁰⁴ National Cyber Security Authority, *National Cybersecurity Strategy 2024–2029* (Aug. 2024), <https://cyber.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=429&token=d58f8a5199b59af444ea59b87fdff49c4145e929>

⁵⁹⁰⁵ Republic of Rwanda, National Cyber Security Authority, *NCSA Officially Launches the Data Protection Office* (Mar. 31, 2022), <https://cyber.gov.rw/updates/article/ncsa-officially-launches-its-data-protection-office-2/>

⁵⁹⁰⁶ Ministry of ICT & Innovation, *The National Data Sharing Policy* (May 26, 2025), <https://www.minict.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=130290&token=2f207763665aa480e65386c025175bf4330b9a5c>

⁵⁹⁰⁷ Data Protection Office, *Rwanda’s Data Protection Office Observes Its First Data Privacy Week* (Feb. 2, 2023), <https://cyber.gov.rw/updates/article/rwandas-data-protection-office-observes-its-first-data-privacy-week-2/>; Elias Hakizimana, *Safer Internet Day 2023. Parents Urged to Educate Children about Safe and Positive Use of Technology*, Rwanda Inspirer (Feb 7, 2023), <https://rwandainspirer.com/safer-internet-day-2023-parents-urged-to-educate-children-about-safe-and-positive-use-of-technology/>

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place across different schools over 3 weeks and centered on personal accountability for a constructive Internet atmosphere.⁵⁹⁰⁸

The DPO continued to advance awareness and enforcement of data protection standards through multiple initiatives in 2025. These included stakeholder consultations on sector-specific data protection guidelines,⁵⁹⁰⁹ public webinars on Data Protection Impact Assessments⁵⁹¹⁰ and cross-border data transfer compliance,⁵⁹¹¹ and targeted outreach to private sector actors such as MTN Rwanda⁵⁹¹² to strengthen compliance with the DPP Law. The DPO also engaged youth through the Rwanda Youth Internet Governance Forum⁵⁹¹³ and participated in a national training on AI, data protection, and the rule of law for judicial operators.⁵⁹¹⁴

Rwanda is also party to the East African Community (EAC) Data Governance Policy Framework, aimed at promoting common standards for data protection, privacy, and security, laying a robust foundation for data protection and data sharing in the region.⁵⁹¹⁵

⁵⁹⁰⁸ Elias Hakizimana, *Promoting Responsible Internet Usage: ISOC Rwanda Celebrates Safer Internet Day 2024*, Inspirer (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://rwandainspirer.com/promoting-responsible-internet-usage-isoc-rwanda-celebrates-safer-internet-day-2024/>

⁵⁹⁰⁹ Data Protection & Privacy Office, *DPO Consulted Stakeholders on Data Protection & Privacy Guidelines* (Jul. 31, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/dpo-consulted-stakeholders-on-data-protection-privacy-guidelines>

⁵⁹¹⁰ Data Protection & Privacy Office, *Building Trust Through DPIAs: DPO Webinar Highlights Strategic Data Protection* (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/building-trust-through-dpias-dpo-webinar-highlights-strategic-data-protection>

⁵⁹¹¹ Data Protection & Privacy Office, *A Recap of a Webinar on Cross-Border Data Transfer and Storage* (May 24, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/a-recap-of-a-webinar-on-cross-border-data-transfer-and-storage>

⁵⁹¹² Data Protection & Privacy Office, *Protecting Personal Data: DPO's Message to MTN and Partners* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/protecting-personal-data-dpos-message-to-mtn-and-partners>

⁵⁹¹³ Data Protection & Privacy Office, *Empowering the Next Generation: DPO Champions Data Protection & Cybersecurity at Rwanda Youth Internet Governance Forum* (Jun. 2, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/empowering-the-next-generation-dpo-champions-data-protection-cybersecurity-at-rwanda-youth-internet-governance-forum>

⁵⁹¹⁴ Data Protection & Privacy Office, *DPO Participated in a National Training on AI, Data Protection & the Rule of Law for Judicial Operators* (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/news-and-updates/news/article/dpo-participated-in-a-national-training-on-ai-data-protection-the-rule-of-law-for-judicial-operators>

⁵⁹¹⁵ East African Community (EAC), *EAC Set to Advance Data Governance and Protection with Development of a Regional Policy Framework* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.eac.int/press-releases/3195-eac-set-to-advance-data-governance-and-protection-with-development-of-a-regional-policy-framework>

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Rwanda's DPO is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly and has not sponsored any of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) resolutions and declarations.⁵⁹¹⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Rwanda does not yet have a dedicated AI oversight agency nor a legally protected right to algorithmic transparency. The National AI Policy provides a framework for building public trust and accountability in the AI ecosystem by building regulatory capacity, establishing ethical guidelines, and creating roles dedicated to responsible AI such as the proposed Responsible AI Office (RAI Office) within the Ministry of ICT & Innovation (MINICT). A legal right to algorithmic transparency would facilitate this trust-building. No RAI Office currently exists within the MINICT.

Rwanda's data privacy and protection law (DPP) provides limited rights to algorithmic transparency. Article 21 guarantees a right to not be subject to a decision "which may produce legal consequences or significant consequences" based on solely automated processing.⁵⁹¹⁷ Other articles provide rights to data rectification and to opt out of profiling for direct marketing.

Human Rights

Freedom House rates Rwanda as "Not Free" with a score of 21/100 in 2025, citing government efforts to suppress political dissent through "pervasive surveillance, intimidation, arbitrary detention, torture, and renditions or suspected assassinations of exiled dissidents."⁵⁹¹⁸ The Ibrahim Index of African Governance scores Rwanda's 2023 record on Participation, Rights, and Inclusion at 42.5 out of 100, which is lower than the African average of 48.7 out of 100. For overall governance, Rwanda scores 58.7 out of 100, which places the country 14 out of 54 African countries.⁵⁹¹⁹

After the genocide of 1994, Rwanda had to rebuild its infrastructure and relations from the ground up. A unity and reconciliation process was followed by a

⁵⁹¹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁵⁹¹⁷ Data Protection Office (DPO), *Rwanda's Law on the Protection of Personal Data and Privacy (DPP Law)* (2025), <https://dpo.gov.rw/dpp-law/rights-of-the-data-subject>

⁵⁹¹⁸ Freedom House, *Rwanda*, *Freedom in the World* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/rwanda>

⁵⁹¹⁹ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Governance Profile: Rwanda* (2024),

<https://assets.iiag.online/2024/profiles/2024-IIAG-profile-rw.pdf>

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combination of traditional systems of justice and international tribunals.⁵⁹²⁰ The National Commission for Human Rights was created in 1999 as an independent institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights in Rwanda.⁵⁹²¹ The European Union concluded in its 2023 human rights and democracy report that “The human rights and democracy situation in Rwanda remained challenging”⁵⁹²² and that “Freedom of expression remained limited: charges for inciting insurrection, spreading rumours or false information, genocide minimization, and others, stifled public dissent or criticism.”

The Rwandan judiciary is not completely independent from the executive because top judicial officials are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate,⁵⁹²³ which is currently dominated by the governing party. However, the judiciary must function in an independent manner and enjoys administrative and financial independence.

Smart Cities

In 2015, Rwanda adopted a National Urbanization Policy to demonstrate how urban development can drive economic transformation through coordination, densification, conviviality, and economic growth.⁵⁹²⁴ The policy defines a smart city as “a compact, connected, socially inclusive and resilient city that leverages the power of technology, data and innovation to improve the quality of life of residents and to coordinate and integrate urban management sectors.”⁵⁹²⁵ The policy requires public engagement and open data as building blocks.

Kigali Innovation City (KIC) is the government’s flagship program to create a hi-tech ecosystem, modeling itself on the southeast Asian city-state of Singapore.⁵⁹²⁶ The KIC is a 62-hectare development located in Kigali’s special

⁵⁹²⁰ Alphonse Nkusi, *The Rwandan Miracle*, UNESCO Courier (Apr. 4, 2019),

<https://en.unesco.org/courier/2019-2/rwandan-miracle>

⁵⁹²¹ Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Justice, *The National Human Rights Action Plan of Rwanda 2017–2020* (2017),

<https://www.humanrights.dk/files/media/document/Rwanda%20NHRAP%202017-2020.pdf>

⁵⁹²² European Union, *EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World: 2023 Country Updates*, p. 314 (May 14, 2024),

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2023%20EU%20country%20updates%20on%20human%20rights%20and%20democracy_2.pdf

⁵⁹²³ Parliament, *Approving the Appointment of Officials* (2025),

<https://www.parliament.gov.rw/approval-of-high-officials>

⁵⁹²⁴ UN Habitat, *Smart City Rwanda Master Plan*, Version 2.0, pp. 26–27 (May 2019),

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-05/rwanda_smart_city-master_plan.pdf

⁵⁹²⁵ Ibid, p. 30

⁵⁹²⁶ Borgen Project, *Big Plans for Rwandan Infrastructure* (Oct. 6, 2019),

<https://borgenproject.org/big-plans-for-rwandan-infrastructure/>

economic zone (SEZ). The main goal is to create an innovative business hub in the heart of Africa that will include four first-rate universities, innovative agriculture, healthcare, technology, financial services, biotech firms, and both commercial and residential space. The Government of Rwanda, Africa50, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa officially broke ground on the construction of the pioneering smart city project in September 2024.⁵⁹²⁷

The Smart City Masterplan was developed in 2017, with the participation of various stakeholders in Rwanda, including regulatory bodies, local authorities, academia, civil society, and the private sector. The development was aligned with the Smart Africa Alliance Smart Sustainable Cities Blueprint for Africa.⁵⁹²⁸

Biometric Identification

Rwanda used biometric identification for its census in 2007 to unify all identity information under a single authority, the National Identification Agency (NIDA), and a unique National Identity Number (NIN).⁵⁹²⁹ This number is now used for health, education, telecom, banking, electoral lists, social protection programs, and border crossings.⁵⁹³⁰ Rwanda's authorities also proposed to create a country-wide DNA database to crack down on crime, raising concerns that the data could be misused by the government and violate international human rights laws.⁵⁹³¹ Rwandan regulations require mandatory SIM card registration and a limit of three cards per national ID per operator. Service providers are required to maintain databases and share information with law enforcement if necessary.

In a country that has bitter memories of genocide along ethnic identity lines, the right to data privacy becomes a crucial issue. The national social protection program database, Ubudehe, was created in 2001⁵⁹³² to classify wealth and identify

⁵⁹²⁷ Rwanda Development Board, *The Government of Rwanda, Africa50 and BADEA Break Ground on the construction of Kigali Innovation City* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://rdb.rw/the-government-of-rwanda-africa50-and-badea-break-ground-on-the-construction-of-kigali-innovation-city/#>

⁵⁹²⁸ UN Habitat, *Smart City Rwanda Master Plan* (May 2019), https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-05/rwanda_smart_city-master_plan.pdf

⁵⁹²⁹ National Identification Agency (NIDA), *About NIDA*, <https://www.nida.gov.rw/about-nida>

⁵⁹³⁰ ID4Africa, *Rwanda National ID Strategy* (2019), https://www.id4africa.com/2019_event/presentations/PS1/5-Josephine-Mukesha-NIDA-Rwanda.pdf

⁵⁹³¹ Rwanda Press Centre, *President Kagame Orders World's First Nationwide DNA database* (Mar. 22, 2019), <https://www.rwandapresscentre.org/news/president-kagame-orders-worlds-first-nationwide-dna-database/>; Julius Bizimungu and Kelly Rwamapera, *Rwanda Proposes DNA Database for all Citizens*, *The New Times* (Mar. 20, 2019), <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/165024/News/rwanda-proposes-dna-database-for-all-citizens>

⁵⁹³² Ministry of Health & World Health Organization, *Rwanda's Performance in Addressing Social Determinants of Health and Intersectoral Action* (2018), <https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2018->

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the poorest households using community assessments. The database is interlinked with the national ID number. The lack of transparency on who makes the determination of wealth category and how this impacts an individual's access to opportunities and resources and the extent of stigmatization remains questionable.

A study by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the use of digital technologies to identify vulnerable populations, included Rwanda's CBHI (Community-Based Health Insurance) as a case study.⁵⁹³³ WHO concluded that the use of a sophisticated data infrastructure (3MS system) to connect the Ubudehe system to the IREMBO-Rwanda online portal resulted in ease of tracking payments to households, cost savings, and fraud control. In a contrasting study, Algorithm Watch analyzed the Ubudehe case as a prime example of Rwanda's "centralized, unified and biometric repository of the population."⁵⁹³⁴ The process of collection, analysis, and interpretation lacks transparency, as does the source of categorization.

Environmental Impact of AI

The G20 Engagement Groups issued the São Luis Declaration, a joint declaration for ethical, sustainable, and inclusive Artificial Intelligence.⁵⁹³⁵ With Rwanda's president leading the African Union delegation to the 2025 G20, seated in South Africa, the G20 could take action to promote action to curb AI's environmental impact and develop AI solutions to mitigate harms.⁵⁹³⁶

03/Rwanda's Performance in Addressing Social Determinants of Health and%20intersectoral %20action%20final%20Report.pdf

⁵⁹³³ World Health Organization WHO, *The Use of Digital Technologies to Support the Identification of Poor and Vulnerable Populations Groups for Health Coverage Schemes. Insights from Cambodia, India and Rwanda* (Dec 20, 2022),

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063990>

⁵⁹³⁴ Algorithm Watch, *Identity-Management and Citizen Scoring in Ghana, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and China* (Oct. 21, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Identity-management-and-citizen-scoring-in-Ghana-Rwanda-Tunesia-Uganda-Zimbabwe-and-China-report-by-AlgorithmWatch-2019.pdf>

⁵⁹³⁵ Engagement Groups of the G20 Brazil, *São Luis Declaration: Artificial Intelligence*, p. 3 (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.t20brasil.org/en/news/82/sao-luis-declaration-a-joint-statement-from-engagement-groups-to-the-g20-states-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁹³⁶ African Union, *African Union Delegation Attends 1st G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting under South Africa's G20 Presidency* (Feb. 23, 2025), <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20250223/african-union-delegation-attends-1st-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting-under>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

In 2019 Rwanda partnered with the World Economic Forum⁵⁹³⁷ to draft a framework for governing drones at scale and foster an ecosystem of unmanned aircraft systems. This decision followed the successful partnership with a startup, Zipline, to deliver blood, vaccines, and other medical supplies to rural hospitals in Rwanda. The Rwandan government was the first in the world to create a performance-based regulation focused on safety standards for all drones.⁵⁹³⁸

This partnership also resulted in The Advanced Drone Operations Toolkit, which provides a modular approach for governments to enable societally important and safe drone projects.⁵⁹³⁹ The country is looking to use these technologies to promote agricultural resilience and food security in Rwanda. However, the country has not called for a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons.⁵⁹⁴⁰

In December 2023, Rwanda voted in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems.⁵⁹⁴¹ The Resolution stressed the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report, reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems and ways to address the related challenges and concerns they raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and on the role of humans in the use of force.

Rwanda is not a state party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and it has not yet declared its position on the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems. Rwanda is a member of the African Group in the United Nations, which supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons.

Rwanda participated in the REAIM international summit hosted by the Netherlands in February 2023. At the end of the Summit, Rwanda, together with other countries, agreed on a joint call for action on the responsible development,

⁵⁹³⁷ World Economic Forum, *Advanced Drone Operations Toolkit: Accelerating the Drone Revolution* (Feb. 26, 2019), <https://www.weforum.org/reports/advanced-drone-operations-toolkit-accelerating-the-drone-revolution>

⁵⁹³⁸ A. Russo and H. Wolf, *What the World Can Learn from Rwanda's Approach to Drones*, World Economic Forum (Jan. 16, 2019), <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/what-the-world-can-learn-from-rwandas-approach-to-drones/>

⁵⁹³⁹ World Economic Forum, *Advanced Drone Operations Toolkit: Accelerating the Drone Revolution* (Feb. 26, 2019), <https://www.weforum.org/reports/advanced-drone-operations-toolkit-accelerating-the-drone-revolution>

⁵⁹⁴⁰ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, *Country Views on Killer Robots* (Jul. 7, 2020), https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/KRC_CountryViews_7July2020.pdf

⁵⁹⁴¹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

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deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.⁵⁹⁴² Rwanda also participated in the second REAIM summit in 2024 in the Republic of Korea.⁵⁹⁴³

The AU addressed the issue of lethal weapons by stressing the urgent need for stringent regulations and oversight to prevent their proliferation, particularly in conflict-prone regions. While we underscored the devastating impact of such weapons on civilian populations and the necessity for comprehensive disarmament initiatives. Emphasizing the role of international cooperation, we must advocate for collaborative efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and promote alternative security measures, thereby fostering a safer environment and enhancing regional stability.”⁵⁹⁴⁴

AI Literacy

AI literacy is a core objective in Rwanda’s National AI Policy (2023) under Priority Area 1, 21st-Century Skills & High AI Literacy.⁵⁹⁴⁵ The policy emphasizes private-sector partnership and public awareness to demystify AI by identifying high-potential use cases, hosting meetups and demonstrations, and raising AI and data literacy among citizens. Government actions include skills-gap assessments, professional training programs, integration of AI and data-science modules into national curricula, development of university-level programs, industry-led apprenticeships, and nationwide awareness campaigns. The Digital Ambassadors Program (DAP) trains youth to deliver community-based digital literacy in e-government, e-business, e-agriculture, and mobile financial services.⁵⁹⁴⁶

The Ministry of Education and the Rwanda Education Board partnered with MIT RAISE and Day of AI in 2025 on an initiative to include AI literacy in all classrooms in Rwanda.⁵⁹⁴⁷ Over 150 master educators from all districts participated in a 4-day training to integrate AI into ICT instruction with emphasis on ethics,

⁵⁹⁴² Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁵⁹⁴³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://tls.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

⁵⁹⁴⁴ African Union, *Remarks by Dr. Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, Director of Conflict Management Directorate in the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, to the Workshop on Autonomous Weapons System: An ECOWAS Perspective* (Apr. 17, 2024), <https://au.int/en/speeches/20240417/remarks-dr-alhaji-sarjoh-bah-director-conflict-management-directorate-political>

⁵⁹⁴⁵ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Apr. 27, 2023), <https://www.minict.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=67550&token=6195a53203e197efa47592f40ff4aaf24579640e>

⁵⁹⁴⁶ Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), *Digital Ambassadors Program* (2025), <https://www.minict.gov.rw/projects/digital-ambassadors-program>

⁵⁹⁴⁷ Day of AI, *Rwanda* (2025), <https://dayofai.org/program-hubs/rwanda>

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problem-solving, and critical thinking. The Day of AI team also engaged Mandela Washington Fellowship participants from 20 African countries to support regional AI-literacy capacity building.⁵⁹⁴⁸

Human Rights

Freedom House scores Rwanda as “Not Free” with a score of 23/100 in 2023 and 2024,⁵⁹⁴⁹ with a steady yet slight increase from 2021 and 2022. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance scores Rwanda’s 2023 record on Participation, Rights, and Inclusion at 42.5 out of 100, which is lower than the African average of 48.7 out of 100. For overall governance, Rwanda scores 58.7 out of 100, which places the country 14 out of 54 African countries.⁵⁹⁵⁰

After the genocide of 1994, Rwanda had to rebuild its infrastructure and relations from the ground up. A unity and reconciliation process was followed by a combination of traditional systems of justice and international tribunals.⁵⁹⁵¹ The National Commission for Human Rights was created in 1999 as an independent institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights in Rwanda.⁵⁹⁵² The European Union concluded in its 2023 human rights and democracy report that “The human rights and democracy situation in Rwanda remained challenging”⁵⁹⁵³ and that “Freedom of expression remained limited: charges for inciting insurrection, spreading rumours or false information, genocide minimization, and others, stifled public dissent or criticism.” In 2023, restrictions on freedom of expression and individual rights in Rwanda persisted, with specific incidents such as imprisonment, torture, and suspicious deaths of journalists or commentators who do not align with the government’s narrative.⁵⁹⁵⁴

⁵⁹⁴⁸ Day of AI, *Embarking on New Initiatives across the African Continent* (Jul. 15, 2025), <https://dayofai.org/embarking-on-new-initiatives-across-the-african-continent/>

⁵⁹⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Rwanda* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/rwanda/freedom-world/2024>

⁵⁹⁵⁰ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Governance Profile: Rwanda* (2024), <https://assets.iiag.online/2024/profiles/2024-IIAG-profile-rw.pdf>

⁵⁹⁵¹ Alphonse Nkusi, *The Rwandan Miracle*, UNESCO Courier (Apr. 4, 2019), <https://en.unesco.org/courier/2019-2/rwandan-miracle>

⁵⁹⁵² Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Justice, *The National Human Rights Action Plan of Rwanda 2017–2020* (2017), <https://www.humanrights.dk/files/media/document/Rwanda%20NHRAP%202017-2020.pdf>

⁵⁹⁵³ European Union, *EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World: 2023 Country Updates*, p. 314 (May 14, 2024), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2023%20EU%20country%20updates%20on%20human%20rights%20and%20democracy_2.pdf

⁵⁹⁵⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Rwanda* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/rwanda/freedom-world/2024>

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International Collaboration

Rwanda has been actively engaging internationally in AI policymaking. Rwanda and Singapore launched the AI Playbook for Small States in 2024, providing strategic guidance on AI adoption and governance to address small nations' unique challenges in implementing AI policies.⁵⁹⁵⁵

Rwanda signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia to expand the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) AI Fellowship Program. This partnership aims to promote ethical AI governance, talent exchange, and responsible AI frameworks across the Global South.⁵⁹⁵⁶

Rwanda hosted the Global AI Summit on Africa in April 2025 dedicated to discussing Africa's demographic strengths and how AI can help reimagine economic opportunities for the workforce.⁵⁹⁵⁷ The event culminated in the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence,⁵⁹⁵⁸ which highlighted Rwanda's ongoing commitment to the UN Global Digital Compact, AU Continental Strategy, and guiding principles including sovereignty, ethics, transparency, and prioritizing human rights and dignity. The Declaration preamble explicitly acknowledges the agreements at the global summits in Bletchley Park (2023), Seoul (2024), and Paris (2025). The AI African Council was also unveiled during the Summit as an advisory body to the Smart Africa Council of ICT Ministers, the Smart Africa Steering Committee, and Board of Smart Africa.⁵⁹⁵⁹

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Rwanda participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁵⁹⁶⁰ Rwanda thus committed to participate in

⁵⁹⁵⁵ Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), Rwanda, and Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore, *AI Playbook for Small States* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/imda/files/news-and-events/media-room/media-releases/2024/09/ai-playbook-for-small-states/imda-ai-playbook-for-small-states.pdf>

⁵⁹⁵⁶ WAM – Emirates News Agency, *Rwanda, UAE, and Malaysia Seek to Boost AI Adoption in the Global South* (Jul. 15, 2025), <https://www.wam.ac/en/article/bkyl45j-uae-malaysia-rwanda-seek-boost-adoption-global>

⁵⁹⁵⁷ WEF and Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, *Global AI Summit on Africa* (2025), <https://c4ir.rw/global-ai-summit-on-africa>

⁵⁹⁵⁸ Global AI Summit on Africa, *Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 4, 2025), <https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa-Declaration-on-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

⁵⁹⁵⁹ Smart Africa, *Smart Africa Convened Technical Experts to Discuss the Establishment of the Africa AI Council* (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://smartafrica.org/announcing-the-establishment-of-the-africa-ai-council-to-propel-continental-competitiveness-through-global-collaboration/>

⁵⁹⁶⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister's Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the*

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international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The successor of the AI safety summit was the AI Seoul summit that was co-hosted by the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2024.⁵⁹⁶¹ While Rwanda was a participant,⁵⁹⁶² they did not sign the Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI that was signed by ten participants of the summit. The declaration is a statement of intent toward international cooperation on AI safety science.⁵⁹⁶³

Rwanda signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet during the Paris 2025 AI Action Summit, along with the African Union, the EU, and over sixty countries.⁵⁹⁶⁴ This landmark declaration underscores a shared global commitment to advancing AI that is ethical, inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with human rights principles.

AI Safety Summit (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁵⁹⁶¹ Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, *AI Seoul Summit* (May 21–22, 2024), <https://aiseoulsummit.kr/aiss/>

⁵⁹⁶² Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Government of UK, *AI Seoul Summit: Participants List (Governments and Organisations)* (May 21–22, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-seoul-summit-programme/ai-seoul-summit-participants-list-governments-and-organisations>

⁵⁹⁶³ Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Government of UK, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders' Session: AI Seoul Summit* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-by-participants-attending-the-leaders-session-ai-seoul-summit-21-may-2024>

⁵⁹⁶⁴ France’s Office of the Presidency, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*, (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Rwanda was admitted as the 55th member of the OECD Development Center, a forum within the OECD in 2019.⁵⁹⁶⁵ The country promotes the G20 AI Guidelines through leadership of the African Union delegation.⁵⁹⁶⁶

Rwanda continues to refine its AI policies and frameworks, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development and collaboration with international bodies. Rwanda engages actively with G20 discussions, contributing to the development of global AI principles that emphasize transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. According to the OECD AI Observatory, Rwanda's national AI policy framework may align with three OECD AI principles: (1) Investing in AI R&D, (2) Fostering a digital ecosystem for AI, and (3) Providing an enabling policy environment for AI.⁵⁹⁶⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The first legally binding global AI treaty protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law was developed in the Council of Europe with the participation of all member states, observer states, and non-member states.⁵⁹⁶⁸ Rwanda has not signed the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law but will be eligible to accede to the treaty after it enters into force.⁵⁹⁶⁹

⁵⁹⁶⁵ Celia Becker, *Rwanda Has Been Admitted as a Member of the OECD Development Centre*, ENSAfrica (Jun. 4, 2019), <https://www.ensafrika.com/news/detail/1400/rwanda-has-been-admitted-as-a-member-of-the->

⁵⁹⁶⁶ African Union, *African Union Delegation Attends 1st G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting under South Africa's G20 Presidency* (Feb. 23, 2025), <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20250223/african-union-delegation-attends-1st-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting-under>

⁵⁹⁶⁷ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Policies in Rwanda* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/rwanda>

⁵⁹⁶⁸ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁹⁶⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Rwanda is a member state of UNESCO since November 1962⁵⁹⁷⁰ and is one of the 193 countries endorsing the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵⁹⁷¹ According to UNESCO's Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey, Rwanda has ongoing initiatives to guide the development of AI at national level and is one of 24 countries in Africa that have requested support in the development of policies and standards on AI.⁵⁹⁷² The UNESCO report highlights Rwanda's policies and centers of excellence on AI as policy initiatives completed as of 2022. Strategies, legislation, and ethical guidelines are in process implemented. Rwanda convened a national workshop with UNESCO in 2023 focused on the implementation of the Recommendation across the 11 policy areas.⁵⁹⁷³

Rwanda is currently undergoing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁵⁹⁷⁴ a tool to support the effective implementation of the Recommendation.⁵⁹⁷⁵ The RAM helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.⁵⁹⁷⁶

Evaluation

Rwanda's Vision 2050, the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy, and the SmartAfrica Blueprint set the framework for the formulation of the National AI Policy. The Policy achieved in cooperation with the MINICT, FAIR Forward AI for All, and The Future Society set the intent of the country in aligning with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁵⁹⁷⁷ An independent AI oversight

⁵⁹⁷⁰ UNESCO, *Rwanda. UNESCO in Rwanda* (2023), <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/rw>

⁵⁹⁷¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁵⁹⁷² UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁵⁹⁷³ UNESCO, *Supporting Rwanda's Bold Steps towards Responsible and Ethical AI* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/supporting-rwandas-bold-steps-towards-responsible-and-ethical-ai>

⁵⁹⁷⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁵⁹⁷⁵ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, General Conference, 42nd session (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387369>

⁵⁹⁷⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

⁵⁹⁷⁷ Ministry of ICT and Innovation, *National Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Apr. 27, 2023), <https://www.minict.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=67550&token=6195a53203e197efa7592f40ff4aaf24579640e>

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mechanism could also be a positive step in addressing AI-powered surveillance practices.

Rwanda is positioning itself as a player in the global discourse on artificial intelligence through collaboration with UNESCO to implement the Recommendation and participation in G20 discussions on ethical AI. Hosting the high-level Global AI summit and launching the AI playbook with Singapore highlight Rwanda's leadership in fostering regional cooperation and addressing the skills gap in ICT.

Overall, these developments reflect Rwanda's strategic efforts to harness technology for social and economic progress while advocating for ethical frameworks and international collaboration.

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Saudi Arabia

In 2025, Saudi Arabia endorsed the OECD AI Principles, further demonstrating support for these foundational principles the country already supported as a G20 member. The country also launched programs to build Saudis' foundational AI skills and knowledge, including in the national curriculum.

National AI Strategy

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)'s AI initiatives are led by the Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA), which reports directly to the Prime Minister and consists of members chosen by the Prime Minister.⁵⁹⁷⁸ A Royal Decree established the SDAIA in 2019 and its governance by a Board of Directors chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.⁵⁹⁷⁹ The SDAIA has the aim of fostering “the digital ecosystem while also supporting the suite of values-based G20 AI Principles.”⁵⁹⁸⁰

The SDAIA is to lead in the national trend for data and artificial intelligence to elevate the Kingdom to leadership among data-driven economies.⁵⁹⁸¹ “Data is the single most important driver of our growth and reform and we have a clear roadmap for transforming KSA into a leading AI and data-driven economy,” said Dr. Abdullah bin Sharaf Al Ghamdi, president of SDAIA.⁵⁹⁸²

The SDAIA oversees three organizations: the National Data Management Office (NDMO), National Information Center (NIC), and National Center for AI (NCAI). The NDMO is responsible for data regulation, which includes standardization and regulation of artificial intelligence and compliance. The NIC oversees the operation of government data infrastructure and government analytics. The implementation of the national AI strategy is the main responsibility of the

⁵⁹⁷⁸ Saudi Gazette, *King Salman Issues Royal Decrees, Including Setting Up of Industry and Resources Ministry* (Aug. 30, 2019), <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/575953>

⁵⁹⁷⁹ Arab News, *King Salman Issues Royal Decrees, Including Creation of Industry and Resources Ministry* (Aug. 30, 2019), <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1547546/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁹⁸⁰ G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Saudia Arabia 2020, Examples of National AI Policies*, p. 6 (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

⁵⁹⁸¹ SDAIA, *National Strategy for Data and AI*, <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Pages/NationalStrategyForDataAndAI.aspx>; SDAIA, *Strategy Narrative, Brochure* (Arabic) (2020), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/ar/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Documents/BrochureNSDAISummit.pdf>

⁵⁹⁸² Gulf News, *Saudi Arabia Approves Policy on Artificial Intelligence, Expects SR500b Windfall by 2030* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://gulfnews.com/business/saudi-arabia-approves-policy-on-artificial-intelligence-expects-sr500b-windfall-by-2030-1.1597032000775>

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NCAI. This includes facilitating capacity-building, AI innovation, and awareness of AI such as through expanding education on AI.⁵⁹⁸³

The SDAIA developed the National Strategy for Data and Artificial Intelligence (NSDAI), approved by the Saudi High Commissioner on July 7, 2020⁵⁹⁸⁴ and published in August 2020.⁵⁹⁸⁵ The National Strategy aims to advance the KSA Vision 2030.⁵⁹⁸⁶ The AI Strategy, also called ASPIRE, includes a roadmap with a “a multi-phased approach focused on addressing the national priorities by 2025, building foundations for competitive advantage in key niche areas by 2030, and becoming one of the leading economies utilizing and exporting Data & AI after 2030.”⁵⁹⁸⁷

The strategy supports national priorities by addressing the urgent needs to enable the transformation of the Kingdom in accordance with the priorities of Vision 2030.⁵⁹⁸⁸ Since 2025, the strategy has focused on building specialized capabilities in data and AI as the foundation for competitive advantage. By 2030, the strategy will be directed at developing entrepreneurial competition at the international level and joining the leading economies that benefit from data and artificial intelligence. Transforming the Saudi workforce through training in data and AI, including by international experts, and creating legislation to attract businesses and talent are among the AI Strategy’s 6 pillars.⁵⁹⁸⁹ Major educational reforms aim to foster the development of digital skills for jobs in emerging technology including AI.⁵⁹⁹⁰

As part of the National Strategy, the Kingdom aimed at the creation of a framework to promote and support the ethical development of Data & AI research and solutions. The framework includes guidelines for the development of data

⁵⁹⁸³ OECD Going Digital Toolkit, *Policy Dimensions* (2020),

<https://goingdigital.oecd.org/dimensions>

⁵⁹⁸⁴ SDAIA, *National Strategy for Data and AI*,

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Pages/NationalStrategyForDataAndAI.aspx>

⁵⁹⁸⁵ Carrington Malin, *Saudi National Strategy for Data and AI Approved* (Aug. 2020),

<https://www.sme10x.com/technology/saudi-national-strategy-for-data-and-ai-approved>

⁵⁹⁸⁶ Government of Saudi Arabia, *Vision 2030* (2020), <https://vision2030.gov.sa/en>; Catherine

Jewell, *Saudi Arabia Embraces AI-Driven Innovation* (Sept. 2018),

https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2018/05/article_0002.html

⁵⁹⁸⁷ SDAIA, *National Strategy for Data and AI*,

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Pages/NationalStrategyForDataAndAI.aspx>; SDAIA,

Strategy Narrative, Brochure (Arabic) (2020),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/ar/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Documents/BrochureNSDAISummit.pdf>

⁵⁹⁸⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹⁸⁹ Access Partnership, *Introducing Saudi Arabia’s National Strategy for Data and AI* (Oct 22, 2022), <https://accesspartnership.com/introducing-saudi-arabias-national-strategy-for-data-and-ai/>

⁵⁹⁹⁰ Catherine Early, *Saudi Arabia Signs Off on Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Aug. 2020), <https://www.globalgovernmentforum.com/saudi-arabia-signs-off-on-artificial-intelligence-policy/>

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protection and privacy standards.”⁵⁹⁹¹ The NDMO worked on the development of policies and regulations related to data privacy and freedom of information, with Open Data platforms as a priority topic. The regulatory framework includes specifications on data collection, classification, sharing, open data policy, and freedom of information.⁵⁹⁹²

The SDAIA website provides information about the Kingdom’s roadmap for AI,⁵⁹⁹³ current activities, achievements, and general information about the authority and its work.⁵⁹⁹⁴ Further, the SDAIA provides a digitized version of the strategy report.⁵⁹⁹⁵ The Vision 2030 Strategy was developed by the Council of Ministers.⁵⁹⁹⁶ The Vision 2030 website sets out broad policy objectives, with indicators and targets for every Theme.⁵⁹⁹⁷ The SDAIA incorporated tracking of government entities’ AI readiness related to the AI Strategy with the launch of a National AI Index in July 2025.⁵⁹⁹⁸ : By mid-2025, SDAIA reported that AI-backed initiatives were contributing about 1.4% to Saudi GDP and government communications have begun to frame the Kingdom’s AI push as a six-year effort that has pushed Saudi Arabia towards being a global AI leader.⁵⁹⁹⁹

The SDAIA published AI Ethics Principles⁶⁰⁰⁰ to guide all stakeholders designing, developing, deploying, or using AI systems in the KSA. The SDAIA introduction to the principles aligns with international standards, though does not name them, and frames the principles as part of the organization’s efforts to

⁵⁹⁹¹ SDAIA, *National Strategy for Data and AI*,

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Pages/NationalStrategyForDataAndAI.aspx>; SDAIA, *Strategy Narrative, Brochure* (Arabic) (2020),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/ar/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Documents/BrochureNSDAISummit.pdf>

⁵⁹⁹² Ibid

⁵⁹⁹³ SDAIA, *Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 18, 2025),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/ar/SDAIA/about/Pages/AboutAI.aspx>

⁵⁹⁹⁴ SDAIA, *Home* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/>

⁵⁹⁹⁵ SDAIA, *National Strategy for Data and AI*,

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Pages/NationalStrategyForDataAndAI.aspx>; SDAIA, *Strategy Narrative, Brochure* (Arabic) (2020),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/ar/SDAIA/SdaiaStrategies/Documents/BrochureNSDAISummit.pdf>

⁵⁹⁹⁶ Vision2030, *About Saudi Vision 2030* (2025), <https://vision2030.gov.sa/ar/overview>

⁵⁹⁹⁷ Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, *Vision 2030, Vision Realization Programs*,

<https://vision2030.gov.sa/en/explore/programs>

⁵⁹⁹⁸ Saudi Press Agency, *SDAIA Launches “National AI Index” to Measure Government Readiness for Adopting AI* (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2365549>

⁵⁹⁹⁹ Saudi Press Agency, *Saudi Arabia Becomes Global Leader in Data and AI with SDIA’s Six-Year Effort* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2389912>

⁶⁰⁰⁰ SDAIA, *AI Ethics Principles, Version 1.0* (Sept. 2023),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/ai-principles.pdf>; Digital Policy Alert, *Saudi*

Arabia: SDAIA AI Ethics Principles (Sept. 2023),

<https://digitalpolicyalert.org/change/6878#timeline>

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implement AI and data to drive economic development and prosperity in the country. The principles intend to limit the negative impacts of AI systems and provide businesses and other entities with a reference for adopting their own standards and ethics to ensure responsible AI use. In addition to principles, the framework defines risk categories and, for each principle, guidance for acting on that principle in each step of the AI lifecycle. The principles are Fairness, Privacy & Security, Humanity, Social & Environmental Benefits, Reliability & Safety, Transparency & Explainability, and Accountability & Responsibility.

The SDAIA has also released Guidelines for Generative Artificial Intelligence for the Public⁶⁰⁰¹ and for Government⁶⁰⁰² to assist stakeholders in the responsible design, development, deployment, and use of generative AI.

Public Participation

The Saudi AI initiatives are led by the Saudi Data and AI Authority, which reports directly to the Prime Minister and consists of members chosen by the Prime Minister.⁶⁰⁰³

In the most recent UN e-Government Survey of 2024,⁶⁰⁰⁴ Saudi Arabia ranked 6th out of 193 in the VHEGDI group in the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) and 2nd in the GCC. The UN report highlighted the e-participation initiatives at the national and local level and the integration of these programs through the Balady portal. The Balady (Arabic for ‘My country’) includes information on e-participation functions, including e-consultation, e-information, and e-decision making. The interactive platform includes options for “your voice is heard,” “self-evaluation,” and “your decision.”⁶⁰⁰⁵ The Bertelsmann Foundation country report 2024,⁶⁰⁰⁶ ranked Saudi Arabia 84th of 137 countries in the governance index, with low scores in Stability of Democratic Institutions and Political Participation. The report indicates that public debate about political issues is minimal.

⁶⁰⁰¹ SDAIA, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Guidelines: Public, Version 1* (Jan. 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Files/GenerativeAIPublicEN.pdf>

⁶⁰⁰² SDAIA, *Generative Artificial Intelligence Guidelines: For Government, Version 1* (Jan. 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Files/GenAIGuidelinesForGovernmentENCompressed.pdf>

⁶⁰⁰³ Saudi Gazette, *King Salman Issues Royal Decrees, Including Setting Up of Industry and Resources Ministry* (Aug. 2019), <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/575953>

⁶⁰⁰⁴ United Nations, *E-Government Survey 2024, Accelerating Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development* (Sept. 2024), <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/>

⁶⁰⁰⁵ Government of Saudi Arabia, *Balady Portal* (2023), <https://balady.gov.sa/>

⁶⁰⁰⁶ BertelsmannStiftung Foundation, *BTI Transformation Index: Saudi Arabia Country Report 2024* (2024), <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/SAU>

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The SDAIA conducted a public consultation on draft amendments to the Implementing Regulations of the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) from April 27 to May 27, 2025, a few months after the full implementation of the law in September 2024.⁶⁰⁰⁷ The proposed amendments aim to provide clarity on some provisions and ease compliance burdens. The SDAIA previously sought public comments on the Principles of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.⁶⁰⁰⁸ The survey was open for two weeks. Public comments are visible on the website and results and decisions can be downloaded (in Arabic).

The KSA Communication, Space, and Technology Commission (CST) conducted public consultation for the draft Global AI Hub Law from April 14 to May 14, 2025.⁶⁰⁰⁹ The goals of the Global AI Hub Law are to endorse the Kingdom's position and role as a global digital hub, stimulate investment in technology, data, and AI services, provide innovative services, and support innovation, research, and development in advanced technologies. The CST (then the Communications and Information Technology Commission, CITC) previously consulted the public on the Digital Content Platform Regulations Document in 2021.⁶⁰¹⁰ The document remained available on the website, but no comments or responses were published.

Data Protection

The Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) was created by Royal Decree M/19 of September 2021 and Cabinet Resolution No. 98 of September 2021 and took effect in March 2022. The Saudi Arabia Council of Ministers adopted amendments to the PDPL in March 2023 following public consultation.⁶⁰¹¹ The amendments sought to assimilate further the PDPL definitions, concepts, and requirements to exemplary privacy laws such as the GDPR. The amendments introduced concepts such as personal data, controllers, and processors and added rights such as data portability and a requirement to maintain a record of processing activities.

⁶⁰⁰⁷ Saudi Press Agency, *SDAIA Invites Public, Stakeholders to Share Feedback on Draft Amendments to Personal Data Protection Law's Implementing Regulation* (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2308486>

⁶⁰⁰⁸ Saudi Public Consultation Platform, *Principles of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 15, 2022), <https://istitlaa.ncc.gov.sa/ar/Transportation/NDMO/AIEthicsPrinciples/Pages/default.aspx#>

⁶⁰⁰⁹ Communications, Space, & Technology Commission, *CST Publishes a Public Consultation for the Global AI Hub Law* (Apr. 14, 2025), <https://www.cst.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/N2025041401>

⁶⁰¹⁰ Communications and Information Technology Commission, *CITC Publishes a Public Consultation on Digital Content Platform Regulations Document*, <https://www.citc.gov.sa/en/new/publicConsultation/Pages/144304.aspx>

⁶⁰¹¹ SDAIA, *Personal Data Protection Law* (Mar. 27, 2023), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/Personal Data English V2-23April2023-Reviewed-.pdf>

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The Implementing Regulation of the Personal Data Protection Law entered into effect in September 2024.⁶⁰¹² The Implementing Regulation outlines key data subject rights such as the right to be informed of the purpose of data collection and the right to access, rectify, and delete personal data or withdraw consent. Furthermore, the regulation outlines the legal basis for personal data collection and processing outlining the controllers' obligations.” Proposed amendments⁶⁰¹³ to the Implementing Regulation submitted to the public for consultation in 2025 aim to consolidate and clarify the Data Protection Officer’s responsibilities; emphasize that Privacy Notices must be written in clear, simplified, and comprehensible language; and remove the previous 90-day time limit for individuals to file complaints, allowing data subjects to raise complaints at any time, among others.

The PDPL aims “to protect individuals' personal data privacy and regulate organizations' collection, processing, disclosure, or retention of personal data.”⁶⁰¹⁴ Modeled after the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the PDPL aims to prevent the misuse of personal data and specifically implements principles such as “purpose limitation and data minimization, controller obligations, including registration and maintenance of data processing records, data subject rights, and penalties for breach of provisions.”⁶⁰¹⁵ The law grew from efforts by SDAIA to align the Kingdom with other countries in the region and with international standards as part of the Vision 2030.⁶⁰¹⁶ Individuals now have the “right to be informed of the legal basis and purpose for the collection and processing of their personal data. Personal data cannot be collected or processed without the Data Subject’s express consent.” Data subjects will also have the “right to access personal data in possession of the Data Controller, including the right to correct, delete, or update personal data, destroy unnecessary data, and obtain a copy of the data in a clear format.”⁶⁰¹⁷

⁶⁰¹² SDAIA, *The Implementing Regulation of the Personal Data Protection Law* (Sept. 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/ImplementingRegulation.pdf>

⁶⁰¹³ Saudi Press Agency, *SDAIA Invites Public, Stakeholders to Share Feedback on Draft Amendments to Personal Data Protection Law’s Implementing Regulation* (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2308486>

⁶⁰¹⁴ Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, *Personal Data Protection System* (Sept. 24, 2021), <https://laws.boe.gov.sa/BoeLaws/Laws/LawDetails/b7cfac89-828e-4994-b167-adaa00e37188/1>

⁶⁰¹⁵ Data Guidance, *Saudi Arabia* (2021), <https://www.dataguidance.com/jurisdiction/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰¹⁶ Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, *Personal Data Protection System* (Sept. 24, 2021), <https://laws.boe.gov.sa/BoeLaws/Laws/LawDetails/b7cfac89-828e-4994-b167-adaa00e37188/1>

⁶⁰¹⁷ SDAIA, *Personal Data Protection Law* (Mar. 27, 2023), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/Personal%20Data%20English%20V2-23April2023-%20Reviewed-.pdf>

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Soon after the PDPL took effect, the SDAIA published the Personal Data Destruction, Anonymization, and Pseudonymization Guideline,⁶⁰¹⁸ which provides a framework to help entities comply with the requirements for data destruction, anonymization, and pseudonymization.

The Kingdom issued the E-Commerce Law of 2019, which focuses on increased transparency and consumer protection to enhance trust in online transactions and includes provisions for the protection of personal data of customers.⁶⁰¹⁹ The Law sets obligations to service providers to protect the personal data of customers in their possession or under their control. The KSA E-Commerce Law prohibits service providers from using customers' personal data for "unauthorized or impermissible" purposes and disclosing personal data to third parties without the customer's consent.⁶⁰²⁰

The SDAIA serves as the KSA's data protection authority, charged with overseeing compliance with the PDPL. The SDAIA was welcomed as a new Observer to the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) in 2021 until 2025.⁶⁰²¹ The Authority did not endorse the GPA 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection,⁶⁰²² 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of AI,⁶⁰²³ 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of

⁶⁰¹⁸ SDAIA, *Personal Data Destruction, Anonymization and Pseudonymization Guideline* (Aug. 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/Documents/PersonalDataDestructionAnonymizationAndEncryptionGuideline.pdf>

⁶⁰¹⁹ National Center for Documents and Archives, *E-Commerce System for the Year 1440 AH* (Jul. 10, 2019), <https://ncar.gov.sa/document-details/eyJpdil6IIIva0paYjdaZGttQUYya3lVemRCdkE9PSIsInZhbHVlIjoibnpZTkvpdzZSU2U0bUJockhZUHBjd09IiwibWFjIjoiotlYmYTclZDRmN2M4ZjlmZDMxYWwRlZDYyMzg3ZDM0Mjc0NWQwZmU1ZTM0ZjA5NGI1ZTZiODgzNGM0NTg1OTFIMSIsInRhZyI6IiJ9>

⁶⁰²⁰ Ibid, Article 5

⁶⁰²¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Observers* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-observers/>

⁶⁰²² International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁰²³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

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Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁶⁰²⁴ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶⁰²⁵

Algorithmic Transparency

The PDPL Implementing Regulation⁶⁰²⁶ that entered into force in September 2024 introduced provisions and mechanisms that enhance transparency and ensure accountability in the use of automated processing and algorithms. The Regulation ensures that data subjects are aware of and consent to automated processing.

The Implementing Regulation requires that when decisions are “made based entirely on automated processing of personal data,” explicit consent must be obtained from the data subject.⁶⁰²⁷ Another article requires controllers to conduct an impact assessment when processing involves “making decisions based on the automated processing of personal data.”⁶⁰²⁸ The impact assessments include identifying potential risks and impacts on the privacy and rights of data subjects. Controllers must also clarify “whether decisions will be made based entirely on automated processing of personal data.”⁶⁰²⁹ However, neither the PDPL nor Implementing Regulation establish an explicit legal right for data subjects to access the logic of automated decisions or to challenge them.

Prior to the PDPL regulation, the KSA public entities showed examples of adopting a culture of personal data protection. For example, the Saudi Tourism Authority in its website privacy statement explicitly informs users that no automated decision, including profiling is carried out. The Authority also explains its obligation to notify users “how [it] use automated decision making and/or profiling—when and why.”⁶⁰³⁰

⁶⁰²⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition technology* (Oct 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶⁰²⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶⁰²⁶ SDAIA, *The Implementing Regulation of the Personal Data Protection Law* (Sept. 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/ImplementingRegulation.pdf>

⁶⁰²⁷ Ibid, Article 11(2)(c)

⁶⁰²⁸ Ibid, Article 25(1)(c)

⁶⁰²⁹ Ibid, Article 4(5)(c)

⁶⁰³⁰ Saudi Tourism Authority, *Privacy Policy* (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://www.sta.gov.sa/en/privacy-policy>

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In a Human Rights Watch investigation of government-endorsed EdTech products used during the COVID pandemic,⁶⁰³¹ the KSA was one of nine governments that “directly built and offered eleven learning apps that may collect AAD [Advertising ID] from children. In doing so, these governments granted themselves the ability to track an estimated 41.1 million students and teachers purely for advertising and monetization.” The KSA’s educational App iEN included third-party tools like Google Crashlytics and Firebase Analytics, which have the technical capability to collect and process users’ data and access the Android Advertising ID and camera on users’ Android devices. On a positive note, the KSA educational website was one of only 12 websites of the 124 analyzed that did not collect and transmit data about children through third-party trackers, preserving their privacy.

AI Sandboxes

The Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA) launched a first-of-its-kind regulatory sandbox in the region to foster innovation while maintaining strong data protection and AI governance.⁶⁰³² The initiative allows companies and start-ups to test AI services and automated processing in a controlled, supervised environment—empowering innovation under rigorous oversight. According to the SDAIA, “The sandbox aims to encourage technological innovation in the fields of data and privacy while safeguarding consumers’ personal data rights.” The SDAIA further emphasizes that the program provides a “secure regulatory environment that supports the protection of personal data as a competitive advantage.”

AI in Public Administration

The KSA’s Vision 2030 include digital government to improve citizen services among the key objectives. Digital Government Authority (DGA) issued the Human-Centered AI (HAI) Framework in 2025,⁶⁰³³ setting out a national approach for the deployment of AI in government to explicitly prioritize human values, social benefit, explainability, and cultural alignment. The framework defines HAI as “AI that augments human decision-making” and is developed in line with existing national ethics instruments led by SDAIA. The HAI Framework links to the Vision 2030’s digital government pillars, providing practical recommendations for the

⁶⁰³¹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

⁶⁰³² Saudi Data & AI Authority, *SDAIA Launches Second Edition of Regulatory Sandbox Programme* (May 2025),

<https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/Initiatives/Pages/Details.aspx?ItemID=18>

⁶⁰³³ Digital Government Authority, *Human-Centred AI* (Aug. 23, 2025), <https://dga.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2025-08/Human%20Centered%20AI-V1.0.pdf>

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adoption of HAI-driven solutions and identifying KSA's public sector, healthcare, and education as key local opportunities.

Biometric Identification

Digital identity initiatives are on the agenda of the Kingdom. In 2021, Saudi Telecom Company (STC) signed an MoU with Thales on ample cooperation that encompassed Smart Cities, SIMs, IoT, and 5G Satellites.⁶⁰³⁴ The Ministry of Interior of KSA announced the introduction of a biometric passport with advanced securities, including an electronic processor chip with biometric information for authentication.⁶⁰³⁵

The Jawazat in 2021 released a Digital ID (Muqem- Iqama) for Expats, within the new electronic application ABsher Individuals. Carrying the Iqama card was compulsory for ex-pats with fines for not adhering. However, later in the year, the Jawazat clarified that Expats could use the alternate plastic Muqem version as well.⁶⁰³⁶ The Muqem card is under the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the National Information Center.

Mass Surveillance

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the countries studied by the Carnegie Endowment for Peace in 2019 on the use of AI technology for mass surveillance.⁶⁰³⁷ According to the research, the Saudi government cooperates with several global technology firms to solidify digital infrastructure: Huawei to set up Safe cities, Google with cloud servers, BAE with mass surveillance systems, NEC with facial recognition technology, and Amazon and Alibaba with cloud computing centers within the smart city project. U.S. and Chinese technology firms also included Briefcam, Gatekeeper, Hikvision, Hugslock, and IBM, according to the study.⁶⁰³⁸

⁶⁰³⁴ Frank Hersey, *Thales Signs MoU to Develop Digital Identity, Smart Cities in Saudi Arabia*, (Dec. 10, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202112/thales-signs-mou-to-develop-digital-identity-smart-cities-in-saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰³⁵ Ayang Macdonald, *Saudi Arabia Plans Imminent Rollout of Biometric Passport, UAE Hits 2M Digital IDs*, Biometric Update (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202110/saudi-arabia-plans-imminent-rollout-of-biometric-passport-uae-hits-2m-digital-ids>

⁶⁰³⁶ Saudi Gazette, *Saudi Jawazat: It Is Not Compulsory To Carry Digital Iqama* (Mar. 11, 2021), <https://www.zawya.com/en/legal/saudi-jawazat-it-is-not-compulsory-to-carry-digital-iqama-m8kk04no>

⁶⁰³⁷ Steven Feldstein, *The Global Expansion of AI Surveillance*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Sept. 2019), https://carnegieendowment.org/files/WP-Feldstein-AISurveillance_final1.pdf

⁶⁰³⁸ Ibid

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Saudi Arabia's Makkah Region Development Authority (MRDA) implemented a crowd-control system to protect pilgrims during Hajj and increase security and safety. The system includes a wristband with digital ID information, special healthcare requirements, and location via GPS as well as surveillance cameras to monitor the holy sites in real-time. The General Security and SDAIA collaborated to implement artificial intelligence technologies at the Command and Control Center of the Hajj security forces in Makkah and the holy sites in 2024.⁶⁰³⁹

During the fight against COVID-19, the SDAIA launched two apps: the Tawakkalna app⁶⁰⁴⁰ to manage movement permits for government and private sector employees and Tabaud to notify citizens when they came in contact with someone who was infected with the virus. MIT Technology Review reported that Tabaud is transparent, voluntary, and minimizes data collection.⁶⁰⁴¹

Smart Cities

The Kingdom initiated a smart city project called Neom. Neom “is an international project that will be led, populated and funded by people from all over the world.” Neom will be a “semi-autonomous region with its own government and laws” in northwest Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea and home to one million people by 2030.⁶⁰⁴² Neom is envisioned to become a region that “redefines the concept of urban development and what cities of the future will look like,” built on five principles: sustainability, community, technology, nature, and livability.⁶⁰⁴³

During the third edition of the Global AI Summit, the SDAIA signed a partnership with NEOM to support the NEOM Project in developing talented human resources in innovations, encouraging creators, and building national and international capacities regarding AI in decision-making, AI adaptive inspection, and machine-executable legislation.⁶⁰⁴⁴

⁶⁰³⁹ SDAIA, *SDAIA Harnesses Smart Solutions to Serve the Visitors of the Two Holy Mosques, Providing Technological Support to Saudi Ports through Qualified National Cadres* (Jun. 15, 2024), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?NewsID=286>

⁶⁰⁴⁰ Tawakkalna, *Welcome to Tawakkalna*, <https://ta.sdaia.gov.sa/index-en.html>

⁶⁰⁴¹ MIT Technology Review, *COVID Tracing Tracker* (May 7, 2020), <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/05/07/1000961/launching-mitr-covid-tracing-%20tracker/>

⁶⁰⁴² NEOM, *FAQ*, https://neomsaudicity.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NEOM_FAQS_ENGLISH.pdf

⁶⁰⁴³ NEOM, *The Line*, <https://www.neom.com/en-us/regions/theline>

⁶⁰⁴⁴ Global AI Summit, *SDAIA Launches the Second Edition of NEOM Challenge in Partnership with NEOM during the Global AI Summit* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2385264>; <https://globalaisummit.org/en/News/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?NewsId=79>

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The NEOM project aligns with plans announced in 2022 to build 200 smart cities. The plan will involve the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, SDAIA, and the Royal Commission for Riyadh City.⁶⁰⁴⁵

Environmental Impact of AI

Principle 4 in the AI Ethics Principles states “AI systems should neither cause nor accelerate harm or otherwise adversely affect human beings but rather contribute to empowering and complementing social and environmental progress while addressing associated social and environmental ills.”⁶⁰⁴⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Saudi Arabia is a High Contracting Party to the convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁶⁰⁴⁷ and has participated in meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) since 2014.⁶⁰⁴⁸ The country supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems.

Saudi Arabia is a member of two groups that support the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems: The Arab Group within the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) within the CCW. The NAM issued a statement during the 2020 UN General Assembly on the “urgent need to pursue a legally-binding [*sic*] instrument on LAWS.”⁶⁰⁴⁹ The Kingdom has not issued any individual statement in this regard. Saudi Arabia abstained on UNGA Resolution 78/241 that emphasized the urgency to address the challenges of LAWS

⁶⁰⁴⁵ German-Saudi Arabian Liaison Office for Economic Affairs, *Delegation: Smart City Solutions* (Mar. 9, 2023), <https://saudiarabien.ahk.de/en/info-hub-content/delegations/german-delegation-smart-city-solutions-2023>

⁶⁰⁴⁶ SDAIA, *AI Ethics Principles, Version 1.0*, p. 19 (Sept. 2023), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/ai-principles.pdf>

⁶⁰⁴⁷ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁶⁰⁴⁸ Automated Research, *State Positions: Saudi Arabia* (2023), https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/saudi-arabia/

⁶⁰⁴⁹ 18th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, *Final Document*, p. 99, point 338 (Oct. 26, 2019), https://undir.org/files/2020-10/2019_NAM%20Summit%20final%20doc.pdf

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in December 2023.⁶⁰⁵⁰ The KSA also abstained on UNGA Resolution 79/L.77 on LAWS in December 2024.⁶⁰⁵¹

Saudi Arabia signed⁶⁰⁵² the Call for Action at the 2023 REAIM (Responsible AI in the Military Domain) in The Hague.⁶⁰⁵³

AI Literacy

Minister of Education Yousef bin Abdullah Al-Benyan and SDAIA President Abdullah bin Sharaf Alghamdi launched the “One Million Saudis in AI” initiative (SAMAI) in September 2024.⁶⁰⁵⁴ The national initiative aims to train one million Saudis to “understand AI, its uses, ethics, and to train on the skills and tools necessary to integrate AI into business and daily life effectively and safely.” More than 330,000 citizens of all ages and professional backgrounds completed SAMAI’s self-paced foundational modules on AI uses, safety, and ethics to citizens by early July 2025.⁶⁰⁵⁵ By late July, officials put the figure at 420,000, showing fast uptake toward the one-million target.⁶⁰⁵⁶

In formal education, Saudi Arabia’s National Curriculum Center approved a mandatory AI curriculum to be taught at all levels of public schooling and reaching over six million students in the 2025–2026 academic year.⁶⁰⁵⁷ The curriculum introduces age-appropriate AI foundations, coding and data concepts, and a strand on AI and data ethics. The classroom content aligns with SDAIA’s public AI-awareness activities under the Vision 2030’s Human Capability Development Programme. To support classroom rollout, the SDAIA provided ready-to-use materials and guidance that align classroom practices with national AI safety principles and ran an awareness campaign for students

⁶⁰⁵⁰ Human Rights Watch, *Killer Robots: UN Vote Should Spur Action on Treaty* (Jan. 3, 2024), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/01/03/killer-robots-un-vote-should-spur-action-treaty>

⁶⁰⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament: Report of the First Committee, A/79/408**, Draft Resolution A/C.1/79/L.77, pp. 103–115 (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/408>

⁶⁰⁵² Government of Netherlands, *REAIM 2023 Endorsing Countries* (Feb. 15–16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-endorsing-countries>

⁶⁰⁵³ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁶⁰⁵⁴ Saudi Press Agency, *Saudi Arabia Launches SAMAI Initiative to Empower 1 Million Citizens in AI* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2170857>

⁶⁰⁵⁵ Middle East AI News, *SDAIA's SAMAI Initiative Trains 330,000 Saudis in AI* (Jul. 3, 2025), <https://www.middleeastainews.com/p/sdaias-samai-trains-330000>

⁶⁰⁵⁶ Middle East AI News, *SAMAI Training Reaches 420,000 Saudis* (Jul. 27, 2025), <https://www.middleeastainews.com/p/samai-ai-training-reaches-424000>

⁶⁰⁵⁷ Saudi Press Agency, *A New Era of Education: Saudi Arabia's Schools Launch AI Curriculum for Six Million Students This Year* (Aug. 24, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2384135>

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and teachers in August 2025.⁶⁰⁵⁸ The education reform integrates the Skills pillar of the Saudi national AI strategy into schools versus limiting the development to scholarship or specialist programs.

Human Rights

Freedom House rated Saudi Arabia as “Not Free” with a score of 9/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.⁶⁰⁵⁹ based on low marks on civil liberties and political rights. Freedom House reports, “Saudi Arabia’s absolute monarchy restricts almost all political rights and civil liberties. No officials at the national level are elected. The regime relies on pervasive surveillance, the criminalization of dissent, appeals to sectarianism and ethnicity, and public spending supported by oil revenues to maintain power.” Internet freedoms in Saudi Arabia remained highly restricted due to censorship and persecution of government criticism.⁶⁰⁶⁰ While government initiatives to digitize and expand internet connectivity across the country have made the internet more accessible, regulations and oversight limit free expression.

Saudi Arabia is a member of the United Nations and hence is bound to commit to uphold human rights standards, including those laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).⁶⁰⁶¹ Saudi Arabia was the sole abstainer on the Declaration among Muslim nations, stating that it violated Sharia law. The Kingdom is not a Party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and has not acceded to or ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia served as one of the 47 members of the Human Rights Council,⁶⁰⁶² a position that the country lost in 2020, amid the reports of human rights violations.⁶⁰⁶³ The monitoring of KSA human rights activities and reports are

⁶⁰⁵⁸ ET Education, *SDAIA Launches AI Learning Resources to Support Saudi Classrooms* (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://education.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/sdaia-unveils-new-ai-learning-resources-for-saudi-classrooms/123542904>

⁶⁰⁵⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Saudi Arabia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/saudi-arabia/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁰⁶⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Saudi Arabia* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/saudi-arabia/freedom-net/2024>

⁶⁰⁶¹ Human Right Watch, International Human Rights Standards, <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/saudi/Saudi-07.htm>

⁶⁰⁶² OHCHR, *Membership of the Human Rights Council* (2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/membership>

⁶⁰⁶³ Natasha Turak, *Saudi Arabia Loses Vote to Stay on UN Human Rights Council; China, Russia and Cuba Win Seats*, CNBC (Oct. 14, 2020), <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/10/14/saudi-arabia-loses-vote-for-un-human-rights-council-seat-china-russia-win.html>; Freedom Forward, *Boycotting the Saudi G20: Our Successes* (Nov. 16, 2020), <https://freedomforward.org/2020/11/16/boycotting-the-saudi-g20-our-successes/>

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under the OHCHR Regional Office of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) created in 2002.⁶⁰⁶⁴ The Human Rights Commission in KSA was founded in 2005 with “full independence in the exercise of its tasks for which it was established and stipulated in its organization.” The Commission states that it “aims to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights in all fields, raising awareness of them and contributing to ensuring that this is implemented in light of the provisions of Islamic Sharia.”⁶⁰⁶⁵

Global AI Summits

The Global AI Summit, held in October 2020, brought together stakeholders from the public sector, academia, and private sector, to shape the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI).⁶⁰⁶⁶ Speakers from across sectors explored the themes of AI for the Good of Humanity, AI for Good, and AI for All.⁶⁰⁶⁷

The President of SDAIA emphasized the importance of working together internationally to ensure the sustainable development of AI⁶⁰⁶⁸ “to accelerate AI for sustainable development in low and middle-income countries and to enable the sharing of AI best practices globally to ensure a more inclusive future powered by AI where no one is left behind.”

The 2nd Global AI Summit was held in September 2022 under the theme Artificial Intelligence for the Good of Humanity.⁶⁰⁶⁹ The Summit examined eight pillars: smart cities, capacity building, healthcare, transportation, energy, culture, environment, and economic mobility. More than 40 memoranda of understanding, declarations, and partnerships were signed between the public and private sectors towards investing in AI technologies, underlining the Kingdom’s aspirations to become a global AI hub as part of its Vision 2030 development program.

During the summit, the State Members of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)⁶⁰⁷⁰ adopted the Riyadh AI Call for Action Declaration (RAICA). The declaration was signed by all members of DCO including Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Jordan, Rwanda, and

⁶⁰⁶⁴ OHCHR, *Countries & Territories: Saudi Arabia* (2023),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰⁶⁵ Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, *Human Rights Commission*, <https://www.hrc.gov.sa/website/about-us>

⁶⁰⁶⁶ Saudipedia, *Global GAIN Summit* (Oct. 10, 2020), <https://saudipedia.com/en/global-ai-summit>

⁶⁰⁶⁷ Global AI Summit, *Program* (2020), <https://globalaisummit.org/en/Pages/Program.aspx>

⁶⁰⁶⁸ Global AI Summit, *AI for the Good of Humanity* (Oct. 21, 2020) (livestream),

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOGYQlhmb_8

⁶⁰⁶⁹ Access Partnership, *Saudi Arabia’s Global AI Summit: Points of Interest for the Industry* (Oct. 5, 2022), <https://accesspartnership.com/saudi-arabias-global-ai-summit-points-of-interest-for-the-industry/>

⁶⁰⁷⁰ Digital Cooperation Organization, *Home* (Mar. 17, 2023). <https://dco.org/>

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Saudi Arabia. The declaration promotes the use of AI technology to benefit transnational and transcontinental communities, advancing the DCO's commitment to identify and address present, emerging, and future humanitarian issues. The declaration highlights seven key pillars:

1. Closing the digital divide
2. Empowering underprivileged communities
3. Promoting digital development
4. Ensuring fairness and non-discrimination
5. Driving AI innovation
6. Combating climate change through AI
7. Engaging in international collaboration and cooperation.

AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, Saudi Arabia participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁶⁰⁷¹ Saudi Arabia thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The second AI Safety Summit took place in Seoul in May 2024 and Saudi Arabia was represented by the SDAIA President.⁶⁰⁷² Saudi Arabia signed the Ministerial Statement, which highlighted the need to enhance inclusivity alongside AI safety and innovation.⁶⁰⁷³

⁶⁰⁷¹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister's Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit*, (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁶⁰⁷² AI Seoul Summit, *Ministers' Session Action to Strengthen AI Safety/Approach for Sustainability and Resilience* (May 22, 2024), <https://aiseoulsummit.kr/program/?mod=document&uid=9>

⁶⁰⁷³ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *Policy Paper: Seoul Ministerial Statement for Advancing AI Safety, Innovation and Inclusivity: AI Seoul Summit 2024* (May 22, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-ministerial-statement-for-advancing-ai-safety-innovation-and-inclusivity-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-ministerial-statement-for-advancing-ai-safety-innovation-and-inclusivity-ai-seoul-summit-2024>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a member of the G20, which adopted the G20 AI Guidelines align with the OECD Principles in 2019. In 2025, Saudi Arabia officially endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁶⁰⁷⁴ The country is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁶⁰⁷⁵

The country has demonstrated efforts for the implementation of the Principles through submission of reports to the OECD AI Observatory about implementation, including the National Data and AI Strategy, National Centre of AI, Personal Data Protection Law, Saudi Data and AI Authority.⁶⁰⁷⁶ The OECD also makes note of KSA's National Center for AI (NCAI) and highlights SDAIA's work toward trustworthy AI in health.⁶⁰⁷⁷

Saudi Arabia has also been active in promoting the principles through the G20. Saudi Arabia hosted the Meeting of the 2020 G20 Digital Economy Ministers in Riyadh, where AI policy was a focal point of discussion. The KSA Digital Economy Task Force released a new report on the implementation of AI cases that mapped to the OECD AI Principles.⁶⁰⁷⁸ The key agenda set by the Saudi government comprised: “Empowering People, by creating the conditions in which all people—especially women and youth—can live, work and thrive”; “Safeguarding the Planet, by fostering collective efforts to protect our global commons”; and “Shaping New Frontiers, by adopting long-term and bold strategies to share benefits of innovation and technological advancement.”⁶⁰⁷⁹ The G20 Leaders Declaration read: “We will continue to promote multi-stakeholder discussions to advance innovation and a human-centered approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI), taking note of the Examples of National Policies to Advance the G20 AI Principles.”⁶⁰⁸⁰

⁶⁰⁷⁴ Saudi Press Agency, *Kingdom Joins OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 23, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2345126>

⁶⁰⁷⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶⁰⁷⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Saudi Arabia*, <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/SaudiArabia>

⁶⁰⁷⁷ G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Examples of National AI Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

⁶⁰⁷⁸ Ibid

⁶⁰⁷⁹ G20 Research Group, *2020 Riyadh Summit*, Riyadh Summit Documents, University of Toronto (2026), <https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2020riyadh.html>; SDG Knowledge Hub, *G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting* (Jul. 22–23, 2020), <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/g20-digital-economy-ministers-meeting/>

⁶⁰⁸⁰ G20 Research Group, *G20 Riyadh Summit, Leaders Declaration*, University of Toronto (Nov. 21–22, 2020), <https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁰⁸¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a UNESCO member-State since 1946,⁶⁰⁸² Saudi Arabia was one of 193 that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics in November 2021. Experts from the SDAIA contributed to the initial draft of the UNESCO Recommendation.

Saudi Arabia is a member of the Groups of Friends of UNESCO, created in February 2022 as an open initiative to support the implementation of the recommendations and to exchange good practices. UNESCO published *Implementation of the Recommendation on Ethics of AI*⁶⁰⁸³ proposed by the Group of Friends—Cook Islands, Kuwait (chair of the Group of Friends), Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Togo—in October 2022.

The KSA AI Ethics Principles provide a practical guide to incorporate AI ethics throughout the AI development lifecycle.⁶⁰⁸⁴ The release of these principles demonstrates the commitment of KSA to the implementation of the UNESCO recommendations. Saudi Arabia and the Arab States are part of UNESCO activities in the region to achieve a unified view of Artificial intelligence.⁶⁰⁸⁵

Saudi Arabia completed UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in December 2024.⁶⁰⁸⁶ In March 2025, SDAIA and ICAIRE convened global experts in Riyadh to review the Kingdom's RAM findings and next-step action

⁶⁰⁸¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 23, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁶⁰⁸² UNESCO, *Member States: Saudi Arabia* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/sa>

⁶⁰⁸³ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on Ethics of AI* (Oct 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

⁶⁰⁸⁴ SDAIA, *AI Ethics Principles, Version 1.0* (Sept. 2023), <https://sdaia.gov.sa/en/SDAIA/about/Documents/ai-principles.pdf>; Digital Policy Alert, *Saudi Arabia: SDAIA AI Ethics Principles* (Sept. 2023), <https://digitalpolicyalert.org/change/6878#timeline>

⁶⁰⁸⁵ UNESCO, *Towards a Common Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Arab States: Digital Inclusion Week 2021* (Dec 11, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/towards-common-artificial-intelligence-strategy-arab-states-digital-inclusion-week-2021>

⁶⁰⁸⁶ UNESCO Digital Library, *Saudi Arabia: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment* (2024), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392184>

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plan.⁶⁰⁸⁷ RAM now serves as the main reference for aligning Saudi data- and AI-governance measures with the Recommendation. The RAM report found that while 100% of the Saudi population uses the internet, talent gaps exacerbated by women's limited access to STEM education reveal a need to develop the ecosystem further. Government funding in education and startups is one possible means to develop the system.⁶⁰⁸⁸

Evaluation

Saudi Arabia has emerged as an influential leader among the G20 countries, the Arab region, and a powerful AI economic force globally. As a member of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), the Kingdom achieved the endorsement of the RAICA at the Global AI Summit in 2022. The SDAIA also published SDAIA AI Ethics Principles and has provided guidance on responsible use of Generative AI for the public and government.

The publication of the National Data and AI Strategy, the AI Ethics Principles, and the readily available documentation about related policies and strategies for AI show a positive intent of the country to involve constituents in this process. The Kingdom is keen to achieve its national vision and strategies related to adopting artificial intelligence technologies; encouraging research, development, and innovation; raising awareness; and promoting economic growth to achieve desired prosperity and development.

Areas of opportunity exist in the endorsement of international agreements related to Data Protection. The enactment of the new Personal Data Protection Law and Regulations addresses the rights related to automated decision-making; however, algorithmic transparency laws can be expanded. While Saudi Arabia was accepted as an Observer member of the Global Privacy Assembly, the lack of accredited membership remains an action area. The use of surveillance technologies and a lack of online freedom raise further concern.

⁶⁰⁸⁷ Saudi Press Agency, *ICAIRE Discusses Saudi Arabia's AI Readiness Assessment Report by UNESCO with Global Expert* (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2287792>

⁶⁰⁸⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Saudi Arabia* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/saudiarabia>

Senegal

In 2025, Senegal released an updated AI strategy to direct AI development for the Sustainable Development Goals through governance and human capital. The country was also recognized for improvements to support human rights with an improvement in the Freedom in the World classification to “Free.”

National AI Strategy

The Senegalese Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications and Data (*Ministère de la Communication, des Télécommunications et du Digital Technology*, MCTN) launched a draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Artificial Intelligence in 2023,⁶⁰⁸⁹ and updated the strategy in 2025.⁶⁰⁹⁰ The strategy intends to promote digital innovation while focusing on AI that is responsible, ethical, trustworthy, and respectful of sovereign prerogatives. The strategy aims to create an intellectual breeding ground conducive to innovation and a new entrepreneurial dynamic to leverage AI technology in pursuit of developmental objectives built on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Developing human capital, especially through a focus on training young women in data science, is one way the strategy aligns with the SDGs of inclusiveness, environmental and ethical responsibility, and digital entrepreneurship. The strategy focuses on regional solidarity in developing the Artificial Intelligence ecosystem and in the continuity of the collective intelligence process. The AI strategy builds on the new Digital Strategy 2025–2035,⁶⁰⁹¹ existing National Data Strategy, National Cybersecurity Strategy, and other recent policies under the Emerging Senegal Plan.⁶⁰⁹²

As a member of the African Union (AU), Senegal is committed to advancing the formulation and implementation of human-centered AI policies, in alignment with the goals of the AU Digital Transformation Strategy⁶⁰⁹³ and the Continental Data Policy Framework. Senegal was among the more than 130 African ICT and

⁶⁰⁸⁹ Ministère de la Communication, des Télécommunications et du Numérique, *Stratégie nationale et feuille de route du Sénégal sur l'Intelligence Artificielle*, Documentation (2023),

<https://www.mctn.sn/documentation>

⁶⁰⁹⁰ Ministère de la Communication, des Télécommunications et du Numérique, *Stratégie de Développement de l'intelligence artificielle*, Documentation (2025),

<https://www.mctn.sn/documentation>

⁶⁰⁹¹ Senegal Numérique, *Launch of Senegal Digital Strategy 2025–2035* (Jul. 2025),

<https://senegalnumeriquesa.sn/en/lancement-strategie-2025-2035>

⁶⁰⁹² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Senegal* (2026),

<https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/senegal>

⁶⁰⁹³ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)* (May 18, 2020),

<https://au.int/en/documents/20200518/digital-transformation-strategy-africa-2020-2030>

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Communications Ministers and experts that endorsed the African Union Continental AI Strategy and African Digital Compact in July 2024.⁶⁰⁹⁴ The strategy represents Africa’s unified commitment to ethical and responsible AI practices.⁶⁰⁹⁵

Public Participation

The National AI Strategy of Senegal identified a collaborative effort, led by the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications, and the Digital Economy (MCTEN) with the participation of the entire digital ecosystem of Senegal. It drew on the collective expertise of Team Europe, via the implementing agencies of the AU-EU Digital for Development (D4D) Hub—led by Expertise France, alongside GIZ and Enabel.

The strategy was developed through exchange frameworks, workshops and collaborations with a strong representation of Senegalese AI service providers, consumers, educational institutions, financing entities and the government. Such a union of minds and resources, as seen with the Senegal tandem and Team Europe, illustrates that a shared vision and collaborative efforts reveal strategic and disruptive success stories. In an inclusive approach, the strategy underwent a series of review phases between June and July 2023, where it was shared with a diverse audience to gather feedback from across the ecosystem.⁶⁰⁹⁶

Leaders in the digital sector and ordinary citizens were invited to submit proposals for the Senegal Digital Strategy 2025–2035. Minister Alioune Sall expressed the inclusive nature of the public consultation: “Senegal must build its digital future with the active participation of all stakeholders.” The consultation gained around 700 contributions addressing strategic issues such as digital sovereignty, public services, and Senegal as a sub-regional hub and digital economy.⁶⁰⁹⁷ Senegal also hosted a High-Level Policy Dialogue involving government, academia, and industry professionals to discuss integrating AI into higher education in alignment with the National AI Strategy. This effort aligns

⁶⁰⁹⁴ African Union Information and Communication Directorate, *African Ministers Adopt Landmark Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy, African Digital Compact to Drive Africa’s Development and Inclusive Growth* (Jun. 13, 2024), https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/43871-pr-Ministerial_PR_-_STC-CICT1.pdf

⁶⁰⁹⁵ African Union, *Continental AI Strategy* (Jul. 2024), https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf

⁶⁰⁹⁶ D4DHub, *Senegal Unveils New AI Strategy: A Collaborative Effort with the Europe Team* (Sept. 13, 2023), <https://d4dhub.eu/news/le-senegal-devoile-sa-nouvelle-strategie-ia-un-effort-collaboratif-avec-lequipe-europe>

⁶⁰⁹⁷ Le Tech Observateur, *Closing of the Public Consultation for the Senegal Digital Strategy 2025–2035: A Step towards a Digital Inclusive Transformation* (Aug. 14, 2024), <https://letechobservateur.sn/cloture-de-la-consultation-publique-pour-la-strategie-numerique-du-senegal-2025-2035-un-pas-vers-une-transformation-digitaleinclusive/>

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with Senegal's vision to build capacity in AI education and foster AI talent for future innovation.

Data Protection

The 2008 Act Concerning Personal Data Protection⁶⁰⁹⁸ protects individuals against the violation of their privacy by the processing of personal data that identifies them directly or indirectly. The Personal Data Protection Act designates the Commission for the Protection of Personal Data (CDP) as the Independent Administrative Authority responsible for verifying the legality and security of the collection and processing of Senegalese personal data. The 2008 Act Concerning Personal Data Protection applies to natural persons, legal persons, and public entities. It also applies to foreign entities but excludes foreign entities that only transit personal data through the country.⁶⁰⁹⁹

The legal framework for personal data in Senegal also includes human rights conventions; the constitution;⁶¹⁰⁰ and laws governing personal data protection, the penal code, criminal procedure, electronic transactions, telecommunications, cybercrime, and cryptology.⁶¹⁰¹

Senegal has also ratified the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Protection of Personal Data known as the Malabo Convention adopted by the General Assembly of the African Union,⁶¹⁰² Council of Europe Convention 108,⁶¹⁰³ Council of Europe Convention 185 on cybercrime,⁶¹⁰⁴ and Council of Europe

⁶⁰⁹⁸ Data Protection Africa, *Senegal Data Protection Factsheet* (May 26, 2022),

<https://dataprotection.africa/senegal/>

⁶⁰⁹⁹ CDP, *Decree No. 2008–721 of 30 June 2008 Implementing Law No. 2008–12 of 25 January 2008 on the Protection of Personal Data*, Articles 2, 3, 4 (Dec. 20, 2008),

https://sppsyrftszniuaicadvk.supabase.co/storage/v1/object/sign/cdp_files/textes_juridiques/reglementaires/decret_application_loi_sur_les_donnees_personnelles.pdf?token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJ1cmwiOiJjZHBfZmlsZXMvdGV4dGVzX2p1cmIkaXF1ZXMvcmVnbGVtZW50YWlyZXMvZGVjemV0X2FwcGxpY2F0aW9uX2xvaV9zdXJfbGVzX2RvbmlZNXNfcGVyc29uYmVsbGVzLnBkZiIsImhhdCI6MTczODMyNDc2OSwiZXhwIjoxODk2MDA0NzY5fQ.nIR60M7fx50KCvz7H1-fgpxc-mPN62GZfKT2Q483STQ

⁶¹⁰⁰ Constitue Project, *Senegal's Constitution of 2001 with Amendments through 2016*, Article 13 (2016), https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Senegal_2016#s96

⁶¹⁰¹ CDP, *Legislative Texts*, <https://www.cdp.sn/legislation/textes-legislatifs>

⁶¹⁰² AU, *African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection: Status List* (May 11, 2020), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

⁶¹⁰³ Council of Europe, *Senegal Becomes the 50th State to Accede to the Data Protection Convention* (Aug. 25, 2016), https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/7oll6Oj8pbV8/content/senegal-becomes-the-50th-state-to-accede-to-the-data-protection-convention-convention-108-

⁶¹⁰⁴ Council of Europe, *Parties to the Budapest Convention* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/parties-observers>

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Additional Protocol to Convention 108 (Treaty No. 181).⁶¹⁰⁵ Senegal has signed the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) Supplementary Act on Personal Data Protection.⁶¹⁰⁶ However, Senegal has not signed or ratified Convention 108+ amending the original Convention 108 on automatic data processing.⁶¹⁰⁷

During the second quarter of 2025, the CDP processed ninety (90) files, including sixty-eight (68) declarations, twenty-two (22) requests for authorization, and one (1) request for opinion. Additionally, the CDP decided to suspend the decisions in three (3) cases and prohibited the implementation of one (1) processing operation.⁶¹⁰⁸

Senegal's CDP is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁶¹⁰⁹ However, Senegal did not sponsor the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁶¹¹⁰ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶¹¹¹ 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶¹¹² or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶¹¹³

Algorithmic Transparency

Although the fourth objective of the AI Strategy is to ensure that AI in Senegal is responsible, ethical, trustworthy and respectful of sovereign prerogatives,

⁶¹⁰⁵ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 181* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=181>

⁶¹⁰⁶ State Watch, *Supplementary Act A/SA. 1/01/10 on Personal Data Protection within ECOWAS* (Feb. 16, 2010), <https://www.statewatch.org/media/documents/news/2013/mar/ecowas-dp-act.pdf>

⁶¹⁰⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁶¹⁰⁸ CDP, *Quarterly Notice N°03-2025 of the Personal Data Protection Commission of Senegal* (2025), <https://www.cdp.sn/publications/rapports/avis-trimestriel>

⁶¹⁰⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁶¹¹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶¹¹¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁶¹¹² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶¹¹³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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Senegal has not developed specific regulations on algorithmic transparency. However, Senegal is a signatory to the Convention 108+ (Convention for Protecting Individuals with the Processing of Personal Data),⁶¹¹⁴ which includes a broad provision regarding algorithm transparency with requirements that users know when they are subjected to automated decisions and have access to the factors in the decision and the means to contest them.⁶¹¹⁵

The Senegalese Constitution stipulates that international law holds precedence over domestic law within the country.⁶¹¹⁶ As a result, international instruments are inherently integrated into the domestic legal framework of Senegal. This constitutional provision underscores the commitment of Senegal to adhere to its obligations under international agreements and treaties.

Facial Recognition

Senegal's Data Protection Commission rejected a company's application to use facial recognition for monitoring employees, citing significant privacy risks. This decision was accompanied by a directive limiting the use of biometric data in the workplace, thereby highlighting the authority's stance on safeguarding data subjects.⁶¹¹⁷ By refusing authorization to data controllers to operate a biometric facial recognition system to control attendance time and access within a company, the CDP reaffirmed its desire to protect the individual rights of employees in their workplace, in accordance with its mandate.

Biometric Data

The European Union Trust Fund (EUTF)'s support program, starting from 2017 and involving a €28 million biometric identity system in Senegal, has raised concerns. The system aims to simplify identity verification by creating a national biometric identity file as part of a universal civil status information system. The project has sparked debate over the necessity of biometric solutions, which could serve as a basis for widespread surveillance despite the availability of simpler alternatives. The implication is that once an asylum seeker or migrant enters

⁶¹¹⁴ Council of Europe, *Senegal Becomes the 50th State to Accede to the Data Protection Convention* (Aug. 25, 2016), https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/7oll6Oj8pbV8/content/senegal-becomes-the-50th-state-to-accede-to-the-data-protection-convention-convention-108-

⁶¹¹⁵ Council of Europe, *Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data*, Articles 8 and 9 (1981), <https://rm.coe.int/1680078b37>

⁶¹¹⁶ Constitute Project, *Senegal's Constitution of 2001 with Amendments through 2016*, Article 98 (2016), https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Senegal_2016#s474

⁶¹¹⁷ CDP, *Quarterly Notice N°01-2023 of the Personal Data Protection Commission of Senegal (CDP)* (Apr. 6, 2023), <https://www.cdp.sn/publications/rapports/avis-trimestriel>

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European borders, or is detected by European immigration enforcement, their biometric data will be collected. This data would be matched with information in the African systems to expedite returning the individual to their country of origin.⁶¹¹⁸

Disclosures revealed the European Union's financial involvement in developing extensive biometric identification systems in West Africa, including Senegal. This initiative, aimed at managing migration and facilitating deportations, is supported by the EU Trust Fund for Africa. Civipol, a company with connections to the French state and major arms manufacturers, has secured significant contracts in this effort. The project raises concerns over privacy, human rights, and the allocation of aid resources.

Environmental Impact of AI

Senegal's efforts regarding the environmental impact of AI have centered on applying AI to promote sustainable development in other sectors rather than the environmental costs of AI systems.

According to the Constitution, natural resources are owned by Senegalese people. As Senegal prepared to extract oil from its first field in 2024, the Prime Minister announced plans to implement AI to monitor the quantity of oil extracted, secure protection, and prevent environmental risks. This AI application is intended as part of the government efforts to ensure “a just transition that would promote sustainable and inclusive development in socio-economic and environmental terms.”⁶¹¹⁹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Senegal is not a signatory of the 2022 Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons.⁶¹²⁰ However, Senegal voted in favor of UN resolution L.56 on autonomous

⁶¹¹⁸ European Union, *Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, Support Program for the Strengthening of the Civil Status Information System and the Creation of a National Biometric Identity File* (2023), https://trust-fund-for-africa.europa.eu/our-programmes/programme-dappui-au-renforcement-du-systeme-dinformation-de-letat-civil-et-la-creation-dun-fichier_en

⁶¹¹⁹ Senegalese Government, *Council of Ministers of June 12, 2024*, News (Jun. 12, 2024), <https://primature.sn/publications/actualites/conseil-des-ministres-du-12-juin-2024>

⁶¹²⁰ UN General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate — Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

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weapons systems,⁶¹²¹ along with 163 other states.⁶¹²² The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report analyzing members’ views on ways to address the challenges and concerns of autonomous weapon systems from humanitarian, legal, security, technological, and ethical perspectives. Senegal then sent four representatives to the 2023 meeting of High-Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) organized in Geneva.⁶¹²³

Senegal participated in a REAIM regional workshop organized in Nairobi (Kenya), in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) and the National Defense University-Kenya.⁶¹²⁴ The meeting aimed at enhancing “regional understanding and engagement on the military application of AI” in the run-up to the second REAIM Summit. Participating countries exchanged information on their national approaches, policies and practices pertaining to responsible application of AI in the military domain.

Senegal then participated in the second REAIM Summit organized in Seoul, Korea, and endorsed the REAIM Blueprint for Action.⁶¹²⁵ Among the key provisions are the acknowledgement that AI applications in the military domain should be ethical and human-centric, as well as the commitment to “engaging in further discussions and to promoting dialogues on developing measures to ensure responsible AI in the military domain at the national, regional and international level, including through international normative frameworks.”

⁶¹²¹ UN General Assembly, *First Committee Approves New Resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, as Speaker Warns "An Algorithm Must Not Be in Full Control of Decisions Involving Killing,"* Press Release (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gadis3731.doc.htm>

⁶¹²² Stop Killer Robots, *164 States Voted against the Machine at the UN General Assembly* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁶¹²³ CCW, *Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (Dec. 19, 2023), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_\(2023\)/CCW-MSP-2023-INF.1.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_(2023)/CCW-MSP-2023-INF.1.pdf)

⁶¹²⁴ Military Africa, *Kenya Hosts Workshop on Responsible Use of AI in the Military* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://www.military.africa/2024/07/kenya-hosts-workshop-on-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-the-military/>

⁶¹²⁵ Reuters, *Sixty Countries Endorse “Blueprint” for AI Use in Military; China Optes Out* (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/south-korea-summit-announces-blueprint-using-ai-military-2024-09-10/>

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AI Literacy

The development of human capital is a key component of the Senegal AI strategy. Senegal hosted and participated in an African sub-regional seminar organized by UNESCO to share knowledge about AI challenges and competencies needed in education.⁶¹²⁶ UNESCO foresees in-country support on the development of national or local digital and AI competency frameworks following the seminar. The seminar built on various resources, including the UNESCO 2021 report on AI and Education: Guidance for Policy-Makers and the UNESCO 2023 report on Guidance for Generative AI in Education and Research. Hosting the seminar demonstrates Senegal's commitment to advance the Education and Research Policy Area of the UNESCO Recommendation.⁶¹²⁷

Human Rights

Freedom House rates Senegal as “Free” with an overall score of 69/100, marking an increase of 2 points and a change in status from 2024.⁶¹²⁸ The Freedom House report notes that different political parties have peacefully transferred power in Senegal since 2000, making the country one of Africa's most stable electoral democracies. The country's democratic institutions resisted an attempt to unduly delay the presidential election, won by an opposition coalition. Nevertheless, internet access blocks and disruptions, which have been clearly in violation of Article 8 of Senegal's constitution and individual rights, continue to occur.⁶¹²⁹ Mobile internet access cut by the government⁶¹³⁰ and banned marches remain critical challenges to freedom of expression.⁶¹³¹

Objective 6 of the AI strategy proposes sorting various AI systems according to the risks to rights that they may pose for people or society. This classification

⁶¹²⁶ UNESCO, *Sub-Regional Seminar for Francophone and Lusophone Countries in Africa on Digital and AI Competencies* (Oct. 29, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/sub-regional-seminar-francophone-and-lusophone-countries-africa-digital-and-ai-competencies>

⁶¹²⁷ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 33–35 (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁶¹²⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Senegal* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/senegal/freedom-world/2025>

⁶¹²⁹ *Ibid*, Civil Liberties

⁶¹³⁰ Dione N., *Senegal Cuts Internet Again amid Widening Crackdown on Dissent*, Reuters (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ahead-planned-march-over-vote-delay-senegal-suspends-internet-access-2024-02-13/>

⁶¹³¹ Paradigm Initiative, *Londa Digital Rights and Inclusion in Africa Report 2022* (Apr. 2023), <https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Senegal-Londa-2022.pdf>

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necessitates close cooperation with AI technical specialists.⁶¹³² Senegal launched its own Initiative for the Development of Artificial Intelligence (IDIA) to improve and strengthen the use of AI in the region, in compliance with African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).⁶¹³³ Senegalese experts warn of “digital colonization” in Africa if foreign companies continue to feed on African data without involving local actors.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Senegal has not officially endorsed the OECD AI principles or G20 AI Guidelines in those bodies. However, Senegal is a member of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), which partners with OECD to realize its mission for “the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.”⁶¹³⁴ The 2024 New Delhi GPAI Declaration reaffirms GPAI’s “collective commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence” and announces an “integrated partnership with the OECD bringing together all current OECD members and GPAI countries on equal footing.”⁶¹³⁵ Supporting the OECD principles is now a condition of membership to the GPAI.

Senegal’s AI strategy document does not address the OECD principles explicitly.⁶¹³⁶ The document’s orientation around human capital, regional partnership, and governance under the belief that “ethical, responsible, and trustworthy AI is the obligation of everyone” reflects Senegal’s commitment to international standards. This indicates an acknowledgment of the significance of adhering to universally accepted principles for the development and application of artificial intelligence.

⁶¹³² Ministère de la Communication, des Télécommunications et du Numérique, *Stratégie nationale et feuille de route du Sénégal sur l’Intelligence Artificielle*, Documentation (2023), <https://www.mctn.sn/documentation>

⁶¹³³ ACHPR, *Resolution on the Need to Undertake a Study on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics and Other New and Emerging Technologies in Africa — ACHPR/Res. 473 (EXT.OS/XXXI) 2021* (Mar. 10, 2021), <https://achpr.au.int/en/adopted-resolutions/473-resolution-need-undertake-study-human-and-peoples-rights-and-art>

⁶¹³⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶¹³⁵ GPAI, *2024 New Delhi GPAI Declaration* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://gpai.ai/gpai-new-delhi-declaration-2024.pdf>

⁶¹³⁶ Ministère de la Communication, des Télécommunications et du Numérique, *Stratégie de Développement de l’intelligence artificielle*, Documentation, p. 8 (2025), <https://www.mctn.sn/documentation>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Senegal has not endorsed the Council of Europe AI Treaty, the first legally binding international AI treaty.⁶¹³⁷ The Treaty sets out a legal framework that aims at ensuring the respect of human rights, the rule of law, and democratic legal standards in the use of AI systems.

UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics

As a UNESCO member state, Senegal is bound by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, which was unanimously adopted by all 193 Member States in 2021.⁶¹³⁸ This adherence underscores Senegal's commitment to upholding ethical standards in the development and application of AI.

The experts charged with developing Senegal's national AI Strategy are the same who engaged actively with UNESCO to complete the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁶¹³⁹ Senegal was among the first countries to complete the RAM, a tool to evaluate the country's AI maturity level and ethical considerations.⁶¹⁴⁰ This involvement demonstrates Senegal's dedication to aligning its national AI strategy with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

Evaluation

Senegal has developed a robust national strategy for AI and has also made efforts to promote public participation in the development of the strategy. Senegal has established a comprehensive law for data protection that promotes algorithmic transparency and has supported the OECD AI Principles as a GPAI member but has not endorsed the AI Treaty. Senegal engaged with the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics by participating in relevant workshops and completing the RAM. The country has a good record on human rights, though there is room for improvement regarding individual freedom of expression.

⁶¹³⁷ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of the Treaty 225* (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁶¹³⁸ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://webarchive.unesco.org/web/20230715005831/https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶¹³⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Senegal* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/senegal>

⁶¹⁴⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Serbia

In 2025, Serbia's Ministry of Science, Technology, Development, and Innovation approved the Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence for 2025–2030. The country also approved an action plan to create a more robust data protection framework that responds to the challenges of emerging technologies.

National AI Strategy

The Government of the Republic of Serbia; Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development; and Office for Information Technologies and eGovernment adopted the first National Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for 2020–2025 in December 2019 and an Action Plan to enact the strategy in June 2020.⁶¹⁴¹

An updated strategy covering 2025–2030⁶¹⁴² launched in 2025.⁶¹⁴³ The updated strategy continues the focus on legislative frameworks, education, innovation and infrastructure promotion, and AI applications established in the earlier plan. The new strategy specifies plans for a “specific law that will regulate the application of artificial intelligence, which will enable its safe, secure and reliable application in line with international standards and create conditions for encouraging innovation.” The strategy calls for State support for “activities aimed at promoting and raising awareness of citizens about the importance of using artificial intelligence as a transformative technology.” The Strategy continues the AI Road Map in Serbia,⁶¹⁴⁴ which focuses on building the physical and legal infrastructure and human capital to attract businesses and investment. The Road Map also notes Serbia's leadership in the Global Partnership on AI and commitment to the OECD AI Principles.

⁶¹⁴¹ Official Gazette, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020–2025*, No. 30/18, (2019),

https://www.media.srbija.gov.rs/medsrp/dokumenti/strategy_artificial_intelligence.pdf

⁶¹⁴² Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025–2030*, <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/149169>

⁶¹⁴³ National AI Platform, *Serbia Adopts Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence 2025–2030* (Jan. 10, 2025), <https://ai.gov.rs/vest/en/1296/serbia-adopts-strategy-for-the-development-of-artificial-intelligence-for-the-period-20252030.php>

⁶¹⁴⁴ Government of Serbia, *Serbia's AI Ecosystem: Presenting the Opportunities with Artificial Intelligence in Serbia in 2024* (2024), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/extfile/sr/1164/Serbias-AI-Landscape-Presentation.pdf>

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The national strategy set the foundation for the country's ambitious plan to leverage AI for national development based on Serbia's Planning System Law.⁶¹⁴⁵ Serbia's Strategy aligns with the European AI Initiative⁶¹⁴⁶ to ensure conformity with EU policies and standards, positioning the country for closer integration into the European Research Area. This legal and strategic framework underscores Serbia's commitment to AI, both regionally and within the wider European context. The strategy aims to harness AI for economic growth, public service improvement, scientific advancement, and skill development for future jobs, and for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Research and Development Institute for Artificial Intelligence of Serbia⁶¹⁴⁷ was established in 2021 as one of the key steps in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the original AI Strategy. The institute's vision is to foster the development of creative leaders in the field of artificial intelligence, as well as to establish Serbia as a global center of excellence in scientific research and technology transfer related to machine learning and artificial intelligence. The Institute promotes the fields essential for the creation of artificial intelligence, such as mathematics, computer science, biology, and linguistics, to modernize Serbia's economy and educational system.

In 2022, the Office for IT and eGovernment was assigned as a special organization to perform state administration tasks related to the development and implementation of standards and measures in the introduction of information and communication technologies in state administration bodies and Government services. The Office's charge includes monitoring and measuring the implementation of AI policy.⁶¹⁴⁸ The National Platform for AI was established in 2021 to advance and implement AI in public administration, academic research, and Serbia's broader industry, as well as to support startups in product development. This initiative aligns with the objectives and actions outlined in Serbia's AI Development Strategy for 2020–2025.⁶¹⁴⁹

⁶¹⁴⁵ UN Law and Environment Program, *Law on Planning System of the Republic of Serbia* (Apr. 19, 2018), <https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/rs/national-legislation/law-planning-system-republic-serbia>

⁶¹⁴⁶ European Union, EUR-Lex, *Communication from the Commission: Artificial Intelligence for Europe, COM/2018/237 final* (2018), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A237%3AFIN>

⁶¹⁴⁷ Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development of Serbia, *About the Institute*, <https://ivi.ac.rs/en/about-us/>

⁶¹⁴⁸ Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, *About Us*, <https://nitra.gov.rs/en/ministarstvo/o-nama>

⁶¹⁴⁹ Government of Serbia, *National Platform for Artificial Intelligence Launched* (Dec. 6, 2021), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/182080/national-platform-for-artificial-intelligence-launched.php>

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Guidelines and Policies I

The Serbian government adopted Ethics Guidelines for the Development, Implementation and Use of Reliable and Responsible AI⁶¹⁵⁰ in 2023 to harmonize Serbia's legislative framework with the European Union. The Guidelines⁶¹⁵¹ aim to “enable science to evolve and progress [...] but at the same time not to allow human beings to become threatened or neglected as the centrepiece of all processes that affect them and in which they are a direct or indirect factor. Moreover, the artificial intelligence systems that are developed must be in harmony with the wellbeing of humans, animals, and the environment.”⁶¹⁵² The Guidelines stress four principles as “crucial starting points for the development, implementation and use of artificial intelligence systems that deserve human trust because of their reliability and accountability.”⁶¹⁵³ These principles are: Explainability and verifiability of the system; Dignity and respect for human integrity; Prohibition to cause damage, and requirement to repair and compensation when damage occurs; and Fairness in terms of the protection of rights against discrimination. The guidelines recognize that, as of 2023, a legal framework to regulate AI is still needed.⁶¹⁵⁴

Serbia established the Council for Artificial Intelligence in 2024 to align and coordinate activities for implementation of the AI national strategy implementation. The Council will work as an independent advisory body to draft new laws for the development and application of AI in Serbia. This body comprises private sector experts, academics, and government representatives.⁶¹⁵⁵

The Working Group for the upcoming Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence of the Republic of Serbia held its first meeting in 2024. Representatives from numerous state bodies, scientific and professional industries, law, and other economic entities began discussions to identify key problems, ideate adequate solutions, and set clear guidelines for effectively managing the preparation of the draft law. The Working Group expects to present the Draft Law at the end of the first quarter of 2025.⁶¹⁵⁶

⁶¹⁵⁰ National AI Platform, *Adopted Ethical Guidelines for Safe and Reliable Use of AI* (Mar. 24, 2023), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/423/adopted-ethical-guidelines-for-safe-and-reliable-use-of-ai.php>

⁶¹⁵¹ Government of Serbia, *Ethical Guidelines for Development, Implementation and Use of Robust and Accountable Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 2023), [https://www.ai.gov.rs/extfile/en/471/Ethical guidelines for development implementation and use of robust and accountable AI.pdf](https://www.ai.gov.rs/extfile/en/471/Ethical_guidelines_for_development_implementation_and_use_of_robust_and_accountable_AI.pdf)

⁶¹⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 3

⁶¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, pp. 10–13

⁶¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5

⁶¹⁵⁵ National AI Platform, *Serbia Accelerates AI Advancement: Council for Artificial Intelligence Established*, News (Jul. 31, 2024), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/1056/serbia-accelerates-ai-advancement-council-for-artificial-intelligence-established.php>

⁶¹⁵⁶ Government of Serbia, *The First Meeting of the Working Group for Developing the Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence of the Republic of Serbia Was Held* (Jun. 3, 2024),

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International Collaboration on AI Strategy

Serbia was represented at the World Economic Forum's AI Governance Summit in November 2023 and joined the AI Governance Alliance (AIGA). Joining the AIGA grants Serbia access to collective expertise to address the complexities of AI governance while emphasizing sustainability, resilience, and safety in AI applications.⁶¹⁵⁷

Serbia's Ministry of Information and Telecommunications and the Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Arab Emirates Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC) in early 2024. This landmark collaboration aims to leverage the technical expertise of ATRC and its subsidiaries for the integration of AI into Serbia's technological infrastructure. Under the terms of the MoU, Serbia will support the adoption of ATRC's Falcon large language models (LLM) and explore avenues of collaboration with ATRC around Falcon-powered solutions. Furthermore, both entities will work together to encourage organizations from Serbia to join the Falcon Foundation and contribute to the success of open-source Falcon models.⁶¹⁵⁸

Regulatory Sandboxes

In analyzing Serbia's position in the Flexibility of Regulatory Framework and Adaptation to the Digital Business sector, as measured by the Global Competitiveness Index, Serbia is ranked 68th, achieving a score of 3.6 out of 7.⁶¹⁵⁹

The deployment and development of AI technologies raise significant regulatory challenges, especially in the domains of misuse prevention and data privacy protection. Crafting a regulatory approach that effectively balances the need for personal data protection with the imperative to foster innovation in AI is a complex endeavor.

In addressing these challenges, the Serbian government has introduced a regulatory sandbox aimed at AI technologies. This framework is intended to provide a controlled environment in which businesses can experiment with novel AI products

<https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/948/first-meeting-of-the-working-group-for-drafting-the-artificial-intelligence-law-of-the-republic-of-serbia-held.php>

⁶¹⁵⁷ World Economic Forum, *Serbia at AI Governance Summit* (Nov. 16, 2023),

<https://c4ir.rs/en/serbia-at-ai-governance-summit/>

⁶¹⁵⁸ Abu-Dabi Advanced Technology Research Council, *Serbia Signs with UAE's ATRC to Encourage Use of Falcon AI Models at WGS 2024* (Feb. 14, 2024),

<https://www.atrc.gov.ae/news/serbia-signs-uaes-atrc-encourage-use-falcon-ai-models-wgs-2024>

⁶¹⁵⁹ Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2020–2025* (2019),

https://www.media.srbija.gov.rs/medsrp/dokumenti/strategy_artificial_intelligence.pdf

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and services under a regime that allows for certain exemptions from full regulatory compliance.⁶¹⁶⁰ This approach facilitates the exploration and advancement of AI solutions, mitigating the immediate impact of regulatory barriers.⁶¹⁶¹

Public Participation

The public was invited to a series of debates to discuss the Draft Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Serbia through the end of December 2019. During this period, three panel discussions were organized for public participation. Throughout the public debate phase, 12 written submissions containing proposals and suggestions were received via contact and email addresses. Many of these contributions were incorporated into the final document.⁶¹⁶²

In the process of drafting the Ethical Guidelines for Developing, Applying, and Using Reliable and Responsible Artificial Intelligence, the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation organized two public forums on consecutive days. At these events, 21 participants provided recommendations and feedback.⁶¹⁶³

A consultative process was conducted during the implementation of the e-Government Development Programme for 2020–2022 and while planning for the 2023–2025 programming period. During the implementation of the ex-post impact assessment of the e-Government Development Programme 2020–2022, primary data were collected through semi-structured interviews involving 51 persons from 32 institutions.

The programming process and the preparation of the Action Plan for 2023–2025 lasted six months in 2022. After the publication of the program on the e-Consultation portal, a public debate was held on the portal. The e-Government

⁶¹⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹⁶¹ The United Nations Development Programme, *Serbia Prepares for the AI Revolution* (Apr. 28, 2023), <https://www.undp.org/serbia/blog/serbia-prepares-ai-revolution>

⁶¹⁶² Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025-2030* (2025), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/149169>

⁶¹⁶³ National AI Platform, *Public Discussions Were Held in Belgrade and Novi Sad in Conjunction with the Preparation of the Ethical Guidelines for the Development, Application, and Use of Reliable and Responsible Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 12, 2022), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/380/public-discussions-were-held-in-belgrade-and-novi-sad-in-conjunction-with-the-preparation-of-the-ethical-guidelines-for-the-development-application-and-use-of-reliable-and-responsible-artificial-intelligence.php>

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development Programme⁶¹⁶⁴ and Action Plan for 2023–2025⁶¹⁶⁵ were adopted in April 2023.

The Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation hosted a public debate for Serbia's Draft Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence (2024–2030) with an extended deadline in July 2024 and allowed comments and suggestions through the e-Consultation portal. A third public event was held in the National Assembly, providing citizens and professionals an opportunity to share their feedback on the draft strategy.⁶¹⁶⁶

Data Protection

Serbia's Law on Personal Data Protection (LPDP) aims for a comprehensive approach to data protection and aligns with some exceptions to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).⁶¹⁶⁷ The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection is the authority responsible for enforcing the data protection and raising public awareness about data rights and data-protection requirements.⁶¹⁶⁸ The Serbian Constitution also provides for the protection of privacy and personal data while the Law on Electronic Communications and the Law on Electronic Signatures have provisions that could apply to AI technologies.

Provisions of the LPDP mirror the GDPR in almost all aspects, including regulations around the territorial application of the LPDP, legal basis for data processing, privacy by design, data subject rights, security of processing and personal data breach, data protection impact assessments and officers, and the transfer of personal data. However, the transition to full implementation encountered challenges, including delays attributed to potential ambiguities in interpretation and a nine-month window between the law's adoption and enforcement. This timeline

⁶¹⁶⁴ Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, *E-Government Development Programme of the Republic of Serbia for 2023-2025 Action Plan for Its Implementation* (Dec. 2022), <https://mduls.gov.rs/en/documents>

⁶¹⁶⁵ European Commission Staff Working Document, *Serbia 2023 Report* (Nov. 8, 2023), https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_695_Serbia.pdf

⁶¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation, *Extension of the Public Debate Period on the Draft Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2024-2030* (Jul. 5, 2024), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/1020/extension-of-the-public-debate-period-on-the-draft-strategy-for-the-development-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-republic-of-serbia-for-the-period-2024-2030.php>

⁶¹⁶⁷ Government of Serbia, *Law on Personal Data Protection* (2018), <https://www.poverenik.rs/en/закони4/2970-закон-о-заштити-података-о-личности-сл-гласник-р-бр-87-2018-од-13-11-2018.html>

⁶¹⁶⁸ Commission for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, *About Us*, <https://www.poverenik.rs/en/o-nama/authority.html>

left many local entities, aside from international companies already adhering to GDPR, unprepared for the LPDP's requirements.

Inconsistencies between the LPDP and other Serbian personal data processing laws persist, undermining harmonized legal practice. The lesser penalties stipulated by the LPDP, in comparison to GDPR's more substantial fines, have insufficiently incentivized compliance among Serbian and multinational firms. Despite these challenges, a portion of companies have achieved or are actively working toward LPDP compliance, though most public authorities lag behind.

Serbia unveiled the Personal Data Protection Strategy for 2023–2030 in 2023 to address the rapidly evolving technological landscape and its implications on data protection.⁶¹⁶⁹ This strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to enhance the legal framework, aiming for alignment with the GDPR. Key objectives include revising the LPDP to match GDPR standards fully, improving enforcement mechanisms, and increasing public awareness and education on data protection. Authorities ultimately aim to secure an adequacy decision from the European Commission to facilitate smoother data exchanges. The strategy also emphasizes the need for more precise regulations on new technologies such as AI, ensuring that Serbia's legal infrastructure keeps pace with technological advancements. The data protection Commissioner adopted an Action Plan for the strategy in 2025,⁶¹⁷⁰ aiming to “spur the necessary regulatory changes in this direction, as well as the implementation of activities and measures described by the Strategy that will greatly contribute to the implementation of this important human right.”

Serbia's Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁶¹⁷¹ However, Serbia did not sponsor the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁶¹⁷² 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶¹⁷³ 2022 GPA

⁶¹⁶⁹ Government of Serbia, *Personal Data Strategy* (Aug. 29, 2019), <https://www.poverenik.rs/en/news/4041>

⁶¹⁷⁰ Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, *Personal Data Protection Strategy Action Plan Adopted* (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.poverenik.rs/en/press-releases/4344-усвојен-акциони-план-за-стратегију-заштите-података-о-личности.html>

⁶¹⁷¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁶¹⁷² Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶¹⁷³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

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Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶¹⁷⁴ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶¹⁷⁵

Algorithmic Transparency

Serbia has engaged with international frameworks concerning AI by ratifying treaties such as the modernized Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+)⁶¹⁷⁶ and acknowledging the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These treaties offer a foundation for creating AI regulations that aim to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.

AI in Public Administration

The cross-sectoral Strategy for the Development of the Information Society and Information Security in the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2026 aims to foster an information society and e-government that meet the needs of citizens and businesses while also improving information security for citizens, public administration, and businesses. The strategy frames the further development of information security as a precondition for the complete digitalization of the society.⁶¹⁷⁷

The Office for IT and eGovernment established the Smart Serbia platform in 2021 for the secure collection and processing of data from various public sources. The platform uses AI technology to deliver services and to provide the most advanced e-services for citizens and the state.⁶¹⁷⁸

⁶¹⁷⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶¹⁷⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶¹⁷⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (May 26, 2020), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁶¹⁷⁷ Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Information Society and Security in the Republic of Serbia for the Period from 2021 to 2026* (Aug. 2021), [https://arhival.mtt.gov.rs/extfile/sr/35315/Information Society and InfoSec Strategy 2021-2026111.pdf](https://arhival.mtt.gov.rs/extfile/sr/35315/Information%20Society%20and%20InfoSec%20Strategy%202021-2026111.pdf)

⁶¹⁷⁸ Government of Serbia, *"Smart Serbia" Platform Presented in State Data Centre in Kragujevac* (Jun. 10, 2021), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/173991/smart-serbia-platform-presented-in-state-data-centre-in-kragujevac.php>

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The Social Card Bill implemented in March 2022 requires a centralized electronic record of the social and economic status of individuals and their relatives. Personal data of those who receive some form of financial social assistance is collected and processed to assess their overall economic situation and redistribute the state budget.⁶¹⁷⁹ The system processes more than 130 different types of data on individuals, automatically collecting them from other registers handled by public authorities, such as the Tax Administration or Ministry of Interior.

The Social Card produces automated decisions. Once the Social Card algorithm processes the assessment of the individual case, it sends an alert to the local office managing the person's file. The officials have a window of time to verify the validity of the decision, but these offices are widely and severely understaffed, meaning the decisions may never undergo human review. The citizens only have 15 days to appeal the decision.

The Social Card system collects and processes extensive amounts of data, creating an invasive digital surveillance system that targets some of the most marginalized people in Serbian society. The system is not accessible to the public, even after NGOs made several attempts to access the algorithm, its source code, or at least its logic. Research data from UNHCR partner A11 shows that the number of people receiving social assistance fell from 211,266 to 189,036, a decrease of 10.5%, in the first six months the system operated.⁶¹⁸⁰

Facial Recognition and Mass Surveillance

Although Serbian law prohibits the use of facial recognition technology for public surveillance,⁶¹⁸¹ the Serbian government has been determined to introduce a legal framework for the use of facial recognition technology in the country.⁶¹⁸² The decision to implement facial recognition technology, primarily supplied by the Chinese tech-giant Huawei, sparked controversy.⁶¹⁸³ Initially justified by authorities as a means to enhance public safety and deter crime, the lack of transparency regarding the technology's deployment and data handling raised concerns among

⁶¹⁷⁹ Government of Serbia, *Government Passes Social Card Bill* (Jan. 2021),

<https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/166629/government-passes-social-card-bill.php>

⁶¹⁸⁰ Initiative for Economic and Social Rights, *(Anti)Social Cards* (Oct. 14, 2022),

<https://www.a11initiative.org/en/antisocial-cards/>

⁶¹⁸¹ Chris Burt, *Serbian Data Protection Authority Criticizes Alleged Facial Recognition Forensics Plan*, Biometric Update (Apr. 12, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202204/serbian-data-protection-authority-criticizes-alleged-facial-recognition-forensics-plan>

⁶¹⁸² Radovan Balać, *Withdrawal of the Draft Law on Internal Affairs in Serbia: The Prime Minister's Gambit* (Dec. 31, 2022), <https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/12/31/withdrawal-of-the-draft-law-on-internal-affairs-in-serbia-the-prime-ministers-gambit/>

⁶¹⁸³ Prague Security Studies Institute, *The Sum of All Fears—Chinese AI Surveillance in Serbia* (Dec. 2020), <https://www.pssi.cz/the-sum-of-all-fears-chinese-ai-surveillance-in-serbia/>

civil society and international society. Human rights activists and civil society fear potential abuses by the government and have strongly resisted the full implementation of facial recognition technology.⁶¹⁸⁴ The international response, particularly from the EU and the US, has emphasized concerns over potential misuse of the technology and its implications for democratic values.⁶¹⁸⁵ However, the effectiveness of these responses remains limited, with Serbia continuing its collaboration with China in various sectors, including surveillance technology, amid geopolitical considerations and economic incentives.

BIRN Serbia (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network) released a report in June 2024, on the digital surveillance in Serbia and its impact on human rights. BIRN reported that Serbia has installed over 8,000 Chinese-style surveillance cameras and that the State seeks to use spyware against civil society representatives and investigative journalists.⁶¹⁸⁶

Autonomous Vehicles

Serbia's Regulation on the Conditions for Autonomous Driving came into effect in December 2023. The Regulation details the conditions under which autonomous driving is allowed and the procedure for issuing permits for testing autonomous vehicles. This regulation aligns with the latest amendments to the Law on Traffic Safety and Roads and will provide a clear and predictable procedure for individuals and institutions wishing to test vehicles with automated driving systems in real traffic conditions.⁶¹⁸⁷

Environmental Impact of AI

The Serbian National AI Strategy mentions the importance of assessing the environmental impact of the development and use of AI systems. However, no framework for proposed regulation to promote sustainability or mitigate

⁶¹⁸⁴ SHARE Foundation, *Total Surveillance Law Proposed in Serbia* (Sept. 22, 2021), <https://edri.org/our-work/total-surveillance-law-proposed-in-serbia/>

⁶¹⁸⁵ Majda Ruge and Stefan Vladislavljev, *Serbia's 5G Deal with Washington: The Art of Muddling Through*, European Council on Foreign Relations (Sept. 22, 2020), https://ecfr.eu/article/commentary_serbias_5g_deal_with_washington_the_art_of_muddling_through/

⁶¹⁸⁶ BIRN Serbia, *Digital Surveillance in Serbia: A Threat to Human Rights?* (Jun. 2024), <https://balkaninsight.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Digital-surveillance-in-Serbia.pdf>

⁶¹⁸⁷ National AI Platform, *New Steps in the Development of the Legal Framework for Autonomous Driving* (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/644/new-steps-in-the-development-of-the-legal-framework-for-autonomous-driving.php>

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environmental harm has been established.⁶¹⁸⁸ While there is little discourse about the environmental costs of AI systems, Serbia has used AI to study climate change and help clean up the rivers in recent years.⁶¹⁸⁹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Serbia participated at the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) meeting under the auspices of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) to deliberate on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in May 2023.⁶¹⁹⁰ The meeting highlighted the urgent need to develop new international legislation to ensure meaningful human oversight over weapons systems and the application of force.

Serbia voted in favor of UNGA's Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, which called for urgent global action to confront the challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems. Serbia's submission to the UN Secretary-General⁶¹⁹¹ pursuant to Resolution 78/241 highlighted the country's shared concern over the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems. Serbia stressed that "the development, production and the use of lethal autonomous weapons systems be strictly regulated and rigorously monitored." The submission also expressed serious concern over such systems' destructive potential and negative impact on peace and regional and global security.

AI Literacy

The 2025–2030 AI Strategy includes education and AI literacy as key components.⁶¹⁹² The Strategy cites existing education laws that create a foundation for creating the human capital needed for an AI future. Measure 3.3 creates a plan and benchmarks for "raising general literacy in the field of artificial intelligence in society." The measure targets adults rather than youth in the public education system

⁶¹⁸⁸ Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2025-2030* (2025), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/149169>

⁶¹⁸⁹ Slobodan Markovic, Zorica Korac, Drasko Draskovic, *Can Artificial Intelligence and Satellite Images Help Make Our Rivers Free of Waste?*, United Nations Development Programme (Jun. 1, 2021), <https://www.undp.org/serbia/blog/can-artificial-intelligence-and-satellite-images-help-make-our-rivers-free-waste>

⁶¹⁹⁰ Convention on Conventional Weapons, *Report of the 2023 Session of the Group of governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (May 24, 2023), <https://meetings.unoda.org/ccw/-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons-group-of-governmental-experts-on-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-2023>

⁶¹⁹¹ United Nations General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General: Serbia*, pp. 97–98 (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

⁶¹⁹² Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025–2030*, <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/149169>

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and emphasizes “informing and educating the public about the proper understanding and ethical application of this technology” and promotes construction dialogue. Measure 3.4 focuses on informal education with the goal to “empower individuals to participate in creating a more innovative future, making this technology an everyday tool in the personal and professional development of citizens.” The AI Road Map⁶¹⁹³ shows that AI subjects have been integrated in 7th and 8th grades and as a high-school elective since 2021.

Human Rights

Serbia ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 16 of the 18 UN human rights treaties.⁶¹⁹⁴ The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) conducts a Universal Periodic Review to assess each member state's human rights record. Serbia's latest review took place in 2023, marking the country's fourth evaluation. The UNHRC issued recommendations aimed at bolstering the protection of human rights⁶¹⁹⁵ and subsequently asked Serbia to provide updates on the implementation of recommendations related to hate crimes, freedom of expression and journalist safety, and participation in public affairs by March 29, 2027.⁶¹⁹⁶

On the human rights index from Our World in Data, Serbia scored 0.77 on a 0–1 scale.⁶¹⁹⁷ Freedom House categorizes Serbia as “Partly Free” assigning a score of 56/100.⁶¹⁹⁸ The Freedom House report cited threats against journalists and editorial and political pressure as well as increased broader surveillance among concerns undermining freedom of expression along with other political and civil liberties.

⁶¹⁹³ Government of Serbia, *Serbia's AI Ecosystem: Presenting the Opportunities with Artificial Intelligence in Serbia in 2024* (2024), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/extfile/sr/1164/Serbias-AI-Landscape-Presentation.pdf>

⁶¹⁹⁴ UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard* (2024), <https://indicators.ohchr.org>

⁶¹⁹⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council, *National Report Submitted Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* (May 12, 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/rs-index>

⁶¹⁹⁶ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding Observations on Serbia's Fourth Periodic Report*, United Nations Human Rights Office of High Commissioner (May 3, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/ccprsrbc04-concluding-observations-fourth-periodic-report-serbia>

⁶¹⁹⁷ Our World in Data, *Human Rights Index* (2024), <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/human-rights-index-vdem?mapSelect=~SRB>

⁶¹⁹⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Serbia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/serbia/freedom-world/2025>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Serbia is not a member of the OECD or G20 countries nor is the country listed among the six non-member nations that have endorsed the OECD AI principles.⁶¹⁹⁹ However, Serbia has committed to the OECD AI Principles as a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁶²⁰⁰ Serbia's Strategy for the Development of AI explicitly aligns with the country's GPAI membership and commitment to the OECD AI Principles.⁶²⁰¹

Serbia will serve as a GPAI chair for 3 years beginning in 2024, a position that presents a significant opportunity to attract AI-related investments and reaffirms Serbia's commitment to investing in science, technology, and education.⁶²⁰² Serbia's Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation hosted the GPAI Summit from December 3-4, 2024 in Belgrade.⁶²⁰³ The summit, which was also supported by the OECD, brought together more than 100 experts and 1200 attendees "with the aim of guiding the responsible and human-centric development and use of this technology."⁶²⁰⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI outlines a comprehensive approach to AI regulation, focused on human dignity, autonomy, and equality. Serbia participated in the drafting of the Convention as Council member but has not signed the convention.⁶²⁰⁵

⁶¹⁹⁹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁶²⁰⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶²⁰¹ Government of Serbia, *Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025–2030*, <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/149169>

⁶²⁰² Government of Serbia, *Serbia's Role Important in Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence* (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/229534/serbias-role-important-in-global-partnership-for-artificial-intelligence.php>

⁶²⁰³ Government of Serbia, *Belgrade to Host Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence Summit in December* (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/236059/belgrade-to-host-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-summit-in-december.php>

⁶²⁰⁴ OECD, *Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence Summit 2024, Events* (Dec. 2024), <https://www.oecd-events.org/summit-gpaiserbia2024/en>

⁶²⁰⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Since 2000, the Republic of Serbia has been a UNESCO member state, and all 193 member states have ratified the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. In March 2023, the Serbian government approved the Ethics Guidelines for the Development, Implementation and Use of Reliable and Responsible AI (Guidelines). The Guidelines draw heavily from UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, which Serbian representatives actively participated in creating, to set ethical standards for all AI systems and applications, including fairness, transparency, accountability, and fostering international collaboration and cooperation.⁶²⁰⁶

Serbia and ten other countries participated in piloting UNESCO's Global Index on Responsible AI in 2023.⁶²⁰⁷ The Global Index tracks countries' commitments and capacities to building responsible AI ecosystems. This initiative, which released results in 2024,⁶²⁰⁸ serves as a mechanism to monitor the implementation of UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, especially at a national level, in a way that extends beyond the existence of legal frameworks and delves into the complexity of implementation by assessing the actions of government and relevant activities of non-state actors.

Serbia has not begun the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a vital tool to assist Member States in implementing the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁶²⁰⁹

Evaluation

Serbia's AI Strategy represents a proactive approach to the regulation of the development, implementation, and use of AI within its borders. The national strategy sets a foundation for ensuring values of transparency, human rights, safety, and trust in AI systems. By aligning its national strategy on AI with EU standards and drawing from international guidelines such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and OECD AI Principles, Serbia demonstrates a commitment to fostering responsible AI that benefits society while mitigating associated risks. Significant gaps between endorsement and implementation of key international principles, national strategy, and Ethical AI Guidelines persist, however. The approval of the

⁶²⁰⁶ National AI Platform, *Adopted Ethical Guidelines for Safe and Reliable Use of AI* (Mar. 24, 2023), <https://www.ai.gov.rs/vest/en/423/adopted-ethical-guidelines-for-safe-and-reliable-use-of-ai.php>

⁶²⁰⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Tracking National Commitments with the Global Index on Responsible AI* (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/articles/tracking-national-commitments-global-index-responsible-ai>

⁶²⁰⁸ Global Index on Responsible AI, *Serbia* (2024), <https://www.global-index.ai/country/RS>

⁶²⁰⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Action Plan for the Personal Data Protection Strategy and the acknowledged need to move forward with AI legislation suggest the country will develop the enforcement mechanisms and legal framework necessary to operationalize the principles of accountability, fairness, rule of law, fundamental rights, and transparency.

Human rights violations reported in credible sources continue to raise concerns, especially around media freedom, civil rights, and freedom of expression. The government's use of facial recognition technology for mass surveillance and reliance on automated decisions without meaningful human oversight to determine social assistance deepen these concerns.

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Singapore

In 2025, Singapore launched the AI-Fluent Workforce Initiative to embed AI literacy across civil service, education, and public training. A new law prohibiting AI-generated deepfakes in elections entered into force just ahead of the 2025. Singapore also contributed to the ASEAN Expanded Guide on AI Governance and Ethics—Generative AI.

National AI Strategy

Singapore launched its first National AI Strategy in 2019, with the objective for Singapore to “be a leader in developing and deploying scalable, impactful AI solutions, in key sectors of high value and relevant to its citizens and businesses,” by 2030.⁶²¹⁰ An updated Strategy (NAIS 2.0) was launched in 2023 to address new challenges and uplift Singapore’s collective economic and social potential over the next three to five years.⁶²¹¹ Both strategies are part of Singapore’s Smart Nation plan, which aims to make Singapore a Smart Nation, “A nation where people live meaningful and fulfilled lives, enabled seamlessly by technology, offering exciting opportunities for all.”⁶²¹²

NAIS 2.0 outlines Singapore’s ambition and commitment to building a trusted and responsible AI ecosystem, driving innovation and growth through AI, and empowering people and businesses to understand and engage with AI.⁶²¹³ In summary, Singapore’s strategy is:

- To orchestrate Industry, Government, and public research performers around meaningful use cases and problem statements to transform Singapore’s economy and society, steering efforts toward developing select peaks of excellence that can deliver outsized impact to Singapore and the lives of Singaporeans.
- To attract more top-tier researchers and engineers to work with and from Singapore, grow the pool of tech workforce charged with scaling novel AI solutions, and nurture a confident AI user base of enterprises and workers.

⁶²¹⁰ Smart Nation Singapore, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: Advancing Our Smart Nation Journey*, p. 6 (2019), <https://file.go.gov.sg/nais2019.pdf>

⁶²¹¹ Smart Nation Singapore, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2 to Uplift Singapore’s Social and Economic Potential* (Dec. 4, 2023), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/initiatives/national-ai-strategy/>; for PDF, <https://file.go.gov.sg/nais2023.pdf>

⁶²¹² Smart Nation Singapore, *Our Smart Nation Vision* (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/vision/>

⁶²¹³ Smart Nation Singapore, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2 to Uplift Singapore’s Social and Economic Potential* (Dec. 4, 2023), <https://file.go.gov.sg/nais2023.pdf>

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- To avail compute and data for AI innovation, provide a trusted environment where people can engage with AI with confidence and contribute to international AI developments.⁶²¹⁴

NAIS 2.0 is guided by the vision “AI for the Public Good, for Singapore and the World,” and outlines fifteen actions across three systems and ten enablers to be implemented over the next three to five years.⁶²¹⁵ NAIS 2.0 commits Singapore to the responsible and ethical use of AI. The Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data established in 2018,⁶²¹⁶ one year before releasing the first National AI Strategy, carries out this commitment. The Council is chaired by the former Attorney-General of Singapore V.K. Rajah SC and includes “representatives from technology companies, users of AI, and those who can provide consumers’ and societal perspectives.”⁶²¹⁷ The Minister for Communications and Information announced the first-term representatives of the Advisory Council at the AI Singapore first Anniversary Event in 2018.⁶²¹⁸

The Council advises the Government on issues arising from the commercial deployment of AI that may require policy or regulatory attention and industry on the responsible development and deployment of AI.⁶²¹⁹ The Council also assists the Government in developing voluntary codes of practice to guide corporate decision-makers, monitoring consumers’ acceptance of such data use, and making recommendations on ethical and legal issues that may require policy or regulatory changes. The Advisory Council members for 2022–2025 include representatives and executives from Google Research, Salesforce, Microsoft, IBM, and OECD among other prominent organizations.⁶²²⁰

⁶²¹⁴ Ibid

⁶²¹⁵ Smart Nation Singapore, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2.0* (Dec. 2023), <https://file.go.gov.sg/nais2023.pdf>

⁶²¹⁶ Personal Data Protection Commission, *Singapore’s Approach to AI Governance*, Advisory Council on the Ethical use of AI and Data (Nov. 3, 2023), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/help-and-resources/2020/01/model-ai-governance-framework>

⁶²¹⁷ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Speech by Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information at the Innovfest Unbound 2018*, Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data (Jun. 5, 2018), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/speeches/2018/innovfest-unbound-2018>

⁶²¹⁸ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Speech by Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, at AI Singapore’s 1st Year Anniversary Event* (Aug. 30, 2018), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/speeches/2018/ai-singapore-1st-year-anniversary-event>

⁶²¹⁹ Smart Nation Singapore, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: Advancing Our Smart Nation Journey*, p. 64 (2019), <https://file.go.gov.sg/nais2019.pdf>

⁶²²⁰ Personal Data Protection Commission, *Singapore’s Approach to AI Governance*, Advisory Council on the Ethical use of AI and Data (Nov. 3, 2023), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/help-and-resources/2020/01/model-ai-governance-framework#AIDataAC>

AI Governance Regulation

Singapore is taking a sectoral approach toward AI governance regulation, with regulatory agencies adopting soft-law approaches to issue non-binding guidelines and recommendations.⁶²²¹ NAIS 2.0 envisions a common platform for regulatory agencies to coordinate on AI developments in their sectors and share best practices in governing AI.

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) have been the most active in respect to AI governance regulation.⁶²²² The PDPC released the Model AI Governance Framework at the 2019 World Economic Forum.⁶²²³ The Model Framework was the first in Asia to provide details and readily implementable guidance to private-sector organizations to address key ethical and governance issues when deploying AI solutions. In the foreword to the second edition of the Framework, in 2020, then-Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran, noted that “The Model Framework’s unique contribution to the global discourse on AI ethics lies in translating ethical principles into practical recommendations that organisations could readily adopt to deploy AI responsibly. [...] This edition incorporates the experiences of organisations that have adopted AI, and feedback from our participation in leading international platforms, such as the European Commission’s High-Level Expert Group and the OECD Expert Group on AI. Such input has enabled us to provide clearer and effective guidance for organisations to implement AI responsibly.”⁶²²⁴

The Model Framework is based on two guiding principles that “promote trust in AI and understanding of the use of AI technologies”: First, “Organizations using AI in decision-making should ensure that the decision-making process is explainable, transparent and fair.” Second, “AI solutions should be human-centric” in the sense that “the protection of the interests of human beings, including their well-being and safety, should be the primary considerations in the design, development and deployment of AI.”⁶²²⁵ These principles are operationalized through recommendations grouped into four clusters:

⁶²²¹ Darren Grayson Chng & Joe Jones, *Global AI Governance Law and Policy: Singapore*, IAPP (Feb. 2024), <https://iapp.org/resources/article/global-ai-governance-singapore/>

⁶²²² Ibid

⁶²²³ Infocomm Media Development Authority and PDPC Singapore, *Model AI Governance Framework, 2nd Edition* (2020), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/-/media/files/pdpc/pdf-files/resource-for-organisation/ai/smodelaigovframework2.pdf>

⁶²²⁴ Ibid, p. 8

⁶²²⁵ Ibid, p. 15

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- “Internal governance structures and measures”, including defining roles, responsibilities, and staff training for oversight to ensure the ethical deployment of AI and monitoring and managing risks⁶²²⁶
- Human involvement in AI-augmented decision-making, beginning with clarity on the objective of using AI, considering the approach to oversight, and weighing risks and harm of using AI for decision-making⁶²²⁷
- “Operations management” provides a generalized AI model development process beginning with data preparation and promoting explainability, repeatability, robustness, tuning, traceability, reproducibility, and auditability to minimize bias and manage risks in algorithms and models⁶²²⁸
- “Stakeholder interaction and communication” consists of meaningful transparency to consumers, options to opt out (including by default), usability, and communication channels⁶²²⁹

The IMDA and the PDPC, in partnership with the World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, released an Implementation and Self-Assessment Guide for Organisations (ISAGO) in January 2020. The ISAGO complements the Model Framework by allowing organizations to assess the alignment of their AI governance practices with the Model Framework, while providing industry examples and practices.⁶²³⁰

The Singapore Computer Society (SCS), supported by IMDA, launched the AI Ethics and Governance Body of Knowledge (AI E&G BoK). The AI E&G BoK is expected to “guide the development of curricula on AI ethics and governance and form the basis of future training and certification for professionals.” The document underlines that “accountability, transparency, explainability, and audibility must become the hallmark of all AI solutions” and that “ethical guidelines should not be an afterthought but integrated as part of standards and expectations from the onset of any AI-related effort.”⁶²³¹

AI Verify, launched at the 2022 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, is a voluntary AI Governance Testing Framework and Toolkit “for companies

⁶²²⁶ Ibid, pp. 22–27

⁶²²⁷ Ibid, pp. 28–34

⁶²²⁸ Ibid, pp. 35–52

⁶²²⁹ Ibid, pp. 53–62

⁶²³⁰ Infocomm Media Development Authority and PDPC Singapore, *Companion to the Model AI Governance Framework – Implementation and Self-Assessment Guide for Organizations* (Jan. 2020), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/-/media/Files/PDPC/PDF-Files/Resource-for-Organisation/AI/SGIsago.pdf>

⁶²³¹ Singapore Computer Society, *Artificial Intelligence Ethics & Governance Body of Knowledge* (2020), <https://www.scs.org.sg/bok/ai-ethics>

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who want to demonstrate responsible AI in an objective and verifiable manner.”⁶²³² The aim of AI Verify is to build trust in AI through transparency.⁶²³³ Singapore hopes to achieve three objectives: enable trust-building between businesses and their stakeholders; facilitate interoperability of AI governance frameworks; and contribute to the development of international AI standards.⁶²³⁴ Singapore participates in defining AI standards as a member of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42 on artificial intelligence.⁶²³⁵ The Pilot Testing Framework and Toolkit does not define ethical standards and validates AI system developer’s/owner’s claims about the approach, use, and verified performance of their AI systems. It does not guarantee that any AI system tested will be free from risks or biases or is completely safe.

Minister Teo announced the launch of The AI Verify Foundation (AIVF) launched a year later seeks to “harness the collective power and contributions of the global open source community to develop AI testing tools for the responsible use of AI.”⁶²³⁶ To this end, the IMDA and AI Verify Foundation unveiled the “first of its kind” Generative AI Evaluation Sandbox in October 2023.⁶²³⁷ The sandbox is intended to aid model developers, app developers, and third-party testers. Companies such as Google, Microsoft, Anthropic, IBM, Deloitte, and EY joined the sandbox.

The Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI⁶²³⁸ (MGF-Gen AI) developed with the AIVF in 2024 identifies nine dimensions to support a

⁶²³² Yeong Zee Kin, *Singapore’s A.I. Verify Builds Trust through Transparency*, OECD AI Policy Observatory (Aug. 16, 2022), <https://oecd.ai/en/work/singapore-ai-verify>

⁶²³³ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore Launches World’s First AI Testing Framework and Toolkit to Promote Transparency; Invites Companies to Pilot and Contribute to International Standards Development* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/Content-and-News/Press-Releases-and-Speeches/Press-Releases/2022/Singapore-launches-worlds-first-AI-testing-framework-and-toolkit-to-promote-transparency-Invites-companies-to-pilot-and-contribute-to-international-standards-development>

⁶²³⁴ Yeong Zee Kin, *Singapore’s A.I. Verify Builds Trust through Transparency*, OECD AI Policy Observatory (Aug. 16, 2022), <https://oecd.ai/en/work/singapore-ai-verify>

⁶²³⁵ ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42, *Artificial Intelligence, Participation* (2025), <https://www.iso.org/committee/6794475.html?view=participation>

⁶²³⁶ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore Launches AI Verify Foundation to Shape the Future of International AI Standards through Collaboration* (Jun. 7, 2023), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2023/singapore-launches-ai-verify-foundation-to-shape-the-future-of-international-ai-standards-through-collaboration>

⁶²³⁷ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *First of Its Kind Generative AI Evaluation Sandbox for Trusted AI by AI Verify Foundation and IMDA* (Oct. 31, 2023), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2023/generative-ai-evaluation-sandbox>

⁶²³⁸ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Model AI Governance Framework (Gen AI) and AI Governance Playbook for Digital Forum of Small States (Digital FOSS)* (May 30, 2024),

comprehensive and trusted AI ecosystem: accountability, data, trusted development and deployment, incident reporting, testing and assurance, security, content provenance, safety and aligning research & development, and AI for public good. The Framework received endorsements for its holistic approach to concerns arising from generative AI systems. The Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI launched in 2026 is the world's first governance framework specifically designed for AI systems capable of autonomous planning, reasoning, and action. The Framework, announced at the World Economic Forum, provides guidance to organizations on how to deploy agents responsibly across four dimensions: assessing and bounding risks upfront; making humans meaningfully accountable; implementing technical controls and processes; and enabling end-user responsibility. Compliance with the framework is voluntary, though organizations remain legally accountable for the behaviors and actions of their agents.⁶²³⁹

In February 2024, IMDA and Enterprise Singapore launched the Gen AI Sandbox for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to enable local SMEs greater access to Gen AI.⁶²⁴⁰ Singapore also launched an open-source tool designed to address the security and safety challenges experienced in the use of LLMs. The tool facilitates the evaluation of these applications throughout their lifecycle and stages of use.⁶²⁴¹

The Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) developed Guidelines on Securing AI Systems in 2024 to help system owners adopt a proactive approach to secure AI throughout the lifecycle.⁶²⁴² The CSA focused on traditional cybersecurity risks and AI-specific threats. The CSA also published a practical guide that provides specific security measures and industry-prescribed best practices as a companion to

<https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/factsheets/2024/gen-ai-and-digital-foss-ai-governance-playbook>

⁶²³⁹ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore Launces New Model AI Governance Framework for Agentic AI* (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2026/new-model-ai-governance-framework-for-agentic-ai>

⁶²⁴⁰ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore's First Generative AI Sandbox to Familiarise and Help SMEs Get Head Start in Capturing New AI Opportunities* (Feb. 7, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2024/sg-first-genai-sandbox-for-smes>

⁶²⁴¹ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore Launches Project Moonshot – A Generative Artificial Intelligence Testing Toolkit to Address LLM Safety and Security Challenges* (May 31, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2024/sg-launches-project-moonshot>

⁶²⁴² Cyber Security Agency, *Guidelines and Companion Guide on Securing AI Systems* (Oct. 15, 2024), <https://www.csa.gov.sg/Tips-Resource/publications/2024/guidelines-on-securing-ai>

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the securing AI systems.⁶²⁴³ The Cybersecurity (Amendment) Act passed in 2024 extends CSA's oversight beyond Critical Information Infrastructure to cover Foundational Digital Infrastructure service providers such as cloud service providers and data centers, Entities of Special Cybersecurity Interest, and Systems of Temporary Cybersecurity Concern.⁶²⁴⁴

The PDPC published the Advisory Guidelines on use of Personal Data in AI Recommendation and Decision Systems in March 2024.⁶²⁴⁵ The Guidelines aim to provide (1) certainty by clarifying how the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) applies when organizations use personal data to develop and train AI systems and (2) assurance to consumers by setting out baseline guidance and best practices for organizations on how to be transparent about whether and how their AI systems use personal data to make recommendations, predictions, or decisions.

Singapore designated an AI Safety Institute in 2024, hosted at Nanyang Technological University's Digital Trust Centre. The institute conduct research on AI safety evaluation and testing, and to contribute to international efforts on AI safety standards.⁶²⁴⁶

In the financial services sector, in 2018, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the financial industry co-created a set of principles to guide the responsible use of AI, focusing on Fairness, Ethics, Accountability, and Transparency (FEAT).⁶²⁴⁷ The principles established a standard across the financial sector in Singapore. Subsequently in November 2019, the MAS announced that it had partnered the financial industry to create a framework for the responsible use of AI

⁶²⁴³ Cyber Security Agency, *Companion Guide on Securing AI Systems* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.csa.gov.sg/resources/publications/guidelines-and-companion-guide-on-securing-ai-systems/>

⁶²⁴⁴ Singapore Statutes, *Cybersecurity (Amendment) Act 2024 (No. 9 of 2024)* (Jul. 4, 2024), <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/19-2024/Published/20240704?DocDate=20240704>

⁶²⁴⁵ Personal Data Protection Commission, *Advisory Guidelines on Use of Personal Data in AI Recommendation and Decision Systems Now Available* (Mar. 2024), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/news-and-events/announcements/2024/03/advisory-guidelines-on-use-of-personal-data-in-ai-recommendation-and-decision-systems-now-available>

⁶²⁴⁶ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Digital Trust Centre designated as Singapore's AI Safety Institute* (May 22, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/factsheets/2024/digital-trust-centre>

⁶²⁴⁷ Monetary Authority of Singapore, *Principles to Promote Fairness, Ethics, Accountability and Transparency (FEAT) in the Use of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics in Singapore's Financial Sector* (2018), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/~media/MAS/News%20and%20Publications/Monographs%20and%20Information%20Papers/FEAT%20Principles%20Final.pdf>

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and Data Analytics (AIDA), known as Veritas.⁶²⁴⁸ Veritas aims to provide financial institutions with a verifiable way to incorporate the FEAT principles into their AIDA solutions, and will comprise open source tools that can be applied to different business lines.⁶²⁴⁹ The FEAT principles and Veritas are part of Singapore's National AI Strategy.⁶²⁵⁰ MAS and a consortium of financial institutions and technology partners concluded Project MindForge in 2024,⁶²⁵¹ publishing a whitepaper identifying seven risk dimensions for responsible generative AI deployment in the financial sector, covering governance, transparency, fairness, legal compliance, ethics, and cybersecurity.⁶²⁵² In November 2025, MAS issued a consultation paper proposing Guidelines on AI Risk Management for all financial institutions, setting out supervisory expectations on AI risk oversight, life cycle controls, and capabilities required for responsible AI use.⁶²⁵³

In the health sector, in October 2021, the Ministry of Health (MOH) published the Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Guidelines (AIHGle), which it co-developed together with the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and the Integrated Health Information Systems (IHIS), now known as Synapse. AIHGle aims to share good practices with AI developers (e.g., manufacturers, companies) and AI implementors (e.g., healthcare institutions: hospitals, clinics, laboratories), and complements the existing HSA regulatory requirements of AI Medical Devices.⁶²⁵⁴ In July 2025, HSA published updated Guidelines on Risk Classification of Software as a Medical Device (SaMD) and Qualification of Clinical Decision Support Software (CDSS). Key revisions include alignment with international terminology, clarified risk classification criteria for AI-based SaMD, and a new criterion specifying that CDSS recommendations based solely on established clinical guidelines, without adaptive logic or AI, are not classified as medical devices.⁶²⁵⁵

⁶²⁴⁸ Monetary Authority of Singapore, *MAS Partners Financial Industry to Create Framework for Responsible Use of AI* (Nov. 13, 2019), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/media-releases/2019/mas-partners-financial-industry-to-create-framework-for-responsible-use-of-ai>

⁶²⁴⁹ Ibid

⁶²⁵⁰ Ibid

⁶²⁵¹ Monetary Authority of Singapore, *Project MindForge* (May 2024), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/schemes-and-initiatives/project-mindforge>

⁶²⁵² Monetary Authority of Singapore, *Emerging Risks and Opportunities of Generative AI for Banks* (May 2024), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/-/media/mas-media-library/schemes-and-initiatives/ftig/project-mindforge/emerging-risks-and-opportunities-of-generative-ai-for-banks.pdf>

⁶²⁵³ Monetary Authority of Singapore, *MAS Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Risk Management* (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/media-releases/2025/mas-guidelines-for-artificial-intelligence-risk-management>

⁶²⁵⁴ Ministry of Health, *Emerging Regulatory Policy Issues: Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.moh.gov.sg/licensing-and-regulation/artificial-intelligence-in-healthcare>

⁶²⁵⁵ Health Services Authority, *Guidelines on Risk Classification of SaMD and Qualification of Clinical Decision Support Software (CDSS), Revision 2* (Jul. 21, 2025),

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Public Participation

The Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data is “one of three structured, interlinked initiatives to support the engagement of stakeholders to collaboratively develop a trusted and vibrant AI ecosystem and position Singapore as a leading hub for AI.”⁶²⁵⁶ The Council assists the IMDA in engaging stakeholders on issues that support the development of AI governance capabilities and frameworks, including engaging ethics boards of commercial enterprises on ethical and related issues arising from private sector use of AI and data, consumer representatives on consumer expectations and acceptance of the use of AI, and members of the private capital community on the need to incorporate ethical considerations in their investment decisions into businesses which develop or adopt AI.⁶²⁵⁷

Public consultations were also held for the initial version of Singapore’s Model AI Governance Framework⁶²⁵⁸, AI Verify, the draft Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI, and the Advisory Guidelines on use of Personal Data in AI Recommendation and Decision Systems. Cyber Security Agency, GovTech, and IMDA launched a public consultation in October 2025 for a draft Addendum on Securing Agentic AI.⁶²⁵⁹

ISAGO and its Compendium of Use Cases were developed in close consultation with the industry, with contributions from over 60 organizations, as well as input from the Council.⁶²⁶⁰ Likewise, more than 30 authors from the public and

[https://www.hsa.gov.sg/announcements/regulatory-updates/update-for-guidelines-on-risk-classification-of-samd-and-qualification-of-clinical-decision-support-software-\(cdss\)](https://www.hsa.gov.sg/announcements/regulatory-updates/update-for-guidelines-on-risk-classification-of-samd-and-qualification-of-clinical-decision-support-software-(cdss))

⁶²⁵⁶ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Speech by Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, at AI Singapore’s 1st Year Anniversary Event* (Aug. 30, 2018), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/speeches/2018/ai-singapore-1st-year-anniversary-event>

⁶²⁵⁷ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Speech by Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, at AI Singapore’s 1st Year Anniversary Event* (Aug. 30, 2018), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/speeches/2018/ai-singapore-1st-year-anniversary-event>

⁶²⁵⁸ Personal Data Protection Commission, *A Proposed Model AI Governance Framework for Public Consultation* (Jan. 23, 2019), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/news-and-events/announcements/2019/01/a-proposed-model-ai-governance-framework-for-public-consultation>

⁶²⁵⁹ Cyber Security Agency, *Public Consultation on Securing Agentic AI – An Addendum to the Guidelines and Companion Guide on Securing AI Systems* (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.csa.gov.sg/resources/publications/addendum-on-securing-ai-systems/>

⁶²⁶⁰ Ministry of Communications and Information, *MCI Response to PQ on the Work of the Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data*, Ministry of Digital Development and Information (Feb. 3, 2020), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/media-centre/parliamentary-questions/mci-response-to-pq-on-the-advisory-council-use-of-ai-and-data/>; Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Singapore and World Economic Forum Driving AI Adoption and Innovation* (Jan. 22, 2020),

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private sectors contributed to the AI E&G BoK, which contains 25 case studies/use-cases.⁶²⁶¹

The Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO), under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), publicizes information about key Smart Nation projects and government digital transformation on its website.⁶²⁶² The website includes a page with information for companies, researchers, and others to “be part our AI journey.”⁶²⁶³

Data Protection

The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) was enacted in 2012. It entered into force in stages, with the main data protection rules coming into force in July 2012. A suite of amendments to the PDPA was passed in November 2020. They started taking effect in phases from February 2021.

The PDPA governs the collection, use, disclosure, and care of personal data in Singapore. It provides a baseline standard of protection for personal data.⁶²⁶⁴ It complements sectoral laws and regulations such as the Banking Act and Insurance Act. The PDPA recognizes both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need of organizations to collect, use, or disclose personal data for “legitimate and reasonable purposes.”⁶²⁶⁵ The law aims to strengthen Singapore's position as a trusted hub for businesses by regulating the flow of personal data among organizations.⁶²⁶⁶

The PDPA applies to private sector organizations.⁶²⁶⁷ Data management in the public sector is governed by the Public Sector (Governance) Act and the Government Instruction Manual on Infocomm Technology & Smart Systems Management.⁶²⁶⁸

<https://www.imda.gov.sg/Content-and-News/Press-Releases-and-Speeches/Press-Releases/2020/Singapore-and-World-Economic-Forum-driving-AI-Adoption-and-Innovation>

⁶²⁶¹ Singapore Computer Society, *About the BoK* (2026), <https://www.scs.org.sg/bok/ai-ethics?document=about>

⁶²⁶² Smart Nation Singapore, *Digital Government Services* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/initiatives/digital-government-services/>

⁶²⁶³ Smart Nation Singapore, *Be Part of Our AI Journey* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/nais/contribute/>

⁶²⁶⁴ Personal Data Protection Commission, *PDPA Overview* (Nov. 3, 2023), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/Overview-of-PDPA/The-Legislation/Personal-Data-Protection-Act>

⁶²⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶²⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶²⁶⁷ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *Government's Personal Data Protection Laws and Policies* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/other-pages/personal-data-protection-laws-and-policies/>

⁶²⁶⁸ Ibid

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The Personal Data Protection Commission was established in January 2013 to administer and enforce the PDPA.⁶²⁶⁹ The PDPC is currently part of the IMDA.⁶²⁷⁰ The functions of the Commission include administering and enforcing the PDPA, providing information to individuals, businesses, and data-protection professionals about their rights and obligations, and representing the Government internationally on matters relating to data protection.

In a 2018 “Discussion Paper on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Personal Data—Fostering Responsible Development and Adoption of AI”, the PDPC noted that “[t]he benefits and risks of AI have been the subject of great public debate. On the one hand, AI has the ability to boost productivity, transform businesses, grow the economy and enhance people’s lives. On the other hand, AI may displace jobs and pose ethical challenges such as social profiling.” The PDPC recommended for AI systems to be human-centric, and for decisions to be made by or with the assistance of AI should be explainable, transparent, and fair.⁶²⁷¹

Singapore shares publicly available datasets⁶²⁷² from 70 public agencies, API libraries, and resources for application developers using these data sets. On the commercial side, the IMDA introduced a Trusted Data Sharing Framework⁶²⁷³ as a guide to establishing safeguards and baseline “common data sharing language” and a systematic approach to understanding the broad considerations for establishing trusted data sharing partnerships. A Data Regulatory Sandbox⁶²⁷⁴ is offered to businesses to pilot innovative use of data in a safe environment, in consultation with the IMDA and the PDPC. The IMDA also provides a Data Protection Trustmark (DPTM), a voluntary enterprise-wide certification for organizations to demonstrate accountable data protection practices.⁶²⁷⁵

⁶²⁶⁹ Personal Data Protection Commission, *PDPA Overview* (Nov. 3, 2023),

<https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/Overview-of-PDPA/The-Legislation/Personal-Data-Protection-Act>

⁶²⁷⁰ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Encouraging Data-Driven Innovation While Protecting Personal Data Use* (Oct. 10, 2024). <https://www.imda.gov.sg/about-imda/data-protection/personal-data-protection>

⁶²⁷¹ Personal Data Protection Commission, *Discussion Paper on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Personal Data—Fostering Responsible Development and Adoption of AI* (Jun. 5, 2018), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/-/media/Files/PDPC/PDF-Files/Resource-for-Organisation/AI/Discussion-Paper-on-AI-and-PD---050618.pdf>

⁶²⁷² Smart Nation Singapore, *Resources for Developers, Data Resources & APIs* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/resources/for-developers/>

⁶²⁷³ IMDA and PDPC, *Trusted Data Sharing Framework* (2019)

<https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/Imda/Files/Programme/AI-Data-Innovation/Trusted-Data-Sharing-Framework.pdf>

⁶²⁷⁴ INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, *Data Regulatory Sandbox* (Aug. 3, 2023), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/how-we-can-help/data-innovation/data-regulatory-sandbox>

⁶²⁷⁵ IMDA, *Data Protection Trustmark Certification* (May 17, 2024),

<https://www.imda.gov.sg/programme-listing/data-protection-trustmark-certification>

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The PDPC released the Proposed Guide on Synthetic Data Generation in July 2024 to assist organizations to understand synthetic data generation techniques and potential use cases, particularly for AI systems, as an alternative to using personal data in AI development.⁶²⁷⁶ IMDA and PDPC also launched a Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PET) Sandbox to support businesses wishing to pilot PET projects that address common business challenges, including in the context of AI development.⁶²⁷⁷

The PDPC is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), but IMDA and the PDPC have previously participated in the GPA as non-members.⁶²⁷⁸ Singapore did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁶²⁷⁹ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶²⁸⁰ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶²⁸¹ and the 2023 GPA resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁶²⁸²

Algorithmic Transparency

Singapore does not have a legally binding guarantee of algorithmic transparency. Singapore released advisory guidelines on the use of personal data in AI recommendation and decision systems, setting out accepted AI data practices in March 2024.⁶²⁸³ The guidelines encourage service providers to adopt standards of

⁶²⁷⁶ Personal Data Protection Commission Singapore, *Proposed Guide on Synthetic Data Generation* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/help-and-resources/2024/07/proposed-guide-on-synthetic-data-generation>

⁶²⁷⁷ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Privacy Enhancing Technology Sandboxes*, <https://www.imda.gov.sg/how-we-can-help/data-innovation/privacy-enhancing-technology-sandboxes>

⁶²⁷⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Observers* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-observers/>

⁶²⁷⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶²⁸⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁶²⁸¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶²⁸² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative AI Systems* (Oct 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶²⁸³ Singapore's Personal Data Protection Commission, *Advisory Guidelines on Use of Personal Data in AI Recommendation and Decision Systems* (Mar.1, 2024), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/>

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record maintenance, data mapping, and labelling. The guidelines clarify when organizations can use personal data to develop and deploy machine learning models, emphasizing meaningful consent and identifying particular exceptions. Organizations must also communicate the “policies about safeguards and practices they put in place to ensure that AI systems are trustworthy.”⁶²⁸⁴ However, the document specifies “These Guidelines are advisory in nature, are not legally binding on the Commission or on any other party, and do not constitute legal advice.”⁶²⁸⁵ The guidelines do not modify any laws such as the PDPA.

AI-Assisted Surveillance

Statutes in Singapore deal with aspects of privacy, but there is no discrete right to privacy protected under Singapore’s Constitution.⁶²⁸⁶ Singapore has not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁶²⁸⁷ which protects against arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence. Government agencies are not permitted to access data held by the private sector except where the access has been authorized by law or by a court order.⁶²⁸⁸ If a person believes that their personal data has been accessed unlawfully by any government agency, they can apply to the court for a judicial review of the agency’s decisions or actions.⁶²⁸⁹ The court may make a Mandatory Order obliging the government agency to exercise its duties, perform specific acts, or consider exercising a discretionary power as required by law; or a Prohibiting Order, an injunctive order directed at a prospective act or decision that would be unlawful; or a Quashing Order that quashes or sets aside illegal decisions or acts.⁶²⁹⁰

[/media/files/pdpc/pdf-files/advisory-guidelines/advisory-guidelines-on-the-use-of-personal-data-in-ai-recommendation-and-decision-systems.pdf](#)

⁶²⁸⁴ Ibid, p. 3

⁶²⁸⁵ Ibid, p. 4

⁶²⁸⁶ Bellingham v Reed [2021] SGHC 125 at [72]. See also Privacy International, *Universal Periodic Review, Stakeholder Report: 24th Session, Singapore, The Right to Privacy in Singapore* (2015), [https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/Singapore UPR PI submission FINAL.pdf](https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/Singapore%20UPR%20PI%20submission%20FINAL.pdf)

⁶²⁸⁷ UN Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review – Singapore, Outcome of the Review, Second Cycle* (2015), <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/18-2019/Published/20190625?DocDate=20190625>

⁶²⁸⁸ See for example section 20 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010

⁶²⁸⁹ Attorney-General’s Chambers, *Media Fact Sheet: Judicial Review Proceedings* (May 31, 2012), https://www.agc.gov.sg/docs/default-source/newsroom-documents/media-releases/2012/mediafactsheetonjudicialreviewproceedings_31may2012.pdf

⁶²⁹⁰ Ibid

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The Public Order Act⁶²⁹¹ definition of assembly and its requirements for a permit for such assembly has recently extended to online conferences. The government's use of online surveillance tools and power to act without the need for legal authorization is a matter of concern regarding citizens' ability to exercise their rights of freedom of speech, expression, and assembly.

Singapore launched SingPass in 2003. The National Digital Identity initiative⁶²⁹² is a personal authentication system that allows users to access various Government services. It is a move to digitalize all transactions in public and private spaces and share data. The app offers users an option to use a 6-digit passcode or options for biometrics such as fingerprint or face recognition. The Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Association of Banks in Singapore mandated the use of SingPass Face Verification for higher-risk banking transactions in February 2025, requiring customers to verify their identity biometrically against national records before activating digital tokens.⁶²⁹³

Singapore introduced TraceTogether,⁶²⁹⁴ a COVID-19 contact tracing application in 2020, advising users that data would “never be accessed unless the user tests positive” for the virus. In January 2021, the Minister of State for Home Affairs clarified that under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Singapore Police Force can order anyone to produce data for the purpose of a criminal investigation, including TraceTogether data.⁶²⁹⁵ The COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Amendment) Bill, which restricted the use of personal contact tracing data in criminal investigations to only serious crimes such as murder and terrorism, passed in Parliament in February 2021.⁶²⁹⁶

⁶²⁹¹ Singapore Statutes Online, *Public Order Act 2009, 2020 Revised Edition* (Dec. 31, 2021), <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/act/poa2009>

⁶²⁹² GovTech Singapore, *Digital Identity* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.tech.gov.sg/our-digital-government-efforts/digital-identity/>

⁶²⁹³ Monetary Authority of Singapore, *Joint Statement on Enhancing Safeguards for Digital Token Activation* (Sept. 18, 2024), <https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/media-releases/2024/major-retail-banks-to-introduce-singpass-face-verification>

⁶²⁹⁴ Alicia Wee and Mark Findlay, *AI and Data Use: Surveillance Technology and Community Disquiet in the Age of COVID-19*, SMU Centre for AI & Data Governance Research Paper No 2020/10 (Nov. 17, 2020), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3715993

⁶²⁹⁵ Smart Nation Singapore, *Clarification on the Usage of TraceTogether Data* (Jan. 5, 2021), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/media-hub/parliament/20210105/>; Tham Yuen-C, *Police Can Use TraceTogether Data for Criminal Investigations* (Jan. 5, 2021), <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/police-can-use-tracetogogether-data-for-criminal-investigations-0>

⁶²⁹⁶ Kenny Chee, *Bill Limiting Police Use of TraceTogether Data to Serious Crimes Passed*, The Straits Times (Feb. 2, 2021), <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/bill-limiting-use-of-tracetogogether-for-serious-crimes-passed-with-govt-assurances>

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According to the Singapore government, TraceTogether's technical design precludes its use as a surveillance tool.⁶²⁹⁷ The Singapore government has explained that the data is always stored in a device in an encrypted form and is automatically deleted after 25 days.⁶²⁹⁸ Data is only extracted when the person tests positive for COVID-19 and upon request by the health authorities to upload the data for contact-tracing purposes.⁶²⁹⁹

The Ministry of Health announced in February 2023 that the use of contact tracing systems including TraceTogether were being stepped down due to COVID-19 measures being eased.⁶³⁰⁰ As of February 1, 2024, the government deleted all COVID-19 contact-tracing data collected through the TraceTogether and SafeEntry programs, except one set of data related to a murder case.⁶³⁰¹

The Singapore Police Force issued an Implementation Directive⁶³⁰² under the Online Criminal Harms Act to Meta in September 2025, requiring the company to implement enhanced facial recognition measures to detect and reduce AI-generated deepfake impersonation scams targeting key government office holders on Facebook. A second directive was subsequently issued requiring Meta to expand these measures to cover impersonation of a broader range of public figures.

Facial Recognition

The Minister of State for Home Affairs advised that Singapore aims to have more than 200,000 police cameras by 2030, more than doubling current use.⁶³⁰³ Police started trialing patrol robots for surveillance, to detect "undesirable social

⁶²⁹⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore, *Singapore's Reply to the Letter from Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy Professor Joseph Cannataci on the Thematic Report on the Management of Pandemics with the Respect to the Right to Privacy* (Sept. 14, 2021), <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Overseas-Mission/Geneva-UN/Speeches-and-Statements--Permanent-Mission-to-the-UN/2021/09/Letter-SR-Right-to-Privacy-Umej-Bhatia-14-Sep-2021>

⁶²⁹⁸ Ibid

⁶²⁹⁹ Ibid

⁶³⁰⁰ The Straits Times, *TraceTogether Users Can Uninstall App, Return Tokens at CCs from Feb 13* (Feb. 9, 2023), <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/tracetogogether-safeentry-to-be-stepped-down-data-deleted>

⁶³⁰¹ Smart Nation Singapore, *Discontinuation of TraceTogether and SafeEntry* (Feb. 5, 2024), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/newsroom/20240105/>

⁶³⁰² Ministry of Home Affairs, *Issuance of Implementation Directive to Meta Under the Online Criminal Harms Act* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.mha.gov.sg/media-room/newsroom/issuance-of-implementation-directive-to-meta-under-the-online-criminal-harms-act/>

⁶³⁰³ Reuters, *Singapore to Double Police Cameras to More Than 200,000 over Next Decade* (Aug. 4, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/singapore-double-police-cameras-more-than-200000-over-next-decade-2021-08-04/>

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behaviors” and displaying messages to educate the public on proper behavior the following month.⁶³⁰⁴

In May 2022, the PDPC issued the Guide on Responsible Use of Biometric Data in Security Applications to help organizations such as Management Corporation Strata Title (MCST), building/premise owners, and security services companies, to ensure the responsible use of security cameras and biometric recognition systems to safeguard individuals’ biometric data where it is collected, used or disclosed.⁶³⁰⁵

Singapore utilizes ABBSS (Automated Biometrics & Behavioral Screening Suite) at immigration and border checkpoints. The system is a network of cameras with facial-recognition capabilities that can also be deployed as a body-worn cameras for officers. The system is used both to build a biometrics database of travelers and detect travelers wanted for various offenses.⁶³⁰⁶

Singapore established a fully automated immigration clearance system for all travelers, including first-time social visitors, with phased implementation starting in 2024.⁶³⁰⁷ The system utilizes retinal and face-recognition procedures, to facilitate passport-less immigration clearance for Singapore residents and eligible foreign travelers⁶³⁰⁸ under the New Clearance Concept.⁶³⁰⁹ The Immigration (Amendment) Bill passed in September 2023 authorizes the disclosure of passenger information to airport operators to facilitate end-to-end biometric clearance.⁶³¹⁰

⁶³⁰⁴ Reuters, *Singapore Trials Patrol Robots to Deter Bad Social Behavior* (Sept. 6, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/singapore-trials-patrol-robots-deter-bad-social-behaviour-2021-09-06/>; Agence France Press, “Dystopian world”: Singapore Patrol Robots Stoke Fears of Surveillance State (Oct. 6, 2021), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/06/dystopian-world-singapore-patrol-robots-stoke-fears-of-surveillance-state>

⁶³⁰⁵ PDPC, *Guide on the Responsible Use of Biometric Data in Security Applications* (May 2022), <https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/help-and-resources/2022/05/guide-on-the-responsible-use-of-biometric-data-in-security-applications>

⁶³⁰⁶ Cara Wong, *Facial Recognition, Biometrics Tech at More Checkpoints: ICA*, The Strait Times (Nov. 13, 2018), <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/facial-recognition-biometrics-tech-at-more-checkpoints-ica>

⁶³⁰⁷ Yip Wai Yee, *All Immigration Checkpoints to Have Fingerprint and Face Scans by 2025 as Part of Singapore’s AI Push*, The Straits Times (Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/fingerprint-and-face-scans-at-all-immigration-checkpoints-by-2025-as-part-of-singapores-ai>

⁶³⁰⁸ Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), *Passport-Less Immigration Clearance to be Rolled Out Progressively at Changi Airport from August 2024* (Jul. 31, 2024), <https://www.ica.gov.sg/news-and-publications/newsroom/media-release/passport-less-immigration-clearance-to-be-rolled-out-progressively-at-changi-airport-from-august-2024>

⁶³⁰⁹ Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), *Redefining Border Clearance and Service Delivery* (May 17, 2024), <https://www.ica.gov.sg/news-and-publications/newsroom/media-release/redefining-border-clearance-and-service-delivery>

⁶³¹⁰ Singapore Statutes Online, *Immigration (Amendment) Act 2023, No. 31 of 2023* (Oct. 20, 2023), <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/31-2023/Publish ed/20231030?DocDate=20231030>

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Online Disinformation

The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act⁶³¹¹ was introduced in 2019 “to prevent the electronic communication in Singapore of false statements of fact, to suppress support for and counteract the effects of such communication, to safeguard against the use of online accounts for such communication and for information manipulation, to enable measures to be taken to enhance transparency of online political advertisements, and for related matters.”⁶³¹² The law applies to digital content that is accessible in Singapore, whether it is an online post, text, or chat message by a person or a bot. The law does not clearly define what is meant by “falsehood” and gives power to any government minister to declare that information posted online is “false” and instruct the correction or removal of such content if they think it is in the public interest to remove it. A person found guilty of the offense can be fined or imprisoned.

The Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Bill (FICA) passed in 2021⁶³¹³ “provides measures to prevent, detect and disrupt foreign interference in our domestic politics conducted through (i) hostile information campaigns (HICs) and (ii) the use of local proxies.” Among the tools and tactics used by these “hostile foreign actors” “to interfere in domestic political discourse, incite social tensions and undermine our sovereignty,” the act mentions: “Using bots on social media platforms or taking out advertisements to artificially boost the reach of these messages,” “Using inauthentic accounts and bots in combination to engineer an artificial sense that there is strong public support or opposition to a certain position or sentiment,” “Inciting other users to ‘troll,’ harass or intimidate a particular target.”

The Bill was adopted after a 10-hour debate and concerns were raised over the lack of public consultation.⁶³¹⁴ Under the new law, the Minister for Home Affairs is granted powers to issue directions to the Internet and social media service providers and website operators to provide user information, block content, and remove applications. Authorities can also require politically significant persons to declare foreign affiliations. Recipients of directions or declarations may apply to the Minister for Home Affairs to vary or cancel the direction or declaration. If their

⁶³¹¹ Singapore Statutes Online, *Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019* <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/18-2019/Published/20190625?DocDate=20190625>

⁶³¹² Ibid, Introductory section

⁶³¹³ Ministry of Home Affairs, *HIC Provisions of the Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act to Take Effect from 7 July 2022* (Jul. 6, 2022), <https://www.mha.gov.sg/media-room/newsroom/hic-provisions-of-the-foreign-interference-countermeasures-act-to-take-effect-from-7-july-2022/>

⁶³¹⁴ Vanessa Lim, Ang Hwee Min, and Jalelah Abu Baker, *Parliament Passes Bill to Deal with Foreign Interference after 10-hour Debate*, *Channel News Asia (CAN)* (Oct. 5, 2021), <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/fica-parliament-singapore-foreign-interference-countermeasures-bill-2221236>

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application is refused, they may appeal to an independent Reviewing Tribunal chaired by a sitting Supreme Court Judge to overrule the Minister.⁶³¹⁵

Singapore's Parliament passed the Election (Integrity of Online Advertising) Act in October 2024, which prohibits the publication of AI-generated or digitally manipulated online advertising in elections.⁶³¹⁶ The law empowers the Returning Officer to issue corrective directions and IMDA to order the removal of offending content from social media services.

Harmful Content

Parliament passed the Online Safety Bill in November 2022⁶³¹⁷ and the Act came into effect on February 1, 2023.⁶³¹⁸ The Act is to enhance the safety of online users, particularly children, and to curb the spread of harmful content on Online Communication Services accessible to users in Singapore.⁶³¹⁹ The Act covers online communication services “generated by a machine.”⁶³²⁰ Harmful content includes sexual content, violent content, suicide and self-harm content; cyberbullying content; content endangering public health; and content facilitating vice and organized crime.⁶³²¹ Designated providers of such Online Communication Services must comply with Codes of Practice issued by the IMDA. The IMDA issued the Code of Practice for Online Safety in July 2023, meant to enhance online safety and “curb the spread of harmful content” with “additional protection for children.” The Online Safety Code establishes processes for managing harmful content, provides tools for

⁶³¹⁵ Ministry of Home Affairs, *Introduction to Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act (FICA)*, <https://www.mha.gov.sg/fica>

⁶³¹⁶ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *New Legal Measures to Uphold Integrity of Online Advertising During Elections* (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/newsroom/new-legal-measures-uphold-integrity-online-advertising-elections/>

⁶³¹⁷ Singapore Parliament, *Bills Introduced: Online Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill* (Nov. 9, 2022), [https://www.parliament.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/online-safety-\(miscellaneous-amendments\)-bill-28-2022.pdf](https://www.parliament.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/online-safety-(miscellaneous-amendments)-bill-28-2022.pdf)

⁶³¹⁸ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *Online Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act Takes Effect on 1 February 2023* (Jan. 31, 2023), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/media-centre/press-releases/online-safety-act-takes-effect-on-1-february-2023>

⁶³¹⁹ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *First Reading of Online Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill* (Oct. 3, 2022), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/media-centre/press-releases/first-reading-of-online-safety-bill/>

⁶³²⁰ Singapore Parliament, *Online Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2D (2), Meaning of “Provider” of Online Communication Service* (Nov. 9, 2022), [https://www.parliament.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/online-safety-\(miscellaneous-amendments\)-bill-28-2022.pdf](https://www.parliament.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/online-safety-(miscellaneous-amendments)-bill-28-2022.pdf)

⁶³²¹ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *First Reading of Online Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill* (Oct. 3, 2022), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/media-centre/press-releases/first-reading-of-online-safety-bill/>

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users, applies age-based policies, and puts forth a plan for annual online safety reporting. The first annual report was published on IMDA's website in 2024.⁶³²²

The Online Criminal Harms Act (OCHA) was passed in July 2023 and came into effect on February 1, 2024.⁶³²³ The OCHA enables the Singapore government to deal more effectively with online activities that are criminal in nature, for example scams and online child sexual exploitation.⁶³²⁴

Environmental Impact of AI

Singapore launched a Green Data Centre (DC) Roadmap that charts a sustainable pathway for the continued growth of DCs in Singapore in May 2024.⁶³²⁵ To support ambitions for the digital economy, where macro-trends such as increased use of AI, autonomous and robotic systems, and immersive virtual interactions are expected to propel demand for compute resources, the Roadmap aims to provide at least 300 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity in the near term, with much more through green energy deployments.⁶³²⁶ The Roadmap outlines IMDA's plans to partner with industry to continue enhancing sustainability by improving the energy efficiency of DC facilities and deploying energy-efficient IT equipment and accelerating the use of Green Energy by industry more broadly.⁶³²⁷

At the application level, the Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI addresses environmental impact only in the disclosure section, where it is listed as an optional rather than mandatory consideration.⁶³²⁸ IMDA has nonetheless articulated a formal "Green AI" concept that is, the development of energy-efficient AI systems powered by low- or zero-carbon energy sources, as a strategic priority

⁶³²² Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Online Safety Assessment Report 2024*, <https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/imda/files/regulations-and-licensing/regulations/online-safety/online-safety-assessment-report-2024-designated-social-media-services.pdf>

⁶³²³ Ministry of Home Affairs, *Commencement of the Online Criminal Harms Act (OCHA) on 1 February 2024* (Jan. 30, 2024), <https://www.mha.gov.sg/mediaroom/press-releases/commencement-of-the-online-criminal-harms-act-ocha-on-1-february-2024/>

⁶³²⁴ Ministry of Home Affairs, *Introduction of the Online Criminal Harms Bill* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.mha.gov.sg/media-room/newsroom/introduction-of-the-online-criminal-harms-bill/>

⁶³²⁵ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Driving a Greener Digital Future: Singapore's Green Data Centre Roadmap* (2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/imda/files/how-we-can-help/green-dc-roadmap/green-dc-roadmap.pdf>

⁶³²⁶ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Charting Green Growth Pathways at Scale for Data Centres in Singapore* (May 30, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/factsheets/2024/charting-green-growth-for-data-centres-in-sg>

⁶³²⁷ Ibid

⁶³²⁸ Infocomm Media Development Authority and Verify Foundation, *Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI*, p.14 (Jun. 19, 2024), <https://aiverifyfoundation.sg/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Model-AI-Governance-Framework-for-Generative-AI-19-June-2024.pdf>

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aligned with Singapore's Green Plan 2030 and its goal of net-zero emissions by 2045.⁶³²⁹

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Singapore the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy that followed the first Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023).⁶³³⁰ Singapore co-hosted the Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) Regional Consultations for Asia in February 2024.⁶³³¹ Singapore endorsed the outcome document, the Blueprint for Action, of the REAIM 2024 Summit in Korea in September 2024.⁶³³² Endorsing signals Singapore's commitment to implementing the principles defined at the 2023 Summit.⁶³³³

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Chile voted in favor⁶³³⁴ of resolution L.56⁶³³⁵ on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the "urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems," and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems.

Singapore submitted its statement on the topic of lethal autonomous weapons systems as part of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly's First Committee in September 2024. In the submission, Singapore notes that its accession as a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) in March 2024 underscores the commitment to the continued codification and progressive development of the rules

⁶³²⁹ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *The Role of Green AI in Singapore's Digital Sustainability Journey* (Dec. 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/blog/blog-articles/2024/12/role-green-ai-in-sg-digital-sustainability-journey>

⁶³³⁰ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy, endorsing States* (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁶³³¹ United Nations, *Singapore's National Submission on The Topic of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems* (2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Singapore-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Singapore-EN.pdf)

⁶³³² REAIM, *Blueprint for Action* (Sept. 11, 2024), https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/10sep24_nr/

⁶³³³ MinDef, *Dr. Ng: Singapore Endorses REAIM Blueprint for Action* (Sept. 10, 2024), https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/10sep24_nr

⁶³³⁴ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁶³³⁵ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Resolution L56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

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of international law applicable in armed conflict.⁶³³⁶ Singapore also reiterated support for the two-tier approach agreed in the GGE in 2023.

In the report, Singapore shared the country's approach to the responsible development and use of AI in the military realm with details about the national principles on responsible military AI announced in 2021, after "several years of extensive consultations with defence technologists, military planners, international law experts, and policy professionals." The principles define four key areas of concern related to AI in the military domain: 1) Responsibility for AI behavior and defined risks; 2) Reliability of AI systems versus the risks of errors, accuracies, and bias in outputs; 3) Robustness of systems to prevent exploitation by malicious actors; 4) Safety against the risk of AI system failure in critical contexts: "AI systems should be safe to use, not only in terms of the deployed platforms, but also the surrounding assets and personnel."⁶³³⁷

Singapore co-submitted a working paper to the CCW Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS in 2025.⁶³³⁸ At the UN Security Council open debate on AI and international peace and security in September 2025, Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan addressed both the opportunities presented by the AI revolution and the challenges to international peace and security, including the question of lethal autonomous weapons systems.⁶³³⁹

AI Literacy

Singapore's AI-Fluent Workforce Initiative⁶³⁴⁰ launched in 2025 is a nationwide program under NAIS 2.0 designed to integrate AI literacy across civil service training, secondary education, and workforce development. The initiative

⁶³³⁶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Singapore's National Submission on the Topic of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems* (2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Singapore-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Singapore-EN.pdf)

⁶³³⁷ Ibid, pp. 2–3

⁶³³⁸ Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (Sept. 5, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.8.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/CCW-GGE.1-2025-WP.8.pdf)

⁶³³⁹ Ministry of Defence, Singapore, *Speech by Senior Minister of State for Defence Zaqy Mohamad at the Third Plenary: "Strengthening Future Security through Artificial Intelligence (AI)"* (Sept. 9, 2025), <https://www.mindef.gov.sg/news-and-events/latest-releases/09sep25-speech/>

⁶³⁴⁰ Infocomm Media Development Authority (Singapore), *SG to Build AI-Fluent Workforce to Accelerate National AI Ambition* (Aug. 29, 2025), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2025/sg-to-build-ai-fluent-workforce-to-accelerate-national-ai-ambition>

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emphasizes practical understanding of core machine-learning concepts, ethical use of AI tools, and the ability to interpret automated outputs in professional settings. The program builds on Singapore's existing SkillsFuture framework. The program reflects a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensuring that citizens and public-sector employees can participate meaningfully in the governance and use of AI systems. It also complements ongoing digital-literacy efforts by the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO)⁶³⁴¹ and Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA). These efforts represent an explicit attempt to enhance the population's capacity to assess AI's social and economic implications, aligning with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and promoting equitable participation in the country's digital transformation.

Human Rights

Singapore has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Singapore was party to four of the core human rights treaties as of 2021, arguing that "rights and a society's approach to them evolve over time as they change."⁶³⁴² The UN Human Rights Council Working Group consistently recommends that Singapore ratifies all international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁶³⁴³ Singapore's fourth UPR is scheduled for May 2026.⁶³⁴⁴

Singapore has an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights but no national human rights institution. The Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam said in Parliament in March 2021 that "regardless of which community, what your social, religious or sexual beliefs are, everyone will be protected here."⁶³⁴⁵ He said that action could be taken under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act to use

⁶³⁴¹ Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (Singapore), *National AI Strategy 2.0* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/initiatives/national-ai-strategy/>

⁶³⁴² Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, *National Report Submitted in Accordance with Paragraph 5 of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 16/21, Singapore*, H. Human Rights treaties, p. 19 (Feb. 11, 2021), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/38/SGP/1>

⁶³⁴³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Singapore*, A/HRC/48/16, pp. 8–9 (Jul. 22, 2021), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/48/16>

⁶³⁴⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Singapore Universal Periodic Review* (Nov. 7, 2025), <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/about-mfa/key-issues/singapore-universal-periodic-review/>

⁶³⁴⁵ Desmond Ang, *MHA COS 2021: Integrity, Secularism and Protections under the Law*, Ministry of Home Affairs (Mar. 2, 2021), <https://www.mha.gov.sg/home-team-news/story/detail/mha-cos-2021-integrity-secularism-and-protections-under-the-law>

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religion to urge violence against any person or group, adding “LGBTQ persons, non-LGBTQ persons, we are all equal.”⁶³⁴⁶

The parliament voted to repeal a decades-old law criminalizing same-sex sexual relations in November 2022. However, lawmakers also voted to amend the constitution to preempt any changes to the legal definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. Apart from decriminalization, there are no legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.⁶³⁴⁷

Singapore’s 2025 Freedom House Score remains unchanged from the previous year with a score of 48 out of 100, which continues to rate Singapore as “Partly Free.”⁶³⁴⁸ In the context of political rights (electoral process, political pluralism and participation, functioning of government) Singapore scores 19 out of 40. When it comes to civil liberties (freedom of expression and belief, associational and organizational rights, rule of law, personal autonomy and individual rights) the country reaches 29 out of 60. Singapore’s “partly free” status was attributed primarily to State restrictions on the electoral process, civil liberties, and associational and organizational rights. According to Freedom House, “Singapore’s parliamentary political system has been dominated by the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) and the powerful Lee family since 1959. The electoral and legal framework that the PAP has constructed allows for some political pluralism, but it constrains the growth of opposition parties and limits freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.”⁶³⁴⁹

AI Safety Summit

Singapore participated in the AI Safety Summit organized by the UK at Bletchley Park in November 2023⁶³⁵⁰ and signed the Bletchley Declaration, an international agreement on developing human-centric, trustworthy, safe, and responsible AI.⁶³⁵¹ Singapore participated in the AI Seoul Summit, co-organized by the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the UK in May 2024. This meeting was a

⁶³⁴⁶ Ibid

⁶³⁴⁷ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2020: Singapore* (2020), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/singapore>

⁶³⁴⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Singapore* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/singapore/freedom-world/2025>

⁶³⁴⁹ Ibid

⁶³⁵⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's Participation in the AI Safety Summit, 2 November 2023* (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2023/11/20231102---PM-AI-Summit>

⁶³⁵¹ United Kingdom Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 1–2, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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continuation of the U.K.'s AI Safety Summit that builds upon the Bletchley Summit's commitment to AI safety.⁶³⁵²

As part of the AI Seoul Safety Summit, Singapore was one of the 10 nations to launch the first international network of AI Safety Institutes to boost cooperation on AI.⁶³⁵³ Singapore designated the Digital Trust Centre as the country's AI Safety Institute (AISI), which will work with other countries' AI Safety Institutes to collectively address AI safety research. Singapore is already in discussions with the U.S. and U.K. AISIs to explore collaborations in AI safety, particularly around Generative AI (GenAI) evaluations. The designation of the Singapore AISI is an extension of ongoing efforts, such as expanding AI Verify to test for GenAI safety, and working with like-minded international partners to exchange insights and best practices in AI safety.⁶³⁵⁴

Singapore participated in the AI Action Summit held in Paris in February 2025, co-chaired by France and India and signed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.⁶³⁵⁵ At the Summit, Singapore announced three new AI safety initiatives: the Global AI Assurance Pilot to establish best practices for technical testing of generative AI applications; a Joint Testing Report co-led with Japan and the United Kingdom under the International Network of AI Safety Institutes, assessing the safety of large language models across 10 languages and five harm categories; and the Singapore AI Safety Red Teaming Challenge Evaluation Report, establishing a methodology for testing AI safeguards across diverse languages and cultures in the Asia-Pacific region.⁶³⁵⁶

⁶³⁵² Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's Participation in the Artificial Intelligence Seoul Summit* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2024/05/Artificial-Intelligence-Seoul-Summit>

⁶³⁵³ Government of the United Kingdom, *Global Leaders Agree to Launch First International Network of AI Safety Institutes to Boost Cooperation of [sic] AI* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/global-leaders-agree-to-launch-first-international-network-of-ai-safety-institutes-to-boost-understanding-of-ai>

⁶³⁵⁴ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Digital Trust Centre Designated as Singapore's AI Safety Institute* (May 22, 2024), [imda-factsheet--digital-trust-centre-designated-as-spore-ai-safety-institute-22-may-2024.pdf](https://www.imda.gov.sg/newsroom/2024/05/digital-trust-centre-designated-as-singapore-ai-safety-institute-22-may-2024.pdf)

⁶³⁵⁵ Permanent Mission of France, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*, (Feb 10-11, 2025), <https://onu.delegfrance.org/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and>

⁶³⁵⁶ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *Singapore Announces New AI Safety Initiatives at the Global AI Action Summit in France* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/newsroom/singapore-announces-new-ai-safety-initiatives/>

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Other International Cooperation on AI

NAIS 2.0 says that Singapore is committed to being a serious and reliable international partner on AI, and that Singapore will continue to contribute to international AI developments by anchoring key bilateral relationships with selected partners from government and industry, demonstrating alignment with key international fora and supporting worthwhile platforms, sharing Singapore’s experience, and curating meaningful partnerships for capacity building.

During the inaugural Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET) Dialogue held in Washington, DC, in 2023, Singapore announced the development of an interoperability framework or “crosswalk”⁶³⁵⁷ between the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (RMF 1.0) developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Singapore’s AI Verify framework.⁶³⁵⁸ The establishment of a bilateral AI Governance Group and further research and technical collaboration in AI were also announced, focusing on advancing “safe, trustworthy, and responsible AI innovation” as well as “safety and security including testing, validation, and certification.” At the Second CET Dialogue held in Washington, DC, in July 2024, Singapore and the United States agreed to expand the NIST-IMDA framework mapping to cover generative AI, collaborate on AI testing and evaluation including red-teaming benchmarks, and support the development of international AI standards at bodies such as ISO. Both countries also welcomed cooperation between their respective AI Safety Institutes to advance AI safety science.⁶³⁵⁹

Singapore is a contributing member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During the 4th ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting (ADGMIN) in February 2024, the group issued the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, which seeks to establish common principles for trustworthy AI and suggests best practices for how to implement trustworthy AI in the region.⁶³⁶⁰ The Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics—Generative AI supplements the 2024

⁶³⁵⁷ AI Verify Foundation, *Crosswalk, AI RMF (1.0) and AI Verify* (2023),

https://aiverifyfoundation.sg/downloads/AI_RM_F_and_AI_Verify_Crosswalk.pdf

⁶³⁵⁸ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *Singapore and the US to Deepen Cooperation in AI* (Oct. 13, 2023), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/media-centre/press-releases/singapore-and-the-us-to-deepen-cooperation-in-ai/>

⁶³⁵⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Second U.S. – Singapore Critical and Emerging Technology Dialogue: Joint Fact Sheet, 31 July 2024*, (July 31, 2024), <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/newsroom/press-statements-transcripts-and-photos/20240731-cetd-31-jul-2024/>

⁶³⁶⁰ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, *ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics* (Feb. 2024), <https://asean.org/book/asean-guide-on-ai-governance-and-ethics/>

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Guide with policy considerations specific to Generative AI.⁶³⁶¹ The 2025 Guide was developed by the ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance, chaired by Singapore's IMDA.⁶³⁶² Singapore's AI Verify Foundation is featured in the Guide through Project Moonshot, a toolkit for standardizing AI safety testing, as one of four ASEAN use cases illustrating responsible generative AI deployment.⁶³⁶³

During the inaugural Singapore-China Digital Policy Dialogue (DPD) in June 2024, Singapore and China announced interest to foster bilateral discussions in enhancing mutual understanding of approaches to AI governance. Under the reporting of the work group for Artificial Intelligence Governance, both parties agreed to promote mutual learning across the private sector and research institutions in AI governance and to enhance mutual understanding of governance frameworks.⁶³⁶⁴

Singapore has formed bilateral and multilateral treaties with other economies, called Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs), which establish digital trade rules and digital economy collaborations.⁶³⁶⁵ Singapore has signed DEAs with Chile, New Zealand, Korea, Australia, and the UK. Some of these DEAS contain AI modules promoting the adoption of ethical governance frameworks for AI and, where appropriate, the alignment of governance and regulatory frameworks.⁶³⁶⁶ For example, the Korea-Singapore Digital Partnership Agreement (KSDPA) contains a module requiring both countries to promote the adoption of AI governance and ethics frameworks that support the trusted, safe, and responsible use of AI-based technologies.⁶³⁶⁷ Singapore and the European Union signed the EU-Singapore

⁶³⁶¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, *Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics—Generative AI* (Jan. 2025), <https://asean.org/book/expanded-asean-guide-on-ai-governance-and-ethics-generative-ai/>

⁶³⁶² Infocomm Media Development Authority, *About the ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance (WG-AI)* (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/about-imda/international-relations/asean-working-group-on-ai-governance>

⁶³⁶³ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, *Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics – Generative AI*, p. 29 (Jan. 2025), <https://asean.org/book/expanded-asean-guide-on-ai-governance-and-ethics-generative-ai/>

⁶³⁶⁴ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *Singapore and China Advance Cooperation at Inaugural Singapore China Digital Policy Dialogue* (Jun. 27, 2024), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/newsroom/sg-china-advance-cooperation-at-inaugural-digital-policy-dialogue/>

⁶³⁶⁵ Ministry of Trade and Industry, *Digital Economy Agreements* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Trade/Digital-Economy-Agreements>

⁶³⁶⁶ Darren Grayson Chng & Joe Jones, *Global AI Governance Law and Policy: Singapore*, IAPP (Feb. 2024), <https://iapp.org/resources/article/global-ai-governance-singapore>

⁶³⁶⁷ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *The Korea-Singapore Digital Partnership Agreement Enters Into Force* (Jan. 13, 2023), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2023/the-korea-singapore-digital-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

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Digital Trade Agreement to cooperate on AI, cybersecurity, and digital skills development. Signed in May 2025, this agreement is the first digital trade agreement between the EU and an ASEAN member state.⁶³⁶⁸ Singapore also concluded the EFTA-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement, which entered into force in September 2025, which includes provisions promoting the responsible, ethical and trusted use of AI guided by interoperable governance frameworks.⁶³⁶⁹

The Statement of Intent (SOI) Singapore's Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and the United States Department of Defense signed regarding Data, Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Cooperation in July 2024 offers an example of bilateral agreements in defense. Under this SOI, both nations identified key areas of collaboration, such as quality data, the responsible development and use of AI, and talent management. The SOI is deemed as an important opportunity to deepen collaborative efforts, strengthen interoperability, and promote values-based global leadership on responsible AI in defense.⁶³⁷⁰

Singapore and the United Kingdom signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to enhance the safety and reliability of AI technologies in its development and use in November 2024. The MoC builds upon the longstanding digital partnership between Singapore and the UK and aims to pave the way for greater public trust in AI advancements.⁶³⁷¹ This latest agreement aligns with the commitments made by the two countries at the AI Safety Summit held in the UK in November 2023, and the objectives of the international network of AI Safety Institutes to align their work on research, standards and testing. This agreement also builds on the Memorandum of Understanding on Emerging Technologies signed by both countries in June 2023, which included commitments to explore cooperation on AI.⁶³⁷²

⁶³⁶⁸ Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore, *Singapore and the European Union Strengthen Economic Partnership with the Signing of the European Union-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement* (May 7, 2025), <https://www.mti.gov.sg/newsroom/singapore-and-the-european-union-strengthen-economic-partnership-with-the-signing-of-the-european-union-singapore-digital-trade-agreement/>

⁶³⁶⁹ Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore, *The European Free Trade Association—Singapore Digital Economy Agreement Enters into Force for Singapore and Norway* (Mar. 1, 2026), <https://www.mti.gov.sg/newsroom/the-european-free-trade-association---singapore-digital-economy-agreement-enters-into-force-for-singapore-and-norway/>

⁶³⁷⁰ U.S. Department of Defense, *United States and Singapore Sign SOI to Strengthen Data, Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Cooperation* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3839100/united-states-and-singapore-sign-soi-to-strengthen-data-analytics-and-artificial/>

⁶³⁷¹ Ministry of Digital Development and Information, *New Singapore UK Agreement to Strengthen Global AI Safety and Governance* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.mddi.gov.sg/newsroom/new-singapore-uk-agreement-to-strengthen-global-ai-safety-governance/>

⁶³⁷² Ibid

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Singapore launched the AI Playbook for Small States in September 2024.⁶³⁷³ Developed in collaboration with Rwanda's Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the Playbook outlines key issues and considerations for policymakers in the development, use, and governance of AI, from the perspective of small states to enable countries to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An anthology of best practices from different Forum of Small States (FOSS) members and stakeholders complements the issues and considerations.⁶³⁷⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Singapore is not a member of the OECD or the G20 but endorses the OECD AI Principles through membership in the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). The OECD noted several significant examples of positive AI practices in Singapore.⁶³⁷⁵ For example, the Advisory Council on the Ethical Use of AI and Data, and the AI Governance Framework, which incorporates all the OECD AI Principles.

Singapore is a founding member of the GPAI.⁶³⁷⁶ Following the merger of GPAI and the OECD in July 2024, Singapore formally integrated into the OECD AI governance architecture as one of 44 participating jurisdictions.⁶³⁷⁷ The Centre for AI & Data Governance (CAIDG) in Singapore was established to develop international thought leadership and advance scholarship and discourse on legal, ethical, regulatory, and policy issues arising from the use of AI and data and inform the implementation of the G20 AI Principles. CAIDG's merger with the Centre for Computational Law to form the SMU Centre for Digital Law (CDL) in 2024 expanded this mandate.⁶³⁷⁸

⁶³⁷³ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *AI Playbook for Small States* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/-/media/imda/files/news-and-events/media-room/media-releases/2024/09/ai-playbook-for-small-states/imda-ai-playbook-for-small-states.pdf>

⁶³⁷⁴ Infocomm Media Development Authority, *Digital Forum of Small States* (Sept. 22, 2024), <https://www.imda.gov.sg/about-imda/international-relations/digital-forum-of-small-states>

⁶³⁷⁵ OECD G20 Digital Economy Task Force, Saudi Arabia 2020, *Examples of AI National Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

⁶³⁷⁶ Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, *Community* (Accessed Feb. 21, 2025), <https://gpai.ai/community/>

⁶³⁷⁷ OECD, *GPAI and OECD Unite to Advance Coordinated International Efforts for Trustworthy AI* (Jul. 3, 2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/speech-statements/2024/07/GPAI-and-OECD-unite-to-advance-coordinated-international-efforts-for-trustworthy-AI.html>

⁶³⁷⁸ Singapore Management University, *Why "Centre for Digital Law"* (2026), <https://cdl.smu.edu.sg/about-us/why-centre-digital-law>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Singapore is not a member state of the Council of Europe and has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶³⁷⁹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Singapore was one of the 193 member states that adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence at the General Conference in November 2021.⁶³⁸⁰ Since the adoption, Singapore has yet to make official announcements concerning the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, such as initiating the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁶³⁸¹

Evaluation

Singapore is one of the leaders in providing guidance for the ethical development of AI, providing regulatory sandboxes for testing responsible practices, and developing risk-based governance frameworks. The country has focused on the voluntary adoption of these methods for both public and private use cases and has not passed legislation to regulate artificial intelligence. Singapore's data protection agency has significant responsibilities for data protection and a growing role in AI policy. Questions do remain about independent oversight of government AI systems.

Singapore has embarked on extensive international efforts to collaborate with countries bilaterally and multilaterally, and has contributed to many international events, summits, and conferences to build thought leadership and demonstrate its alignment as an advanced, responsible, and leading nation on AI. While Singapore has adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, it has yet to make public announcements concerning the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation.

Concerns exist regarding the use of AI technologies for surveillance purposes. In recent years, the Singapore Parliament enacted laws to regulate online content due to risks associated with harmful content and disinformation. The extent

⁶³⁷⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁶³⁸⁰ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶³⁸¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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of the power conferred to public authorities for monitoring this content is concerning given the lack of independence and proper oversight or accountability, aside from judicial review.

Slovakia

In 2025, Slovakia amended the Media Services Act to align with the EU Digital Services Act and named authorities to protect fundamental rights in line with the EU AI Act. The country also progressed toward completing the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

National AI Strategy

Slovakia's national AI strategy is integrated in its broader national digitalization plan—the Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030, which is led by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI).⁶³⁸² The Strategy envisions transforming Slovakia into a “successful digital country” characterized by environmentally sustainable industries, efficient public administration, and an information society that ensures a high quality of life and safety for its citizens.⁶³⁸³

The Strategy prioritizes a number of technologies—namely AI, Internet of Things, 5G technology, big data and analytical data processing, blockchain and High-Performance Computing—as main drivers to advance Slovakia's economic growth and competitiveness.⁶³⁸⁴ The strategy identifies human capital, infrastructure for necessary technologies, solution and systems, and regulatory framework along with economy, society and education, public administration, territorial development, and science, research and innovations as preconditions necessary for a successful digital transformation.⁶³⁸⁵ The Strategy frames digital transformation, including the use of technologies like AI, as a means to achieve more inclusive economic growth in support of democracy while stressing “it is important to set the system of technology use in a way that will strengthen the civil society and democratic values and effectively fight any forms that would like to weaken them.”⁶³⁸⁶

Following the introduction of the Strategy, Slovakia released the Action Plan for the Digital Transformation of Slovakia for 2019–2022, which outlines immediate strategic areas that lay the groundwork for implementing the Strategy's longer-term

⁶³⁸² Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030* (May 7, 2019), <https://mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Brochure-SMALL.pdf>

⁶³⁸³ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7

⁶³⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 4

⁶³⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 9

⁶³⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 26

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goals.⁶³⁸⁷ The strategic areas include leading a digital transformation of education to strengthen skills and employability, building a foundation for a modern digital and data economy, enhancing public administration through innovation and data, and supporting AI development.⁶³⁸⁸

The Action Plan explicitly acknowledges the need to “adjust protection of rights and freedoms to the needs of the digital era” as a requirement for supporting AI development respecting commitments to the OECD AI Principles and European Commission recommendations.⁶³⁸⁹

The Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence was established by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development, and Informatization (MRRI) in November 2020, as an independent expert and advisory body.⁶³⁹⁰ CERAI’s role is to “assess ethical, socio-social and legal issues related to the research, development, deployment and use of technologies using AI elements and systems.”

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Slovakia is fully and directly bound by the EU Digital Services Act.⁶³⁹¹ Slovakia adopted amendments to the Media Services Act in 2025, aligning national legislation with the Digital Services Act and designating the Council for Media Services as the Digital Services Coordinator.⁶³⁹²

EU AI Act

Slovakia has identified the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic and Public Defender of Rights (PDOR) to supervise or enforce the obligations for protecting fundamental rights in EU AI Act Art 77.⁶³⁹³ Under the EU

⁶³⁸⁷ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *Action Plan for the Digital Transformation of Slovakia for 2019–2022* (May 7, 2019), <https://mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AP-DT-English-Version-FINAL.pdf>

⁶³⁸⁸ Ibid, p. 4

⁶³⁸⁹ Ibid, p. 56

⁶³⁹⁰ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development, and Informatization, *Artificial Intelligence [Umelá inteligencia]*, <https://mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/investicie/digitalne-inovacie/umela-inteligencia/>

⁶³⁹¹ European Union, *Digital Services Act* (Nov. 11, 2022), https://www.eu-digital-services-act.com/Digital_Services_Act_Articles.html

⁶³⁹² The National Council of the Slovak Republic, *Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services and Amendments on Certain Acts (Media Services Act)* (May 24, 2024), https://www.culture.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Act-No.-264_2022-Coll.-on-media-services-and-amending-certain-acts-Media-Services-Act-1.pdf

⁶³⁹³ European Commission, *Fundamental Rights Protection Authority with Special Powers Under the AI Act* (Jul. 25, 2025),

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AI Act, Member States were required to designate their respective market surveillance authorities by August 2, 2025. However, Slovakia has not yet appointed a market surveillance authority.

Public Participation

The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Industrialization (MIRRI) has been tasked with creating an expert group to coordinate educational activities on AI.⁶³⁹⁴ The expert group will consult with relevant stakeholders, such as school, public authorities, and the business sector to shape educational reforms. However, no public record of further developments, outputs, or additional public participation initiatives were found.

Data Protection

In addition to Slovakia's Act on the Protection of Personal Data and on Amendments to certain Acts,⁶³⁹⁵ the country is subjected to the GDPR, as a member state of the European Union. The Slovak Personal Data Protection Law supplements and specifies certain aspects of the GDPR within the national context with the Office for Personal Data Protection serving as the national supervisory authority.⁶³⁹⁶

The Office for Personal Data Protection is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)⁶³⁹⁷ but did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence, the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/fundamental-rights-protection-authorities-ai-act>;
Slovak Republic Personal Data Protection Office, <https://dataprotection.gov.sk/en/office/about-us/>;
Slovak Republic, *Public Defender of Rights*, <https://vop.gov.sk/en/>

⁶³⁹⁴ European Commission, *Slovakia AI Strategy Report* (Sept. 1, 2021), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/slovakia/slovakia-ai-strategy-report_en

⁶³⁹⁵ Slovak Republic, *Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on the Protection of Personal Data and on Amending and Supplementing Certain Acts of 29 November 2017* (Jan. 1, 2018), https://dataprotection.gov.sk/files/en/legislation-guidelines/legislation-case-law/national-legislation/2024_11_15_act_18_2018_on_personal_data_protection_and_amending_and_supplementing_certain_acts_as_amended-docx.pdf; [original Slovak] https://static.slov-lex.sk/pdf/SK/ZZ/2018/18/ZZ_2018_18_20180525.pdf; European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation)*. *Official Journal of the European Union L 119* (May 4, 2016), 1–88, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

⁶³⁹⁶ Office for Personal Data Protection, *About Us: Activities of the Office*, <https://dataprotection.gov.sk/en/office/about-us/activities-office/>

⁶³⁹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2025), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

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Accountability, the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology, or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁶³⁹⁸

Algorithmic Transparency

The GDPR, Convention 108+,⁶³⁹⁹ and Act on the Protection of Personal Data grant Slovak citizens the right to algorithmic transparency. Slovaks are entitled to receive meaningful information about the logic involved in automated processing and the right to contest a decision made solely by an algorithm that has a significant impact on them. This includes the right to obtain human intervention and challenge an automated conclusion.⁶⁴⁰⁰ Additionally, Convention 108+ strengthens these rights by requiring that citizens' views be considered and by granting them access to information about the logic behind the automated processing.

AI in the Judicial System

Slovakia uses automated decision-making systems for court administration and the allocation of cases to judges.⁶⁴⁰¹ A 2019 assessment found gaps in transparency and independent oversight mechanisms, limited public engagement in the adoption process, and inadequate provisions for algorithmic accountability.

⁶³⁹⁸ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf; Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>; Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶³⁹⁹ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=223>

⁶⁴⁰⁰ Slovak Republic, *Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on the Protection of Personal Data and on Amending and Supplementing Certain Acts of 29 November 2017*, Section 19(2f), Section 20(2g), Section 21(1h), Section 28 Automated Individual Decision-Making including Profiling (Jan. 1, 2018), https://dataprotection.gov.sk/files/en/legislation-guidelines/legislation-case-law/national-legislation/2024_11_15_act_18_2018_on_personal_data_protection_and_amending_and_supplementing_certain_acts_as_amended-docx.pdf

⁶⁴⁰¹ Michal Škop, Miklós Merényi, Teona Turashvili, Krzysztof Izdebski, Daniel Kerekeš, and Vujo Ilić, *alGOVrithms—State of Play*, ePaństwo Foundation (2019), <https://crt.rs/en/algovrithms-state-of-play/>

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AI Deepfakes and Elections

The 2023 parliamentary election in Slovakia was disrupted by the release of a deepfake audio recording just two days before the vote. The AI-generated clip falsely portrayed Michal Šimečka, chairman of the Progressive Slovakia party, suggesting to what was portrayed as journalist Monika Tódová that he might manipulate the election results.⁶⁴⁰² Šimečka's opponent ultimately won the election, but observers remain uncertain about the extent to which the fabricated audio influenced the outcome.⁶⁴⁰³

Environmental Impact of AI

The Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030 promotes environmentally sustainable digital transformation but does not include explicit measures addressing AI's environmental impact or acknowledge potential harms.⁶⁴⁰⁴ One of the priority areas, Territorial Development, highlights building smart cities as a means to monitor and decrease resource consumption and protect the environment but with no details.⁶⁴⁰⁵ As a member of the European Union, Slovakia's governance of AI's environmental impact is also subject to the environmental provisions established by the EU AI Act.⁶⁴⁰⁶

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Slovakia has demonstrated support for an international treaty restricting lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in international forums. In a statement during the General Debate of the First Committee at the UN General Assembly in 2023, Slovakia's Chargé d'affaires expressed concern with the slow progress in the CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS in developing a treaty and

⁶⁴⁰² Karin Köváry Sólymos, *Slovakia: Deepfake Audio of Denník N Journalist Offers Worrying Example of AI Abuse* (Oct. 31, 2023), <https://ipi.media/slovakia-deepfake-audio-of-dennik-n-journalist-offers-worrying-example-of-ai-abuse/>

⁶⁴⁰³ Lluís de Nadal and Peter Jančárik, *Beyond the Deepfake Hype: AI, Democracy, and "the Slovak Case"* (Aug. 22, 2024), <https://misinforeview.hks.harvard.edu/article/beyond-the-deepfake-hype-ai-democracy-and-the-slovak-case/>

⁶⁴⁰⁴ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030* (May 7, 2019), <https://mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Brochure-SMALL.pdf>

⁶⁴⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 35

⁶⁴⁰⁶ European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence*, EUR-Lex (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

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reiterated support for a two tier approach.⁶⁴⁰⁷ Slovakia also signed onto a Joint Statement with 52 countries and the European Union to highlight the “significant conceptual progress” in the GGE on LAWS. The statement, delivered by Germany and the Philippines, stressed widespread agreement on “a set of 1) prohibitions and 2) measures and regulations. This approach is centered around compliance with international law, in particular the rules and principles of international humanitarian law.”⁶⁴⁰⁸

AI Literacy

Slovakia’s commitment to strengthening national AI literacy is embedded in its national digitalization plan: the Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030.⁶⁴⁰⁹ One of the Strategy’s immediate priorities is to accelerate education and skills development for the digital economy.⁶⁴¹⁰

Building on the Strategy, the government adopted the National Digital Skills Strategy of the Slovak Republic and the Action Plan 2023–2026, which outlines six priority areas that include building institutional capacity by coordinating the strategy across sectors; growing the number and quality of tech experts to build ICT specialists; integrate digital skills into education for students and teachers; provide upskilling and reskilling for the active labor market; promote gender inclusion through increased participation of girls and women in ICT; and improve access to technology and digital skills for vulnerable groups to close the digital divide.⁶⁴¹¹

⁶⁴⁰⁷ Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York, *Slovakia: Statement by Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch, General Debate First committee of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly* (Oct. 4, 2023), https://estatemnts.unmeetings.org/estatemnts/11.0010/20231004100000000/PPRv9qTjNS4M/CF_C1h5k5JDhH_en.pdf

⁶⁴⁰⁸ UN Documents Library, *Joint Statement Translating the Progress at the GGE LAWS into Substantive Outcome* (May 15, 2023), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2023\)/230515_Draft_Joint_Statement_LAWS_GGE_May_delivered_on_behalf_of_52_states.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2023)/230515_Draft_Joint_Statement_LAWS_GGE_May_delivered_on_behalf_of_52_states.pdf)

⁶⁴⁰⁹ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030* (May 7, 2019), <https://mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Brochure-SMALL.pdf>

⁶⁴¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 48

⁶⁴¹¹ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *The National Digital Skills Strategy of the Slovak Republic and the Action Plan for Years 2023–2026* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://digitalnakoalicia.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/THE-NATIONAL-DIGITAL-SKILLS-STRATEGY-OF-THE-SLOVAK-REPUBLIC-AND-THE-ACTION-PLAN-FOR-THE-YEARS-2023-2026.pdf>; Lenka Krištofičová, *Slovakia—The National Digital Skills Strategy of the Slovak Republic and the Action Plan 2023–2026* (Dec. 26, 2024), <https://digital-skills->

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Human Rights

Freedom House classifies Slovakia as Free with an overall score of 89/100.⁶⁴¹² This rating reflects a strong foundation of political rights and civil liberties. However, “entrenched discrimination against Roma and political hostility toward LGBT+ individuals persist.” Additionally, political corruption continues to be a challenge, along with increased pressure on the media and civil society in recent years.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Slovakia adheres to the OECD AI Principles, which promote innovative, trustworthy AI that respects human rights and democratic values.⁶⁴¹³ The Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030 explicitly acknowledges the OECD AI Principles in the recommendations for sustainable and inclusive growth.⁶⁴¹⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Slovakia is party to the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, through membership in the European Union.⁶⁴¹⁵ Still, Slovakia has not taken independent action on the treaty at a national level. Ratifying the treaty will signal Slovakia's commitment to aligning national AI policies with international standards, prioritizing ethical considerations, transparency, and accountability in AI development and deployment.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Slovakia endorsed UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, which emphasizes protecting human rights and dignity as the cornerstone of AI ethics. As part of the implementation of the Recommendation, Slovakia is in the process of completing UNESCO's Readiness Assessment

jobs.europa.eu/en/actions/national-initiatives/national-strategies/slovakia-national-digital-skills-strategy-slovak

⁶⁴¹² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Slovakia* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/slovakia/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁴¹³ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL0449#adherents>

⁶⁴¹⁴ Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, *Strategy of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia 2030*, p. 6 (May 7, 2019), <https://mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Brochure-SMALL.pdf>

⁶⁴¹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 11, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

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Methodology (RAM).⁶⁴¹⁶ Attention to digital skills in education and plans to reskill and upskill the workforce align with the Recommendation's Awareness & Literacy principle and Education and research and Economy and labor policy actions.⁶⁴¹⁷

Evaluation

While Slovakia has adopted a broad digital transformation plan that identifies AI as a key driver of economic digitization, the country currently lacks a dedicated AI strategy or regulatory framework. The government created the Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence as an independent expert and advisory body; however, there is no further public record detailing how the Committee executes its mandate or assessing its effectiveness as an oversight mechanism. Despite Slovakia's obligation to implement the EU AI Act, the government has neither clarified how national policies will align with the framework, nor designated the market surveillance authorities required for implementation. Documentation of public participation in the development of national AI initiatives is limited, with the exception of the expert group convened to examine AI use in education.

Nevertheless, Slovakia's data protection regime is aligned with European Union and Council of Europe frameworks and is supported by a dedicated data protection authority. Globally, Slovakia generally adheres to ethical AI frameworks set forth by the OECD, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe, and the country is recognized for its commitment to human rights. These factors provide a robust foundation for Slovakia to build its national AI policies.

Ongoing monitoring is required to assess whether AI adoption in education and judicial systems adequately safeguards minors' data and ensures transparency in algorithmic processes. Enforcement of the EU AI Act will likely compel Slovakia to address these gaps, particularly regarding compliance with provisions on high-risk AI systems.

⁶⁴¹⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁶⁴¹⁷ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

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Slovenia

In 2025, Slovenia adopted a law on the Implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act. This law mandates the public-sector publication of high-risk AI systems and establishes regulatory sandboxes under supervised conditions.

National AI Strategy

In May 2021, the Slovenian Government adopted the National program promoting the deployment of AI in the Republic of Slovenia by 2025 (NpAI).⁶⁴¹⁸ The NpAI laid out a detailed workplan for social and economic development, including specific indicators, guidance on measuring progress, and instruments for implementation and financing.⁶⁴¹⁹ The objectives of the NpAI include providing an appropriate ethical and legal framework and answering to socio-economic changes such as changes in the labor market and education system to increase citizens' trust in AI. Other objectives center on research, expert capacity-building, and infrastructure.

The Government adopted the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (NsUI 2030) in March 2026.⁶⁴²⁰ NsUI 2030 sets five strategic goals: the development of sovereign and trustworthy artificial intelligence, wider use of AI in the economy and public sector, strengthening the knowledge and innovation ecosystem, ensuring safe and responsible use, and strengthening Slovenia's international integration.⁶⁴²¹

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Slovenia shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁶⁴²² The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal

⁶⁴¹⁸ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, *National Programme for the Promotion of the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Slovenia until 2025*, pp. 2–3 (May 27, 2021) https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MDP/National_Programme_for_AI_2025.pdf

⁶⁴¹⁹ Republic of Slovenia, *Digitalisation of Society*, <https://www.gov.si/en/topics/digitalisation-of-society/>

⁶⁴²⁰ Republic of Slovenia, *193rd Regular Session of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia* (Mar. 5, 2026), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2026-03-05-193rd-regular-session-of-the-government-of-the-republic-of-slovenia/>

⁶⁴²¹ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence until 2030* (Mar. 5, 2026), <https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MDP/DDD/NsUI2030.pdf>

⁶⁴²² EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>

and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. Bodies within the Ministry of Digital Transformation oversee the Digital Services Act in Slovenia.⁶⁴²³

EU AI Act

In the second half of 2021, Slovenia assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU.⁶⁴²⁴ In July 2021, Slovenian Minister of Justice, Marjan Dikaucic “said that the existing rules cannot provide answers to all the challenges brought by artificial intelligence, which is why it is necessary to take further steps in the creation of a legal framework.”⁶⁴²⁵ After the first debate on the European Parliament’s proposed AI Act, the Slovenian Digital Minister Boštjan Koritnik affirmed that the EU AI Act should “serve as a model across the globe, in the same vein as the general data protection regulation, GDPR, in the area of protection of personal data.”⁶⁴²⁶

The Slovenian parliament endorsed the Act on the Implementation of the EU AI Act, which aims to standardize AI development, use, and operation across the EU.⁶⁴²⁷ The Act seeks to harmonize national laws with EU provisions, designating authorities for supervision and enforcement, and establishing penalties for violations. It also includes provisions for regulatory sandboxes and the potential appointment of an AI Ethics Commissioner, positioning Slovenia as a leader in AI regulation within the EU.

Public Participation

Led by an inter-ministerial working group, the national program was the result of a series of multi-disciplinary consultations with national experts and

⁶⁴²³ Republic of Slovenia, *About the Ministry of Digital Transformation* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/ministries/ministry-of-digital-transformation/about-the-ministry/>

⁶⁴²⁴ Republic of Slovenia, *Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 1 July–31 December 2021*, <https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/slovenian-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-eu-2021/programme-and-priorities/>

⁶⁴²⁵ Republic of Slovenia, *At the Virtual Conference Held by the Ministry of Justice on the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Fundamental Rights* (Aug. 21, 2021), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2021-07-21-at-the-virtual-conference-held-by-the-ministry-of-justice-on-the-regulation-of-artificial-intelligence-ethics-and-fundamental-rights/>

⁶⁴²⁶ Euronews, *EU’s artificial intelligence law should serve as ‘model across the globe’* (Oct. 14, 2021), <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2021/10/14/eu-s-artificial-intelligence-law-should-serve-as-model-across-the-globe>

⁶⁴²⁷ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, *Slovenia Among the Leaders in Implementing the European Artificial Intelligence Regulation [Slovenija med vodilnimi pri uvajanju evropske uredbe o umetni inteligenci, machine translation]* (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://www.gov.si/novice/2025-10-24-slovenija-med-vodilnimi-pri-uvajanju-evropske-uredbe-o-umetni-inteligenci/>

industrial representatives through the ICT Association of Slovenia⁶⁴²⁸ of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia,⁶⁴²⁹ researchers and practitioners in the field of AI through the Slovenian Artificial Intelligence Society,⁶⁴³⁰ and stakeholders of the Strategic Research and Innovation Partnerships on Smart Cities,⁶⁴³¹ Factories of the Future,⁶⁴³² and civil society through the Slovenian Digital Coalition.⁶⁴³³ The Ministry of Public Administration prepared the first draft, which was released soliciting public comments in August 2020.⁶⁴³⁴

The government hosted the 4th National AI Conference⁶⁴³⁵ on June 10, 2025, at Brdo pri Kranju. Organizers collected opinions to shape a draft national AI program until 2030. In July 2025, the Ministry of Digital Transformation requested public comments on the updated AI program.

Data Protection

The protection of personal data is guaranteed by the Slovenian Constitution.⁶⁴³⁶ Article 38 of the Constitution ensures purpose limitation and includes the right of access to the collected personal data and the right to judicial protection.⁶⁴³⁷

Since Slovenia is an EU Member State, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁶⁴³⁸ is directly applicable in Slovenia and to Slovenians. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in

⁶⁴²⁸ ICT Association of Slovenia, https://www.gzs.si/en_zit

⁶⁴²⁹ Chamber of Commerce and Industry, <https://eng.gzs.si/vsebina/About-Us>

⁶⁴³⁰ Slovenian Artificial Intelligence Society, <https://slais.ijs.si/>

⁶⁴³¹ Strategic Development and Innovation Partnerships Smart Cities, *About the Partnership*, <https://pmis.ijs.si/o-partnerstvu/>

⁶⁴³² European Factories of the Future Research Association, *Strategic Research and Innovation Partnerships for Factories of the Future*, <https://www.effra.eu/members/srip-fof/>

⁶⁴³³ Slovenian Digital Coalition, <https://www.digitalna.si/en>

⁶⁴³⁴ European Commission, Knowledge for Policy, *AI Watch, Slovenia AI Strategy Report*, https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/slovenia/slovenia-ai-strategy-report_en

⁶⁴³⁵ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, *National Programme for the Promotion of the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Slovenia until 2025*, pp. 31–50 (May 27, 2021), https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MDP/National_Programme_for_AI_2025.pdf

⁶⁴³⁶ Republika Slovenija, *Constitution* (1991), <https://www.us-rs.si/en/legal-basis/constitution>

⁶⁴³⁷ GDPRhub, *Data Protection in Slovenia*, https://gdprhub.eu/Data_Protection_in_Slovenia

⁶⁴³⁸ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data*, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

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different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”⁶⁴³⁹ The GDPR entered into force on 24 May 2016 and applies since 25 May 2018. In July 2022, the European Commission sent a reasoned opinion to Slovenia for failing to implement important obligations under the GDPR, as well as for not making it possible for the Slovenian Information Commissioner to use all the corrective powers under the GDPR.⁶⁴⁴⁰

In December 2022, Slovenia adopted a new Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), adapting the national legislation to the GDPR. The new legislation entered into force in January 2023 and replaces the 2004 Data Protection Act. Under the PDPA, the Slovenian Information Commissioner has the authority to impose fines pursuant to the GDPR. The PDPA also introduces rules on the age limit for a child’s consent (15 years old), use of CCTV, and biometric data as well as an obligation to maintain processing logs.⁶⁴⁴¹

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Slovenia transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED).⁶⁴⁴² The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.⁶⁴⁴³

Slovenia is also a member of the Council of Europe and signed and ratified⁶⁴⁴⁴ the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁶⁴⁴⁵

⁶⁴³⁹ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁶⁴⁴⁰ European Commission, *Infringement Decisions*, <https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/>

⁶⁴⁴¹ Official Gazette, *Slovenian Data Protection Act* [Slovenian] (Dec. 27, 2022), <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2022-01-4187?sop=2022-01-4187>; WolfTheiss, *Slovenia’s New Data Protection Act—Fines, Traceability Logs and Much More* (Jan. 3, 2023), <https://www.wolftheiss.com/insights/slovenias-new-data-protection-act/>

⁶⁴⁴² EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA*, National transposition—Slovenia, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=CELEX:32016L0680>

⁶⁴⁴³ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁶⁴⁴⁴ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 23, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁶⁴⁴⁵ Council of Europe, *Modernised Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

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The Slovenian Human Rights Ombudsman (since 2002) and the Information Commissioner (since 2007) are both members of the Global Privacy Assembly.⁶⁴⁴⁶ However, they have not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁶⁴⁴⁷ 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶⁴⁴⁸ 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶⁴⁴⁹ or 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶⁴⁵⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Slovenia is subject to the GDPR. Slovenians have a general right to obtain access to information about automated decision-making and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁶⁴⁵¹ Furthermore, in June 2023, Slovenia ratified Convention 108+, which also provides for algorithmic transparency.⁶⁴⁵²

The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems⁶⁴⁵³ specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability and effective remedies.

Slovenia's Act on the Implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act requires the public-sector to publish high-risk AI systems and establishes regulatory sandboxes under supervised conditions. This legislation positions Slovenia among the leading EU Member States in establishing transparency

⁶⁴⁴⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁶⁴⁴⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁴⁴⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁶⁴⁴⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/GPA/2020_42GPA_Artificial-intelligence.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4

⁶⁴⁵⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶⁴⁵¹ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR

⁶⁴⁵² Council of Europe, *Slovenia – 26th State to Ratify Convention 108+* (Jun. 20, 2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/-/slovenia-26th-state-to-ratify-convention-108-1>

⁶⁴⁵³ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

obligations for artificial intelligence systems and improving the oversight of algorithmic decision-making.⁶⁴⁵⁴

Facial Recognition

A report by the Greens/EFA of the European Parliament,⁶⁴⁵⁵ revealed that Slovenia uses facial recognition technologies for “ex-post identification” in its criminal investigations.⁶⁴⁵⁶ In Slovenia, the use of facial recognition technology by the police was legalized five years after they started using it.⁶⁴⁵⁷ The Slovenian police confirmed to the Slovenian Information Commissioner that they had used Face Trace (a facial recognition software⁶⁴⁵⁸) back in 2014.⁶⁴⁵⁹ The Commissioner’s office raised the issue several times in the years 2015–2019.⁶⁴⁶⁰

Subsequent to the enactment of the 2017 Police Tasks and Powers Act, which permits the use of biometric and facial recognition tools by law enforcement authorities,⁶⁴⁶¹ the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Information Commissioner brought a formal complaint against the Act before the constitutional court of Slovenia.⁶⁴⁶² The complaint mentioned the excessive data gathering powers granted to the police through the use of drones and automated systems to recognize license plates, the uncontrolled use of passenger name records at airports, and the lack of

⁶⁴⁵⁴ Republic of Slovenia, *Slovenija Among the Leaders in Implementing the European Artificial Intelligence Regulation [Slovenija med vodilnimi pri uvajanju evropske uredbe o umetni inteligenci, machine translation]* (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://www.gov.si/novice/2025-10-24-slovenija-med-vodilnimi-pri-uvajanju-evropske-uredbe-o-umetni-inteligenci/>

⁶⁴⁵⁵ Report for the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament, *Biometric & Behavioural Mass Surveillance in EU Member States* (Oct. 2021), <http://extranet.greens-efa.eu/public/media/file/1/7297>

⁶⁴⁵⁶ Luca Bertuzzi, Euractiv, *Facial recognition technologies already used in 11 EU countries and counting, report says* (Oct. 26, 2021), <https://www.euractiv.com/news/facial-recognition-technologies-already-used-in-11-eu-countries-and-counting-report-says/>

⁶⁴⁵⁷ Lenart J. Kučič, Algorithm Watch, *Automating Society Report 2020: Slovenia* (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/slovenia/>

⁶⁴⁵⁸ Katherine Quezada, *Law Enforcement AI in the Spotlight as EDPB Cast Doubt on Legality of Facial Recognition Tech* (Jul. 20, 2020), <https://www.law.kuleuven.be/citip/blog/law-enforcement-ai-in-the-spotlight-as-edpb-cast-doubt-on-legality-of-facial-recognition-tech/>

⁶⁴⁵⁹ Human Rights Ombudsman Republic of Slovenia, *Annual Report of the Human Rights Ombudsman of The Republic of Slovenia 2019*, pp. 146–147 (Jun. 30, 2020), https://www.varuh-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/lp/LP_2019/Annual_Report_2019.pdf

⁶⁴⁶⁰ Algorithm Watch, *Slovenian police acquires automated tools first, legalizes them later* (Jul. 7, 2020), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/slovenia-police-face-recognition/>

⁶⁴⁶¹ Official Gazette, *Police Tasks and Powers Act 2017 (ZNPPol-A)* [Slovenian] (Feb. 27, 2017), <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina?urlurid=2017462>

⁶⁴⁶² Human Rights Ombudsman Republic of Slovenia, *Annual Report of the Human Rights Ombudsman of The Republic of Slovenia 2019*, pp. 146–147 (Jun. 30, 2020), https://www.varuh-rs.si/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/lp/LP_2019/Annual_Report_2019.pdf

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sufficient protection for citizens with no criminal record. However, the Slovenian Human Rights Ombudsman did not address facial recognition in the complaint, seeing its use as an exceptional measure that would not justify recourse to the constitutional court.

In 2021, the Information Commissioner announced the completion of its investigation regarding the police's use of the Face Trace system.⁶⁴⁶³ The investigation concluded that even though Face Trace is a biometric data processing-based system, it does not yield identification. Accordingly, the Information Commissioner deemed the use of Face Trace in compliance with data protection law. As a consequence, the 2017 Police Tasks and Powers Act is still in force and the Slovenian police use facial recognition systems in the framework of their activities.

Environmental Impact of AI

Slovenia co-sponsored the UN General Assembly landmark resolution on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems for Sustainable Development in March 2024.⁶⁴⁶⁴ The resolution calls for global cooperation in the development and use of AI, ensuring that it benefits society while addressing risks.⁶⁴⁶⁵ The resolution emphasizes the importance of ethics, human rights, and sustainable development, particularly in areas like climate action, healthcare, and education. The resolution calls to establish international norms and principles for responsible AI governance, ensuring that AI technologies are deployed for public good, inclusive growth, and to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The EU and member states, including Slovenia, issued a joint statement following the UN Resolution emphasizing the critical role of AI in advancing sustainable development, with a particular focus on environmental protection and climate action.⁶⁴⁶⁶ However, Slovenia does not have AI-specific environmental protection laws.

⁶⁴⁶³ OneTrust Data Guidance, *Slovenia: Commissioner's Investigation into Face Trace Police System Finds No Privacy Violations* (Apr. 16, 2021), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/slovenia-commissioners-investigation-face-trace-police>; Republic of Slovenia, Press release, *The Police Face Trace System Is Based on Biometric Processing of Personal Data, But It Does Not Enable Identification* [Slovenian only] (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.ip-rs.si/novice/policijski-sistem-face-trace-sicer-temelji-na-biometri%C4%8Dni-obdelavi-osebnih-podatkov-a-ne-omogo%C4%8Da-identifikacije>

⁶⁴⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ld/n24/065/92/pdf/n2406592.pdf>

⁶⁴⁶⁵ UN News, *General Assembly Adopts Landmark Resolution on Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147831>

⁶⁴⁶⁶ Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York, *Joint Statement on the Proposed UNGA Resolution on Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development* (Mar.

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

According to Human Rights Watch, Slovenia has expressed its concerns about “the growth of new weapon technologies” and stressed the “necessity for human control over all autonomous weapons.” However, Slovenia has not commented on calls to ban fully autonomous weapons.⁶⁴⁶⁷

In October 2022, Slovenia was one of the 70 states that endorsed a joint statement calling for the UN General Assembly to recognize the dangers of autonomous weapons systems⁶⁴⁶⁸ while declaring a commitment “to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁶⁴⁶⁹ In a statement to the UN Security Council in 2025, President Nataša Pirc Musar urged the Council to address the impact of artificial intelligence on global peace and security. She emphasized the risks of AI-powered weapons and algorithmic decision-making without human oversight and called for regular briefings by the UN Secretary-General. The President stressed that all AI decisions should adhere to international humanitarian and human rights law, ensuring transparency and accountability.⁶⁴⁷⁰

Slovenia voted in favor⁶⁴⁷¹ of resolution L.56⁶⁴⁷² on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,”

15, 2024), https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/joint-statement-proposed-unga-resolution-artificial-intelligence-systems-sustainable-development_en?s=63

⁶⁴⁶⁷ Human Rights Watch, *Stopping Killer Robots Country Positions on Banning Fully Autonomous Weapons and Retaining Human Control* (2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and>

⁶⁴⁶⁸ Stop Killer Robots, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly* (2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

⁶⁴⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁶⁴⁷⁰ Republic of Slovenia, *Artificial Intelligence Revolution: Minister Klampfer Joins World Leaders in Paris* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2025-02-11-artificial-intelligence-revolution-minister-klampfer-joins-world-leaders-in-paris/>

⁶⁴⁷¹ Stop Killer Robots, *164 states vote against the machine at the UN General Assembly*, <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁶⁴⁷² UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Resolution L56* (Oct. 12, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

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Slovenia participated in the REAIM 2023 summit and endorsed the joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.⁶⁴⁷³ Slovenia also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁶⁴⁷⁴ South Korea hosted the second REAIM Summit in 2024. Slovenia endorsed the outcome document, Blueprint for Action, expressing a commitment to implement the principles of the first REAIM summit with an international treaty and national action.⁶⁴⁷⁵

AI Literacy

The Republic of Slovenia's National Programme to Promote the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence (NpAI) covers ten strategic objectives, including "Education and strengthening of human resources" (SO2) and "Increasing public confidence in AI" (SO7). They explicitly mention support for "staff training programmes (courses, seminars) to acquire new knowledge, skills"⁶⁴⁷⁶ and training for decision-makers in the private and public sector about opportunities and threats of AI. The Programme also envisages instruments for broad awareness-raising of AI among the entire population, via conferences, workshops, communication platforms and a national AI observatory.⁶⁴⁷⁷ While these actions advance institutional capacity and general awareness for AI governance, the publicly available documentation does not yet demonstrate a dedicated, large-scale program focused on training citizens to participate directly in AI policy-making or oversight. As a result, Slovenia's efforts reflect substantial foundations in governance literacy, while the dimension of citizen-participation literacy remains emergent.

⁶⁴⁷³ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁶⁴⁷⁴ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, endorsing States as of Feb. 12, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-arms-control-deterrence-and-stability/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy>

⁶⁴⁷⁵ REAIM2024, *Blueprint for Action* (Sept. 11, 2024), https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/download.do?brd_id=235&seq=375378&data_tp=A&file_seq=9

⁶⁴⁷⁶ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, *Slovenia Among the Digital Giants: A New Supercomputer and AI Factory to Boost Technological Power* (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2025-03-12-slovenia-among-the-digital-giants-a-new-supercomputer-and-ai-factory-to-boost-technological-power/>; EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, *EuroHPC JU Selects Additional AI Factories to Strengthen Europe's AI Leadership* (Mar. 12, 2025), https://www.eurohpc.europa.eu/eurohpc-ju-selects-additional-ai-factories-strengthen-europes-ai-leadership-2025-03-12_en

⁶⁴⁷⁷ Slovenian National Supercomputing Network (SLING), *Slovenian AI Factory (SLAIF)* (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.sling.si/en/slaif/>

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Human Rights

According to Freedom House, Slovenia receives high scores for Political Rights and Civil Liberties for a combined score of 96/100 in 2025.⁶⁴⁷⁸ The report notes that the government “generally operates with openness and transparency.” Slovenia is a signatory to major human rights treaties.⁶⁴⁷⁹ The country was also elected as part of the 2026–2028 UN Human Rights Council.⁶⁴⁸⁰

In a 2020 Recommendation to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers advised that “member States must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or minimising possible adverse effects”⁶⁴⁸¹ as part of their compliance with the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms..

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Slovenia is a member of the OECD and has endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁶⁴⁸² The Slovenian AI National Program expressly refers to the OECD AI Principles on Artificial Intelligence, which promote artificial intelligence that is innovative and trustworthy and respects human rights and democratic values.⁶⁴⁸³

⁶⁴⁷⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Slovenia* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/slovenia/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁴⁷⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Treaty Ratification Status for*

Slovenia (Feb. 23, 2025), https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=159&Lang=EN

⁶⁴⁸⁰ International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI), *Teachers Explore Ethical AI Through Innovative Teaching Projects at ASEFClassNet18 Conference in Slovenia* (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://irc.ai.org/teachers-explore-ethical-ai-through-innovative-teaching-projects-at-asefclassnet18-conference-in-slovenia/>

⁶⁴⁸¹ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁶⁴⁸² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the OECD AI Principles* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁶⁴⁸³ NpAI, p. 9.

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The OECD has mentioned Slovenia's Digital Coalition and AI4Slovenia as an example of national AI policies that are shaping an enabling environment for AI.⁶⁴⁸⁴ Slovenia is also a founding member of the Global Partnership on AI.⁶⁴⁸⁵

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Strategy for the Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with the OECD until the end of 2025. The aim of the Strategy is to use benchmarking and good practices from OECD Member countries to support domestic reform processes to achieve the digital and green transformation and realize Slovenia's development potential. With the Strategy, "Slovenia pursues the objective of digital transformation based on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, paying attention to gender equality and respect for the rights of older persons, and responding effectively to demographic changes. Slovenia will continue to strengthen its role in the regulation and ethical use of artificial intelligence."⁶⁴⁸⁶

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Slovenia contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. The Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law was adopted in Strasbourg during the annual ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which brings together the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 46 Council of Europe member states.⁶⁴⁸⁷ Slovenia is party to the Convention as an EU Member State. However, Slovenia has not signed this first legally binding international AI treaty.⁶⁴⁸⁸

⁶⁴⁸⁴ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies* (June 2021), <https://www.caiddp.org/app/download/8328376363/OECD-AI-policies-2021.pdf>

⁶⁴⁸⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶⁴⁸⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopts the Strategy for the Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (Jan. 19, 2023), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2023-01-19-the-government-of-the-republic-of-slovenia-adopts-the-strategy-for-the-cooperation-of-the-republic-of-slovenia-with-the-organisation-for-economic-co-operation-and-development-oecd/>

⁶⁴⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Adopts First International Treaty on Artificial Intelligence* (May 17, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-adopts-first-international-treaty-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁴⁸⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

As a UNESCO member state, Slovenia has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁶⁴⁸⁹ In March 2021, Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, and Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, inaugurated the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI), as a Category 2 center under the auspices of UNESCO in Ljubljana, Slovenia.⁶⁴⁹⁰ The IRCAI is designed to be a communication platform for the collection and dissemination of good practices and case studies on the use and deployment of AI in society.⁶⁴⁹¹ The IRCAI focuses on advancing research on the use of AI to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.⁶⁴⁹² The core research functions of the Centre will be guided by its four international scientific committees on: AI and Climate; AI and Education that will focus on AI algorithms that can make Open Educational Resources more accessible and easier to use; AI and Assistive Technologies that will highlight the potential of using AI technologies to assist persons with disabilities; and AI and Healthcare that will focus on the use of AI in vaccine development processes.

In February 2024, Slovenia hosted the Global Forum on the Ethics of AI. The Global Forum was organized by the Ministry of Digital Transformation under the patronage of UNESCO. Hosting demonstrated Slovenia's clear commitment to the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation and to human-centric AI.⁶⁴⁹³ Slovenia's preparation of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), currently in progress, is another indication.⁶⁴⁹⁴

Evaluation

In recent years, Slovenia has had a significant influence over the development of AI policy in Europe due to its Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2021, its collaboration with UNESCO on AI, and its work

⁶⁴⁸⁹ UNESCO, *The Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2021),

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁴⁹⁰ Republic of Slovenia, *The Launch Event of IRCAI* (Apr. 2, 2021), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2021-04-02-the-launch-event-of-ircai/>

⁶⁴⁹¹ Vincent Van Roy et al., *AI Watch—National Strategies on Artificial Intelligence: A European Perspective*, EUR 30745 EN, JRC Publications Repository, JRC122684 (Jun. 22, 2021), <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC12>

⁶⁴⁹² International Research Center on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) *Launch Report* (Apr. 2021), https://ircai.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/IRCAI_Launch2021_Report.pdf

⁶⁴⁹³ Republic of Slovenia, *Slovenia Hosts the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 9, 2024), <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2024-02-09-slovenia-hosts-the-global-forum-on-the-ethics-of-artificial-intelligence/>

⁶⁴⁹⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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in support of the Council of Europe AI expert group.⁶⁴⁹⁵ While the national AI strategy and other technology-related workplans pledge to implement a legislative and regulatory regime that also protects fundamental rights, Slovenia has been slower than most of its European counterparts in updating its data protection regime. The entry into force in January 2023 of the new Data Protection Act, and with it the possibility for the Slovenian Information Commissioner to impose fines provided for the GDPR is a positive step.

The National Assembly adoption of the Act on the Implementation of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act marks the country's first step toward establishing an independent national AI oversight mechanism. Through this implementation, Slovenia advances ethical and transparent AI governance aligned with EU standards, while continuing to address concerns related to surveillance and human rights protection.

⁶⁴⁹⁵ Council of Europe, *CAHAI—Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/cahai>

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South Africa

In 2025, South Africa progressed toward implementing the National AI Policy Framework, in part by establishing the National AI Stakeholder Forum and the National AI Network of Experts. South Africa also published the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) Report and deepened multilateral efforts for fair and transparent AI under the G20 Presidency.

National AI Strategy

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies in April 2024 started the dialogue on the National AI Plan at the National AI Summit.⁶⁴⁹⁶ The plan, conceived of as an AI Strategy,⁶⁴⁹⁷ aimed to integrate AI across various sectors, establishing a roadmap for legal and regulatory frameworks to foster innovation and investment in AI technologies. In August 2024, the Department released the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy Framework as a first step in developing the national AI policy. The framework aimed to promote the integration of AI technologies to drive economic growth, enhance societal well-being, and position South Africa as a leader in AI innovation.⁶⁴⁹⁸

The National AI Plan, which evolved to a policy framework,⁶⁴⁹⁹ centers policy objectives on overcoming “challenges as historical inequalities, digital divides, and outdated regulatory frameworks” with “regulatory reforms and policies to encourage targeted investments in strategic areas in education and digital infrastructure to ensure equitable access and to maximize AI’s transformative potential. By aligning with global AI governance standards and addressing socio-economic disparities, South Africa can leverage AI to drive economic transformation, foster social equity, and enhance its global competitiveness in AI innovation.”⁶⁵⁰⁰

⁶⁴⁹⁶ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *National AI Summit: A Dialogue on the Proposed National AI Plan*, <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/topics/495-national-ai-summit.html>

⁶⁴⁹⁷ International Trade Administration, *Market Intelligence: South Africa Information Technology Country Launches Draft National Strategy* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/south-africa-information-technology-country-launches-draft-national-ai-strategy>

⁶⁴⁹⁸ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *South Africa National Artificial Intelligence Policy Framework* (August 2024), <https://techcentral.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/South-Africa-National-AI-Policy-Framework.pdf>

⁶⁴⁹⁹ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *South Africa National Artificial Intelligence Policy Framework* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/sa-national-ai-policy-framework/file/338-sa-national-ai-policy-framework.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 7

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The Plan/Policy Framework sets out strategic pillars to achieve these objectives:

- Talent/Capacity Development
- Digital Infrastructure
- Research, Development, and Innovation
- Public-Sector Implementation “to enhance government efficiency through AI”
- Ethical AI Guidelines Development “to ensure alignment with human rights principles”
- Privacy and Data Protection
- Safety and Security “to protect citizens and infrastructure”
- Transparency and Explainability “to build public trust in AI”
- Fairness and Mitigating Bias “to ensure equitable AI deployment”
- Human Control of Technology (Human-Centered Approach) “to maintain human oversight over AI”
- Professional Responsibility “to foster responsible AI development and use,” including through a Code of Conduct and ethics training for AI professionals

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) began implementing the National AI Policy Framework in January 2025, embedding fairness, accountability, and transparency across programs.⁶⁵⁰¹ In October 2025, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Solly Malatsi, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to finalizing and officially adopting the National AI Policy Framework before the end of the year. The Minister emphasized that the Framework, currently under Cabinet review, will become the country’s foundational AI governance instrument. Continued monitoring is required to confirm the timeline of its formal adoption and publication.⁶⁵⁰²

South Africa initially included AI as “the bedrock of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)”⁶⁵⁰³ and incorporated AI in the framework of an integrated Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) strategy.

⁶⁵⁰¹ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *2024-2025 Annual Report* (Sept. 30, 2025), https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202510/dcdt-annual-report-2024-2025.pdf

⁶⁵⁰² ITWeb, *Minister Malatsi Vows to Finalise South Africa’s AI Policy* (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://www.itweb.co.za/article/itweb-tv-malatsi-vows-to-finalise-sas-ai-policy/KPNG878NDgWq4mwD>

⁶⁵⁰³ L. Mpedi, Tinyiko Maluleke, Tshilidzi Marwala and Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, *South Africa’s New National Artificial Intelligence Institute Can Help Transform Our Economy* (Dec. 5, 2022), <https://www.uj.ac.za/news/south-africas-new-national-artificial-intelligence-institute-can-help-transform-our-economy/>

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The 4IR Presidential Commission established in 2019 released a diagnostic report in January 2020, which “sets out a vision for chartering the way forward for South Africa in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.”⁶⁵⁰⁴ The 4IR Commission worked from a diagnostic report to align a national 4IR strategy to South Africa’s vision for development, one “premised on resolving the nation’s historical scars, expressed as the “triple scourge”: Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality.”⁶⁵⁰⁵ The 4IR Commission thus “adopted an amended definition of the 4IR that ensures a human-centric approach.”⁶⁵⁰⁶

As for Ethics & Regulation, the 4IR Commission clarified that “a focus on Regulation, Ethics, and Cultural aspects of the internet is key, not only to create an enabling policy environment to support private and non-governmental organisations as well as the state but to ensure ethical and transparent use of these new technologies.”⁶⁵⁰⁷ Key implementing projects include “government digitisation” and “clustered proposed programmes” such as a National Integrated Social Protection Information System, Smart ID, use of vernacular languages in technologies, a drone unit in the police; digital court solutions, and digital visa integrated platform force.⁶⁵⁰⁸

A high-level interdepartmental multi-stakeholder governance and coordination structure is the institutional custodian of the 4IR strategy,⁶⁵⁰⁹ currently being carried out by the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT),⁶⁵¹⁰ which came into operation on April 1, 2020.⁶⁵¹¹ One of the DCDT’s key missions was to develop the “PC4IR Strategic Implementations Plans (PC4IR SIP)

⁶⁵⁰⁴ The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, *Diagnostic Report of the Presidential Commission on the 4th Industrial Revolution*, p. xi (Oct. 23, 2020), <https://www.ellipsis.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/201023-Report-of-the-Presidential-Commission-on-the-Fourth-Industrial-Revolution.pdf>

⁶⁵⁰⁵ Ibid, p. 14

⁶⁵⁰⁶ Ibid, p. 20

⁶⁵⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 26

⁶⁵⁰⁸ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan (PC4IR SIP) National Departments Consultation Presentation* (Mar. 2021), p. 13, https://www.dpme.gov.za/keyfocusareas/Provincial%20Performance%20Publication/Documents/PC4IR%20SIP%20Presentation_National%20Departments%20Consultation%202021.pdf

⁶⁵⁰⁹ Ibid, p. 26

⁶⁵¹⁰ The DCDT was established via the merger of the Department of Communications and the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services in 2019. See National Government of South Africa, *Department of Communications and Digital Technologies – Overview*, <https://nationalgovernment.co.za/units/view/428/departments-of-communications-and-digital-technologies-dcdt>

⁶⁵¹¹ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *Annual Report 2021/22*, <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/documents/annual-reports/file/236-annual-report-2021-2022.html>

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to realise the recommendations of the 4IR Commission Report.”⁶⁵¹² To this end, the 4IR Project Management Office (4IR PMO) was established within the DCDT⁶⁵¹³ in April 2020. The 4IR SIP is currently under consideration by Ministers and needs to be approved by the Cabinet. Key objectives include the establishment of a 4IR Strategic Implementation Coordination Council and an artificial intelligence institute, as well as the review and amendment of relevant policy and legislation.⁶⁵¹⁴

Then-DCDT Minister, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, launched the Artificial Intelligence institute of South Africa and AI hubs at the University of Johannesburg and at the Tshwane University of Technology in November 2022.⁶⁵¹⁵ The DCDT Minister, together with representatives of these two universities and the incoming United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary General and Rector of the UN University, explained in an opinion article the pivotal role of the AI institute in the 4IR strategy. The AI institute is meant as “an innovation engine for public and private sectors in line with the PC4IR” and “develop solutions to South African and African challenges.”⁶⁵¹⁶

African Union

South Africa’s national response to AI Policy and Strategy aims to contribute to the development of a similar strategy at the regional level. The African Union (AU) Commission developed a comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa⁶⁵¹⁷ to foster an “integrated and inclusive digital society and economy in Africa

⁶⁵¹² Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan (PC4IR SIP) National Departments Consultation Presentation* (March 2021), https://www.dpme.gov.za/keyfocusareas/Provincial%20Performance%20Publication/Documents/PC4IR%20SIP%20Presentation_National%20Departments%20Consultation%202021.pdf

⁶⁵¹³ Ibid.; see also, Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *About the 4IR PMO* (2023), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/4ir-pmo.html>

⁶⁵¹⁴ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan (PC4IR SIP) National Departments Consultation Presentation* (March 2021), p. 4, https://www.dpme.gov.za/keyfocusareas/Provincial%20Performance%20Publication/Documents/PC4IR%20SIP%20Presentation_National%20Departments%20Consultation%202021.pdf

⁶⁵¹⁵ South African Government, *Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni Launches Artificial Intelligence Institute of South Africa and AI hubs* (Nov. 30, 2022), <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-launches-launch-artificial-intelligence-institute-south>

⁶⁵¹⁶ L. Mpedi, Tinyiko Maluleke, Tshilidzi Marwala and Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, *South Africa’s New National Artificial Intelligence Institute Can Help Transform Our Economy* (Dec. 5, 2022), <https://www.uj.ac.za/news/south-africas-new-national-artificial-intelligence-institute-can-help-transform-our-economy/>

⁶⁵¹⁷ In collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Smart Africa, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, African Development Bank, Africa Telecommunications Union, Africa Capacity Building Foundation, International Telecommunication Union and the World Bank.

that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens." The Strategy "breaks the digital divide" and ensures "continental ownership with Africa as a producer and not only a consumer in the global economy."⁶⁵¹⁸ The AUC strategy envisions harmonization of policies, legislations, and regulations as key. The strategy also includes the design of "policies based on a human-centred and holistic approach that takes into account the local context and cross-cutting issues relevant to all stages of policy design and implementation. Special attention should be given to minorities and vulnerable groups."⁶⁵¹⁹ The AU Commission also expresses its support for the ratification of the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection, also known as the Malabo Convention,⁶⁵²⁰ as well as making the Convention "consistent with standards such as the modernized convention 108, the General Data Protection Regulation."⁶⁵²¹

When South Africa assumed the position of AU Chairperson for 2020, President Ramaphosa called for the creation of an AI Forum within the African Union to discuss how to address AI "in uniformity."⁶⁵²²

In 2021, in line with the objectives of the 4IR SIP,⁶⁵²³ South Africa led the development of Smart Africa's Artificial Intelligence Blueprint for Africa,⁶⁵²⁴ "a precursor for the African continent to become a global player within the digital technology state affairs and a huge contribution to positioning Africa within the 4th Industrial Revolution." The aim was for the AI Blueprint "to set-up the African member states towards developing policies, strategies and plans that would ensure growth and prosperity within the digital revolution space."⁶⁵²⁵

A key chapter in the AI Blueprint is dedicated to AI and ethics. The chapter acknowledges "a need to ensure that ethics are integrated into AI systems to minimize structural discrimination and bias that can emerge from biased training data. Repercussions can lead to discrimination and impairment of rights in a myriad of circumstances including housing, medical care, education, and human rights. [...]"

See African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, p. 1, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁶⁵¹⁸ Ibid, p. 2

⁶⁵¹⁹ Ibid, p. 8

⁶⁵²⁰ Ibid, p. 47

⁶⁵²¹ Ibid

⁶⁵²² Smart Africa, *Artificial Intelligence Blueprint* (2021), p. 11, https://smartafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/70029-eng_ai-for-africa-blueprint-min.pdf

⁶⁵²³ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *Progress Update of PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan* (Feb, 2022), p. 8, <https://www.ellipsis.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Progress-update-on-PC4IR-Strategic-Implementation-Plan-Feb-2022.pdf>

⁶⁵²⁴ See South African Government, *Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Artificial intelligence regulation while encouraging innovation* (Nov. 4, 2021), <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-remarks-artificial-intelligence-ai-regulation-while>

⁶⁵²⁵ Smart Africa, *Artificial Intelligence Blueprint*, p. 11 (2021), https://smartafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/70029-eng_ai-for-africa-blueprint-min.pdf

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In designing their national AI Strategy, countries should clearly elaborate the AI ethical framework.”⁶⁵²⁶

Ethical frameworks would encourage safe and trustworthy use and development of AI such that “autonomous intelligent systems should be designed in ways that enable their decisions to be explained and humans to be accountable for their use,” audits and certification would monitor systems for engineering and ethical compliance according to standards “developed using multi-stakeholder and multilateral approaches,” “Life and death decisions should not be delegated to machines. AI systems should be designed taking into account such key concepts as people, the planet, prosperity and peace.” After noticing that current AI ethics initiatives have been led by Western efforts, the AI Blueprint emphasized that “participation from African nations is crucial and should be further encouraged.”⁶⁵²⁷

In February 2022, the AU Executive Council, requested the AU Commission to pursue the development of a continental AI strategy. The AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) reiterated the need for a continental AI strategy that “would enable African countries to enhance policymaking and implementation and improve stakeholder engagement on AI-related challenges and opportunities” in May 2022.⁶⁵²⁸ The APET organized two expert consultative meetings in 2022 and released an “AI for Africa report.”⁶⁵²⁹

The African Union endorsed the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy in Ghana in July 2024.⁶⁵³⁰ The strategy underscores the AU’s commitment to an Africa-centric, development-focused approach to AI which promotes ethical, equitable and responsible AI development.⁶⁵³¹

In October 2025, African countries adopted the Kigali Declaration on Responsible Artificial Intelligence, reaffirming their collective commitment to ethical, inclusive, and sustainable AI development. The Declaration strengthens regional cooperation and supports the implementation of the 2024 AU Continental AI Strategy, emphasizing data sovereignty, infrastructure investment, and capacity-

⁶⁵²⁶ Ibid, pp. 44-45

⁶⁵²⁷ Ibid

⁶⁵²⁸ Diplo, *Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Continental Policies and Initiatives* (2022), <https://www.diplomacy.edu/resource/report-stronger-digital-voices-from-africa/ai-africa-continental-policies/>

⁶⁵²⁹ AUDA-NEPAD, African Union Development Agency, *The African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa* (May 30, 2022), <https://www.nepad.org/news/african-union-artificial-intelligence-continental-strategy-africa>

⁶⁵³⁰ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

⁶⁵³¹ African Union, *African Union Committed to Developing AI Capabilities in Africa* (Aug. 28, 2024), <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20240828/african-union-committed-developing-ai-capabilities-africa>

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building for responsible AI governance. South Africa joined as one of the endorsing states, reflecting its continued engagement in continental AI coordination.⁶⁵³²

Public Participation

South Africa's Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) opened a formal public consultation on the AI policy framework in October 2024.⁶⁵³³ The consultations ran through November 29, 2024. The consultation on the draft framework followed the National AI Government Summit in April 2024, where the DCDT Minister shared the draft Plan with key stakeholders from government and industry. The Summit was part of a "pre-policy process [...] intended to collate the inputs and incorporate them into the draft plan." The plan then went through the Cabinet System before the public consultation.⁶⁵³⁴

In February 2025, the Competition Commission of South Africa released its provisional inquiry report on digital platform and tech giants, including Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, X, and TikTok. The report proposed remedies across search, social media, generative AI, and digital advertising to curb anti-competitive practices affecting digital advertising, journalism, and South Africans' constitutional rights. Following a 16-month inquiry involving evidence gathering, hearings, expert submissions, industry consultations, consumer surveys, and focus groups, the report underscored the need for strong government policies to tackle algorithmic bias, echo chambers, and misinformation. The provisional findings closed for public comment on 07 April 2025⁶⁵³⁵. Upon consolidation of feedback, the final report was released in November 2025⁶⁵³⁶

South Africa's National AI Stakeholder Forum, launched by the DCDT in August 2025, marked a significant step in participatory AI governance. Beyond the event itself, the Forum presented the implementation plan for the National AI Policy Framework, detailing strategies for inclusive and human-centered AI

⁶⁵³² World Economic Forum – Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR Africa), *Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2025), <https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa-Declaration-on-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

⁶⁵³³ Department of Communications and Digital Technology, *South Africa National Artificial Intelligence Framework* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/sa-national-ai-policy-framework/file/338-sa-national-ai-policy-framework.html>

⁶⁵³⁴ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *National AI Summit* (Accessed Feb. 24, 2025), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/topics/495-national-ai-summit.html>

⁶⁵³⁵ Competitions Commission South Africa, Press Release, *MDPMI Releases Its Provisional Report* (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://www.compcom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/MDPMI-Media-Release-Provisional-Report-24-February-2025.pdf>

⁶⁵³⁶ The Competition Commission South Africa, *Media and Digital Platforms Market Final Report* (Nov. 2025), https://www.compcom.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CC_MDPMI-Final-Report_Non-Confidential-1.pdf

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development.⁶⁵³⁷ The concluding call to action emphasized ongoing stakeholder engagement, ensuring that youth, women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented communities play central roles in shaping the national AI agenda.”⁶⁵³⁸

Previous public participatory processes came as each event informed the road to the National AI Plan. After the publication of the PC4IR Report in October 2020, a draft consultative process took place for the 4IR SIP in October–November 2020, followed by stakeholder consultations from February 2021 until July 2021. The PMO finalized its feedback analysis in August 2021 and submitted the final draft of the 4IR SIP in October 2021.⁶⁵³⁹ In 2018, South Africa's Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, in partnership with a private company, launched GovChat, an online citizen engagement AI-powered application that promotes accountable local governance.⁶⁵⁴⁰

Data Protection

The right to privacy is guaranteed under section 14 of the 1996 Constitution of South Africa. South Africa's data protection law, the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) gained Parliament's assent in 2013. However, only after the COVID-19 outbreak and the proliferation of the use of personal data in relation to digital services, did POPIA take effect on July 1, 2020, and became fully enforceable one year later.⁶⁵⁴¹ The preamble of POPIA recalls the constitutional nature of the right to privacy and specifies that the right to privacy includes “a right to protection against the unlawful collection, retention, dissemination and use of personal information.” POPIA established the South African Information Regulator as an independent body responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with

⁶⁵³⁷ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), *Media Statement: Launch of the National AI Stakeholder Forum* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/communications-and-digital-technologies-launch-national-ai-stakeholder-forum>

⁶⁵³⁸ iAfrica, *South Africa Launches National AI Stakeholder Forum to Build Inclusive, People-Centered Tech Future* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://iafrica.com/south-africa-launches-national-ai-stakeholder-forum-to-build-inclusive-people-centered-tech-future/>

⁶⁵³⁹ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, *Progress Update of PC4IR Strategic Implementation Plan* (Feb., 2022), p. 2, <https://www.ellipsis.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Progress-update-on-PC4IR-Strategic-Implementation-Plan-Feb-2022.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴⁰ Republic of South Africa, Government Communications, *GovChat*, <https://www.salga.org.za/SALGA%20National%20Communicators%20Forum%20Web/Documents/GovChat%20Presentation.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴¹ Republic of South Africa, *Protection of Personal Information Act No.4 of 2013* (Nov. 26, 2013), https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/3706726-11act4of2013protectionofpersonalinforcorrect.pdf

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POPIA by public and private bodies. The Regulator is subject to the law and is accountable to the national assembly.⁶⁵⁴²

The Cybercrimes Act, which entered into force on December 1, 2021, also enhances personal data protection. The Act criminalizes hacking; unlawful interception, interference or acquisition of data; malicious or harmful communications.⁶⁵⁴³

The Information Regulator is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2017. The Information Regulator has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁶⁵⁴⁴ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶⁵⁴⁵ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶⁵⁴⁶ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶⁵⁴⁷

A specific issue identified in the 2022 AU Data Policy Framework⁶⁵⁴⁸ and pointed out by renowned researchers such as Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem and Christiaan Viljoen in the South African context is the absence of representation of a large part of the South African society in terms of data sets. These researchers reported that the digital divide is primarily a data divide fostered by and exacerbating the social divide.⁶⁵⁴⁹ At least 50% of South Africans do not have a digital footprint, resulting in potential bias and discrimination because their experiences are absent from the

⁶⁵⁴² Information Regulator, *About the Regulator*, <https://inforegulator.org.za/about/>

⁶⁵⁴³ South African Government Official Information and Services, *Cybercrimes Act 19 of 2020* (Dec. 1, 2021), <https://www.gov.za/documents/acts/cybercrimes-act-19-2020-english-afrikaans-01-jun-2021>

⁶⁵⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁵⁴⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴⁸ African Union, *AU Data Policy Framework* (Feb. 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42078-doc-DATA-POLICY-FRAMEWORKS-2024-ENG-V2.pdf>

⁶⁵⁴⁹ Media Institute of Southern Africa, *AI Report on Southern Africa* (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://misa.org/blog/now-available-ai-report-on-southern-africa/>

data.⁶⁵⁵⁰ The practice of data-driven AI in a country like South Africa cannot be extracted from relations of social power. Thus, policymakers should not underestimate the inherent threat to fairness practices in machine learning both in terms of existing bias in training data and modelling practices and the socially powered situations in which predictions are interpreted and acted upon.

Algorithmic Transparency

According to POPIA, algorithmic transparency is ensured to the extent that “appropriate measures must (a) provide an opportunity for a data subject to make representations about a decision” regarding the sole use of automated decision-making and “(b) require a responsible party to provide a data subject with sufficient information about the underlying logic of the automated processing of the information relating to him or her to enable him or her to make representations in terms of paragraph (a).”⁶⁵⁵¹ POPIA further provides that “a data subject may not be subject to a decision which results in legal consequences for him [...], or which affects him [...] to a substantial degree, which is based solely on the basis of the automated processing of personal information intended to provide a profile of such person including his [...] performance at work, on his [...] credit worthiness, reliability, location, health, personal preferences or conduct.”⁶⁵⁵² Exceptions to this principle apply based on a law or code of conduct that provides for appropriate measures to safeguard “the legitimate interests of data subjects” or based on an authorization granted by the South African Information Regulator when the public interest is at stake such as the “interests of national security,” “the prevention, detection and prosecution of offences,” or “important economic and financial interests of a public body.”⁶⁵⁵³

Codes of conduct exist for banks and credit unions as well as direct marketing and commodities.⁶⁵⁵⁴ For example, the Information Regulator approved the Banking Association of South Africa’s Code of Conduct for the Processing of Personal

⁶⁵⁵⁰ Catherine Croxton and Nomvula Buthelezi, *SA has a huge ‘digital blind spot’ and it’s holding us all back* (Feb. 4, 2021), <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-04-sa-has-a-huge-digital-blind-spot-and-its-holding-us-all-back/>

⁶⁵⁵¹ Republic of South Africa, *Protection of Personal Information Act No.4 of 2013* (Nov. 26, 2013), https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/3706726-11act4of2013protectionofpersonalinforcorrect.pdf

⁶⁵⁵² Ibid

⁶⁵⁵³ Ibid

⁶⁵⁵⁴ Information Regulator, *In terms of the provisions of section 61(2) of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) No 4 of 2013, the Information Regulator gives notice that it is in receipt of a codes of conduct from* (2026), <https://info regulator.org.za/codes-of-conducts/>

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Information by the Banking Industry in 2022,⁶⁵⁵⁵ which regulates the use of automated decision-making in “profiling, work performance, credit worthiness, location, health, reliability, personal preferences, or conduct.”⁶⁵⁵⁶ The Code requires banks to adopt measures and safeguards for automated decision-making processes, such as identification, lawfulness, transparency, privacy notices/statements, and the ability of users to raise complaints in case of dissatisfaction with the result of an automated decision.

Unless a code of conduct has been issued,⁶⁵⁵⁷ POPIA requires a responsible party to “obtain prior authorisation from the Information Regulator” if that responsible party intends to process any unique identifiers of data subjects (i) for another purpose than intended at collection, and (ii) with the aim of linking the information with information processed by other responsible parties.” Such is also the case if that responsible party plans to “(b) process information on criminal behaviour or on unlawful or objectionable conduct on behalf of third parties; (c) process information for the purposes of credit reporting; or (d) transfer special personal information [...] or the personal information of children [...] to a third party in a foreign country that does not provide an adequate level of protection for the processing of personal information”

South Africa’s National AI Policy Framework also includes Transparency and Explainability as one of twelve strategic pillars, which suggests intentions for a guarantee of at least a measure of algorithmic transparency. In addition to educating the public on AI technologies, the framework considers transparency as “The clear and open operation of AI systems, ensuring that their processes, decision-making criteria, and outcomes are understandable and accessible to users and stakeholders, including insights into model functionality, data usage, decision logic, and potential impacts.”⁶⁵⁵⁸

The Information Regulator published draft Health Data Regulations under Section 112(2)(c) of POPIA, addressing the automated processing of sensitive health

⁶⁵⁵⁵ Information Regulator, *Notice in terms of Section 62(1) of the Protection of Personal Information Act No. 4 of 2013 (POPIA) Code of Conduct: The Banking Association South Africa (BASA)* (Oct. 7, 2022), [https://infoeregulator.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20the%20Banking%20Association%20South%20Africa%20\(BASA\).pdf](https://infoeregulator.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20the%20Banking%20Association%20South%20Africa%20(BASA).pdf)

⁶⁵⁵⁶ Ibid, p. 20

⁶⁵⁵⁷ Republic of South Africa, *Protection of Personal Information Act No.4 of 2013*, Chapter 6: Prior Authorization, pp. 66–68 (Nov. 26, 2013), https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/3706726-11act4of2013protectionofpersonalinforcorrect.pdf

⁶⁵⁵⁸ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *SA National AI Policy Framework*, pp. 10–11 (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/sa-national-ai-policy-framework/file/338-sa-national-ai-policy-framework.html>

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and biometric data. These regulations introduce enhanced disclosure requirements for algorithmic decision-making and further strengthen South Africa's transparency and accountability framework related to automatic decisions and algorithmic bias.⁶⁵⁵⁹

EdTech and Tracking Children

Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) in May 2022 endorsed by 49 governments, including South Africa, for children's education during the pandemic. Based on technical and policy analysis of 163 EdTech products, Human Rights Watch found that governments' endorsements of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children's rights.

Some EdTech products, such as Extramarks, apparently exclusively designed for children's use and with an estimated 100,000 users in South Africa, targeted children with behavioral advertising. Extramarks sent children's data to AdTech companies that specialize in behavioral advertising or whose algorithms determine what children see online. According to Human Rights Watch, in line with child data protection principles as well as corporations' human rights responsibilities outlined in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, EdTech and AdTech companies should not collect and process children's data for advertising.⁶⁵⁶⁰

Environmental Impact of AI

South Africa passed its first sweeping climate change law in July 2024.⁶⁵⁶¹ The legislation will allow South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Climate Change Treaty. The law is a significant move for South Africa, which is one of the top 15 greenhouse gas emitters globally. The emissions reductions targets in the new bill require all industries, including AI and data centers, to limit their emissions by a given amount over a period of time. The Presidential

⁶⁵⁵⁹ Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, *Government Gazette No. 53426* (Sept. 26, 2025), https://inforegulator.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SECTION-112_2_C_-_HEALTH-REGULATIONS-FINAL-1.pdf

⁶⁵⁶⁰ Human Rights Watch, *"How Dare They Peep into My Private Life?": Children's Rights Violations by Governments that Endorsed Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

⁶⁵⁶¹ Nellie Peyton, *South Africa Passes Its First Sweeping Climate Change Law*, Reuters (Jul. 23, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africa-passes-its-first-sweeping-climate-change-law-2024-07-23/>

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Climate Commission welcomed the Proclamation of the Climate Change Act, made public in the Government Gazette in March 2025.⁶⁵⁶²

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

South Africa is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.⁶⁵⁶³ At the 2021 CCW meeting, South Africa advocated for the adoption of a legally binding instrument on LAWS: “It is high time for further work on LAWS, to move towards concrete negotiations and more active diplomatic efforts. Should the GGE’s further work result in the adoption of an instrument on LAWS that is of a political nature only and as a final product, with no prospect of elevating further work to the level of a legally binding instrument, South Africa would regard the process as having been a failure.”⁶⁵⁶⁴ South Africa has participated in discussions on the rolling text toward an international treaty in the Group of Government Experts (GGW) on LAWS.⁶⁵⁶⁵

The South African Military Academy launched the Defence Artificial Intelligence Research Unit (DAIRU) to enhance military capabilities, focusing on AI-driven technologies, cyber resilience, and security. Officials highlighted the transformative power of AI and the importance of regulation amidst global digital competition.⁶⁵⁶⁶

⁶⁵⁶² Presidential Climate Commission, Media Statement, *The Climate Commission Welcomes the Proclamation of the Climate Change Act* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.climatecommission.org.za/news-and-insights/the-climate-commission-welcomes-the-proclamation-of-the-climate-change-act>

⁶⁵⁶³ United Nations, *South Africa Signatory to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*, https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/static-unoda-site/pages/templates/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw/SOUTH_AFRICA_E.pdf

⁶⁵⁶⁴ Republic of South Africa, *South African Statement to the Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (Dec. 2021), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/South-Africa-CCW-RevCon-General-Statement-.pdf>

⁶⁵⁶⁵ Laura Varella, *Report on the Virtual Informal Consultation of the GGE on LAWS* (Jun. 3, 2025), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/ccw/2025/laws/ccwreport/17498-ccw-report-vol-13-no-3>

⁶⁵⁶⁶ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *Minister Gungubele Launches the 4th Hub of AIISA: The Defence Artificial Intelligence Research Unit (DAIRU)* (May 2, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/media-statements-releases/500-minister-gungubele-launches-the-4-th-hub-of-aiisa-the-defence-artificial-intelligence-research-unit-dairu.html>

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AI Literacy

The National AI Policy Framework⁶⁵⁶⁷ identifies Talent and Capacity Development as a key pillar. As of 2025, implementation remained limited, with few measurable outcomes. The African Union's Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy⁶⁵⁶⁸ also identifies skills development, public awareness, and education as key pillars for building an inclusive and ethical AI ecosystem across the continent, with "capacity and talent development" listed among its five strategic objectives.

Human Rights

South Africa holds a score of 81/100 and a status a "Free" in the Freedom House Freedom in the World 2025 report.⁶⁵⁶⁹ South Africa is a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In its 2019 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in charge of interpreting the Charter⁶⁵⁷⁰ called on states to ensure that the "development, use and application of AI, algorithms and other similar technologies by internet intermediaries are compatible with international human rights law and standards, and do not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and other human rights."⁶⁵⁷¹

In February 2021, the ACHPR adopted Resolution 473 having recognized that emerging technologies such as AI have a bearing on the enjoyment of human rights under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter).⁶⁵⁷² The ACHPR called on state parties to the African Charter, South Africa included, to ensure the development and use of AI and other new and emerging technologies is compatible with the rights and duties in the African Charter and other regional and international human rights instruments, ensure transparency in the use

⁶⁵⁶⁷ Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), *National AI Policy Framework* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/sa-national-ai-policy-framework/file/338-sa-national-ai-policy-framework.html>

⁶⁵⁶⁸ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://au.int/en/documents/20240809/continental-artificial-intelligence-strategy>

⁶⁵⁶⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: South Africa* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/south-africa/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁵⁷⁰ ACHPR, *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*, Articles 30, 45(3), <https://achpr.au.int/en/node/644>

⁶⁵⁷¹ Diplo, *Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Continental Policies and Initiatives*, <https://www.diplomacy.edu/resource/report-stronger-digital-voices-from-africa/ai-africa-continental-policies/>

⁶⁵⁷² African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *Resolution 473 on the need to undertake a Study on human and peoples' rights and artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and other new and emerging technologies in Africa* (Mar. 10, 2021), <https://achpr.au.int/en/adopted-resolutions/473-resolution-need-undertake-study-human-and-peoples-rights-and-art/>

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of AI and other emerging technologies and that decisions made in the use of these technologies are easily understandable to those affected by such decisions, and work toward a comprehensive legal and ethical governance framework for AI and other emerging technologies.

In September 2022, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, recalled that, with Resolution 473, “The Commission further observed that whilst making government services and information digital enhances transparency and accessibility and artificial intelligence allows for a number of benefits in the society, it has to be accompanied by human rights considerations and a bridging of the digital divide.” The Special Rapporteur also reiterated the principles of the Resolution.⁶⁵⁷³

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) 2025–2030 Strategic Plan explicitly commits to modernizing ICT infrastructure and investing in artificial intelligence to enhance public engagement and protect vulnerable groups.⁶⁵⁷⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

South Africa is not a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) but endorsed the G20 AI principles that draw from the 2019 OECD AI Principles.⁶⁵⁷⁵ The G20 AI principles highlight challenges in the use of AI including privacy, security, ethical issues, new digital divides and the need for AI capacity building. However, the country has not endorsed the OECD Principles updated in May 2024.⁶⁵⁷⁶ In December 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa on assuming the G20 Presidency announced the creation of G20 three task forces to achieve the G20’s priorities and achieve its high-level deliverables. One of these task forces is the Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and innovation for sustainable development with a focus on promoting AI and data governance frameworks.⁶⁵⁷⁷

⁶⁵⁷³ African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, *Press Statement by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, on the Occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information* (Sept. 28, 2022), <https://achpr.au.int/en/news/press-releases/2022-09-28/special-rapporteur-freedom-expression-access-international-day>

⁶⁵⁷⁴ South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), *Strategic Plan 2025–2030* (2025), https://static.pmg.org.za/FINAL_-SAHRC-SP_2025-2030_Period.pdf

⁶⁵⁷⁵ G20 Digital Economy Working Group, *G20 DEWG Maceio Ministerial Declaration* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-digital-economy-ministers-ministers-language-g20-dewg-maceio-ministerial-declaration>

⁶⁵⁷⁶ OECD AI Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview*, List of Adherents (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁶⁵⁷⁷ G20, *South Africa’s G20 Presidency* (Dec. 2024), <https://g20.org.za/g20-south-africa/g20-presidency/>

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As a Key Partner of the OECD, South Africa contributes to the OECD's work in a sustained and comprehensive manner, including public governance. In 2025, during its G20 Presidency, South Africa led the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) on Responsible AI and Digital Inclusion.⁶⁵⁷⁸ The Chair's Statement and Minister Solly Malatsi's closing address recorded progress on ethical and trustworthy AI, digital infrastructure, and skills development.⁶⁵⁷⁹ These initiatives reaffirmed G20 AI Principles and advanced international cooperation on responsible AI.⁶⁵⁸⁰ The G20 Leaders' Summit, held for the first time on the African continent, made special reference to the members' commitment to Artificial Intelligence, reinforcing support for reducing inequalities, re-affirming the G20 AI principles, ensuring safe, secure and trustworthy AI Development, "the protection of human rights, transparency and explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, appropriate human oversight, ethics, biases, privacy, data protection and data governance."⁶⁵⁸¹ The declaration goes on to, "note the establishment of the Technology Policy Assistance Facility (TPAF) by UNESCO under the South African Presidency," and "welcome the launch of the AI for Africa Initiative which was developed as a voluntary platform for multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation between the G20 and the African Union."⁶⁵⁸²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

South Africa has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁵⁸³ CAIDP called on South Africa to sign and ratify the Convention, noting "Ratification would help South Africa prevent governance fragmentation, adhere to global standards, and ensure African priorities are represented in AI development. By taking

⁶⁵⁷⁸ G20 South Africa 2025, *Digital Economy—DEWG Track Page* (2025),

<https://www.g20.org.za/track/digital-economy-2/>

⁶⁵⁷⁹ UNESCO ROSA & DCDT, *South Africa Launches AI Ethics Implementation Partnership* (Sept. 30, 2025), https://www.digital.go.jp/assets/contents/node/information/field_ref_resources/67314ff1-3c73-42bc-844d-bb69c1de7a60/a3e04cd7/20251003_news_g20_01.pdf

⁶⁵⁸⁰ G20 DEWG, *Digital Economy Working Group—Cape Town Outcome (Chair's Statement)* (Sept. 28, 2025), https://www.digital.go.jp/assets/contents/node/information/field_ref_resources/67314ff1-3c73-42bc-844d-bb69c1de7a60/a3e04cd7/20251003_news_g20_01.pdf

⁶⁵⁸¹ G20 South Africa 2025, *G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders' Declaration* (Nov. 22, 2025), <https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2025/251122-declaration.html>

⁶⁵⁸² *Ibid*, Clause 46 -47

⁶⁵⁸³ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 15, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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this step, South Africa can secure a leadership role in shaping global policies while promoting sustainable development and social equity within the continent.”⁶⁵⁸⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

South Africa endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI.⁶⁵⁸⁵ South Africa’s Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Khumbudzo Ntshavheni expressed commitment to regulating AI in an address at the UNESCO-Southern Africa sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (SARFAI) which took place in Windhoek, Namibia in 2021. The SARFAI provided a platform for the discussion of the sustainable development-oriented and ethical use of artificial intelligence, as steps for implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation in the region.

South Africa endorsed the resulting 2022 Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa.⁶⁵⁸⁶ The Windhoek Statement calls for the establishment of a Southern African coordination mechanism for the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation.

Complying with the Recommendation is enshrined in the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies’ South Africa’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Planning.⁶⁵⁸⁷ The National Artificial Intelligence Policy Framework shares significant similarities with UNESCO’s principles on artificial intelligence. Both frameworks emphasize the development of AI technologies based on ethical principles and a human-centered approach, aiming for safe, transparent, and fair AI deployment. Elements such as transparency, accountability, data protection, and bias mitigation in the South African policy align with UNESCO’s values of respecting human rights and ensuring equality in AI use. The framework is crafted with a vision

⁶⁵⁸⁴ Center for AI and Digital Policy, Statement, *A Call to South Africa to Sign and Ratify the International Treaty on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law* (Dec. 16, 2024), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy_caidp-urges-south-africa-to-endorse-ai-treaty-activity-7273548551194832897-dhWk/

⁶⁵⁸⁵ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁶⁵⁸⁶ UNESCO, *Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa* (Sept. 9, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383197>

⁶⁵⁸⁷ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *AI National Government Summit Discussion Document—South Africa’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Planning: Adoption of AI by Government* (Oct. 2023), https://www.dcdt.gov.za/images/phocadownload/AI_Government_Summit/National_AI_Government_Summit_Discussion_Document.pdf

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to distribute AI's economic and societal benefits broadly while prioritizing human well-being, much like UNESCO's emphasis on a people-centered approach.⁶⁵⁸⁸

South Africa has completed the Readiness Assessment Methodology report⁶⁵⁸⁹ phase and is working with UNESCO's Regional Office for Southern Africa under the AI Ethics Implementation Partnership (2025–2027) to integrate ethical AI principles into national policy and capacity-building programs.⁶⁵⁹⁰

Evaluation

South Africa has made notable progress in operationalizing the National AI Policy Framework, signaling a transition from policy design to active implementation. The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) initiated key measures, including the launch of the National AI Stakeholder Forum, which established concrete pathways for inclusive and participatory governance. This development marks a shift from consultation to co-creation, ensuring that diverse groups (particularly youth, women, and marginalized communities) can contribute to shaping the national AI agenda. The creation of a National AI Network of Experts further reinforces institutional coordination and capacity building, reflecting growing alignment with the OECD AI Principles and the African Union's Continental AI Strategy.

At the international level, South Africa's leadership in the 2025 G20 Digital Economy Working Group and its endorsement of the Kigali Declaration on Responsible AI reinforce its active role in shaping global and regional AI norms. Ongoing collaboration with UNESCO through the AI Ethics Implementation Partnership (2025–2027) further reflects sustained progress from readiness assessment to implementation. These developments collectively justify the improved 2025 evaluation outcomes, with notable gains in transparency, participation, and alignment with global ethical frameworks, positioning South Africa in Tier II for the forthcoming assessment cycle.

⁶⁵⁸⁸ Department of Communications & Digital Technologies, *SA National AI Policy Framework* (Oct. 25, 2024), <https://www.dcdt.gov.za/sa-national-ai-policy-framework/file/338-sa-national-ai-policy-framework.html>

⁶⁵⁸⁹ UNESCO Digital Library, *South Africa: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392648?posInSet=1&queryId=3b61ead3-c1a0-4164-9da5-62812b7bc0c4>

⁶⁵⁹⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *South Africa* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/southafrica>

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South Korea

In 2025, South Korea enacted the Framework Law for AI Development and Establishment of Trust, becoming one of the first countries in the world to protect citizens from AI abuses through comprehensive legislation. The Personal Information Protection Commission issued the Generative AI Privacy Guidelines.

National AI Strategy

The Republic of Korea, known commonly as South Korea, announced the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence⁶⁵⁹¹ in December 2019. While the focus is on building a world-class AI technical capacity through ambitious targets such as “achieving a world top 3 digital competitiveness by 2030,” the Strategy also aims to address AI ethics and algorithmic transparency-related issues under the pillar of realizing people-centered AI.

The National Strategy materializes the Presidential Initiative for AI that former President Moon Jae-in announced on October 28, 2019. “AI is moving beyond scientific and technological advancements and is approaching us as a new civilization [...] AI will not only affect industrial sectors but also solve many issues facing our society: public health in an aging society, welfare for senior citizens living alone, the safety of women living by themselves, and the prevention of crimes that are becoming more sophisticated,” stated former President Moon Jae-in.

Korea's National Strategy identifies nine major axes and 100 major tasks in three major areas. The major areas are (1) fostering a global-leading AI ecosystem, (2) becoming a country unrivaled for its use of AI, and (3) realizing people-centered AI. The Strategy is the result of a cooperation of the entire Korean ministries and offices including the Ministry of Science and ICT, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, the Ministry of Education, and the Presidential Committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (PCFIR).⁶⁵⁹²

The Presidential Committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (PCFIR) formally ended in September 2022⁶⁵⁹³ and the Presidential Committee on Digital Platform Government was launched in September 2023. The new Committee will be

⁶⁵⁹¹ The Government of the Republic of Korea, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 17, 2019), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&nttSeqNo=9&bbsSeqNo=46&mId=10&mPid=9>

⁶⁵⁹² Presidential Committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, *About PCFIR* (2020), <https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F16688>

⁶⁵⁹³ Byun Hwi, *Moon Decides to Abolish 4th Industrial Revolution Committee ... Accelerating National Digital Innovation*, Money Today (Jul. 16, 2022), <https://news.mt.co.kr/mtview.php?no=2022071517260121218>

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responsible for evaluating policies and projects related to AI, infrastructures, and services for creating a Digital Platform for Government according to a human-centered vision.⁶⁵⁹⁴

President Yoon Suk-yeol visited the University of Toronto for an AI roundtable in September 2022, where they discussed AI and collaboration between University of Toronto and South Korean partners.⁶⁵⁹⁵ As an extension of the roundtable, the Ministry of Science and ICT announced the Digital Strategy of Korea in line with President Yoon's vision. The purpose is for Korea "to become a best practice country in digital innovation and take a leap forward as a leading country in the digital era, rather than staying stagnant as a fast-follower."⁶⁵⁹⁶

In addition, MSIT announced the Plan for Mainstreaming Artificial Intelligence and Industrial Advancement in January 2023 as a follow-up plan for the Korean Digital Strategy. The plan will promote the advancement of AI industry and technology while sharing benefits with the public by investing in 10 core AI projects.⁶⁵⁹⁷

The Korean government updated the National Strategy in September 2024 with a set of new commitments intended to serve as a blueprint for Korea's goal to become one of the top three AI powerhouses globally.⁶⁵⁹⁸ These commitments are part of the Policy Directions for National AI Strategies presented at the first National AI Committee chaired by President Yoon Suk Yeol. MSIT described this development as a "shift in policy paradigm," as the government aims to "move beyond merely expanding the initial AI infrastructure" to establishing AI as part of the national infrastructure, "fostering transformation across all sectors." The Policy Directions for National AI Strategies reasserts the goal set out in the National AI Strategy of establishing Korea as a Global AI Hub through the Leap to AI G3. Projects center on expanding access to compute and technology, promoting private-

⁶⁵⁹⁴ Yonhap News Agency, *Yoon Calls for Improving Public Services through "Digital Platform Government"* (Sept. 2, 2022), <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20220902004700315>

⁶⁵⁹⁵ Rahul Kalvapalle, *South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol Visits U of T for AI Roundtable* (Sept. 26, 2022), <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/south-korean-president-yoon-suk-yeol-visits-u-t-ai-roundtable>

⁶⁵⁹⁶ Ministry of Science and ICT, *Korea to Come up with the Roadmap of Digital ROK, Realizing the New York Initiative* (Sept. 28, 2022), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=742>

⁶⁵⁹⁷ Digital Times, *The Government Will Invest 712.9 Billion Won This Year to Normalize AI and Upgrade Industries* (Jan. 26, 2023), http://www.dt.co.kr/contents.html?article_no=2023012602109931081010&ref=naver

⁶⁵⁹⁸ Ministry of Science and ICT, *Blueprint for Korea's Leap to Become One of the Top Three Global AI Powerhouse (AI G3)* (Sept. 26, 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mPid=2&mId=4&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=1037>

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sector investment, encouraging AI adoption, and leading AI governance globally through proactive safety and security capabilities.

The National Assembly passed the Artificial Intelligence Framework Act (effective January 2026),⁶⁵⁹⁹ establishing Korea's risk-based and rights-protective legislative framework for AI. The Act requires periodic review of the National AI Strategy, formalizes President-led national AI coordination, and strengthens risk, ethics, and human rights assessments for high-impact AI systems. In September 2025, the Presidential National AI Strategy Committee (chaired by the President)⁶⁶⁰⁰ was launched, shifting AI governance from ad-hoc to standing, cross-ministerial, and public-private oversight. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also created an AI Diplomacy Division⁶⁶⁰¹ dedicated to global engagement and secure AI platforms for foreign affairs.

AI Ethics

Korea's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence includes “preventing AI dysfunction and establishing AI ethics” as one of nine major actions and aims to set up AI Ethics Principles through public consultation.⁶⁶⁰² To establish the comprehensive AI ethical standards that all members of society—developers, providers, and users—can refer to from development to use of AI, the Korean government has formed an AI ethics research team and analyzed the commonalities and differences in OECD AI Principles and 25 global major AI ethical principles. As a result, in December 2020, the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT announced the Korean AI Ethical Standards⁶⁶⁰³ at the plenary session of the Presidential Committee on Fourth Industrial Revolution.

⁶⁵⁹⁹ National Assembly, *Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and the Establishment of a Trust Foundation, etc. (Framework Act on Artificial Intelligence* (Jan. 21, 2025), [https://www.law.go.kr/%25EB%25B2%2595%25EB%25A0%25B9/%25EC%259D%25B8%25EA%25B3%25B5%25EC%25A7%2580%25EB%258A%25A5%2520%25EB%25B0%259C%25EC%25A0%2584%25EA%25B3%25BC%2520%25EC%258B%25A0%25EB%25A2%25B0%2520%25EA%25B8%25B0%25EB%25B0%2598%2520%25EC%25A1%25B0%25EC%2584%25B1%2520%25EB%2593%25B1%25EC%2597%2590%2520%25EA%25B4%2580%25ED%2595%259C%2520%25EA%25B8%25B0%25EB%25B3%25B8%25EB%25B2%2595/\(20676,20250121\)](https://www.law.go.kr/%25EB%25B2%2595%25EB%25A0%25B9/%25EC%259D%25B8%25EA%25B3%25B5%25EC%25A7%2580%25EB%258A%25A5%2520%25EB%25B0%259C%25EC%25A0%2584%25EA%25B3%25BC%2520%25EC%258B%25A0%25EB%25A2%25B0%2520%25EA%25B8%25B0%25EB%25B0%2598%2520%25EC%25A1%25B0%25EC%2584%25B1%2520%25EB%2593%25B1%25EC%2597%2590%2520%25EA%25B4%2580%25ED%2595%259C%2520%25EA%25B8%25B0%25EB%25B3%25B8%25EB%25B2%2595/(20676,20250121))

⁶⁶⁰⁰ Ministry of Science and ICT, *National AI Strategy Committee Launched as Korea's Top-Level AI Policy Body*, Press Release (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?mId=4&mPid=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=1165&sCode=eng>

⁶⁶⁰¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *MOFA launches AI Diplomacy Division*, Press Release (Feb. 26, 2025), https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=322749

⁶⁶⁰² Government of the Republic of Korea, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence*, p. 49, OECD (Dec. 2019), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Korea_National_Strategy_for_Artificial_Intelligence_2019.pdf

⁶⁶⁰³ Ministry of Science and ICT, *Press Release: Ministry of Science and ICT to Establish “Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics Standards”* (2020), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?s>

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The Standards include 3 basic principles to materialize “Humanity” in the development and utilization of AI: Human dignity, Public interests, and Technological teleology. The Standards detail 10 key requirements to promote these principles: Human rights advocacy, Privacy protection, Respect for Diversity, Injunction against infringement, Public interests, Solidarity, Data management, Accountability, Safety, and Transparency.

Improvement of Policies and Laws for the Era of AI

Korea’s legislature approved the Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Foundation of a Trust in December 2024 and enacted in early January 2025.⁶⁶⁰⁴ The Act establishes human-centered AI development and use as a basic principle such that “Artificial intelligence technology and the artificial intelligence industry should be developed in a way that enhances safety and reliability and improves the quality of life of the people.”⁶⁶⁰⁵ The Act charges state and local governments to “devise policies to respond to changes in all areas, including society, economy, culture, and people’s daily lives” because of AI systems and to “enable all citizens to adapt stably.”

In keeping with the National Strategy’s focus on making the Republic of Korea a global leader in AI, the act includes systems for developing trustworthy AI and charges the government to “respect the creative spirit of AI business operators.”⁶⁶⁰⁶ The legislation will be enforced beginning in January 2026, with the Ministry of Science and ICT charged as the authority in charge of implementation and investigation.

Code=user&mPid=112&mId=113&bbsSeqNo=94&nttSeqNo=3179742; OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Human-Centered National Guidelines for AI Ethics* [사람이 중심이 되는 인공지능 윤리기준] (Sept. 9, 2022), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/human-centered-national-guidelines-for-ai-ethics-6671>

⁶⁶⁰⁴ Kyoungjun Choi, *Analyzing South Korea’s Framework Act on the Development of AI*, IAPP (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://iapp.org/news/a/analyzing-south-korea-s-framework-act-on-the-development-of-ai>

⁶⁶⁰⁵ National Law Information Center, *Law No. 20676, Basic Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Creation of a Trust Base, etc.* [인공지능 발전과 신뢰 기반 조성 등에 관한 기본법] (Jan. 21, 2025), [https://www.law.go.kr/%EB%B2%95%EB%A0%B9/%EC%9D%B8%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80%EB%8A%A5%20%EB%B0%9C%EC%A0%84%EA%B3%BC%20%EC%8B%A0%EB%A2%B0%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B0%98%20%EC%A1%B0%EC%84%B1%20%EB%93%B1%EC%97%90%20%EA%B4%80%ED%95%9C%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B3%B8%EB%B2%95/\(20676,20250121\)](https://www.law.go.kr/%EB%B2%95%EB%A0%B9/%EC%9D%B8%EA%B3%B5%EC%A7%80%EB%8A%A5%20%EB%B0%9C%EC%A0%84%EA%B3%BC%20%EC%8B%A0%EB%A2%B0%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B0%98%20%EC%A1%B0%EC%84%B1%20%EB%93%B1%EC%97%90%20%EA%B4%80%ED%95%9C%20%EA%B8%B0%EB%B3%B8%EB%B2%95/(20676,20250121))

⁶⁶⁰⁶ Ibid

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In May 2020, the Korean government amended the Framework Act on National Informatization,⁶⁶⁰⁷ now the Framework Act on Intelligence Informatization. “The purpose of this Act is to contribute to realizing an intelligent information society, securing the national competitiveness, and improving the quality of life for citizens, by prescribing matters necessary to establish and promote policies related to intelligent informatization.”⁶⁶⁰⁸ The Act provides a definition for intelligence information technology and the basis for all regulations that address the development and use of AI, such as the basic principles of the intelligence information society, technical requirements, standardization, and personal data protection. This Framework operationalizes in part the National AI Strategy and its idea of a “future-oriented legal system”⁶⁶⁰⁹ based on the review and revision of relevant laws and regulations to address the issues pertaining to the use of AI in 1) data, 2) intellectual property, 3) accountability, 4) regulation of algorithms and trade secrets, 5) finance, 6) platform, 7) labor, 8) healthcare, and 9) welfare.

Public Participation

The Korea Information Society Development Institute (KISDI) and the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) jointly held an open seminar⁶⁶¹⁰ to receive a wide range of public comments from the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society. The conference was implemented with the mission of changing the direction of AI’s implication on Korean society in more benevolent ways, by checking the goodness, fairness, and validity of “The RoK’s AI Utilization Guidelines” and its enforcement as of 2022. Before convening the event, the KISDI actively accepted and reflected a large number of opinions related to Korea’s three major AI policy implementation measures: 1) The Self-checklist for practicing AI

⁶⁶⁰⁷ National Law Information Center, *Framework Act on National Informatization* (Dec. 23, 2015), <http://www.law.go.kr/lsInfoP.do?lsiSeq=172205&lsId=000028&chrClsCd=010202&urlMode=engLsInfoR&viewCls=engLsInfoR#0000>

⁶⁶⁰⁸ *Article 1 of the Framework Act on Intelligent Informatization*, https://elaw.klri.re.kr/eng_mobile/viewer.do?hseq=54720&type=sogan&key=54

⁶⁶⁰⁹ Government of the Republic of Korea, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 17, 2019), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&nttSeqNo=9&bbsSeqNo=46&mId=10&mPid=9>

⁶⁶¹⁰ *Open Policy Seminar for AI Reliability Enhancement* (Nov. 24, 2021), <https://www.kisdi.re.kr/bbs/view.do?bbsSn=113588&key=m2101113055944>

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Ethics Standards,⁶⁶¹¹ 2) The Instructions to develop AI Accountability, and 3. AI Ethics Education.⁶⁶¹²

South Korea conducted public consultations on AI legislation and welcomed independent expert participation in newly established AI bodies in 2024. Specifically, from June to July 2024, the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) solicited public feedback on the opportunities and threats of AI technology, regulatory strategies for ensuring safe and reliable AI, and the government's AI policy priorities through an enhanced digital public forum (beingdigital.kr), following the Plan for Establishing a New Digital Order announced in May. This input will be used to guide the development of global AI norms in the future. The follow-up on the consultation also announced a policy idea contest open for anyone to propose new policies on issues such as closing the gap in access to AI, ensuring ethical awareness among AI developers, and preventing AI from violating individual rights.⁶⁶¹³

Also, in April and July 2024, South Korea established two specialized bodies to enhance AI governance, both including independent experts. The Ministry of Science and ICT launched the AI Strategy High-Level Council to guide AI integration across various sectors.⁶⁶¹⁴ Additionally, the State Council inaugurated the National Artificial Intelligence Committee to coordinate comprehensive national AI policies, focusing on regulatory improvements and infrastructure expansion.⁶⁶¹⁵

The Ministry of Science and ICT oversaw a three-week public consultation on the draft Enforcement Decree of the AI Basic Act in September 2025.⁶⁶¹⁶ Academics, industry groups, and civil society commented on the proposed risk rating

⁶⁶¹¹ AI Times, *A Draft of Self-Checklist for Practicing AI Ethics Standards Was Released by the MSIT as Follow-Up for the Conference* (Dec. 9, 2021), <https://www.aitimes.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=141704>

⁶⁶¹² Korean Information Society Development Institute, *KISDI Releases 'Artificial Intelligence Ethics Education Textbook' that Can Be used in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools* (Feb. 9, 2023), <https://www.kisdi.re.kr/bbs/view.do?bbsSn=113985&key=m2101113056011&pageIndex=1&sc=&sw=>

⁶⁶¹³ Ministry of Science and ICT, *We Are Listeningn to Diverse Public Opinions on Safe and Reliable Artificial Intelligence!* Press Release (Jul. 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?sCode=user&mId=113&mPid=238&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=94&nttSeqNo=3184589&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

⁶⁶¹⁴ Ministry of Science and ICT, Press release “*Regulations on the Establishment and Operation of the National Artificial Intelligence Commission*” Passed by the State Council [Korean only] (Jul. 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/bbs/view.do?sCode=user&mId=113&mPid=238&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=94&nttSeqNo=3184786&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

⁶⁶¹⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶¹⁶ Ministry of Science and ICT, *The AI Basic Act comes into Force to Lay the Foundation for Korea to Become an AI G3* (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?bbsSeqNo=42&mId=4&mPid=2&nttSeqNo=1095>

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system and specifications for AI impact evaluations. The ministry published proposed implementation guidelines and a summary of the feedback later that month.

Data Protection

In February 2020, Korea amended the three major data privacy laws to protect personal information and improve the personal data protection and privacy governance system in the era of the 4th industrial revolution.⁶⁶¹⁷ The three laws are the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA), the Act on the Promotion of the Use of the Information Network and Information Projection (the Network Act), and the Credit Information Use and Protection Act (the Credit Information Act). These amendments reflect the outcome of “Hackathon agreements” held in February and April 2018. In May 2018, relevant ministries, civil society organizations and professionals from the industry, including legal circles, participated in the Presidential Committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Committee discussed the introduction of the use of fictitious names to foster the use of data, reviewing the existing legislation for increased coherence, and strengthening users’ responsibility.

As a result of the amendments to the three major data privacy laws, the mandate of the Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) was upgraded in August 2020. The PIPC is now a ministerial-level central administrative agency that formulates data privacy policies and supervises the enforcement of data protection laws as an independent authority.⁶⁶¹⁸ Initially created in 2011 under the office of the President, the PIPC now operates independently. The PIPC centralizes various personal information protection functions previously scattered across ministries.

The PIPC published an AI Personal Information Protection Self-checklist to provide guidelines for the protection of personal information gathered and used by artificial intelligence in 2021. The checklist presents 16 specific items to check and 54 items to verify the safe handling of personal information during the AI life cycle: design, development, and operation. The PIPC penalized the indiscriminate use of personal information by a company using AI technology for the first time in 2021 as well. An AI startup was fined following a massive personal data breach.⁶⁶¹⁹ The PIPC

⁶⁶¹⁷ Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, *Data 3 Laws* (Nov. 16, 2021), <https://www.korea.kr/special/policyCurationView.do?newsId=148867915>

⁶⁶¹⁸ Personal Information Protection Commission, *About PIPC*, <https://www.pipc.go.kr/eng/user/itc/itc/greetings.do>

⁶⁶¹⁹ YonhapNews Agency, *Developer of AI Chatbot Service Fined for Massive Personal Data Breach* (Apr. 28, 2021), <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210428009500315>

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signed self-regulation agreements with ten online shopping platforms for the safe use of personal information in 2022.⁶⁶²⁰

The PIPC adopted a guide clarifying the rights of data subjects regarding automated decision-making by institutions using AI⁶⁶²¹ and published standards for processing public data used in artificial intelligence (AI) development and services in 2024.⁶⁶²² In 2025, the PIPC released a comprehensive Generative AI Privacy Guide⁶⁶²³ covering purpose limitation, data quality, risk controls for LLM use, granular user rights, governance led by a Chief Privacy Officer, and sector-specific requirements for responsible AI data handling across the entire AI lifecycle. The Guide is the first binding, lifecycle-based regulation for generative AI in Korea.

The PIPC and the European Commission announced the successful conclusion of their negotiations and the adoption of the European Commission's adequacy decision for the transfer of personal data from the European Union to the Republic of Korea under the General Data Protection Regulation in December 2021. The adequacy decision confirms the shared commitment of the Republic of Korea and the EU to a high level of data protection.⁶⁶²⁴ Korea reconfirmed this collaboration and partnership with the EU in a 2023 joint press statement⁶⁶²⁵ and ongoing

⁶⁶²⁰ DataGuidance, *South Korea: PIPC Issues Press Release on Online Shopping Platforms Signing Self-Regulatory Agreements for Safe Use of Personal Information* (Jul. 14, 2022), <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/south-korea-pipc-issues-press-release-online-shopping>

⁶⁶²¹ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Personal Information Protection Commission publishes case-based "Guide to Data Subjects' Rights Regarding Automated Decisions,"* Press Release (Sept. 26, 2024), <https://www.pipc.go.kr/np/cop/bbs/selectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BS074&mCode=C020010000&nttId=10611>

⁶⁶²² Personal Information Protection Commission, *Presentation of Standards for Processing "public data" Used in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Development and Services* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.pipc.go.kr/np/cop/bbs/selectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BS074&mCode=C020010000&nttId=10362>

⁶⁶²³ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Generative AI Privacy Law Implementation Guide* (Aug. 2025), <https://digital.nemko.com/news/south-korea-generative-ai-privacy-law-implementation-guide>

⁶⁶²⁴ European Commission, *Joint Press Statement by Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice of the European Commission, and Yoon Jong In, Chairperson of the Personal Information Protection Commission of the Republic of Korea* (Dec. 17, 2021), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_6915

⁶⁶²⁵ European Commission, *Joint Press Statement by Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice, and Ko Haksoo, Chair of the Republic of Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission*, Press Release (Apr. 11, 2023), https://commission.europa.eu/news/joint-press-statement-didier-reynders-european-commissioner-justice-and-ko-haksoo-chair-republic-2023-04-11_en

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discussions in high-level meetings with international data protection officials in 2024.⁶⁶²⁶

The PIPC is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2012. The Korea Internet & Security Agency (2004) and the Korea Communications Commission (2018) are also GPA members. The PIPC has taken an active role within the GPA in recent years. The PIPC co-sponsored the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology⁶⁶²⁷ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶⁶²⁸ However, the PIPC did not endorse the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI⁶⁶²⁹ or the 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.⁶⁶³⁰ The PIPC serves as a member of the GPA's Policy Strategy Working Group 1: Global Frameworks and Standards⁶⁶³¹ and Digital Education Working Group,⁶⁶³² with the common purpose to enhance data protection and AI accountability.

The PIPC has contributed to shaping global privacy norms in the context of emerging AI technologies. Chairperson Haksoo Ko participated in high-level discussions on establishing safe frameworks for cross-border data transfers and privacy governance for AI applications, collaborating closely with EU data protection authorities and others from the UK, France, and Singapore to strengthen

⁶⁶²⁶ European Commission, *Adequacy Decisions* (Mar. 4, 2024),

[https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-](https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-protection/adequacy-decisions_en)

[protection/adequacy-decisions_en](https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/international-dimension-data-protection/adequacy-decisions_en); EDPB, *EDPB Meets with Adequate Countries* (Oct. 15, 2024),

https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2024/edpb-meets-adequate-countries_en

⁶⁶²⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁶⁶²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶⁶²⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), [https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf)

[content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf)

⁶⁶³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), [https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf)

[Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf)

⁶⁶³¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Policy Strategy Working Group 1: Global Frameworks and Standards* (Oct. 2020), [https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Day-1-1_2a-Day-3-](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Day-1-1_2a-Day-3-3_2b-v1_0-Policy-Strategy-Working-Group-WS1-Global-frameworks-and-standards-Report-Final.pdf)

[3_2b-v1_0-Policy-Strategy-Working-Group-WS1-Global-frameworks-and-standards-Report-Final.pdf](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Day-1-1_2a-Day-3-3_2b-v1_0-Policy-Strategy-Working-Group-WS1-Global-frameworks-and-standards-Report-Final.pdf)

⁶⁶³² Global Privacy Assembly, *Digital Education Working Group* (Oct. 2020),

https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/DEWG-2019-2020-Annual-Report-GPA-20200921-finalannexes_Oct-2020_final-en-211020-1.pdf

international cooperation.⁶⁶³³ These discussions culminated with the Republic of Korea hosting the 2025 Global Privacy Assembly in Seoul,⁶⁶³⁴ bringing together data protection authorities from over 80 countries to advance global standards on privacy and AI governance. The conference emphasized Korea's international leadership and marked the adoption of new resolutions on generative AI, cross-border data flows, and digital rights in the AI era.

Regarding AI oversight, the PIPC is not the only competent independent agency. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea⁶⁶³⁵ advocates for the non-discriminatory use of AI and warns against the risk of bias and deep fake technology.⁶⁶³⁶ In a decision of April 11, 2022, the National Human Rights Commission adopted Human Rights Guidelines on the Development and Use of AI.⁶⁶³⁷ The Commission took a step toward implementing the Guidelines by developing a Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool for AI in 2024. The Commission advocated to the Minister of Science and ICT that the Tool be "utilized during the establishment and implementation of AI-related policies and project plans to prevent human rights violations and discrimination arising from the development and use of AI."

Algorithmic Transparency

The Korean legislature passed amendments to the PIPA in 2023.⁶⁶³⁸ As of March 2024, South Korea's revised Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)

⁶⁶³³ Ministry of Science and ICT, Press release, *PIPC to Take Lead in Global Norm-Setting and Privacy Discussions at the 46th Global Privacy Assembly in the Era of AI* (Oct. 30, 2024), <https://www.pipc.go.kr/eng/user/ltm/new/noticeDetail.do>

⁶⁶³⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Highlights of the 47th Annual Conference: Advancing Privacy in the Age of AI*, GPA Newsletter, p. 7 (Jan. 2026), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/GPA-Newsletter_January-2025.pdf

⁶⁶³⁵ National Human Rights Commission of Korea, *Purpose*, <https://www.humanrights.go.kr/eng/contents/view?contentsNo=124&menuLevel=3&menuNo=123>

⁶⁶³⁶ Kim Min-sub, *Does AI Discriminate, Too?* (Jul. 2020), <http://humanrights.go.kr/site/program/webzine/subview?menuid=003001&boardtypeid=1016&boardid=7605775&searchissue=7605780>; Park Cheol-eung, *Human Rights Commission: Human Rights Should Be Included in AI Bill "Severe Threats such as 'Deep Fake Porn,'" Asia Economy* (Jun. 1, 2020), <https://view.asiae.co.kr/article/2020060110251892308>

⁶⁶³⁷ National Human Rights Commission of Korea, *NHRCK Emphasizes the Importance of Implementing the Human Rights Impact Assessment to Protect Human Rights on the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence*, Press Release (Jul. 9, 2024), <https://www.humanrights.go.kr/eng/board/read?boardManagementNo=7003&boardNo=7610408&page=1&searchCategory=&searchType=&searchWord=&menuLevel=2&menuNo=114>

⁶⁶³⁸ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Personal Information Protection Act [Enforcement Date September 15, 2023]*, <https://pipc.go.kr/eng/user/lgp/law/lawDetail.do>; https://elaw.klri.re.kr/kor_service/lawView.do?lang=ENG&hseq=62389

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regulates automated decisions, defined as decisions made solely through automated processes, including AI systems. Under this amendment, individuals can request an explanation for automated decisions affecting them and may challenge such decisions if they impact rights or responsibilities. The AI Framework Act⁶⁶³⁹ consolidates algorithmic transparency by requiring clear labeling of AI-generated content, defining criteria for high-impact systems, and requiring transparency disclosures across the AI lifecycle.

Changes to the Public Official Election Act (POEA), effective January 2024, aim to prevent misuses of deepfakes during elections. The law mandates that AI-generated content, including synthetic images, voices, or videos that closely resemble authentic content, must clearly disclose the use of AI. This amendment seeks to protect electoral integrity by ensuring transparency of AI usage.⁶⁶⁴⁰ The national strategy to build social trust in the era of AI explicitly refers to “Explainability” as a main ethical value.⁶⁶⁴¹ The National Human Rights Commission’s Human Rights Guidelines on the Development and Use of AI also provides for algorithmic transparency. The Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool developed from these Guidelines⁶⁶⁴² in 2024 guides developers or deployers to protect algorithmic transparency through measures for Personal Information Protection, Data Management, Algorithm Performance and Reliability, Non-Discrimination, Explainability and Transparency, and Degree of Human Intervention.⁶⁶⁴³

Korea amended sectoral legislation to reflect new demands for algorithmic transparency. The Credit Information Use and Protection Act introduced the right to

⁶⁶³⁹ South Korean Ministry of Government Legislation, *Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust*, Act No. 20676, Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/south-korea-ai-law-2025/>

⁶⁶⁴⁰ Ibid

⁶⁶⁴¹ Ministry of Science and ICT, *MSIT Announced Strategy to Realize Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* (May 13, 2021), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=509&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt>

⁶⁶⁴² National Human Rights Commission of Korea, *NHRCK Emphasizes the Importance of Implementing the Human Rights Impact Assessment to Protect Human Rights in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence*, Press Release (Jul. 9, 2024), <https://www.humanrights.go.kr/eng/board/read?boardManagementNo=7003&boardNo=7610408&searchCategory=&page=1&searchType=total&searchWord=Artificial%20Intelligence&menuLevel=2&menuNo=114>

⁶⁶⁴³ Ibid, *Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool for AI*, pp. 16–21 (Jul. 9, 2024), <https://www.humanrights.go.kr/eng/board/read?boardManagementNo=7003&boardNo=7610408&searchCategory=&page=1&searchType=total&searchWord=Artificial%20Intelligence&menuLevel=2&menuNo=114>

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challenge decisions based on automated processing in 2021.⁶⁶⁴⁴ The Credit Information Act recognizes the data subject's right to challenge an automated credit assessment. It defines "automated credit assessment" as a "credit information company's or other act of evaluating credit information and other data using an information processing device (such as a computer) without the intervention of a human in the evaluation." The Credit Information Act was the first law that empowers individual users toward AI transparency.

The Korea Fair Trade Commission indicated in September 2024 that it intends to focus on amendments to Korea's competition law, the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act (MRFTA),⁶⁶⁴⁵ for regulating AI companies, abandoning initial plans to adopt a Korean version of the EU's Digital Markets Act.⁶⁶⁴⁶

EdTech and Children Tracking

In their report investigating use of EdTech tools endorsed by governments for online learning during the pandemic,⁶⁶⁴⁷ Human Rights Watch noted that Korea Educational Broadcasting System (EBS), the website of Korea's national educational public broadcaster, with over 2.1 million daily users during the COVID-19 school closure, tracked "a child's every movement and interaction within the virtual classroom" and sent children's data to 15 AdTech companies. Nonetheless, the EBS "does not disclose the use of ad trackers on the site."

Without following up on efforts to address these issues, the Korean government announced plans to invest \$69.3 million by 2026 to develop digital classroom infrastructure and additional educational services. The EdTech Korea Fair 2024 organized in September 2024 highlighted various AI-driven learning platforms and digital services to personalize student learning, enhance digital literacy, and provide tools for teachers to monitor students' progress in real-time. The International Trade Administration estimates that "the focus is primarily on adopting AI technologies such as Intelligent Tutoring Systems, Extended Virtual Worlds

⁶⁶⁴⁴ Korea Law Translation Center, *Credit Information Use and Protection Act*, Art. 36–2 (Feb. 4, 2020), https://elaw.klri.re.kr/eng_mobile/viewer.do?hseq=63719&type=part&key=23

⁶⁶⁴⁵ Korean Legislature, *Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act* (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.law.go.kr/법령/독점규제및공정거래에관한법률>

⁶⁶⁴⁶ Lee Sangyun, *Lessons from Korea's Roller-Coaster Ride Toward Platform (Non)Regulation*, Truth on the Market (Sept. 25, 2024) <https://truthonthemarket.com/2024/09/25/lessons-from-koreas-roller-coaster-ride-toward-platform-nonregulation/>

⁶⁶⁴⁷ Human Rights Watch, "How Dare They Peep into My Private Life? " *Children's Rights Violations by Governments That Endorsed Online Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

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(Metaverse), Extended Reality (XR), Conversational AI, and Speech Recognition into existing textbooks.”⁶⁶⁴⁸

The planned mandatory rollout of AI digital textbooks in March 2025 encountered significant resistance from teachers and parents.⁶⁶⁴⁹ Technical difficulties delayed classes and students reported a lack of interest in the lessons as well as factual inaccuracies. The tools were downgraded from their status as textbooks to “supplementary material” after only four months. Critics emphasize the rushed nature of the initiative in contrast to the 18 months to develop traditional print textbooks, noting “since they target children, [textbooks] require careful verification and careful procedures.” South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) completed an initial privacy investigation over the EdTech platforms over concerns over the processing of student data.⁶⁶⁵⁰ The investigation found insufficient protection of student data and a lack of legal basis for data collection.⁶⁶⁵¹

Environmental Impact of AI

South Korea took a role in promoting environmentally responsible AI through commitments made at the Seoul AI Safety Summit in 2024⁶⁶⁵² and by endorsing the UN Global Digital Compact.⁶⁶⁵³

⁶⁶⁴⁸ International Trade Administration, *South Korea Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools* (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/south-korea-artificial-intelligence-public-schools>

⁶⁶⁴⁹ Junhyup Kwon, *AI-Powered Textbooks Fail to Make the Grade in South Korea*, Rest of World (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://restofworld.org/2025/south-korea-ai-textbook/>

⁶⁶⁵⁰ The Legal Wire, *South Korea PIPC Investigation on AI Digital Textbooks* (May 13, 2025), <https://thelegalwire.ai/articles/south-korea-pipc-investigation-on-ai-digital-textbooks>

⁶⁶⁵¹ Personal Information Protection Commission, *Personal Information Protection Commission Announces Results of Preliminary Status Inspection of AI Digital Textbooks* (May 15, 2025), <https://www.pipc.go.kr/np/cop/bbs/selectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BS074&mCode=C020010000&nttId=11198>

⁶⁶⁵² Ministry of Science and ICT, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *AI Seoul Summit, Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, and Inclusive AI by Participants Attending the Leaders' Session of the Seoul Summit* (May 21–22, 2024) <https://aiseoulsummit.kr/press/?uid=41&mod=document&pageid=1>

⁶⁶⁵³ United Nations General Assembly, *The Pact for the Future* (Sept. 20, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/252/89/pdf/n2425289.pdf>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The Korean government takes a stance against developing lethal autonomous weapons and rather focuses on AI supporting non-weapon systems such as effective management of military supplies or human decision-making processes.⁶⁶⁵⁴

In October 2022, the Republic of Korea was one of 70 states that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the United Nations General Assembly. The statement called for the recognition of the dangers of autonomous weapons systems, acknowledged the need for human oversight and accountability, and emphasized the importance of an international framework of rules and constraints.⁶⁶⁵⁵ In this joint statement, States declared that they “are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁶⁶⁵⁶ Korea voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems in December 2023.⁶⁶⁵⁷

Korea participated in the REAIM 2023 international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain. Hosted by the Netherlands, the participants worked to define an agenda for developing international agreements on AI applications in the military.⁶⁶⁵⁸ At the end of the Summit in February 2023, Korea and other participant countries agreed on a joint call for action⁶⁶⁵⁹ where they “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and

⁶⁶⁵⁴ ZDNet, *University Boycott Ends after KAIST Confirms No “Killer Robot” Development* (Apr. 9, 2018), <https://www.zdnet.com/article/university-boycott-ends-after-kaist-confirms-no-killer-robot-development>

⁶⁶⁵⁵ Stop Killer Robots, *70 States Deliver Joint Statement on Autonomous Weapons Systems at UN General Assembly* (2022), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/70-states-deliver-joint-statement-on-autonomous-weapons-systems-at-un-general-assembly/>

⁶⁶⁵⁶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee*, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1j8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁶⁶⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Plenary Item 99 - A/78/409 Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/votes/L56-GA.pdf>

⁶⁶⁵⁸ World Forum The Hague, *REAIM Summit 2023 Will Take Place at World Forum The Hague* (2022), <https://www.worldforum.nl/en/nieuws/the-hague-to-host-international-summit-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁶⁵⁹ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

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accountability.” Korea also endorsed the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁶⁶⁶⁰

South Korea organized the second the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit in Seoul (REAIM2024), attended by representatives of 90 countries in September 2024. The summit highlighted South Korea’s commitment to shaping global standards and frameworks for AI in military applications, underscoring its position as a mediator in the international arena. During the summit, 61 participants endorsed the Blueprint for Action, which “suggests principles and framework for the future governance, emphasizing that being responsible entails complying with international law, holding humans responsible and accountable, ensuring reliability and trustworthy of AI, maintaining an appropriate human involvement and improving AI explainability.”⁶⁶⁶¹

Weeks after the Summit, the Ministry of Science and ICT demonstrated how Korea’s leadership in efforts to regulate LAWS integrated into the national AI strategy with the launch of the National AI Strategy Policy Directions.⁶⁶⁶² Under the vision of “Emerging as one of the top three AI powerhouse to become a Global Pivotal State,” the Policy Directions document outlines plans to promote AI in national defense through the “development of AI military security policies and the expansion of defense AI infrastructure” as part of efforts to achieve a 95% AI adoption rate in the public sector. South Korea also commits to promoting the values of the Seoul Declaration globally and “expand international cooperation for the responsible use of AI in military and security sectors” under the plan to lead global AI governance.

AI Literacy

Korea’s AI Framework Act⁶⁶⁶³ pledges government support to industries to develop, adopt, and use AI technology. The Act also charges the Ministry of Science and ICT to “publicize, promote, and educate” all sectors of society about the

⁶⁶⁶⁰ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁶⁶⁶¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://tls.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

⁶⁶⁶² Ministry of Science and ICT, *National AI Strategy Policy Directions* (Oct. 30, 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=1040&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

⁶⁶⁶³ South Korean Ministry of Government Legislation, *Framework Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Establishment of Trust*, Act No. 20676, Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/south-korea-ai-law-2025/>

“practical measures to ensure the implementation of these ethical principles.”⁶⁶⁶⁴ The Ethical principles in the Framework Act also commit the government to “ensuring that products and services powered by AI technology are freely and conveniently accessible by everyone.”⁶⁶⁶⁵

Human Rights

Korea was rated “Free” with a score of 81/100 in the Freedom in the World 2025 report.⁶⁶⁶⁶ According to the report, “South Koreans benefit from regular rotations of power and robust political pluralism. Civil liberties are generally respected, though the country struggles with minority rights and social integration.”⁶⁶⁶⁷

The Korean government established the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) in 2001 as a national advocacy institution for human rights protection.⁶⁶⁶⁸ During his congratulatory remarks on Human Rights Day in December 2018, former President Moon Jae-in stated “when human rights are realized in everyday lives, their value is demonstrable [...] Human rights are guaranteed through peace, and peace is secured through human rights.” He also extended his gratitude to NHRCK for “fully demonstrating the history and significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”⁶⁶⁶⁹

In addition, the Korean government has been an active member in the seven core international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Especially since its entry into the United Nations (UN) in 1991 and the Commission of Human Rights (CHR) in 1993, Korea has been engaged in various international cooperation activities for the improvement of human rights, especially the rights of the vulnerable and of North Koreans.⁶⁶⁷⁰

⁶⁶⁶⁴ Ibid, Art. 27, (AI Ethical Principles), (2)

⁶⁶⁶⁵ Ibid, (1)2

⁶⁶⁶⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: South Korea* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/south-korea/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁶⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁶⁶⁸ National Human Rights Commission of Korea, *Purpose* (2001), <https://www.humanrights.go.kr/base/contents/view?contentsNo=2&menuLevel=3&menuNo=97>

⁶⁶⁶⁹ Cheong Wa Dae, *Congratulatory Remarks by President Moon Jae-in on 2018 Human Rights Day* (Dec. 10, 2018), <http://webarchives.pa.go.kr/19th/english.president.go.kr/BriefingSpeeches/Speeches/101>

⁶⁶⁷⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Human Rights Diplomacy*, https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/wpge/m_5648/contents.do

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AI Safety Summit

In November 2023, the Republic of Korea participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁶⁶⁷¹ Korea thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

South Korea co-hosted the Seoul Summit with the United Kingdom in Seoul on May 21–22, 2024. The Summit resulted in the conclusion of several agreements, including the Seoul Statement of Intent toward International Cooperation on AI Safety Science and the Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative, and Inclusive AI.⁶⁶⁷² France hosted the third AI Safety Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit in February 2025.⁶⁶⁷³

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The Korean government has been actively participating in international cooperation in the AI sector to promote responsible development and the use of AI. Korea endorsed the OECD AI Principles in 2019 and recommitted to the updated OECD AI Principles in 2024.⁶⁶⁷⁴ The Korean government is also one of the founding members of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), which has an integrated partnership with the OECD since 2024.⁶⁶⁷⁵

At the Ministerial Council Meeting of October 2021, the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT presented the “Progress over the past two years in implementing the OECD AI Principles and Future Direction.”⁶⁶⁷⁶ A general director of the AI policy

⁶⁶⁷¹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁶⁶⁷² AI Seoul Summit, *Building in the AI Safety Summit: Towards an Innovative and Inclusive Future* (May 21-22, 2024), <https://aiscoulsummit.kr/overview/>

⁶⁶⁷³ Élysée, *Artificial Intelligence Action Summit* (Feb. 10–11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/sommet-pour-l'action-sur-l'intelligence-artificielle>

⁶⁶⁷⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁶⁶⁷⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶⁶⁷⁶ OECD, *Putting the OECD AI Principles into Practice: Progress and Future Perspectives* (Oct. 4, 2021), <https://oecd.ai/en/mcm>

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bureau at the Ministry of Science and ICT, Ms. Kyunhee Song, presented Korea's progress in accordance with the OECD AI Principles. As part of the effort to implement the OECD AI Principles, the Korean government also established the National Strategy of Artificial Intelligence (2019) and the Digital New Deal Strategy (2020) (Data Dam Projects).

To further its commitment, Korea has joined the Steering Group for OECD's Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance. South Korea ranked first in the OECD 2023 Digital Government Index, reflecting its alignment with OECD AI principles, particularly in digital government transparency and effectiveness.⁶⁶⁷⁷

Council of Europe AI Treaty

South Korea has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁶⁷⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Korea has supported the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI from the drafting stage through implementation. Korea co-organized a Virtual Regional Consultation for Asia and the Pacific Region in July 2020, to work on the first draft. The conference responded to UNESCO's request for feedback reflecting different cultural values while addressing various regional concerns to achieve a document that "takes into account the wide-ranging impacts of AI, including on the environment on the needs of the global south."⁶⁶⁷⁹

The Korean government presented the results of ongoing projects supported by various public donors and identified new opportunities for cooperation with UNESCO in 2021.⁶⁶⁸⁰ The Ministry of Science and ICT informed UNESCO of the Korean government's support for the drafting of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The Ministry of Science and ICT and the Korean Information Science Development Institute (KISDI) participated in two Intergovernmental

⁶⁶⁷⁷ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, *Press Release: S. Korea Tops OECD Global Digital Government Index for 2nd Consecutive Time* (Jan. 31, 2024), <https://innovation.go.kr/en/bbs/newsNotice/newsDetail.do?bbsId=B0000063&nttId=15893>

⁶⁶⁷⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 22, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁶⁶⁷⁹ UNESCO Press Release, *UNESCO Launches Worldwide Online Public Consultation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 15, 2020), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-worldwide-online-public-consultation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁶⁸⁰ UNESCO, *The Republic of Korea and UNESCO Hold Strategic Dialogue on Shared Priorities* (Mar. 26, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/republic-korea-and-unesco-hold-strategic-dialogue-shared-priorities>

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Meetings and Intersessional Consultations for negotiations for the Recommendation. The Ministry of Science and ICT provided in-depth comments on the draft to make the Recommendation actionable for future AI policy. In that process, the Korean government consented to the purpose and values of the Recommendation.

Together with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, Korea Legislation Research Institute (KLRI) hosted a forum around UNESCO's Recommendations on AI Ethics and Legal Challenges in April 2021, which urged collaboration between UNESCO and KLRI to address ethical and legal challenges posed by AI.⁶⁶⁸¹

In December 2022, the Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea attended the first UNESCO Global Forum on Artificial Intelligence Ethics online hosted by the Czech Republic in Prague,⁶⁶⁸² recalling the significance of the Recommendation and discussing its implementation.⁶⁶⁸³

South Korea has not begun the process of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁶⁶⁸⁴

Evaluation

Korea is one of the leading countries in the field of AI policy, a status confirmed by the enactment of the Basic Act on AI Development. Korea has adopted a comprehensive National Strategy for AI, developed a strong ethical framework, and launched the AI Strategy High-Level Council and AI Committee to guide AI policy integration across all sectors.⁶⁶⁸⁵ Korea has endorsed the OECD/G20 AI principles and played an active role in the drafting and implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. Korea has updated national privacy laws, established a Personal Information Protection Commission, and maintained a

⁶⁶⁸¹ Korea Legislation Research Institute, *Korea Legislation Research Institute and Korean National Commission for UNESCO Co-Hosted a Forum and Completed a MOU* (Apr. 16, 2021), <https://www.klri.re.kr/eng/news/E/1092/view.do>

⁶⁶⁸² UNESCO, *First Global Forum on Ethics of AI Held in Prague, One Year after the Adoption of UNESCO's Recommendation* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/first-global-forum-ethics-ai-held-prague-one-year-after-adoption-unescos-recommendation>

⁶⁶⁸³ Jinyong Lee, *The Ministry of Science and ICT Participates in the First UNESCO AI Ethics Forum* (Dec. 15, 2022), <https://www.smarttimes.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=3890>

⁶⁶⁸⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁶⁶⁸⁵ Ministry of Science and ICT, *Korea Establishes the High-Level Consultative Council on Artificial Intelligence Strategy as the top-level governance structure for AI* (Apr. 4, 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=994#>; Ministry of Science and ICT, *Government and Private Sector Unite to Elevate Nation to AI G3 Status* (Jul. 30, 2024), <https://www.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=1025>

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leading role in the defense of human rights. Although Korea's Personal Information Commission endorsed the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology, the absence of regulation on the use of facial recognition at the national level still needs to be addressed.

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Spain

In 2025, Spain's Council of Ministers approved a draft AI law to implement the EU AI Act and operationalized the Agency for the Supervision for AI (AESIA).

National AI Strategy

Spain has identified artificial intelligence (AI) as “one of the disciplines most likely to influence the rapid transition to a new society and economy.”⁶⁶⁸⁶ Spain unveiled the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (ENIA) on December 2, 2020,⁶⁶⁸⁷ and updated the AI Strategy in 2024.⁶⁶⁸⁸ The updates reinforce the ENIA 2020 principles by emphasizing transparency and the trustworthiness of AI systems, promoting cybersecurity framework, enhancing data governance, prioritizing energy efficiency in AI-related infrastructure, and cementing the oversight functions of the Spanish AI Agency (AESIA).⁶⁶⁸⁹

The objective of the ENIA is to generate trust in the development of inclusive and sustainable AI that focuses on the needs of the citizens. The ENIA comprises six pillars, including establishing an ethical and normative framework to strengthen the protection of individual and collective rights and to guarantee inclusion and social wellbeing.⁶⁶⁹⁰ The five measures for a successful ethical and regulatory framework are:

- the development of a national seal of quality for AI
- the creation of observatories for ethical and legal evaluation of AI systems
- the development and release of a Digital Rights Charter
- the implementation of a national governance model for ethics in AI through the AI Advisory Council

⁶⁶⁸⁶ Government of Spain & Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities, *Spanish RDI Strategy in Artificial Intelligence* (2019), <https://www.ciencia.gob.es/dam/jcr:d78856a6-10c2-4772-a96c-b52fc0fd3a84/SPANISHRDISTRATEGYINARTIFICIALINTELLIGENCESGT2019.pdf>

⁶⁶⁸⁷ Government of Spain, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, ENIA* (Nov. 2, 2020), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁶⁸⁸ Ministry for Digital Transformation, *2024 Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (May 14, 2024), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁶⁸⁹ Council of Ministers, *The Government of Spain Approves the AI Strategy 2024* (May 14, 2024), <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/councilministers/paginas/2024/20240514-council-press-conference.aspx>

⁶⁶⁹⁰ Government of Spain, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, ENIA*, pp. 72–73 (Nov. 2, 2020), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

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- and the promotion of multisectoral national and international fora for dialogue, awareness, and participation.⁶⁶⁹¹

The ENIA is part of several overlapping policy initiatives that address the challenges and opportunities of AI across sectors. For example, “Data Economy and Artificial Intelligence” is an axis of the 2025 Digital Agenda, which includes a measure to accomplish the AI Strategy.⁶⁶⁹²

The ENIA is also part of the Plan for Recovery, Transformation, and Resilience for the Spanish economy launched in April 2021.⁶⁶⁹³ The Plan describes Spain’s ambition to become a global leader in AI integration into a digitalized economy. The Plan refers to Spain’s aspiration to “humanist digitalization,” with the development of AI in a human-centric way, thanks to the elaboration of a Charter of Digital Rights.⁶⁶⁹⁴

The ENIA intersects with the Spanish government’s 2015 Plan for the Advancement of Language Technologies (HTL).⁶⁶⁹⁵ Within the HTL framework, the Spanish government, in collaboration with the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, created in 2021 the world’s first massive Spanish-language AI system, which can generate and analyze texts in Spanish. This is part of Spain’s strategic objective to promote the development of AI systems in Spanish and co-official languages, instead of relying on English-language systems.⁶⁶⁹⁶

The ENIA follows from the Spanish Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Strategy for AI, published in 2019.⁶⁶⁹⁷ The RDI Strategy for AI set out

⁶⁶⁹¹ Ibid, p. 70

⁶⁶⁹² Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, *2025 Digital Spain, Digital Transition* [Spanish] (2025), <https://avance.digital.gob.es/programas-avance-digital/Paginas/espana-digital-2025.aspx>

⁶⁶⁹³ Government of Spain, *Plan for the Recovery, Transformation, and Resilience [Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia]* (Apr. 2021), <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/plan-espanol-de-recuperacion-transformacion-y-resiliencia>

⁶⁶⁹⁴ NextGenEU, *Second Phase of the Plan for Recovery, Transformation, and Resilience [Segunda Fase del Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia]*, p. 9 (Sept. 2023), https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/sites/default/files/2023-10/02102023_adenda_plan_recuperacion_documento_completo.pdf

⁶⁶⁹⁵ Government of Spain, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, *Plan for the Advancement of Human Language Technologies [Plan de Impulso de las Tecnologías del Lenguaje]* (Oct. 2015), https://oecd-ai.case-api.buddyweb.fr/storage/policy-initiatives/Jul2025/fu_vzfu8pxin5vz2qr.pdf

⁶⁶⁹⁶ Ministry for Digital Transformation, *2024 Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (May 14, 2024), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁶⁹⁷ Government of Spain, Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities, *Spanish RDI Strategy in Artificial Intelligence* (2019), <https://www.ciencia.gob.es/dam/jcr:d78856a6-10c2-4772-a96c-b52fc0fd3a84/SPANISHRDISTRATEGYINARTIFICIALINTELLIGENCESGT2019.pdf>

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Priorities and Recommendations “to be developed in initiatives and activities defined and financed through the Science, Technology, and Innovation States Plans, mobilizing the synergies between the different levels of public administration and through the co-development of the public and private sectors.”⁶⁶⁹⁸ The Spanish RDI Strategy included plans to create a National AI Strategy, a Spanish AI Observatory, and a strategic framework for the development of AI in compliance with the Spain’s “ethical, legal, and social commitments” and the European ecosystem.⁶⁶⁹⁹

The ENIA also has a European dimension. Spain supports the 2018 AI ethical Guidelines of the EU High Level Expert Group.⁶⁷⁰⁰ In this framework, Trustworthy AI “(1) should respect fundamental rights, applicable regulation and core principles and values, ensuring an ‘ethical purpose’ and (2) should be technically robust and reliable because, even with good intentions, a lack of technological mastery can cause unintentional harm.”⁶⁷⁰¹ The Spanish government, along with thirteen other EU Member States, published a position paper on innovative and trustworthy AI in October 2020.⁶⁷⁰² The paper delineates a two-fold vision of AI development in the EU based on (1) promoting innovation while managing risks through a clear framework and (2) establishing trustworthy AI as a competitive advantage. “The main aim must be to create a common framework where trustworthy and human-centric AI goes hand in hand with innovation, economic growth and competitiveness in order to protect our society, maintain our high-quality public service and benefit our citizens and businesses. This can help the EU to protect and empower their citizens, underpin innovation and progress in society and ensure that their values are protected.”⁶⁷⁰³

Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation (*Ministerio de Asuntos Económicos y Transformación Digital*) established the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council (*Consejo Asesor de Inteligencia Artificial*) in July 2020 to analyze, assess, and support the government on matters related to AI. The Advisory Council

⁶⁶⁹⁸ Ibid, p. 9

⁶⁶⁹⁹ Ibid, p. 40

⁶⁷⁰⁰ European Commission, *High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 14, 2024), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/expert-group-ai>

⁶⁷⁰¹ European Commission, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI* (Apr. 8, 2019), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

⁶⁷⁰² Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, *Innovative and Trustworthy AI: Two Sides to the Same Coin*, The Netherlands and You (Oct. 2020), <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/pr-eu-brussels/about-us/our-ideas-for-europe/digital-policy>

⁶⁷⁰³ Ibid, p. 1

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is intended to provide recommendations to the government on measures for the safe and ethical use of AI. The Council includes Spanish experts in science, economics, education, and other relevant fields responsible for analyzing the implications of AI in areas such as industry, the future of work, protection of fundamental rights, data management, the fight against discrimination, and the elimination of social disparities.⁶⁷⁰⁴ Since the establishment of the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (AESIA) in 2023, the Advisory Council serves as an expert consultative body aligned with AESIA's oversight framework.⁶⁷⁰⁵ The Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Function established the International Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence to advise the Ministry on global trends and cross-border alignment.⁶⁷⁰⁶ International experts on topics such as data, management, technology, the environment, and ethics sit on the new council.

Charter of Digital Rights

The Spanish Government released the Charter of Digital Rights in July 2021. The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez declared, “With the publication of the Digital Rights Charter, Spain is moving forwards in the promotion of humanistic digital transformation that seeks to continue placing our country in a position of international leadership in protecting citizens' rights and to actively contribute to the different initiatives and debates that are being developed at European and global levels. This consolidates Spain's leadership in the development of a free, open and inclusive digital society, defining ‘fair rules’ for common development and coexistence in the new digital reality, and guaranteeing the social nature of technological transformation.”⁶⁷⁰⁷

The Charter contains a set of principles and rights to guide future regulatory projects and the development of public policies to guarantee the protection of individual and collective rights in new digital scenarios. The Charter “recognizes the challenges posed by the adaptation of existing rights to the virtual environment, and

⁶⁷⁰⁴ Government of Spain, *El Gobierno constituye el Consejo Asesor de Inteligencia Artificial* (Jul. 20, 2020), <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/serviciosdeprensa/notasprensa/asuntos-economicos/Paginas/2020/200720-inteligencia.aspx>

⁶⁷⁰⁵ Boletín Oficial, *Royal Degree Approving the Establishment of the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence [Real Decreto 729/2023, de 22 de agosto, por el que se aprueba el Estatuto de la Agencia Española de Supervisión de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 22, 2023), <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2023-18911>

⁶⁷⁰⁶ La Moncloa, *Spain Sets Up the International Artificial intelligence Advisory Council* (Jun. 21, 2024), <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/paginas/2024/20240621-ai-advisory-council-meeting.aspx>

⁶⁷⁰⁷ La Moncloa, *The Government Adopts the Digital Rights Charter to Articulate a Reference Framework to Guarantee Citizens' Rights in the New Digital Age* (Jul. 14, 2021), https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/Paginas/2021/20210713_rights-charter.aspx

proposes a frame of reference for their protection in that context.”⁶⁷⁰⁸ The Charter articulates updates to existing rights enshrined in various legal texts such as the Declaration of Human Rights and the Spanish Constitution. The Charter includes six main categories of rights: (1) rights pertaining to freedom such as the right not to be traced or profiled; (2) equality rights such as the right to equality and non-discrimination in the digital environment; (3) participatory rights in the public sphere; (4) rights related to the working and business environment, including impact assessment in the use of algorithms; (5) rights in specific settings such as AI; and (6) guarantees such as the right to administrative and judicial protection in the digital environment. The Charter provides that AI should ensure a people-centered approach and the right to non-discrimination should be guaranteed in the development of AI systems. The Charter also proclaims the inalienable dignity of human beings.⁶⁷⁰⁹

The Spanish Government initiated a Digital Rights Observatory in 2025 to “ensure that citizens’ rights are protected also in the digital environment.”⁶⁷¹⁰

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Spain shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁶⁷¹¹ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. Spain’s National Commission for Markets and Competition (*Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia*, CNMC) is the Digital Services Coordinator (DSC), the primary supervisory authority for enforcing the DSA.⁶⁷¹² Although Spain designated the CNMC as the DSC and moved forward on a draft law to align with the DSA in early

⁶⁷⁰⁸ Subdirección General para la Sociedad Digital, *Documento para Consulta Pública: Carta de Derechos Digitales* (Nov. 18, 2020), https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/participacion_publica/audiencia/ficheros/SEDIACartaDerechosDigitales.pdf

⁶⁷⁰⁹ Spanish Government, *Charter of Digital Rights* (2021), https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/presidente/actividades/Documents/2021/140721-Carta_Derechos_Digitales_RedEs.pdf

⁶⁷¹⁰ La Moncloa, *Digital Rights: What Are They and How Are They Protected?* [*Derechos digitales: ¿Qué son y cómo protegerlos?*] (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/serviciosdeprensa/notasprensa/transformacion-digital-y-funcion-publica/paginas/2025/050225-que-son-los-derechos-digitales.aspx>

⁶⁷¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁶⁷¹² Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia, *El Ministerio para la Transformación Digital y de Función Pública designa a la CNMC como Coordinador de Servicios Digitales de España*, Press Release (Jan. 24, 2024), <https://www.cnmc.es/prensa/coordinador-servicios-digitales-20240124>

2025,⁶⁷¹³ the European Commission referred Spain to the EU Court of Justice for “failing to entrust [the DSC] with the necessary powers to carry out their tasks under the DSA” and for not establishing penalties for infringements.⁶⁷¹⁴

The Spanish Data Protection Agency (*Agencia Española de Protección de Datos*, AEPD) supervises DSA provisions that overlap with GDPR, particularly those related to “the prohibition of advertising based on special categories of personal data or on the profiling of minors.”⁶⁷¹⁵ The AEPD took action to fulfill these obligations in May 2024 by ordering a halt to the implementation of Meta’s Election Day Information and Voter Information Unit functions and the associated data collection and processing in Spain.⁶⁷¹⁶ The decision aims to prevent data collection, user profiling, and third-party data transfers, ensuring personal data isn’t used by unknown parties for unspecified purposes.

The action also aligns with the European Commission’s Guidelines under the DSA for the mitigation of systemic risks online for elections.⁶⁷¹⁷ The Guidelines include specific mitigation measures linked to generative AI such as clearly labeling content generated by AI.

EU AI Act

Spain held the Presidency of the Council of the EU during the second part of 2023 and played a key role in securing a compromise between member states and

⁶⁷¹³ Ministerio para la Transformación Digital y de la Función Pública, *The Government Approves the Draft Law that Promotes Democratic Governance in Digital Services and Creates the Media Registry* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://digital.gob.es/en/comunicacion/notas-prensa/mtdfp/2025/02/2025-02-25>

⁶⁷¹⁴ European Commission, *Commission Decides to Refer to Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Poland and Portugal to the Court of Justice of the European Union Due to Lack of Effective Implementation of the Digital Services Act* (May 7, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-decides-refer-czechia-spain-cyprus-poland-and-portugal-court-justice-european-union-due>

⁶⁷¹⁵ Ministerio para la Transformación Digital y de la Función Pública, *The Government Approves the Draft Law that Promotes Democratic Governance in Digital Services and Creates the Media Registry* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://digital.gob.es/en/comunicacion/notas-prensa/mtdfp/2025/02/2025-02-25>

⁶⁷¹⁶ AEPD, *The Agency Orders a Precautionary Measure that Prevents Meta from Implementing the Electoral Functionalities that it Plans to Launch in Spain*, Press Releases (May 31, 2024), <https://www.aepd.es/en/press-and-communication/press-releases/the-agency-orders-precautionary-measure-prevents-meta>

⁶⁷¹⁷ European Commission, *Commission Publishes Guidelines under the DSA for the Mitigation of Systemic Risks Online for Elections* (Mar. 25, 2024), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_1707

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with the European Parliament, in particular regarding general purpose AI.⁶⁷¹⁸ The EU AI Act was approved in 2024 and is now being implementing.⁶⁷¹⁹ The EU AI Act is a risk-based market regulation, which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

Spain named the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (*Agencia Española de Supervisión de la Inteligencia Artificial*, AESIA) as the main supervisory to enforce the EU AI Act in August 2023.⁶⁷²⁰ The AESIA was the first dedicated AI oversight agency in the European Union.

The Draft Law on the Governance and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence, implements the EU AI Act and formally designates the AESIA as the single national market surveillance authority, or lead competent authority, for most high-risk AI systems.⁶⁷²¹ The national law also established severe penalties for violations, including fines of up to €35 million or 7% of annual global turnover for non-compliance with the rules on prohibited AI systems.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation launched a regulatory sandbox in 2022, “to put the proposed requirements for high-risk AI systems into practice. [...] The Spanish AI Sandbox will provide practical experience through applying the various features of the [EU AI Act] proposal to specific AI projects (e.g. requirements, conformity assessments and certain post-market activities) and making guidelines, toolkits and good-practice materials accessible to all. Such actions are expected to be useful for the development of harmonised

⁶⁷¹⁸ Luca Bertuzzi, *AI Act: Spanish Presidency Makes Last Mediation Attempt on Foundation Models* (Nov. 29, 2023), <https://www.euractiv.com/section/artificial-intelligence/news/ai-act-spanish-presidency-makes-last-mediation-attempt-on-foundation-models/>

⁶⁷¹⁹ European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act, European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 March 2024 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain Union Legislative Acts (COM(2021)0206 – C9-0146/2021 – 2021/0106(COD))*, P9_TA(2024)0138, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

⁶⁷²⁰ Boletín Oficial, *Royal Degree Approving the Establishment of the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence [Real Decreto 729/2023, de 22 de agosto, por el que se aprueba el Estatuto de la Agencia Española de Supervisión de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 22, 2023), <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2023-18911>

⁶⁷²¹ Ministerio para la Transformación Digital y de la Función Pública, *The Government Green Lights the Draft Law for the Ethical, Inclusive, and Beneficial Use of Artificial Intelligence [El Gobierno da luz verde al anteproyecto de ley para el uso ético, inclusivo y beneficioso de la Inteligencia Artificial]* (Mar. 11, 2025), <https://digital.gob.es/comunicacion/notas-prensa/mtdfp/2025/03/2025-03-11>

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European standards and the other preparatory work at national and EU level.”⁶⁷²² The sandbox was formally established by a Royal Decree in 2023.⁶⁷²³ The government selected 12 high-risk AI projects in April 2025 to participate in the sandbox and develop materials to help companies achieve compliance with the EU AI Act.⁶⁷²⁴

Public Participation

The Spanish Government opened the proposed Digital Rights Charter for public comment in November 2020.⁶⁷²⁵ This participatory process generated contributions from experts in the field and advocacy associations, as well as from citizens, together with input from the private sector, service providers, and the public sector with relevant competences. Following this period of public consultation, the final Digital Rights Charter was unveiled in July 2021.⁶⁷²⁶

According to a report of the European consumer organization (“BEUC”), 83% of those in Spain think that consumers should be well informed when they deal with an automatic decision system and 80% believe they should have the right to say “no” to automated decision-making.⁶⁷²⁷ The BEUC report also found high levels of concern in Spain about the potential failure of AI machines, the privacy of voice

⁶⁷²² European Commission, *Launch event for the Spanish Regulatory Sandbox on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 27, 2022), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/events/launch-event-spanish-regulatory-sandbox-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁷²³ Boletín Oficial, *Royal Decree that Establishes a Controlled Testing Environment for the Complying with the European Parliament and the Commission’s Proposed Regulation that Establishes Harmonized Norms for Artificial Intelligence [Real Decreto 817/2023, de 8 de noviembre que establece un entorno controlado de pruebas para el ensayo de cumplimiento de la propuesta de Reglamento de Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo por el que se establecen normas armonizadas en materia de inteligencia artificial]* (Nov. 9, 2023), https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2023-22767

⁶⁷²⁴ La Moncloa, *The Government Activates the EU Testing Environment to Ensure the Responsibility of Artificial Intelligence Systems [El Gobierno activa el primer entorno de pruebas de la UE para garantizar la responsabilidad de sistemas de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Apr. 3, 2025), <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/serviciosdeprensa/notasprensa/transformacion-digital-y-funcion-publica/paginas/2025/030425-primer-entorno-pruebas-ia.aspx>

⁶⁷²⁵ Subdirección General para la Sociedad Digital, *Consulta pública para la elaboración de una Carta de Derechos Digitales* (Jan. 20, 2021), https://portal.mineco.gob.es/es-es/ministerio/participacionpublica/audienciapublica/Paginas/SEDIA_Carta_Derechos_Digitales.asp

⁶⁷²⁶ Government of Spain, *Digital Rights Charter* (2021), https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/presidente/actividades/Documents/2021/140721-Carta_Derechos_Digitales_RedEs.pdf

⁶⁷²⁷ The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), *Artificial Intelligence What Consumers Say: Findings and Policy Recommendations of a Multi-Country Survey of AI* (Sept. 2020), https://www.beuc.eu/publications/beuc-x-2020-078_artificial_intelligence_what_consumers_say_report.pdf

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assistants, manipulation of consumer decisions, and unfair discrimination. More than half of those from Spain surveyed in the BEUC poll “disagree or strongly disagree that current regulation is adequate to efficiently regulate AI.”⁶⁷²⁸

The government accepted email comments on the Draft Law on the Governance and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence, meant to implement the EU AI Act, over a period of 7 days in March 2025.⁶⁷²⁹

AI Oversight

The National Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (AESIA) is the main oversight body for Artificial Intelligence in Spain. The AESIA inaugurated offices in A Coruña⁶⁷³⁰ and named a director in June 2024.⁶⁷³¹ The director coordinates work between the AESIA and other bodies such as the data protection agency (AEPD). A 2021 Law provided for the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (AESIA),⁶⁷³² which was established in 2023 by Royal Decree.⁶⁷³³ After the first year in operation, AESIA’s director general celebrated contributions by around 30 professionals in the agency and positively assessed efforts on AI literacy and supervision.⁶⁷³⁴

Data Protection

Since Spain is an EU Member State, the GDPR⁶⁷³⁵ is directly applicable in Spain and to Spaniards. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’

⁶⁷²⁸ Ibid, p. 9

⁶⁷²⁹ Ministro para la Transformación Digital y de la Función Pública, *Public Consultation for the Draft Law for the Good Use and Governance of Artificial Intelligence [Audiencia Pública para el Anteproyecto de Ley para el buen uso y la gobernanza de la inteligencia artificial]*, <https://avance.digital.gob.es/es-es/participacion/paginas/detalleparticipacionpublica.aspx?k=468>

⁶⁷³⁰ España Digital, *Inauguration of the AESIA Took Place* (Jun. 19, 2024),

<https://espanadigital.gob.es/en/actualidad/realizado-el-evento-inaugural-de-la-aesia>

⁶⁷³¹ España Digital, *Ignasi Belda Designated Director of the AESIA* (Jun. 12, 2024),

<https://espanadigital.gob.es/en/actualidad/designado-ignasi-belda-como-director-de-la-aesia>

⁶⁷³² Boletín Oficial, *One hundred and thirtieth additional provision of the Law 22/2021, of December 28, of the General State Budget for the year 2022,*

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2021-21653>

⁶⁷³³ Boletín Oficial, *Royal Decree Approving the Establishment of the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence [Real Decreto 729/2023, de 22 de agosto, por el que se aprueba el Estatuto de la Agencia Española de Supervisión de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Aug. 22, 2023), <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2023-18911>

⁶⁷³⁴ Agencia Española de Supervisión de Inteligencia Artificial, *AESIA Consolidates Its Role in Europe in Promoting Ethical, Sustainable and Reliable AI* (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://aesia.digital.gob.es/en/present20250801-aesia-balance-2025>

⁶⁷³⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free

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fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market.”⁶⁷³⁶ The GDPR entered into force on May 24, 2016 and applies since May 25, 2018. The Spanish Parliament approved the Spanish Fundamental Law on Data Protection and Digital Rights (NLOPD), which supplements the GDPR, in December 2018. In progressive developments during 2024, the Spanish Data Protection Agency adopted a technical note on LIINE4DU 1.0, a new Privacy & Data Protection Threat Modelling Framework. The proposal focuses “on protecting rights and freedoms and regulatory compliance in accordance with GDPR principles.”⁶⁷³⁷

After some delays, Spain transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)⁶⁷³⁸ through the Spanish Act on Data Protection in the Area of Police and Criminal Justice.⁶⁷³⁹ The LED “will in particular ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”⁶⁷⁴⁰ The LED also prohibits any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and of profiling that results in discrimination.⁶⁷⁴¹

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights more generally provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”

movement of such data, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.html>

⁶⁷³⁶ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁶⁷³⁷ AEPD, *Technical Note: An Introduction to Liine4du 1.0: A New Privacy & Data Protection Threat Modelling Framework* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.aepd.es/guides/technical-note-introduction-to-liine4du-1-0.pdf>

⁶⁷³⁸ Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁶⁷³⁹ Boletín Oficial, *Organic Law 7/2021 de la protección de datos personales tratados para fines de prevención, detección, investigación y enjuiciamiento de infracciones penales y de ejecución de sanciones penales* (May 26, 2021), https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2021-8806

⁶⁷⁴⁰ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/legal-framework-eu-data-protection_en

⁶⁷⁴¹ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

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Spain is also a member of the Council of Europe and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁶⁷⁴²

The AEPD has also endorsed the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD) standards and guidelines and committed to integrated the principles of legitimation, lawfulness, loyalty, transparency, purpose, proportionality, quality, responsibility, safety and confidentiality in national policies.⁶⁷⁴³ The 16 data protection authorities representing 12 countries initiated a coordinated action on ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, in May 2023 on the basis that it may entail risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the processing of their personal data because of the potential for "responses with cultural, racial or gender biases, as well as false ones."⁶⁷⁴⁴

Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002, the AEPD did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence;⁶⁷⁴⁵ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability;⁶⁷⁴⁶ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶⁷⁴⁷ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁶⁷⁴⁸ The regional data protection agencies of Catalonia

⁶⁷⁴² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 1, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁶⁷⁴³ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Standards for Personal Data Protection for Ibero-American States* (2017), <https://www.redipd.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/standars-for-personal-data.pdf>

⁶⁷⁴⁴ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Authorities from the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Initiate a Coordinated Action against the ChatGPT Service [Las autoridades de la Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos Personales inician una acción coordinada en relación con el servicio ChatGPT]* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

⁶⁷⁴⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁷⁴⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁶⁷⁴⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁶⁷⁴⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

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(since 2004), the Basque Country (since 2005), and Andalusia (since 2022) are also GPA members.⁶⁷⁴⁹ The Catalán data protection agency co-sponsored the GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.

Algorithmic Transparency

Spain is subject to the GDPR and Convention 108+. Spaniards have a general right to know when they are subjected to automated decisions and obtain access to information about decisions that affect them and to the factors and logic of an algorithm.⁶⁷⁵⁰ They also have a right to contest decisions. The 2024 AI Strategy cements this protection via Initiative 8.2 by charging the Spanish AI Agency (AESIA) to ensure transparent and trustworthy AI.⁶⁷⁵¹

The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithm systems⁶⁷⁵² specifically emphasizes requirements on transparency, accountability, and effective remedies. With regard to transparency, the Recommendation provides that “States should establish appropriate levels of transparency with regard to the public procurement, use, design and basic processing criteria and methods of algorithmic systems implemented by and for them, or by private sector actors.”⁶⁷⁵³

The AEPD has published a detailed guide on “GDPR compliance of processings that embed AI”⁶⁷⁵⁴ That clarifies transparency and explainability obligations. In this guide, the AEPD explains that “complying with this obligation by making a technical reference to the algorithm implementation may be obscure, confuse or excessive and leading to information fatigue. However, sufficient information must be provided to understand the behaviour of the relevant processing.”⁶⁷⁵⁵ The AEPD provides many examples of the information that “must

⁶⁷⁴⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁶⁷⁵⁰ See Recital 63 and Article 22 of the GDPR. Article 9 c) of the Convention 108+ as well as Recital 77, *Explanatory Report, Convention 108+*, p. 24, <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

⁶⁷⁵¹ Ministry for Digital Transformation, *2024 Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (May 14, 2024), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁷⁵² *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁶⁷⁵³ Ibid

⁶⁷⁵⁴ Spanish Data Protection Agency, *GDPR Compliance of Processings that Embed Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction* (Feb. 2020), <https://www.aepd.es/es/documento/adequacion-rgpd-ia-en.pdf>

⁶⁷⁵⁵ Ibid, p. 23

be provided” to understand the behavior of the relevant processing, with regard for example the relative importance or weight of each data category in the decision making, the quality of training data and the type of patterns used, and any reference to audits, “especially on the possible deviation of inference results, as well as certification or certifications performed on the AI system.”⁶⁷⁵⁶ The AEDP also published audit requirements for personal data processing activities involving AI in January 2021⁶⁷⁵⁷ and a reference map of personal data processing incorporating AI in November 2022.⁶⁷⁵⁸

The Ministry of Employment and Social Security contributed to the clarification with practical guideline on corporate obligations in the workplace. The guide complements the update of the workers’ statute with specific guidelines for employers’ use of automated-decision systems.⁶⁷⁵⁹

The Charter of Digital Rights strengthens principles of Algorithmic Transparency. The Charter protects citizens against discrimination from decisions based on algorithms and maintains that “transparency, auditability, explicability and traceability” will be ensured. People have the right not to be the subject of a decision based solely on automated decision-making, thus recognizing the right to “request human supervision and intervention and challenge automated or algorithmic decisions.” The Charter recognizes that citizens must be explicitly informed when they are talking to an artificial intelligence system and that assistance by a human being must be guaranteed if the person concerned requests it.⁶⁷⁶⁰

In July 2022, a new Law on equal treatment and non-discrimination entered into force. Article 23 of this Law establishes rules on AI and automated decision-making mechanisms, creating special obligations for public administration entities

⁶⁷⁵⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷⁵⁷ Spanish Data Protection Authority, *Mapa de Referencia Tratamiento de Datos Personales que Incorporan Inteligencia Artificial (AI)* (Nov. 2022), <https://www.aepd.es/media/guias-en/requisitos-auditorias-tratamientos-incluyan-ia-en.pdf>

⁶⁷⁵⁸ Spanish Data Protection Authority, *Audit Requirements for Personal Data Processing Activities involving AI* (Jan. 2021), <https://www.aepd.es/es/documento/tratamientos-inteligencia-artificial-en.pdf>

⁶⁷⁵⁹ Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security, *Algorithmic Information in the Workplace* (May 2022), https://www.mites.gob.es/ficheros/ministerio/inicio_destacados/Guia_Algoritmos_EN.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁰ Government of Spain, *Carta Derechos Digitales* (2021), https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/presidente/actividades/Documents/2021/140721-Carta_Derechos_Digitales_RedEs.pdf; [English] https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/participacion_publica/audiencia/ficheros/Charter%20of%20Digital%20Rights.pdf

in relation to the AI algorithms they use for decision-making.⁶⁷⁶¹ This Law establishes that, within the framework of the ENIA and the Charter of Digital Rights in Spain, public administrations shall favor algorithms that take into account “criteria of minimization of bias, transparency and accountability, whenever technically feasible.” Such mechanisms shall “include their design and training data, and will address their potential discriminatory impact,” through impact evaluations to determine potential discriminatory bias. “Public administrations, within the framework of their competencies in the field of algorithms involved in decision-making processes, shall prioritize transparency in the design and implementation and the interpretability of the decisions adopted by them.” Additionally, public administrations and companies “shall promote the use of an artificial intelligence that is ethical, reliable and respectful of fundamental rights, following especially the recommendations of the European Union in this regard.” A quality seal for algorithms is also to be created.⁶⁷⁶²

This commitment to transparency and accountability was established as a constitutional principle by the Spanish Supreme Court in September 2025.⁶⁷⁶³ In a landmark ruling concerning the public algorithm Bosco (used for social benefits eligibility), the Court ordered the government to release its source code and documentation to the organization Cívico.⁶⁷⁶⁴ The decision sets a powerful, binding precedent, ruling that algorithmic transparency is essential for democratic accountability and the effective judicial review of automated decisions affecting citizens' fundamental rights. This commitment to transparency and accountability was established as a constitutional principle by the Spanish Supreme Court⁸ in September 2025.⁶⁷⁶⁵ In a landmark ruling concerning the public algorithm Bosco (used for social benefits eligibility), the Court ordered the government to release its

⁶⁷⁶¹ Law 15/2022, of July 12, 2022, for Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination [integral para la igualdad de trato y la no discriminación] (Jul. 12, 2022), <https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2022/BOE-A-2022-11589-consolidado.pdf>

⁶⁷⁶² Ibid., Article 23 of the Law 15/2022, of July 12, 2022

⁶⁷⁶³ José Luis Martí, *The Judicial Protection of Algorithmic Transparency* (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://rebootdemocracy.ai/blog/the-judicial-protection-of-algorithmic-transparency/>

⁶⁷⁶⁴ Comunicación Poder Judicial, *The Supreme Court Demands the Administration Gives a Citizen Foundation the Source Code for the Application that Determines Beneficiaries of the Social Electricity Bonus* [El Tribunal Supremo condena a la Administración a facilitar a una Fundación Ciudadana el código fuente de la aplicación informática que acredita a los beneficiarios del bono social eléctrico] (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpi/es/Poder-Judicial/Noticias-Judiciales/El-Tribunal-Supremo-condena-a-la-Administracion-a-facilitar-a-una-Fundacion-Ciudadana-el-codigo-fuente-de-la-aplicacion-informatica-que-acredita-a-los-beneficiarios-del-bono-social-electrico>

⁶⁷⁶⁵ José Luis Martí, *The Judicial Protection of Algorithmic Transparency* (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://rebootdemocracy.ai/blog/the-judicial-protection-of-algorithmic-transparency/>

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source code and documentation to the organization Civio.⁶⁷⁶⁶ The decision sets a powerful, binding precedent, ruling that algorithmic transparency is essential for democratic accountability and the effective judicial review of automated decisions affecting citizens' fundamental rights.=

Use of AI in Public Administration

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Spain approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in November 2023.⁶⁷⁶⁷ The guiding principles include: human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection.

The Minister of the Presidency, Justice, and Relations with the Parliament, Félix Bolaños announced an AI tool in 2024 that will make it easier for citizens to understand court decisions. An announcement about the tool highlights that it will contribute to the “materialization of the right to clear and comprehensible information, a right recently incorporated into the new Organic Law on the Right of Defence, currently being processed in the Congress of Deputies.”⁶⁷⁶⁸

Spain actively experimented with AI to improve public administration in 2025, presenting progress and plans at the OECD to coincide with the release of the OECD’s Governing with AI report.⁶⁷⁶⁹ An AI Use-Case Booster is one such project

⁶⁷⁶⁶ Comunicación Poder Judicial, *The Supreme Court Demands the Administration Gives a Citizen Foundation the Source Code for the Application that Determines Beneficiaries of the Social Electricity Bonus* [El Tribunal Supremo condena a la Administración a facilitar a una Fundación Ciudadana el código fuente de la aplicación informática que acredita a los beneficiarios del bono social eléctrico] (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Poder-Judicial/Noticias-Judiciales/El-Tribunal-Supremo-condena-a-la-Administracion-a-facilitar-a-una-Fundacion-Ciudadana-el-codigo-fuente-de-la-aplicacion-informatica-que-acredita-a-los-beneficiarios-del-bono-social-electrico>

⁶⁷⁶⁷ Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Nov. 2023), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

⁶⁷⁶⁸ Espana Digital, *Félix Bolaños Announces an AI Tool* [Félix Bolaños anuncia una herramienta de IA] (Oct. 2, 2024), <https://espanadigital.gob.es/actualidad/felix-bolanos-anuncia-una-herramienta-de-ia-que-facilitara-la-ciudadania-la-comprension>

⁶⁷⁶⁹ OECD, *Governing with Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 18, 2025), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/governing-with-artificial-intelligence_795de142-en.html.

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aimed at deploying AI securely, efficiently, and responsibly so that citizens tangibly benefit.⁶⁷⁷⁰

Environmental Impact of AI

The 2024 AI strategy includes initiatives for the creation of environmentally sustainable data centers (DPCs) and the implementation of energy efficiency strategies in AI-related infrastructures.⁶⁷⁷¹ Spain is implementing the EU's Energy Efficiency Directive, requiring data centers over 500 kW to report on energy performance, renewable use, water footprint, and demand. Spain's Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (*Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico*, MITECO) proposed more stringent sustainability and energy-efficiency obligations for data centers as part of the national instrument to transpose the EU Energy Efficiency Directive.⁶⁷⁷²

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Spain has responded to the threat of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) by affirming that the Spanish military does not have and will not develop such technology and emphasizing the need for meaningful human control for weapons systems to be compliant with international humanitarian law. Spain has consented as well to the 11 Principles on LAWS launched by France in 2019.⁶⁷⁷³

Spain has consistently called on the international community to “address [the] risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints.”⁶⁷⁷⁴ Spain has advocated for a two-tier

⁶⁷⁷⁰ España Digital 2026, *Spain Presents Its Roadmap for Applying Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration in the OECD* [España presenta en la OCDE su hoja de ruta para aplicar la inteligencia artificial en la Administración Pública] (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://espanadigital.gob.es/va/actualidad/espana-presenta-en-la-ocde-su-hoja-de-ruta-para-aplicar-la-inteligencia-artificial-en-la->

⁶⁷⁷¹ Ministry for Digital Transformation, *2024 Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, p. 20 (May 12, 2024), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁷⁷² Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, *Public Consultation on the Draft Royal Decree for Regulating Energy Efficiency and Sustainability of Data Centers* [Audiencia e información pública sobre el proyecto de Real Decreto por el que se regula la eficiencia energética y la sostenibilidad para los centros de datos] (2025), <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/energia/participacion/2025/detalle-participacion-publica-k-775.html>

⁶⁷⁷³ French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, *11 Principles on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)* (Sept. 2019), <https://www.diplomatique.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/article/11-principles-on-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-laws>

⁶⁷⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional*

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approach for an international treaty on LAWS, as proposed in a working paper submitted with Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.⁶⁷⁷⁵ The two-tier system would (1) outlaw fully autonomous lethal weapons systems operating completely outside human control and a responsible chain of command, and (2) regulate other lethal weapons systems featuring autonomy to ensure compliance with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law by preserving human responsibility and accountability through appropriate human control and risk mitigation measures.

Spain's comments to the UN Secretary-General report called for in the General Assembly resolution on autonomous weapons systems, which the country supported,⁶⁷⁷⁶ reiterated full support for the guiding principles on LAWS established by the GGE in 2019 and for the two-tiered approach.⁶⁷⁷⁷ Spain joined a bloc of 42 states in a joint statement delivered by Brazil at the second meeting of the GGE in 2025 declaring they are "ready to move ahead towards negotiations" on a new international instrument for autonomous weapon systems.⁶⁷⁷⁸

Spain participated in the REAIM 2023 international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands and endorsed the joint call stressing the "paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability."⁶⁷⁷⁹ Spain also endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November

Weapons (Oct. 21, 2022),

https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁶⁷⁷⁵ CCW, *Documents from the 2022 CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, Reaching Critical Will (2026), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/ccw>

⁶⁷⁷⁶ General Assembly, *Resolution L56: Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 12, 2023),

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁶⁷⁷⁷ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/79/50, p. 103 (Jul. 1, 2024),

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/154/32/pdf/n2415432.pdf>

⁶⁷⁷⁸ UN Digital Library, *Joint statement to the September 2025 session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

⁶⁷⁷⁹ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

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2023.⁶⁷⁸⁰ Spain also attended the REAIM 2024 Summit in Seoul, South Korea,⁶⁷⁸¹ and endorsed the resulting Blueprint for Action, which outlines a plan for implementing the REAIM principles.⁶⁷⁸² In preparation to host the third REAIM Summit, Spain hosted the 1st Conference on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Field, to facilitate dialogue among representatives from the military, industry, academia, and civil society. The meeting will “promote the ethical, transparent, and secure use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.”⁶⁷⁸³

Human Rights

Spain ranks highly for political rights and civil liberties, with a score of 90/100 and “Free” in the 2025 Freedom House Freedom in the World report.⁶⁷⁸⁴ According to Freedom House, “Spain’s parliamentary system features competitive multiparty elections and peaceful transfers of power between rival parties. The rule of law prevails, and civil liberties are generally respected. [...] Restrictive legislation adopted or enforced in recent years poses a threat to otherwise robust freedoms of expression and assembly.”⁶⁷⁸⁵

Spain met a new milestone in October 2024 with their election as a member to the UN Human Rights Council. “As an elected member of the Council, Spain assumes the responsibility to contribute to improving the effectiveness of the international protection of human rights. Spain will play an active role in the search for common ground in consultations and negotiations.”⁶⁷⁸⁶ The data protection agency’s willingness and ability to intervene in cases involving AI systems when personal data processing affects fundamental rights demonstrates the country’s

⁶⁷⁸⁰ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁶⁷⁸¹ REAIM 2024, *REAIM Summit 2024* (2025), <https://www.reaim2024.kr/reaimeng/index.do>

⁶⁷⁸² UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint EU Reply to UNGA Resolution 79/239* (2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Eightieth_session_\(2025\)/79-239-EU-en.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Eightieth_session_(2025)/79-239-EU-en.pdf)

⁶⁷⁸³ Ministerio de Defensa, *The Ministry of Defense Is Organizing the “1st Conference on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Field”* [El Ministerio de Defensa organiza la ‘I Jornada de Inteligencia Artificial Responsable en el Ámbito Militar’] (Oct. 2025), <https://www.defensa.gob.es/gabinete/notasPrensa/2025/10/DGC-251031-jornada-inteligencia-artificial-jaen.html>.

⁶⁷⁸⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Spain* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/spain/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁷⁸⁵ Ibid

⁶⁷⁸⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, *News: Spain Elected Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council* (Oct. 9, 2024), https://www.exteriores.gob.es/en/Comunicacion/NotasPrensa/Paginas/2024_NOTAS_P/20241009_NOTA062.aspx

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human-rights framing is not only declarative at UN level but is also being implemented domestically through supervisory action in AI oversight.⁶⁷⁸⁷

AI Safety Summit

Spain participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023.⁶⁷⁸⁸ Spain thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

Spain participated in the AI Seoul Summit,⁶⁷⁸⁹ the second AI Safety Summit. The Seoul Summit focused again on frontier-model safety and developing a roadmap for it and on ensuring that safety does not stifle technological development but also emphasized that the benefits of AI should be broadly shared.⁶⁷⁹⁰ At the third Summit, rebranded as the AI Action Summit in Paris, Spain endorsed the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.⁶⁷⁹¹

⁶⁷⁸⁷ Agencia Española Protección Datos, *The AEPD Reminds That It Can Already Act against Prohibited AI Systems That Use Personal Data, Regardless of the Enforcement of the AI Regulation [La AEPD recuerda que ya puede actuar ante sistemas de IA prohibidos que traten datos personales, con independencia de la entrada en vigor del Reglamento de IA]* (Jul. 15, 2025), <https://www.aepd.es/prensa-y-comunicacion/notas-de-prensa/la-aepd-recuerda-que-ya-puede-actuar-ante-sistemas-de-ia>.

⁶⁷⁸⁸ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *Prime Minister’s Office, The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁶⁷⁸⁹ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *AI Seoul Summit: Participants List* (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-seoul-summit-programme/ai-seoul-summit-participants-list-governments-and-organisations>.

⁶⁷⁹⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, *About the AI Seoul Summit 2024* (2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ai-seoul-summit-2024/about>

⁶⁷⁹¹ Mission Permanente de la France Auprès des Nations Unies à New York, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Dec. 26, 2025), <https://onu.delegfrance.org/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Spain endorsed the OECD AI Principles in 2019, which were updated in 2024.⁶⁷⁹² Spain explicitly incorporated many of the principles into the ENIA, Digital Rights Charter,⁶⁷⁹³ and updated 2024 National AI Strategy⁶⁷⁹⁴ Spain is also a member of the Global Partnership on AI, a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities and which is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”⁶⁷⁹⁵

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Spain contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State⁶⁷⁹⁶ in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁷⁹⁷ The European Union has signed this first legally binding international AI treaty, making Spain party to the treaty. However, Spain has not signed as an independent nation.⁶⁷⁹⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Spain endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.⁶⁷⁹⁹ Spain has not begun the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a tool to support the effective implementation of

⁶⁷⁹² OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁶⁷⁹³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Initiatives from Spain* (2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/spain>

⁶⁷⁹⁴ Ministry for Digital Transformation, *2024 Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (May 14, 2024), <https://portal.mineco.gob.es/RecursosArticulo/mineco/ministerio/ficheros/National-Strategy-on-AI.pdf>

⁶⁷⁹⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁶⁷⁹⁶ Council of Europe, *The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁷⁹⁷ Council of Europe, *Draft Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law* (Mar. 2024), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=0900001680aee411

⁶⁷⁹⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 1, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁶⁷⁹⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>.

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the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.⁶⁸⁰⁰ The RAM exercise helps countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps in legal and policy frameworks, technical infrastructure, human capital, and ethical considerations.⁶⁸⁰¹

Evaluation

Spain has developed a strong ethics-focused national AI strategy, created an independent Advisory Council, installed a Director of AESIA to guide implementation of the strategy, introduced an AI Sandbox to test robustness of algorithms in accordance with the AI Act, enacted a Charter for Digital Rights, and has played a key role enabling the EU AI Act. Spain benefits from a strong data protection legal framework with an active data protection agency that has acted to foster a better protection of citizens' rights through AI oversight. The Government is taking steps to address the environmental impacts of AI use, the challenges of Lethal Autonomous Weapons, and has demonstrated continued alignment with UNESCO's Recommendation on AI Ethics, OECD AI Principles, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

⁶⁸⁰⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁶⁸⁰¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

Sweden

Sweden produced the Digitalization Strategy 2025–2030 in the spring of 2025, making updates to the national direction of AI governance and implementation. Sweden’s AI Strategy and Action Plan released in early 2026 emphasize simplification of regulation to enable innovation.

National AI Strategy

Sweden issued the National Approach to Artificial Intelligence in May 2018. The National Approach reflects the government’s goal “to make Sweden a leader in harnessing the opportunities that the use of AI can offer, with the aim of strengthening Sweden’s welfare and competitiveness.”⁶⁸⁰² This goal “is closely linked to the digital transformation goal adopted by the Riksdag [Swedish Parliament] and complements the Government’s Digital Strategy.”⁶⁸⁰³

Sweden emphasized that a “cross-cutting theme should be sustainable AI, meaning that AI applications should be ethical, safe, secure, reliable and transparent.” The Swedish Government acknowledged potential threats from AI and the “the use of AI algorithms,” including “challenges related to rule of law procedures and the automation of agency decisions,” “risks to both society and individuals,” “fundamental needs for privacy,” “discrimination, loss of trust,” and consequences for the functioning of democracy.

Accountability has become an explicit component of Sweden’s AI governance approach. The emphasis remains on responsible design and use of AI, supported by ethical guidelines and oversight mechanisms that promote safety, transparency, and collaboration. AI Sweden’s Responsible use of AI⁶⁸⁰⁴ established national principles for trustworthy AI, while subsequent initiatives—such as the 2025 government assignment requiring 25 national authorities to report on their AI use—strengthened institutional responsibility and accountability across the public sector.⁶⁸⁰⁵ The Government defines “key conditions for realising the potential of AI as (1) Education and training, (2) Research, (3) Innovation and use, and (4)

⁶⁸⁰² Government Offices, *National Approach to Artificial Intelligence*, OECD, p. 5 (May 2018), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Sweden_National_Approach_to_Artificial_Intelligence_2018.pdf

⁶⁸⁰³ Ibid

⁶⁸⁰⁴ AI Sweden, *Responsible Use of AI* (Oct 2025), <https://www.ai.se/en/adoption/responsible-use-ai>

⁶⁸⁰⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Government Assignment to 25 Swedish National Authorities to Report on Their Use of AI* (May 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/government-assignment-to-25-swedish-national-authorities-to-report-on-their-use-of-ai-2671>

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Framework and infrastructure.⁶⁸⁰⁶ Three Ministries—Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, and Ministry of Education and Research—are responsible for AI policies and independent agencies under these Ministries implement these policies. Under framework and infrastructure, the Swedish approach highlights “rules, standards, norms, and ethical principles to guide ethical and sustainable AI and the use of AI”; national and international standards and regulations; continual review of digital infrastructure and greater availability of data; and an active role in assisting efforts to promote digitization in the EU.⁶⁸⁰⁷

The Swedish National Approach to AI should also be read against the background of a 2020 position paper to the European Commission’s White Paper on AI known as a “non-paper.”⁶⁸⁰⁸ Sweden and 13 other EU member states describe human-centric and trustworthy AI “as a competitive advantage.” According to the non-paper, Sweden supports the use of hard law tools for “creating a genuinely single market for AI.” Sweden also favors the use of “soft law solutions such as self-regulation, voluntary labelling and other voluntary practices as well as robust standardisation process[es].” As for risks to individuals or to society stemming from the use of AI, Sweden advocates for an evidence-based and “well-calibrated and proportionate approach.”

The national center for applied AI, AI Sweden, which was created in 2019 and supported by public- and private-sector funds, launched an adoption-centric AI strategy in March 2024. The new strategy promotes AI adoption aligned with democratic values to leverage AI capabilities, value creation, and cross-sector collaboration. The strategy is premised on the vision that Sweden must “[seize] the opportunity of AI to solve key societal and business challenges for the benefit of a prosperous society characterized by democratic values and high quality of life. This is powered by a robust, highly attractive, and ambitious Swedish AI ecosystem that has a positive global impact on people and the planet.”⁶⁸⁰⁹ Skills and talent, including education and re/upskilling, figure among the six “fundamental standpoints and perspectives” mostly focused on a doption and development.⁶⁸¹⁰ AI Sweden’s multimodal AI model and the EU-funded TrustLLM project aim to develop European

⁶⁸⁰⁶ Government Offices, *National Approach to Artificial Intelligence*, OECD (May 2018), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Sweden_National_Approach_to_Artificial_Intelligence_2018.pdf

⁶⁸⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 10

⁶⁸⁰⁸ Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Services, *Innovative and Trustworthy AI: Two Sides of the Same Coin, Position Paper on Behalf of Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://www.em.dk/media/15214/non-paper-innovative-and-trustworthy-ai-two-side-of-the-same-coin.pdf>

⁶⁸⁰⁹ AI Sweden, *An AI Strategy for Sweden* (Mar. 2024), <https://strategy.ai.se/>

⁶⁸¹⁰ Ibid

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“trustworthy, sustainable and democratized” large language models (LLMs). The projects run until October 2026.⁶⁸¹¹

The Swedish Government appointed an AI Commission charged with ensuring Sweden’s competitiveness in the AI field and that the country “takes advantage of the opportunities while managing the risks in order to realize the full potential of AI.”⁶⁸¹² The AI Commission will “analyze the conditions for, among other things, higher education to be sufficient to meet tomorrow’s needs in AI use and AI development; identify how Sweden can act to promote a competitive and secure AI within the EU and globally; propose how Sweden can attract venture capital and facilitate innovation for strengthening the competitiveness of AI; propose how public administration can be streamlined by using AI; and analyze how the use of AI can affect and promote Sweden’s security and counteract undue influence on democracy.”⁶⁸¹³

The government assigned the AI Commission with producing a report to “identify needs for and submit proposals that promote competitive, safe and ethical AI development and AI use in Sweden; identify priority international efforts and submit proposals for how Sweden can act proactively and coordinated in the development of international policies and regulations for AI; analyze and describe how the use of AI can affect and promote Sweden’s security and democracy; and if necessary, make legislative proposals.”⁶⁸¹⁴ The AI Commission's Roadmap for Sweden report was submitted on November 26, 2024, ahead of schedule. The report emphasized urgent action to strengthen Sweden’s AI capabilities but focused on improving computing power, data resources, and competence rather than ethical development.⁶⁸¹⁵

Sweden’s Ministry of Finance published the Digitalization Strategy 2025–2030, positioning artificial intelligence as a central enabler for national competitiveness, public-sector transformation, and democratic resilience. The Strategy updates national priorities for responsible and human-centric AI and extends

⁶⁸¹¹ AI Sweden, *TrustLLM* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.ai.se/en/project/trustllm>

⁶⁸¹² Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister’s Office, *The Government Appoints an AI Commission to Strengthen Swedish Competitiveness [Regeringen tillsätter en AI-kommission för att stärka svensk konkurrenskraft]*, Press Release (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2023/12/regeringen-tillsatter-en-ai-kommission-for-att-starka-svensk-konkurrenskraft/>

⁶⁸¹³ Ibid

⁶⁸¹⁴ Ministry of Finance Committee Directive, *Strengthened AI Capabilities in Sweden Dir. 2023:164 [Förstärkt AI-förmåga i Sverige]* (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/kommittedirektiv/2023/12/dir.-2023164>

⁶⁸¹⁵ AI Sweden, *The Swedish Government's AI Commission submits its final report* (Nov. 26, 2024), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/swedish-governments-ai-commission-submits-its-final-report>

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Sweden's long-term strategic framework beyond the 2018 National Approach.⁶⁸¹⁶ Sweden's AI Strategy⁶⁸¹⁷ and corresponding Action Plan⁶⁸¹⁸ further reflect the Government's "high ambitions for its work with artificial intelligence."⁶⁸¹⁹

National AI Legislation

The International Bar Association released an updated report in September 2024, which echoed earlier reports on the status of AI legislation in Sweden: "there are currently no 'AI laws' in Sweden. Historically, the legislative approach in Sweden has been to pass technology-agnostic legislation that does not need to be changed with every advance in technology."⁶⁸²⁰ Thus, "it is of central priority for the Swedish legislature to assess current legislation from an AI perspective and implement necessary changes. Furthermore, support in the interpretation of legislation is required from courts and public authorities. Access to data, information security and robustness, together with the ethical use of AI, are principles of central importance in the future regulatory approach."⁶⁸²¹

The Swedish Ministry of Justice published a Memorandum proposing a dedicated Swedish law enabling the police to use AI-driven real-time facial recognition for serious crime prevention, accompanied by safeguards.⁶⁸²²

Nordic-Baltic and Nordic Cooperation on AI

As for the regional landscape, Peter Eriksson, the Swedish Minister for Housing and Digital development, signed the declaration on "AI in the Nordic-Baltic region" establishing a collaborative framework on "developing ethical and

⁶⁸¹⁶ Government of Sweden (Regeringskansliet), *Sveriges digitaliseringsstrategi 2025–2030* (May 2025), <https://www.regeringen.se/rapporter/2025/05/sveriges-digitaliseringsstrategi-20252030/>

⁶⁸¹⁷ Government Offices, *Sweden's AI Strategy* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.government.se/contentassets/4e6b2d34f81048d688c35c831065395f/swedens-ai-strategy.pdf>

⁶⁸¹⁸ Government Offices, *Action Plan for Sweden's AI Strategy* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.government.se/contentassets/4e6b2d34f81048d688c35c831065395f/action-plan-for-swedens-ai-strategy.pdf>

⁶⁸¹⁹ Ministry of Finance, *Sweden's AI Strategy* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.government.se/information-material/2026/02/swedens-ai-strategy/>

⁶⁸²⁰ International Bar Association, *Guidelines and Regulations to Provide Insights on Public Policies to Ensure Artificial Intelligence's Beneficial Use as a Professional Tool*, p. 298 (Sept. 18, 2024), https://www.ibanet.org/PPID/Constituent/Multi-disply_Pract/anlbs-ai-report

⁶⁸²¹ Ibid

⁶⁸²² Swedish Ministry of Justice, *DS 2025:7— Police Use of AI for Real-Time Facial Recognition [Polisens användning av AI för ansiktigenkänning i realtid]* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/450c0341dec94a0ea5999f9869aa5996/polisens-anvandning-av-ai-for-ansiktigenkanning-i-realtid-ds-20257.pdf>

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transparent guidelines, standards, principles and values to guide when and how AI applications should be used” and “on the objective that infrastructure, hardware, software and data, all of which are central to the use of AI, are based on standards, enabling interoperability, privacy, security, trust, good usability, and portability.”⁶⁸²³

The ministerial declaration Digital North 2.0⁶⁸²⁴ builds on the common priorities of the Nordic-Baltic countries and follows the previous ministerial declaration, Digital North 2017–2020. A council of ministers for digitalisation (MR-DIGITAL) was established in 2017 to promote development in three areas: (1) Increase mobility and integration in the Nordic and Baltic region by building a common area for cross-border digital services; (2) Promote green economic growth and development in the Nordic-Baltic region through data-driven innovation and a fair data economy for efficient sharing and re-use of data; and (3) Promote Nordic-Baltic leadership in the EU/EEA and globally in a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation of our societies.”⁶⁸²⁵ The MR-DIGITAL announced a focus on digital inclusion in November 2021. They committed to implementing measures to make digital services more accessible to all inhabitants in the region and to ensure that those who do not possess the necessary skills get the opportunity to acquire them.⁶⁸²⁶

The Nordic and Baltic ministers issued a common statement on the importance of cooperation on digital security in the Nordic-Baltic region in 2022, following the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The ministers stressed that this “rapid transformation has challenged everyone to adapt to new, digital ways of doing business, learning and accessing public authorities.” The ministers declared that they “have committed to ensuring that our region maintains its position as a leader in digitalisation, and that everyone in the region benefits from digitalisation regardless of age, wealth, education or level of digital skills.” The ministers acknowledged that “Robust and secure digital services, safeguarding users' privacy and ensuring that personal data are stored and processed in a trustworthy way, are

⁶⁸²³ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *AI in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (May 14, 2018), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ai-nordic-baltic-region>

⁶⁸²⁴ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Ministerial Declaration Digital North 2.0* (Sept. 29, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/ministerial-declaration-digital-north-20>

⁶⁸²⁵ Nordic Co-operation, *Nordic-Baltic Co-operation on Digitalisation* (Oct 24, 2024), <https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-baltic-co-operation-digitalisation>

⁶⁸²⁶ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Promoting Digital Inclusion as a Central Part of the Digital Transformation in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Nov. 26, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-promoting-digital-inclusion-central-part-digital>

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crucial to the citizens' sustained trust in digital services” and committed “to continue our efforts to make our digital public services human centric and accessible.”⁶⁸²⁷

As part of its action plan for Vision 2030 (2021–2024), the Nordic Council of Ministers also identified innovation, digital integration, the safe use of artificial intelligence, data development and open data, education and digitalization as key objectives.⁶⁸²⁸ The Nordic Council of Ministers also emphasizes the involvement of civil society in efforts relating to our vision for 2030 thanks to “a Nordic civil society network and public consultations.”⁶⁸²⁹

The Nordic Ethical AI Expert Group from Nordic Innovation—an organization under the Nordic Council of Ministers—launched five recommendations in June 2024 to guide members’ development of ethical AI.⁶⁸³⁰ The recommendations are: “1) Develop a joint Nordic strategy for ethical and responsible AI; 2) Establish a Nordic center for ethical and responsible AI focused on AI innovation; 3) Promote and coordinate large language models (LLMs)s for Nordic languages; 4) Cultivate a skilled workforce and competent society; 5) Enhance transparency in sustainability of AI technology.”⁶⁸³¹

An announcement that preparations are underway for a Nordic AI Center, developed by AI Sweden in collaboration with AI Finland and IKT-Norway, soon followed.⁶⁸³² Aligned with the adoption-focus of the AI Sweden strategy, the Nordic AI Center would focus on AI application and development on a Nordic and Baltic level by supporting countries to drive AI adoption, increasing collaboration, building stronger relevance for the region internationally, and serving as a repository for investments

⁶⁸²⁷ Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Digitalization, *Common Statement on the Importance of Cooperation on Digital Security in the Nordic-Baltic Region* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.norden.org/en/declaration/common-statement-importance-cooperation-digital-security-nordic-baltic-region>

⁶⁸²⁸ Nordic Council of Ministers, *The Nordic Region—Towards Being the Most Sustainable and Integrated Region in the World, Action Plan for 2021–2024* (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-towards-being-most-sustainable-and-integrated-region-world>

⁶⁸²⁹ Nordic Council of Ministers, *Guidelines for Involving Civil Society in Work Relating to Our Vision 2030* (Feb. 12, 2021), <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/guidelines-involving-civil-society-work-relating-our-vision-2030>

⁶⁸³⁰ Nordic Innovation, *Press Release: Nordic AI Experts Launch Five Recommendations for Ethical AI* (Jun. 16, 2024), <https://www.nordicinnovation.org/news/press-release-nordic-ai-experts-launch-five-recommendations-ethical-ai>

⁶⁸³¹ Ibid

⁶⁸³² Nordic Innovation, *Press Release: Preparations for a Nordic AI Center Are Underway* (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.nordicinnovation.org/news/press-release-preparations-nordic-ai-center-are-underway>

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in knowledge, technology, and solutions.⁶⁸³³ AI Sweden was tasked to lead the preparatory work for the creation of the Nordic-Baltic AI Center,⁶⁸³⁴ which officially launched in October 2025. The Center aims to accelerate cross-border cooperation on trustworthy and sustainable AI across the Nordic and Baltic countries.⁶⁸³⁵

EU Digital Services Act

As an EU member state, Sweden shall apply the EU Digital Services Act (DSA).⁶⁸³⁶ The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms to prevent illegal and harmful activities online, including the spread of disinformation. Online intermediaries and platforms must implement ways to prevent and remove posts containing illegal goods, services, or content while giving users the means to report or flag this type of content. The DSA also bans targeted advertising based on a person's sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs, as well as targeted advertising to minors based on profiling.

Signatories to the DSA commit to naming national authorities to enforce the DSA and hold companies and platforms accountable. Signatories must also take action to reduce online harms, specifically under the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation,⁶⁸³⁷ which counts as a mitigation measure under the DSA. Under the DSA, Sweden is charged to create conditions for a safe information ecosystem, demonetizing the dissemination of disinformation; ensuring the transparency of political advertising; empowering users; enhancing the cooperation with fact-checkers; and providing researchers with better access to data.

To comply with the DSA, the Swedish government assigned three agencies as competent authorities to supervise providers of intermediary services and enforcement of the DSA regulation in February 2024: Swedish Consumer Agency, the Swedish Media Authority, and the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS). PTS

⁶⁸³³ Nordic Innovation, *New Nordics AI-Preparation Project* (2025),

<https://www.nordicinnovation.org/programs/new-nordics-ai-preparation-project>

⁶⁸³⁴ AI Sweden, *Nordic Council of Ministers Gives Green Light to Funding for Nordic AI Center* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/nordic-council-ministers-gives-green-light-funding-nordic-ai-center>

⁶⁸³⁵ AI Sweden, *Nordic-Baltic AI Center Launched at BASE Stockholm* (Oct. 2025),

<https://www.ai.se/en/news/nordic-baltic-ai-center-launched-base-stockholm>

⁶⁸³⁶ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and Amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)* (Oct. 21, 2022), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022R2065>

⁶⁸³⁷ European Commission, *The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/code-practice-disinformation>

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was also appointed national Digital Services Coordinator for digital services, responsible for supervision and enforcement of the DSA in Sweden.⁶⁸³⁸

The European Commission opened an infringement procedure against Sweden in July 2024 for not endowing the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) with sufficient powers under the Digital Services Act, the procedure was closed in February 2025 after Sweden adopted the required measures.⁶⁸³⁹

A report by The Future of Free Speech issued in May 2024 raised concerns on the effects of content moderation regulations, such as the DSA, on free speech, after determining that most of the content removed from social media platforms in Sweden, Germany, and France, was legal. In Sweden, for example, the percentage of legal content removed was nearly 94%.⁶⁸⁴⁰

EU AI Act

Sweden held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2023. Ann Christin Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, while addressing the 77th Session of the General Assembly of the UN in September 2022 stated that Sweden would work to “protect, promote and defend democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law.”⁶⁸⁴¹ The EU AI Act⁶⁸⁴² is a risk-based market regulation which supports the objective of promoting a human-centric approach to AI and making the EU a global leader in the development of secure, trustworthy and ethical AI.

⁶⁸³⁸ Government Offices, Government Assignment from the Ministry of Finance, *Assignment to the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency, the Swedish Consumer Agency and the Swedish Media Authority to Be Competent Authorities and to the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency to Be Coordinator for Digital Services According to the EU Digital Services Regulation*, Registry number Fi2024/00301 (Feb. 29, 2024), <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringsuppdrag/2024/02/uppdrag-till-post--och-telestyrelsen-konsumentverket-och-mediemyndigheten-att-vara-behoriga-myndigheter-och-till-post--och-telestyrelsen-att-vara-samordnare-for-digitala-tjanster-enligt-eus-forordning-om-digitala-tjanster/>

⁶⁸³⁹ European Commission. *Infringement Decisions*, INFR(2024)2169, Digital Services Act (Regulation 2022/2065) (Feb. 2025) https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringementdecisions/?lang_code=en&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&decisionDateFrom=01%2F01%2F2025&decisionDateTo=31%2F07%2F2025&decisionCategory=CLOSURES&legalBasis=32022R2065

⁶⁸⁴⁰ Future of Free Speech, *Preventing “Torrents of Hate” or Stifling Free Expression Online?* (May 28, 2024), <https://futurefreespeech.org/preventing-torrents-of-hate-or-stifling-free-expression-online/>

⁶⁸⁴¹ United Nations, *Sweden Minister for Foreign Affairs Addresses General Debate*, 77th Session (Sept. 24, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3NRoO1SyEM>

⁶⁸⁴² European Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence Act* (Mar. 13, 2024), [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA\(2024\)0138_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/seance_pleniere/textes_adoptes/definitif/2024/03-13/0138/P9_TA(2024)0138_EN.pdf)

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The Swedish Ministry of Finance launched a directive in 2024 to revise and adapt national regulations to ensure that the country adheres to the EU AI Act, to be concluded by the end of September 2025.⁶⁸⁴³ The aim is to “submit proposals on how the system for market surveillance, market control, governance and control of compliance should be designed; identify other needs for national adaptation resulting from the AI Regulation and propose how such needs are to be met; make the necessary legislative proposals.”⁶⁸⁴⁴ The Government announced national measures in 2025 to designate market surveillance, competent authorities, and enforcement mechanisms for high-risk AI systems with the publishing of an official inquiry.⁶⁸⁴⁵

Sweden has not yet designated a single point of contact and national competent authorities are unclear.⁶⁸⁴⁶ The Swedish Data Protection Authority and the Swedish Digitalization Authority have published statements about the implementation of the AI Act. In the AI Board meeting, the Ministry of Finance represented Sweden. Similarly, the Authorities Protecting Fundamental Rights are unclear.⁶⁸⁴⁷ The Action plan for the updated AI Strategy launched in 2026 notes the development of an implementation council charged with emphasizing the “entrepreneurial perspective at an early stage of the EU process and to work to ensure that EU legislation is not implemented in Sweden beyond the specified minimum level.”⁶⁸⁴⁸ The plan appears to take a sectoral approach to providing guidance for companies and developing legislation.

Public Participation

As for public participation, the Government states in the National Approach that “For Sweden to reap the benefits of AI, all sectors of society must be

⁶⁸⁴³ Government Offices, Committee Directive from the Ministry of Finance, *Safe and Reliable use of AI [Trygg och tillförlitlig användning av AI]* Dir. 2024:83, (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/kommittedirektiv/2024/09/dir.-202483>

⁶⁸⁴⁴ Ibid

⁶⁸⁴⁵ Government Offices, *The Swedish Government’s Appointed Inquiry with the Task of Reviewing the Need for National Adaptations because of the EU AI Act [SOU 2025:101: Anpassningar till AI-förordningen]*, OECD (Jul. 9, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/the-swedish-governments-appointed-inquiry-with-the-task-of-reviewing-the-need-for-national-adaptations-because-of-the-eu-ai-act-9745>

⁶⁸⁴⁶ European Commission, *Market Surveillance Authorities under the AI Act* (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/market-surveillance-authorities-under-ai-act>

⁶⁸⁴⁷ EU Artificial Intelligence Act, *Overview of all AI Act National Implementation Plans* (May 19, 2025), <https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/national-implementation-plans/>

⁶⁸⁴⁸ Government Offices, *Action Plan for Sweden’s AI Strategy*, p. 3 (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.government.se/contentassets/4e6b2d34f81048d688c35c831065395f/action-plan-for-swedens-ai-strategy.pdf>

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involved.”⁶⁸⁴⁹ According to AlgorithmWatch, however, most of the funding and strategic development takes place in universities and as support for business environments.⁶⁸⁵⁰ Nevertheless, AlgorithmWatch also describes the addAI initiative, “a collaboration between experts in academia, government and companies to discuss and explore the impact of smart algorithms and AI on society through the organisation of workshops and participation in public events.” In line with these efforts, the AI Commission proposed 75 measures in December 2024 to enhance AI development, prioritizing public services, innovation, and ethical AI governance. The proposal emphasizes inclusive decision-making, encouraging collaboration between government, industry, and civil society to shape Sweden’s AI future.⁶⁸⁵¹

An AI Sustainability Center funded by VINNOVA (Swedish Innovation Agency) has been functional in Stockholm, Sweden since 2018 as “a knowledge-sharing network dedicated to the sustainable and ethical use of AI and data-driven technologies,” while assisting organizations to comply with EU regulations.⁶⁸⁵² The unique composition of the center constitutes a participation of companies, academic institutions, public agencies, and civil society helping organizations to align with ethical AI principles.⁶⁸⁵³

Since 2022, an AI Council has been operational under AI Sweden with participation of members from twelve Swedish municipalities.⁶⁸⁵⁴ The council offered a series of recommendations for initiatives aimed at enhancing the ability of Swedish municipalities to utilize AI for the Swedish welfare sector. The council’s work is led in collaboration between AI Sweden and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR).

⁶⁸⁴⁹ Government Offices, *National Approach to Artificial Intelligence*, p. 5 (May 2018), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Sweden_National_Approach_to_Artificial_Intelligence_2018.pdf

⁶⁸⁵⁰ Anne Kuan and Julia Velkova, *Automating Society: Sweden*, AlgorithmWatch (Jan. 29, 2019), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/automating-society-2019/sweden/>

⁶⁸⁵¹ Swedish Government, *AI Commission Has Presented Proposals to the Government* (Dec. 5, 2024), <https://www.government.se/press-releases/2024/12/ai-commission-has-presented-proposals-to-the-government>

⁶⁸⁵² Mattias Wiggberg, *AI Sustainability Center (AISC)*, KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Jan. 2019), <https://www.kth.se/indek/mt/current-projects/ai-sustainability-center-aisc-1.1073770>

⁶⁸⁵³ anch.AI, *AI Sustainability Center Established in Stockholm* (2023), <https://anch.ai/about/press-releases/ai-sustainability-center-established-in-stockholm/>

⁶⁸⁵⁴ AI Sweden, *Press Release: New Support for Municipalities and Civil Society to Create Societal Benefits with the Help of AI* (Sept. 19, 2022), <https://via.tt.se/pressmeddelande/3330949/nytt-stod-till-kommuner-och-%20civilsamhalle-ska-skapa-samhallsnytt-med-hjalp-av-ai?publisherId=3236039&lang=sv>

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The AI Council offered five key recommendations in 2023.⁶⁸⁵⁵ Recommendations were to 1) formulate a national AI strategy, 2) create long term funding and collaboration support for municipality-led AI projects, 3) develop standards and shared infrastructure for data management and AI applications, 4) promote a skill development initiative to enhance AI competence in the municipality, and 5) establish AI policies and regulations to support unified legal interpretations across Sweden.⁶⁸⁵⁶ National and local authorities have begun to implement the recommendations. The city of Stockholm, in collaboration with AI Sweden and Sigtuna Municipality, is serving as a leading example of municipality-wide digital competency programs to enhance digital skills.⁶⁸⁵⁷ Sweden endorsed the AI Commission's Roadmap for Sweden in February 2025, pledging to expand AI capabilities, develop crisis task forces, and introduce universal AI access reforms.⁶⁸⁵⁸

AI Sweden established the Civil Society Forum for Responsible AI in September 2024. The Forum engages civil society “in shaping and upholding social values” by collectively developing guidelines and best practices for AI use within the NGO and social sectors. Between the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2025, the group met six times to share best practices and develop “guidelines that promote sustainability, collaboration, and sound operational principles related to AI.”⁶⁸⁵⁹ In June 2025, AI Sweden, in collaboration with civil-society organizations that participated in the Civil Society Forum for Responsible AI, released guidelines to counter AI-driven discrimination and to promote transparent and accountable AI use within the NGO sector.⁶⁸⁶⁰ This initiative is part of AI Sweden's AI for Impact project funded by Google.org. The project also comprises a hackathon that brings AI experts

⁶⁸⁵⁵ AI Sweden, *AI Council Develops Recommendations for Accelerated AI Development in Swedish Municipalities* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/ai-council-develops-recommendations-accelerated-ai-development-swedish-municipalities>

⁶⁸⁵⁶ Andreas Skog, *The AI Council*, AI Sweden, <https://www.ai.se/en/sector-initiatives/municipalities-and-civil-society/ai-council>

⁶⁸⁵⁷ Raquel Broman, *Digital Competence Development, The City of Stockholm*, AI Sweden (Sept. 2024), <https://www.ai.se/en/project/digital-competence-development-city-stockholm>

⁶⁸⁵⁸ Swedish Government, *The AI Commission's Roadmap for Sweden [AI-Kommissionens Färdplan för Sverige]* (Nov. 26, 2024), <https://www.regeringen.se/rapporter/2024/11/ai-kommissionens-fardplan-for-sverige/>

⁶⁸⁵⁹ AI Sweden, *New Initiative for Responsible AI within Civil Society* (Sept. 6, 2024), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/new-initiative-responsible-ai-within-civil-society>

⁶⁸⁶⁰ AI Sweden, *New Guidelines from Civil Society to Counter AI-Driven Discrimination* (Jun. 2025), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/new-guidelines-civil-society-counter-ai-driven-discrimination>

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and civil society organizations together for “developing solutions with lasting social impact.”⁶⁸⁶¹

Additionally, Sweden’s Government Offices and Ministry for Foreign Affairs signed a declaration advocating for gender inclusion in AI governance and reinforcing human rights considerations in AI policy development. The declaration, signed in February 2025, emphasizes the active involvement of civil society and diverse stakeholders in shaping AI policies, ensuring broad public engagement in ethical AI deployment.”⁶⁸⁶²

Data Protection

Since Sweden is an EU Member State, the GDPR⁶⁸⁶³ is directly applicable in Sweden and to Swedes. The aim of the GDPR is to “strengthen individuals’ fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by clarifying rules for companies and public bodies in the digital single market. A single law will also do away with the current fragmentation in different national systems and unnecessary administrative burdens.”⁶⁸⁶⁴ Sweden’s Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY) is charged “to uphold the protection of personal data, monitoring that they are handled correctly and do not fall into the wrong hands.”⁶⁸⁶⁵

The GDPR entered into force on 24 May 2016 and applies since 25 May 2018. In April 2018, the Swedish parliament adopted the Data Protection Act (DPA), with complementary provisions to the GDPR. The DPA replaced the old Personal Data Act as of the application of GDPR.

Regarding the activities of law enforcement authorities, Sweden transposed the EU Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)⁶⁸⁶⁶ through the Swedish

⁶⁸⁶¹ AI Sweden, *Impact Hack 2025: AI Experts and Civil Society Join Forces for Positive Change* (Oct. 30, 2024), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/impact-hack-2025-ai-experts-and-civil-society-join-forces-positive-change>

⁶⁸⁶² Swedish Government, *Global Partnership Calls for Gender to Be an Integral Part of the AI Action Summit* (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.government.se/statements/2025/02/global-partnership-calls-for-gender-to-be-an-integral-part-of-the-ai-action-summit/>

⁶⁸⁶³ EUR-Lex, *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and on the Free Movement of Such Data* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32016R0679>

⁶⁸⁶⁴ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*, https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

⁶⁸⁶⁵ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *Welcome to IMY* (Apr. 16, 2021), <https://www.imy.se/en/>

⁶⁸⁶⁶ EUR-Lex, *Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the Purposes of the Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences or the Execution of Criminal Penalties, and on the Free Movement of Such Data*,

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Criminal Data Act. The Criminal Data Act applies to personal data processing in law enforcement activities such as the Swedish Police Authority and hospitals if someone is sentenced to compulsory psychiatric care. The Swedish Police Data Act supplements the Swedish Criminal Data Act in relation to personal data processing carried out by the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, and the Swedish Security Service. The LED aims to “ensure that the personal data of victims, witnesses, and suspects of crime are duly protected and will facilitate cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism.”⁶⁸⁶⁷ The LED provides for the prohibition of any decision based solely on automated processing, unless it is provided by law, and prohibits profiling that results in discrimination.⁶⁸⁶⁸

The Swedish Camera Surveillance Act supplements the GDPR and applies to processing of personal data in connection with camera surveillance. However, the Swedish parliament considered amendments to the Act in late 2024 to allow live camera surveillance and facial recognition technology, even for minors,⁶⁸⁶⁹ to assist in police investigation, in part as a response to a rise in shootings and bombings in 2023.⁶⁸⁷⁰ Amendments passed in April 2025, stipulating that private and public actors are no longer required to obtain permits to conduct camera surveillance in publicly accessible areas.⁶⁸⁷¹ Instead, these actors are to self-regulate and ensure compliance with GDPR and its stipulations on camera surveillance. The Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY) has provided guidance for actors looking to carry out camera surveillance to facilitate compliance with the GDPR and the Camera Surveillance Act.⁶⁸⁷²

and Repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁶⁸⁶⁷ European Commission, *Legal Framework of EU Data Protection*,

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

⁶⁸⁶⁸ Article 11 (1) and (2) of the LED, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A02016L0680-20160504>

⁶⁸⁶⁹ US Library of Congress, *Sweden: Government Bill to Allow Police Use of Facial Recognition and DNA Genealogy Cleared for Parliament's Consideration* (Sept. 12, 2024),

<https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2024-10-09/sweden-government-bill-to-allow-police-use-of-facial-recognition-and-dna-genealogy-cleared-for-parliaments-consideration/>

⁶⁸⁷⁰ Ministry of Justice, *New Video Surveillance Offensive against Criminal Networks—New and Better Tools for the Swedish Police* (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://www.government.se/press-releases/2023/10/new-video-surveillance-offensive-against-criminal-networks--new-and-better-tools-for-the-swedish-police/>

⁶⁸⁷¹ Regeringskansliets Rättsdatabaser, *Camera Surveillance Act (2018:1200)*

[*Kamerabevakningslag*] (Apr. 2025), <https://rkrattsbaser.gov.se/sfst?bet=2018:1200>

⁶⁸⁷² Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *For those considering the use of video-surveillance* (March, 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/organisations/camera-surveillance/for-those-considering-the-use-of-camera-surveillance/>

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The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights provides that EU citizens have the right to protection of their personal data. Article 8 of the Charter states that: “Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law.”⁶⁸⁷³

Sweden is a member of the Council of Europe. It signed but has not yet ratified⁶⁸⁷⁴ the Council of Europe’s Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.⁶⁸⁷⁵

The Swedish Government acknowledged the GDPR as “an important part of the AI framework.”⁶⁸⁷⁶ The IMY published a report detailing how the Swedish public administration’s use of generative AI can remain compliant with the GDPR.⁶⁸⁷⁷ The report stresses alignment with the GDPR principles, establishing a legal basis for processing, outlining stakeholder roles and responsibilities, safeguarding individual rights, implementing risk-based security controls, and evaluating automated decision-making and cross-border data transfers.

The IMY issued its first fine in a case involving facial recognition in 2019. The IMY concluded that a school that conducted a pilot using facial recognition to keep track of students’ attendance in school violated the GDPR and imposed a fine on the municipality of approximately 20,000 euros.⁶⁸⁷⁸ The IMY has also held the police accountable for the unlawful use of facial recognition technology, which is detailed further in the facial recognition section.⁶⁸⁷⁹

The IMY has also taken action against private industry, issuing an administrative fine of SEK 35 million against an insurance company Trygg- Hansa

⁶⁸⁷³ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Title II: Freedoms, Article 8—Protection of Personal Data* (Dec. 14, 2007), <https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/article/8-protection-personal-data>

⁶⁸⁷⁴ Council of Europe, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 4, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=223>

⁶⁸⁷⁵ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (May 18, 2018) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁶⁸⁷⁶ Government Offices, *National Approach to Artificial Intelligence*, p. 10, OECD (May 2018), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Sweden_National_Approach_to_Artificial_Intelligence_2018.pdf

⁶⁸⁷⁷ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *National Guidelines for Generative AI in Public Administration Are Launched* (Jul. 24, 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/news/national-guidelines-for-generative-ai-in-public-administration-are-launched/>

⁶⁸⁷⁸ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *Facial Recognition in School Renders Sweden's First GDPR fine* (Aug. 21, 2019), <https://www.imy.se/en/about-us/arkiv/nyhetsarkiv/facial-recognition-in-school-renders-swedens-first-gdpr-fine/>

⁶⁸⁷⁹ European Data Protection Board, *Swedish DPA: Police Unlawfully Used Facial Recognition App* (Feb. 11, 2021), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2021/swedish-dpa-police-unlawfully-used-facial-recognition-app_en

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(then Moderna Försäkringar) in August 2023.⁶⁸⁸⁰ The IMY fined the Equality Ombudsman (DO) in May 2025, for SEK 100,000 following their supervision of a personal data breach, which was reported by the DO in 2021.⁶⁸⁸¹ The DO has undertaken security measures to protect personal data obtained from a web form (which has since been closed), so that said data was not included in the usage analysis of the DO's website. The security measure was not completely effective, leading to sensitive personal data being disclosed to the personal data processor that was conducting the analysis of the DO's website, leading to the fine.

The IMY reprimanded the Hospital Board in Region Uppsala after they were notified of a data leak by Region Uppsala.⁶⁸⁸² The Hospital Board gathers large amounts of sensitive data as it conducts healthcare activities, some of which was processed through an email service. The IMY had previously stated that the processing of personal and sensitive data via an email service poses a significant risk. Sensitive personal data was shared and processed between employees within the company and was in direct violation of the Hospital Board's guidelines. As such, the IMY assessed and ascertained that the appropriate technical and organizational measures have not been implemented by the Hospital Board.

One month later in July 2025, the IMY fined Apoteket and Apohem SEK 37 million and SEK 8 million, respectively.⁶⁸⁸³ Both companies made use of Meta Pixel, an analytics tool which was used to improve marketing across Facebook and Instagram. Both companies enable a new sub-feature on the tool, leading to the transfer of personal data to Meta, which violates the GDPR. In addition, the IMY found that the necessary protective measures were not in place, specifically measures to detect the data breach, leading to the transfer of personal data for a prolonged period.

Despite being a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002, the IMY has not endorsed the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in

⁶⁸⁸⁰ European Data Protection Board, *Sweden SA (IMY) Issues Administrative Fine against Insurance Company for Security Deficiencies* (Aug. 28, 2023),

https://www.edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2023/sweden-sa-imy-issues-administrative-fine-against-insurance-company-security_en

⁶⁸⁸¹ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *Administrative Fine against the Equality Ombudsman when Personal Data Was Collected via a Web Form* (May 12, 2025),

<https://www.imy.se/en/news/administrative-fine-against-the-discrimination-ombudsman-when-personal-data-was-collection-via-a-web-form/>

⁶⁸⁸² Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *The Hospital Board Has Failed in Its Security Measures when Handling E-mail* (May 12, 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/news/the-hospital-board-has-failed-in-its-security-measures-when-handling-e-mail/>

⁶⁸⁸³ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *Administrative Fines against Apoteket and Apohem for Transferring Personal Data to Meta* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/news/administrative-fines-against-apoteket-and-apohem-for-transferring-personal-data-to-meta/>

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Artificial Intelligence,⁶⁸⁸⁴ 2020 Resolution on AI Accountability,⁶⁸⁸⁵ 2022 Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁶⁸⁸⁶ or 2023 Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁶⁸⁸⁷

Algorithmic Transparency

Sweden is subject to the GDPR which established rights to “meaningful information about the logic involved” as well as about “the significance and the envisaged consequences.”⁶⁸⁸⁸ The Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY) is competent to handle complaints in this regard.⁶⁸⁸⁹ However, in 2019, the Equality Ombudsman (*Diskriminerings Ombudsmannen*, DO) Agneta Broberg warned that the sanctions available under the Swedish Discrimination Act not sufficient to tackle the challenges of AI and discriminatory algorithms.⁶⁸⁹⁰

Following the Trelleborg episode concerning automated decisions by municipalities, the Union for Professionals called for the creation of an algorithm ombudsman: “The Union has, among other things, conducted a survey that shows that the requirement for an Algorithm Ombudsman has broad support among the public—and that transparency and openness are absolutely crucial for there to be trust in algorithms and automation.”⁶⁸⁹¹ In this regard, a 2020 survey organized by BEUC, the European Consumer Organization, and involving the Swedish Consumer

⁶⁸⁸⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁶⁸⁸⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁶⁸⁸⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁶⁸⁸⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁶⁸⁸⁸ EUR-Lex, *Regulation 2016/679, GDPR, Article 22 and Article 13(2)(f)* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32016R0679>

⁶⁸⁸⁹ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *The Data Subject's Rights* (Apr. 16, 2021), <https://www.imy.se/en/organisations/data-protection/this-applies-according-to-gdpr/the-data-subjects-rights/>

⁶⁸⁹⁰ Equity Ombudsman, *Protection Against Discrimination Needs to be Reviewed [Skyddet mot diskriminering behöver ses över]* (Feb. 21, 2020), <https://www.do.se/om-do/pressrum/aktuellt/aktuellt-under-2020/skyddet-mot-diskriminering-behoover-ses-over/>

⁶⁸⁹¹ Academics' Unions SSR, *AI and Algorithms: Our Policy Requirements* (Nov. 24, 2023), <https://akademssr.se/post/ai-och-algoritmer-vara-politiska-krav>

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Organization revealed that “more than half of Sweden's consumers feel that artificial intelligence (AI) is used to manipulate them. And over 60 percent wish they could say no to automated decision making.”⁶⁸⁹² The Swedish Government commissioned twenty-five public bodies and institutions in 2025 to report on their use of AI with the end goal of increasing transparency in public authorities, taking advantage of AI opportunities, minimizing risks and planning for the future.⁶⁸⁹³

AI in Public Administration

Sweden’s Agency for Digital Administration (DIGG) recommended in a 2020 report on promoting AI in public administration that the Government establish a center with expertise in AI; develop a platform for collaboration, co-development and innovation; develop an AI guide; create legal conditions to facilitate experimental activities; develop vocational and role-specific training in AI; and develop a national data strategy for public administrations.⁶⁸⁹⁴ DIGG serves as an expert group to facilitate Sweden’s digitization, working with public administration “to make the transition a reality, and to the benefit of everyone.”⁶⁸⁹⁵ The Ministry of Finance assigned DIGG and the Privacy Protection Agency (IMY) to develop Guidelines for the use of Generative AI in Public Administration in August 2024.⁶⁸⁹⁶ DIGG published the guidelines along with educational information and webinars about AI on a sub-site from the agency website.⁶⁸⁹⁷

DIGG responded to a Ministry of Infrastructure call from 2019 to increase the availability of data by launching Sweden’s data portal with new functionality for APIs and establishing principles, guidelines, and recommendations “to increase the

⁶⁸⁹² Swedish Consumers’ Association, *New Survey: Consumers Suspicious of AI* (Sept. 7, 2020), <https://www.sverigeskonsumenter.se/nyheter-press/nyheter-och-pressmeddelanden/las-mer-om-undersokningen-har/>; BEUC, *Artificial Intelligence: What Consumers Say: Findings and Policy Recommendations of a Multi-Country Survey on AI* (2020), <https://www.sverigeskonsumenter.se/media/kb6f3wya/beuc-ai.pdf>

⁶⁸⁹³ Government Offices, *Authorities Should Report on How They Develop Their Use of AI [Myndigheter ska redovisa hur de utvecklar sin användning av AI]* (Jan. 2025), <https://rkrattsbaser.gov.se/sfst?bet=2018:1200>

⁶⁸⁹⁴ DIGG, *Promoting the Ability of Public Administration to Use AI* (Jan. 14, 2020), <https://www.digg.se/analys-och-uppfoljning/publikationer/publikationer/2020-01-14-framja-den-offentliga-forvaltningens-formaga-att-anvanda-ai>

⁶⁸⁹⁵ DIGG, *About Us* (Accessed Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.digg.se/om-oss>

⁶⁸⁹⁶ Government Assignment from the Ministry of Finance, *Assignment to the Digital Governance Agency and the Privacy Protection Authority to Develop Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration*, Registry Number Fi2024/01535 (Aug. 8, 2024), <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringsuppdrag/2024/08/uppdrag-till-myndigheten-for-digital-forvaltning-och-integritetsskyddsmyndigheten-att-ta-fram-riktlinjer-for-anvandningen-av-generativ-artificiell-intelligens-inom-den-offentliga-forvaltningen/>

⁶⁸⁹⁷ DIGG, *AI for Public Administration*, <https://www.digg.se/ai-for-offentlig-forvaltning>

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public administration's ability to make open data available.”⁶⁸⁹⁸ Much of this work was based on DIGG’s piloted projects with business, academia, and civil society. Since then, Sweden’s data portal has become a strategic societal resource for business, society, and the public sector with more than 17,000 data sets being used by 335 different organizations. The portal demonstrates Sweden’s ambition to enhance innovation and move Swedish society forward.⁶⁸⁹⁹

AI Sweden and the AI Council for Sweden’s Municipalities published Recommendations to ensure practical guidance for AI adoption within municipalities in June 2025.⁶⁹⁰⁰ The IMY and DIGG jointly issued national guidelines in July 2025 that encourage the use of generative AI within Sweden’s public administration with the end goal of ensuring that generative AI is used in a safe, ethical and efficient way.⁶⁹⁰¹

The Trelborg Controversy

The automation of government services has been underway in Sweden since the 1970s. By 2019, “more than 80% of all government decisions that the National Audit has reviewed were automated. This involves 121 million decisions by 13 authorities.”⁶⁹⁰² Various benefits, including Welfare payments, parental benefits, and dental-care subsidies, are allocated without any human intervention.

As for municipalities, which oversee social services, a 2019 report published by the Union for Professionals, found that “only 16 out of a total of 290 municipalities have implemented RPA [Robotic Processing Automation] in their administration of social benefits.”⁶⁹⁰³ The Trelborg Municipality was the only one to implement solely automated decision-making.

⁶⁸⁹⁸ DIGG, *Open Data, Data-Driven Innovation, and AI [Öppna data, datadriven innovation och AI]* (Jan. 29, 2021), <https://www.digg.se/analys-och-uppfoljning/publikationer/publikationer/2021-01-29-oppna-data-datadriven-innovation-och-ai>

⁶⁸⁹⁹ European Union, *Open Data Portals around Europe: Sweden Encouraging and Fueling Innovation*, Publications Office of the European Union (Jul. 1, 2024), <https://data.europa.eu/en/news-events/news/open-data-portals-around-europe-sweden-encouraging-and-fueling-innovation>

⁶⁹⁰⁰ AI Sweden, *Practical guidance for municipalities on their AI-journey* (Jun. 2025), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/practical-guidance-municipalities-their-ai-journey>

⁶⁹⁰¹ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *National Guidelines for Generative AI in Public Administration Are Launched* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/news/national-guidelines-for-generative-ai-in-public-administration-are-launched/>

⁶⁹⁰² Nord News, *The Swedish National Audit Office: Automatic Government Decisions Are Becoming More Common* (Nov. 19, 2020), <https://nord.news/2020/11/19/the-swedish-national-audit-office-automatic-government-decisions-are-becoming-more-common/>

⁶⁹⁰³ Lupita Svensson, “Technology Is the Easy Part”: On Implementing Digital Automation in the Processing of Social Assistance [“Tekniken är den enkla biten” Om att implementera digital

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In 2019 journalist Freddi Ramel and Union for Professionals chief economist Simon Vinge challenged the Trelleborg automated decision system. According to AlgorithmWatch, the Swedish Parliamentary Ombudsman has so far failed to determine whether the municipality provided “meaningful information” as required by Article 15 of the GDPR.⁶⁹⁰⁴ However, Ramel obtained access to the source code after a court ruled that the code was a public record under the Swedish Freedom of Information Act. The Trelleborg municipality subsequently undertook an investigation.

Facial Recognition

In 2019, the Swedish DPA issued its first fine in a case involving facial recognition. A school in northern Sweden conducted a pilot using facial recognition to keep track of students' attendance in school. The Swedish DPA concluded that the test violates the GDPR and imposed a fine on the municipality of approximately 20,000 euros. The school processed sensitive biometric data unlawfully and failed to do an adequate impact assessment including seeking prior consultation with the Swedish DPA. The school based the processing on consent, but the Swedish DPA considers that consent was not a valid legal basis given the clear imbalance between the data subject and the controller.⁶⁹⁰⁵

The data protection officer for the Swedish police undertook an investigation in March 2020 to determine whether the police used Clearview AI, an AI product for mass surveillance enabled by facial recognition.⁶⁹⁰⁶ The Swedish police confirmed that they had used Clearview AI, after previously denying use of the face surveillance tool.⁶⁹⁰⁷ Subsequently, the IMY investigated the case and found in 2021 that the Swedish Police Authority had processed personal data in breach of the Swedish

automatisering i handläggningen av försörjningsstöd] (Nov. 20, 2019),

<https://akademssr.se/sites/default/files/files/LupitaSvensson.pdf>

⁶⁹⁰⁴ National Audit Office, *Automated Decision-Making in Public Administration* (Nov. 4, 2020), https://www.riksrevisionen.se/download/18.2008b69c18bd0f6ed3f25040/1608291082190/RiR_2020_22_en-GB.pdf

⁶⁹⁰⁵ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *Facial Recognition in School Renders Sweden's First GDPR Fine* (May 6, 2021), <https://www.imy.se/en/about-us/arkiv/nyhetsarkiv/facial-recognition-in-school-renders-swedens-first-gdpr-fine/>

⁶⁹⁰⁶ SVT NYHETER, *Internal Investigation: Polie Are Not Allowed to Use Criticized AI Service—Would Violate the Law [Intern utredning: Polisen får inte använda kritiserad AI-tjänst – skulle bryta mot lagen]* (Mar. 12, 2020), <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/svensk-polis-forbjuds-att-anvanda-kontroversiella-ai-tjansten>

⁶⁹⁰⁷ Mikael Grill Peterson and Linea Carlén, *Police Confirm: Have Used Controversial Clearview AI [Polisen bekräftar: Har använt omdiskuterade Clearview AI]*, SVT NYHETER (Mar. 11, 2020), <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/ekot-polisen-bekrftar-anvandning-av-kontroversiell-app>

Criminal Data Act by using Clearview AI to identify individuals.⁶⁹⁰⁸ The investigation concluded that Clearview AI had been used sometimes without prior authorisation. The Police had failed to implement sufficient organisational measures to ensure and be able to demonstrate that the processing of personal data had been carried out in compliance with the Criminal Data Act. For example, no impact assessment had been concluded. As a result, the IMY imposed a 250,000 Euros fine.

The IMY noted that the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) “will produce guidance on how law enforcement authorities should approach facial recognition technology. Sweden is one of the driving countries in the world.” The EDPB indeed issued guidelines on the use of facial recognition technologies in law enforcement in May 2022.⁶⁹⁰⁹ The EDPB Chair said: “While modern technologies offer benefits to law enforcement, such as the swift identification of suspects of serious crimes, they have to satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality. Facial recognition technology is intrinsically linked to processing personal data, including biometric data, and poses serious risks to individual rights and freedoms.” The EDPB stressed that facial recognition tools should only be used in strict compliance with the Law Enforcement Directive (LED). Moreover, such tools should only be used if necessary and proportionate, as laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.⁶⁹¹⁰

In 2019, the Swedish DPA did approve the use of facial recognition technology by the police to help identify criminal suspects. However, such an authorization relates to the use of biometric templates in databases under the control of public authorities and established under Union or Member States law.⁶⁹¹¹ As the Chair of the European Data Protection Board subsequently emphasized, “[t]he possible use of a service such as offered by Clearview AI by law enforcement authorities would, however, be fundamentally different, in that it would imply, as part of a police or criminal investigation, the sharing of personal data with a private party outside the Union and the biometric matching of such data against the latter’s

⁶⁹⁰⁸ European Data Protection Board, *Swedish DPA: Police unlawfully used facial recognition app* (Feb. 11, 2021), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2021/swedish-dpa-police-unlawfully-used-facial-recognition-app_en

⁶⁹⁰⁹ European Data Protection Board, *Guidelines 05/2022 on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement* (now obsolete) (May 12, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2022-05/edpb-guidelines_202205_frlawenforcement_en_1.pdf

⁶⁹¹⁰ European Data Protection Board, *EDPB Adopts Guidelines on Calculation of Fines & Guidelines on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology in the Area of Law Enforcement* (May 16, 2022), https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/edpb-adopts-guidelines-calculation-fines-guidelines-use-facial-recognition_en

⁶⁹¹¹ Official Journal of the European Union, *Directive EU 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council* (Apr. 27, 2016), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016L0680&from=EN>

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mass and arbitrarily populated database of photographs and facial pictures accessible online.”⁶⁹¹² She also clearly questioned the legality of the use of Clearview AI by public authorities.

In October 2023, Sweden’s Ministry of Justice published a press release announcing a proposal to expand the use and increase access by Swedish Police to video surveillance, facial recognition, and automatic number plate recognition tools to enhance crime prevention. According to the press release, “the Government appointed an inquiry on video surveillance. The inquiry’s task consists of two parts. The first is to investigate the need for simplified rules on video surveillance for municipalities and regions [...] aiming to abolish permit requirements for municipalities and regions that want to use video surveillance in public places. The second part is a broadly formulated assignment to investigate expanding the video surveillance powers of the Swedish Police,” such as through the use of drones.⁶⁹¹³ The Prime Minister alluded to these measures, including increased surveillance of children, in a speech in September 2023.⁶⁹¹⁴

The IWY and investigators for Parliament have worked to align these measures with the restrictions, though not prohibitions,⁶⁹¹⁵ on the use of AI systems for remote biometric identification and categorization.⁶⁹¹⁶ The bill to allow police to use facial recognition and DNA genealogy was accepted for Parliament’s

⁶⁹¹² European Data Protection Board, *EDPB Response to MEPs Sophie in 't Veld, Moritz Körner, Michal Šimečka, Fabienne Keller, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Anna Donáth, Maite Pagazaurtundúa, Olivier Chastel, Concerning the Facial Recognition App Developed by Clearview AI* (Jun. 10, 2020), https://edpb.europa.eu/sites/edpb/files/files/file1/edpb_letter_out_2020-0052_facialrecognition.pdf

⁶⁹¹³ Ministry of Justice Press Release, *New Video Surveillance Offensive against Criminal Networks—New and Better Tools for the Swedish Police* (Oct. 19, 2023), <https://www.government.se/press-releases/2023/10/new-video-surveillance-offensive-against-criminal-networks--new-and-better-tools-for-the-swedish-police/>

⁶⁹¹⁴ Government Offices, *Address to the Nation by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson Following Violent Incidents in the Country, Stockholm* (Sept. 28, 2023), <https://www.government.se/speeches/2023/09/prime-minister-ulf-kristerssons-address-to-the-nation/>

⁶⁹¹⁵ European Parliament, Council of the European Union, *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence and Amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (Text with EEA relevance)*, PE/24/2024/REV/1 [2024] OJ L 1689/1 (Jun. 13, 2024), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>

⁶⁹¹⁶ Abigail Opiah, *Sweden Proposal Tests AI Act’s Live Facial Recognition Limits*, Biometric Update (Jul. 4, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202406/swedish-proposal-tests-ai-acts-live-public-facial-recognition-limits>

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consideration in late 2024,⁶⁹¹⁷ and fast-tracked in January 2025. Proposals would allow police to use AI-based real-time facial recognition technology in investigations of serious crimes such as human trafficking, kidnapping, and murder.⁶⁹¹⁸ These recommendations are accompanied by several legal safeguards to help protect personal privacy. A Ministry of Justice memo made these recommendations explicit.⁶⁹¹⁹

Environmental Impact of AI

Sweden has played an extensive role in utilizing AI for climate change and taking initiatives to mitigate climate risks posed by AI development and use. The landmark GPAI Report of 2021 offers recommendations for governments to encourage responsible AI use in climate action, focusing on both positive and negative environmental impacts of AI.⁶⁹²⁰ The report aims to ensure AI supports climate goals while minimizing its environmental footprint. It highlights two key areas to address to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions arising from AI: 1) Compute-related impacts, or energy use and emissions from AI computations and hardware, and 2) Application-related impacts, or AI's role in reducing or increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Sweden is progressively addressing both compute and application related impacts as part of the Climate Policy Framework goals to achieve zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045.⁶⁹²¹ While application related impacts are difficult to ascertain, compute-related impacts are clearly generated through data centers supporting AI based applications.

From 2024, under Article 12 of the recast EU Energy Efficiency Directive, data centers of member states will be required to publish information on their energy

⁶⁹¹⁷ US Library of Congress, *Sweden: Government Bill to Allow Police Use of Facial Recognition and DNA Genealogy Cleared for Parliament's Consideration* (Sept. 12, 2024),

<https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2024-10-09/sweden-government-bill-to-allow-police-use-of-facial-recognition-and-dna-genealogy-cleared-for-parliaments-consideration/>

⁶⁹¹⁸ Reuters, *Swedish Government Proposes Bill to Allow Police Use AI Face Recognition* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/swedish-government-proposes-bill-allow-police-use-ai-face-recognition-2025-03-20/>

⁶⁹¹⁹ Ministry of Justice, *DS 2025:7— Police Use of AI for Real-Time Facial Recognition [Polisens användning av AI för ansiktsgenkänning i realtid]* (Mar. 20, 2025),

<https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/450c0341dec94a0ea5999f9869aa5996/polisens-anvandning-av-ai-for-ansiktsgenkanning-i-realtid-ds-20257.pdf>

⁶⁹²⁰ Clutton-Brock P, Rolnick D, Donti PL, Kaack L. *Climate Change and AI: Recommendations for Government Action*, GPAI, Centre for AI & Climate (2021),

<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202406/swedish-proposal-tests-ai-acts-live-public-facial-recognition-limits>

⁶⁹²¹ Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, *Emergency Information from Swedish Authorities, Sweden's Climate Goals* (Oct. 10, 2023), <https://www.krisinformation.se/en/hazards-and-risks/climate-change/swedens-climate-goals>

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performance and sustainability.⁶⁹²² RISE, Sweden’s research institute and innovation partner, estimates that by 2030 there will be doubling of energy use from data centers compared to 2020 because of AI and Generative AI-related computations.⁶⁹²³ However, Sweden has taken proactive steps to mitigate the situation by adopting the EU Eco-design Regulations for servers and data storage products.⁶⁹²⁴ The EcoDataCenter—Sweden is world’s first “climate-positive data center” completely supported through renewable energy sources. The heat output generated from the data center supports district heating and cooling system.⁶⁹²⁵

RISE has noted that Sweden’s leadership in international AI and innovation for climate change would be hugely beneficial to trade and industry: “The climate challenge is too important an issue to not adopt that perspective. There is no contradiction in investing in AI and investing in AI for the climate, or in developing AI applications and developing applications for the climate.”⁶⁹²⁶ The Sustainable AI and AI for Sustainability event hosted by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Finance in May 2023 was one of a number of sporadic events organized by the Swedish government to set out a clear pathway for Envisioning Sustainable AI.⁶⁹²⁷

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Beginning in 2013, Swedish NGOs called for Sweden to endorse an official ban of LAWS.⁶⁹²⁸ As one NGO coalition stated in 2020, “A future where machines themselves decide over life and death, what and who is to be attacked in an armed conflict, is not the future we want. But the fact is that we are on our way there—and

⁶⁹²² European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy, *Commission Adopts EU-Wide Scheme for Rating Sustainability of Data Centres* (Mar. 15, 2024), https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-adopts-eu-wide-scheme-rating-sustainability-data-centres-2024-03-15_en

⁶⁹²³ RISE Report to the Swedish Energy Agency, *Energy Use in Digital Systems, Data Centres and Cryptocurrency* (2024), <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1742192/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

⁶⁹²⁴ International Energy Agency (IEA), *Data Centres and Data Transmission Networks: Policy* (Jul. 11, 2023), <https://www.iea.org/energy-system/buildings/data-centres-and-data-transmission-networks>

⁶⁹²⁵ United Nations Climate Change (UNCC), *EcoDataCenter—Sweden* (2023), <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/ecodatacenter>

⁶⁹²⁶ RISE, *How AI Can Save the Climate—And Sweden Can Lead the Way* (Feb. 10, 2021), <https://www.ri.se/en/our-stories/how-ai-can-save-the-climate-and-sweden-can-lead-the-way>

⁶⁹²⁷ Insight EU Monitoring, *Swedish EU Presidency: Sustainable AI and AI for Sustainability* (May 2, 2023), <https://ieu-monitoring.com/event/swedish-eu-presidency-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-and-artificial-intelligence-for-sustainability>

⁶⁹²⁸ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, *Building Awareness in Sweden* (Oct. 6, 2013), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/sweden-outreach/>

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development is fast.”⁶⁹²⁹ Previously, leaders in the Swedish government declared that “Sweden must take a leading role in the work for a ban on deadly autonomous weapon systems.” However, the position adopted by Sweden so far has been more nuanced.

The Swedish government has emphasized human control and said “multilateralism remains our only chance to address our many common challenges and to ensure international peace and security.”⁶⁹³⁰ At the 75th UN General Assembly meeting in October 2020, Sweden’s Ambassador stated “Sweden is of the strong conviction that human control over the use of force always must be upheld.” She also expressed Sweden’s support to the 11 LAWS Guiding Principles.⁶⁹³¹ Earlier, Sweden also explained that the “specific measures required for human control will thus need to be context dependent and assessed on a case-by-case basis” and referred to a report, supported by Sweden, together with Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.⁶⁹³² The Swedish government has also set up a working group on autonomous weapons. According to the NGO Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, this “working group is defense-oriented, with a majority of its members coming from defense-related authorities and institutions.”⁶⁹³³

Sweden was one of the 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the 2022 United Nations General Assembly. The joint statement urged “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular

⁶⁹²⁹ Amnesty International Sweden, *Sweden Must Stand Against Killer Robots [Sverige måste stå upp mot mördarrobotar]* (Sept. 21, 2020), <https://www.amnesty.se/aktuellt/sverige-maste-sta-upp-mot-mordarrobotar-debattartikel-publicerad-209-2020/>

⁶⁹³⁰ Government of Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Statement Delivered by Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations at the General Debate of the First Committee, 75th session of the UN General Assembly, United Nations* (Oct. 14, 2020), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com20/statements/14Oct_Sweden.pdf

⁶⁹³¹ Geneva Internet Platform (DigWatch), *GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, <https://dig.watch/process/gge-laws#view-14508-1>

⁶⁹³² Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *Limits on Autonomy in Weapon Systems: Identifying Practical Elements of Human Control* (Jun. 2020), <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2020/other-publications/limits-autonomy-weapon-systems-identifying-practical-elements-human-control-0>

⁶⁹³³ Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, *Questions and Answers about Killer Robots* (Jul. 13, 2020), <https://www.svenskafreds.se/vad-vi-gor/nedrustning/stoppamordarrobotar/faq-mordarrobotar/>

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International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁶⁹³⁴

Sweden also submitted a working paper with Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Spain to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.⁶⁹³⁵ The working paper presents a two-tier approach. Accordingly, States should commit to (1) outlaw fully autonomous lethal weapons systems operating completely outside human control and a responsible chain of command, and (2) regulate other lethal weapons systems featuring autonomy to ensure compliance with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, by preserving human responsibility and accountability, ensuring appropriate human control, and implementing risk mitigation measures.

At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in November 2023, Sweden was amongst 164 countries voted in favor of resolution L.564991 on autonomous weapons systems.⁶⁹³⁶ The Resolution emphasized the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report reflecting the views of member and observer states on ways to address the challenges and concerns autonomous weapon systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and reflect on the role of humans in the use of force.

Sweden’s contribution to the report reiterated its support for the two-tier approach. The comments underline the importance that the Governmental Group of Experts (GGE) deliver on its mandate to develop regulation, acknowledging that even an agreement that might fall short of some delegations’ expectations would still amount to a step forward. Sweden’s view on preservation of meaningful human control over the use of force is a key objective.⁶⁹³⁷

⁶⁹³⁴ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate—Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁶⁹³⁵ Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, *Documents from the 2022 CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Jul. 25, 2022), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/ccw/2022/laws/documents>

⁶⁹³⁶ Isabelle Jones, *164 States Vote against the Machine at the UN General Assembly*, Stop Killer Robots (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/164-states-vote-against-the-machine/>

⁶⁹³⁷ Government Offices, *Swedish Input to the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Accordance with Resolution 78/241 “Lethal Autonomous Weapons systems” Adopted by the General Assembly* (Dec. 22, 2023), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session \(2024\)/78-241-Sweden-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General Assembly First Committee -Seventy-Ninth session (2024)/78-241-Sweden-EN.pdf)

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Sweden has also been active in international summits on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain (REAIM). At the end of the REAIM2023 Summit, Sweden endorsed a joint call for action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.⁶⁹³⁸ Sweden also endorsed the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁶⁹³⁹

Following the second Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) summit in Seoul, Korea, in 2024, Sweden signed Blueprint for Action along with 62 other nations of the 90 in attendance.⁶⁹⁴⁰ The Blueprint was more action-oriented than the earlier statement in keeping with advanced discussions and developments in the military such as AI-enabled drones being rolled out by Ukraine. The Blueprint provides guidance on what kind of risk assessments should be made, conditions such as human control, and how confidence-building measures can be taken to manage risks.

Endorsement of the Blueprint for Action coincides with Sweden's growing military investment amid growing instability in Europe, particularly given the war in Ukraine. The shift also coincides with Sweden's decision to abandon its long-standing policy of neutrality by applying to join NATO in 2022.⁶⁹⁴¹ AI in Swedish defense, including LAWS, is still at an early stage of conception. However, developments already in use, such as cloud-based data lakes for "real-time predictions about the physical behaviors of where people, ships or planes are going, and also predict the contextual behaviors of what these people, ships or planes are actually doing" highlight the necessity for responsible and accountable use of AI with human involvement in the initiative.⁶⁹⁴²

⁶⁹³⁸ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁶⁹³⁹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁶⁹⁴⁰ Brianna Rosen, *From Principles to Action: Charting a Path for Military AI Governance*, Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/media/article/principles-action-military-ai-governance>

⁶⁹⁴¹ Alastair Finlan, *A Fertile Soil for AI? Defense AI in Sweden*, in *The Very Long Game: 25 Case Studies on the Global State of Defense AI*, Springer Nature, pp. 107–126 (Jul. 19, 2024), https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-58649-1_5

⁶⁹⁴² Saab, *AI at Saab: Artificial Eye* (Sept. 16, 2021), <http://web.archive.org/web/20231001123126/https://www.saab.com/newsroom/stories/2021/september/artificial-eye>

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AI Literacy

Sweden has been developing institutional AI literacy capacities since at least 2018. The national cooperation initiative for education in AI includes AI Sweden, WASP Education Development Program (WASP-ED), Expert Learning Labs (ELLS) and multiple universities. The focus is on upskilling and reskilling the labor workforce.⁶⁹⁴³ The AI Competence for Sweden initiative remains a key platform for higher-education and workforce-oriented AI training.⁶⁹⁴⁴ The Competence Guide facilitates learners' navigation of the courses offered by several universities.⁶⁹⁴⁵

DIGG and IMY national guidelines for the safe and responsible use of generative AI in public administration⁶⁹⁴⁶ and AI Sweden's practical guidance for municipalities⁶⁹⁴⁷ strengthen institutional capacity-building and include skills-building such as online courses on the AI Act and generative AI.⁶⁹⁴⁸

Human Rights

Sweden is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions and supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sweden typically ranks among the top nations in the world for the protection of human rights and transparency in the annual Freedom House Freedom in the World report. In 2025, Sweden maintained the rating of "Free" with a score of 99/100.⁶⁹⁴⁹

AI Sweden promotes responsible use of AI and suggests "AI systems must be designed and operated in a manner that respects human rights, values, and cultural diversity."⁶⁹⁵⁰ However, while this approach is supported through an AI strategy, Sweden has not yet implemented legislation or regulation to enforce these principles. Human dignity is a fundamental human right and associated closely with concepts of autonomy and privacy. A recent debate sparked in Sweden over use of real time

⁶⁹⁴³ AI Competence for Sweden, *National Collaborative Initiative for Education and Skills Development in AI* [Nationellt samverkansinitiativ för utbildning och kompetensutveckling inom AI] (2024), <https://ai-competence.se/om/>

⁶⁹⁴⁴ AI Competence for Sweden, *About AI Competence for Sweden*, <https://ai-competence.se/en/about/>

⁶⁹⁴⁵ AI Competence for Sweden, *Competence Guide*, <https://ai-competence.se/en/competence-guide/>

⁶⁹⁴⁶ Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), *National Guidelines for Generative AI in Public Administration Are Launched* (Jul. 24, 2025), <https://www.imy.se/en/news/national-guidelines-for-generative-ai-in-public-administration-are-launched/>

⁶⁹⁴⁷ AI Sweden, *Practical Advice for the Municipality's AI Journey* [Praktiska råd för kommunens AI-resa] (Jun. 16, 2025), <https://my.ai.se/resources/6099>

⁶⁹⁴⁸ AI Sweden, *Start Your AI Journey (Online Course)* [Starta din AI-resa], <https://www.ai.se/sv/starta-din-ai-resa-onlinekurs>

⁶⁹⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Sweden* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/sweden/freedom-world/2025>

⁶⁹⁵⁰ AI Sweden, *An AI Strategy for Sweden* (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://strategy.ai.se/>

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facial recognition for identifying suspected criminals reveals potential challenges to the privacy and civil liberties of Swedish people. On the other hand, such measures may help reduce gang violence.⁶⁹⁵¹

Sweden has an Equality Ombudsman (DO) serving as a government agency that works on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government to promote human rights associated with equal rights and opportunities and to combat discrimination. The DO supports human rights and equity broadly but engages with discrimination related to AI systems and data, such as with its 2023 report on AI in working life.⁶⁹⁵² AI Sweden, in collaboration with civil society partners, issued national guidelines to counter AI-driven discrimination.⁶⁹⁵³ These guidelines provide practical tools for identifying risk factors, improving dataset representativeness, and mitigating discriminatory outcomes in public and private sector AI systems.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Sweden is an OECD member and has endorsed the AI Principles.⁶⁹⁵⁴ OECD considered Sweden's early AI governance structure with three Ministries—Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, and Ministry of Education and Research—responsible for AI policies and related agencies in charge of implementation⁶⁹⁵⁵ a positive step toward implementing the OECD AI Principles. Sweden has implemented many of the values-based principles as well as the five recommendations for policymakers.

In line with principle 1.1, which emphasizes inclusive growth, sustainable development and wellbeing, multiple initiatives have been taken.⁶⁹⁵⁶ To augment human capabilities and enhance creativity, for example, AI Sweden reported

⁶⁹⁵¹ Masha Borak, *Swedish Police Want to Fight Crime with Live Facial Recognition* (Oct. 13, 2024), Biometric News, <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202410/swedish-police-want-to-fight-crime-with-live-facial-recognition>

⁶⁹⁵² Equity Ombudsman, *AI and Risks of Discrimination in Working Life [AI och risker för diskriminering i arbetslivet]* (Nov. 15, 2023), <https://www.do.se/rattsfall-beslut-lagar-stodmaterial/publikationer/2023/ai-och-risker-for-diskriminering-i-arbetslivet>

⁶⁹⁵³ AI Sweden, *New Guidelines from Civil Society to Counter AI-Driven Discrimination* (Jun, 2025), <https://www.ai.se/en/news/new-guidelines-civil-society-counter-ai-driven-discrimination>

⁶⁹⁵⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (May 29, 2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁶⁹⁵⁵ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles: Insights from National AI Policies* (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://www.oecd.org/digital/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-1cd40c44-en.htm>

⁶⁹⁵⁶ OECD Secretariat, Committee on Digital Economy Policy, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On*, OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers, no. 3 (Oct. 27, 2023), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en.html

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international collaboration with Unity Health, Toronto to integrate Canadian insights into the Swedish healthcare system.⁶⁹⁵⁷ VINNOVA (the Swedish innovation agency) supported information-driven healthcare to offer personalized and scalable healthcare through AI applications.⁶⁹⁵⁸ Citizen consultation on the recent draft of the digitization policy in 2024 has also been key to social dialogue and attempts to include diverse communities in policymaking, thereby promoting inclusive societal growth. To address gender inequalities through AI, VINNOVA tasked Ramboll and Women in AI (WAI) to study the potential of AI for achieving gender equality.⁶⁹⁵⁹

The recent AI Sweden strategy also emphasizes human-centered values and fairness (principle 1.2) and informs good governance. Transparency (OECD principle 1.3) is core to the AI strategy.⁶⁹⁶⁰ Algorithmic impact assessment is one of the key components for addressing robustness, security, and safety (principle 1.4) in AI. The Add AI collaborative initiative, involving government officials, academicians, and tech companies, explores the impact of smart algorithms and AI on the Swedish society.⁶⁹⁶¹ In terms of accountability (principle 1.5), AI Sweden, has declared that all AI solutions should be developed and used within the rule of law, and that stakeholders will be held accountable for their applications.⁶⁹⁶²

Sweden is a member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities. GPAI is “built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence.”⁶⁹⁶³

⁶⁹⁵⁷ Johanna Bergman, *AI Sweden × Unity Health Toronto*, AI Sweden (Dec. 2023),

<https://www.ai.se/en/sector-initiatives/healthcare/ai-sweden-unity-health-toronto>

⁶⁹⁵⁸ Lorna Bartram & Nina Lahti, *Information-Driven Healthcare*, AI Sweden (Nov. 2019),

<https://www.ai.se/en/sector-initiatives/healthcare/information-driven-healthcare>

⁶⁹⁵⁹ Marisa Tschopp, Angela Kim, Susan Verdigué, Alessandra Sala, Victoria Bolin, Sara Ibrahim, Elena Kell, *AI For Gender Equality*, VINNOVA (2020),

<https://www.VINNOVA.se/globalassets/mikrosajter/ai-for-jamstalldhet-starker-tillvaxten-samhallsekonomin-och-arbetsmarknaden/ai-for-genderekvalitet-accessable.pdf>

⁶⁹⁶⁰ AI Sweden, *An AI Strategy for Sweden*, (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://strategy.ai.se/>

⁶⁹⁶¹ addAI, *Liberty, Equality and AI* (Oct. 16, 2019), <https://www.addai.org/>

⁶⁹⁶² Johanna Bergman, *Responsible Use of AI*, AI Sweden (Mar. 20, 2024),

<https://www.ai.se/en/adoption/responsible-use-ai>

⁶⁹⁶³ Government of Canada, *Canada Concludes Inaugural Plenary of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence with International Counterparts in Montreal* (Dec. 4, 2020),

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/12/canada-concludes-inaugural-plenary-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence-with-international-counterparts-in-montreal.html>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Sweden contributed as a Council of Europe and EU Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁶⁹⁶⁴ The EU signed this first legally binding international treaty on AI on behalf of all Member States when it opened for signature on September 5, 2024.⁶⁹⁶⁵ Sweden has not individually signed or ratified this treaty.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Sweden has endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the first ever global agreement on the ethics of AI.⁶⁹⁶⁶ Sweden has taken several initiatives to implement the UNESCO Recommendation, which outlines 11 areas of policy action along with components for monitoring and evaluation.⁶⁹⁶⁷ However, several of these policy areas have yet to be fully implemented. Sweden has not begun the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁶⁹⁶⁸ Many of the initiatives in Sweden pose technical solutions to AI challenges without clear legal or policy bases for enforcement.

Evaluation

Sweden endorsed the OECD AI Principles and began to implement them in part through a commitment to developing trustworthy AI and preparing citizens through educational and training opportunities. Sweden ranks at the top among nations for the protection of political rights and civil liberties and has proactive ombudsman institutions and an active data protection agency. Frameworks and the AI Committee, along with AI literacy projects, suggest progress to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on AI ethics. Incorporating clear ethical impact

⁶⁹⁶⁴ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁹⁶⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar 4, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁶⁹⁶⁶ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁶⁹⁶⁷ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2022), https://www.naavi.org/uploads_wp/2023/Recommendation%20on%20the%20Ethics%20of%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20-%20UNESCO%20Digital%20Library.pdf

⁶⁹⁶⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics & Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Mar. 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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assessments into AI development and initiating the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) can further these efforts.

Sweden's opposition, along with other Nordic and Baltic countries, to a strong regulatory framework for AI raises concern about the commitment to take the necessary measures to prevent and mitigate ethical risks. The establishment of a Nordic AI Center, announced in August 2024, could be a key catalyzer in this direction. The Nordic Ethical AI Expert Group has called for the development of "a joint Nordic strategy for ethical and responsible AI."⁶⁹⁶⁹ To date, however, the prioritization of AI adoption and development has not been accompanied by sufficient emphasis on the ethical alignment of AI systems.

The appointment of the AI Commission could be an important step toward designating supervising and competent authorities to implement the EU AI Act, especially given the emphasis on the need for "competitive, safe and ethical AI development and AI use in Sweden."⁶⁹⁷⁰ Designating authorities for the EU AI Act, ratifying Convention 108+, and taking action on the AI treaty are important steps to demonstrate how Sweden will protect human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law as it pursues leadership in AI development and use.

⁶⁹⁶⁹ Nordic Innovation, *Press Release: Nordic AI Experts Launch Five Recommendations for Ethical AI* (Jun. 16, 2024), <https://www.nordicinnovation.org/news/press-release-nordic-ai-experts-launch-five-recommendations-ethical-ai>

⁶⁹⁷⁰ Committee Directive from the Ministry of Finance, *Strengthened AI Capabilities in Sweden [Förstärkt AI-förmåga i Sverige]* Dir. 2023:164 (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/kommittedirektiv/2023/12/dir.-2023164>

Switzerland

In 2025, the Swiss Federal Council released the Overview of Artificial Intelligence Regulation, outlining Switzerland's sector-specific approach to governing AI. Switzerland also endorsed the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.

National AI Strategy

The Swiss government announced AI Guidelines for the Federal Government in 2020.⁶⁹⁷¹ The AI Guidelines are intended to ensure a coherent government policy for AI. The AI Guidelines emphasize putting people at the center; Framework conditions for the development and use of AI; Transparency, traceability, and explainability; Human accountability; Safety and security; Active participation in the governance of AI; and Involvement of all affected national and international actors. Specific AI guidelines will be formulated for education and science. Future AI work will be undertaken by the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) together with the federal agencies concerned. The Digital Switzerland Strategy,⁶⁹⁷² which encompasses AI, and the Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021–2024⁶⁹⁷³ served as reference frameworks for the implementing the guidelines. The AI Guidelines also follow from the Digital Switzerland Strategies dating back to 2016.⁶⁹⁷⁴ These strategies are binding for the Federal Administration and encompass the government's principles and key objectives for digital transformation.⁶⁹⁷⁵ The current strategy emphasizes the AI legal framework and use of AI in public administration.⁶⁹⁷⁶

⁶⁹⁷¹ Federal Council, *Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for the Federal Administration Adopted* [Leitlinien, "Künstliche Intelligenz" für den Bund], Media Reports (Nov. 25, 2020), <https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-81319.html>

⁶⁹⁷² Federal Council, *Digital Switzerland Strategy* (Sept. 2020), [https://www.bk.admin.ch/dam/bk/en/dokumente/dti/StrategieDCH/strategiedch2020.pdf.download.pdf/Digital Switzerland Strategy 2020.pdf](https://www.bk.admin.ch/dam/bk/en/dokumente/dti/StrategieDCH/strategiedch2020.pdf.download.pdf/Digital%20Switzerland%20Strategy%202020.pdf)

⁶⁹⁷³ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), *Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021–2024* (Nov. 4, 2020), https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/publikationen.html/content/publikationen/en/eda/schweizer-aussenpolitik/Digitalaussenpolitik_2021-2024.html

⁶⁹⁷⁴ Federal Council, *Digital Switzerland Strategy* (Apr. 20, 2016), [https://www.seco.admin.ch/dam/seco/de/dokumente/Standortfoerderung/Tourismus/StrategischeThemen/Digitalisierung/Strategie Digitale Schweiz.pdf.download.pdf/Strategie Digitale Schweiz.pdf](https://www.seco.admin.ch/dam/seco/de/dokumente/Standortfoerderung/Tourismus/StrategischeThemen/Digitalisierung/Strategie%20Digitale%20Schweiz.pdf.download.pdf/Strategie%20Digitale%20Schweiz.pdf)

⁶⁹⁷⁵ Federal Council, *Digital Switzerland Strategy*, <https://digital.swiss/en/>

⁶⁹⁷⁶ Federal Council, *Digital Switzerland Strategy 2026*, <https://digital.swiss/userdata/uploads/strategie-dch-en.pdf>

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The Swiss Federal Council emphasized the need for a joint strategic approach to artificial intelligence within the Federal Administration at a meeting in September 2024.⁶⁹⁷⁷ The Council tasked the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) and the Federal Chancellery with developing a comprehensive proposal by the end of 2025 to coordinate all relevant AI activities. This initiative aims to foster synergy, promote innovation, and build public trust in the application of AI across the public sector. The strategy will address key areas such as infrastructure, regulatory development, workforce training, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that AI adoption aligns with democratic principles and societal needs.”⁶⁹⁷⁸

The Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) submitted a report on AI regulation to the Swiss Federal Council in February 2025.⁶⁹⁷⁹ The report weighs approaches to implementing the EU AI Act and Council of Europe Framework Convention in light of Switzerland’s three key objectives for future AI regulation: 1) strengthen the country’s position as an innovation hub, 2) safeguard fundamental rights and the rule of law, and 3) build public trust through transparency, accountability, and explainability in AI systems.⁶⁹⁸⁰

Swiss Foreign Policy and AI

Switzerland is a hub for international policy as many international organizations are based in Geneva. The United Nations hosted the first annual AI for Good Global Summit in 2017. Switzerland leverages this internationalism in AI policy.

Digitization was one of the thematic focus areas of the Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–2023. The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs wrote, “The focus is on people’s needs. The rule of law and universal human rights—such as freedom of expression and information and the right to privacy—must also be guaranteed online. It is important to defend liberties such as press freedom.”⁶⁹⁸¹ Furthermore, the Department seeks to “position Geneva as the location for global digitalisation

⁶⁹⁷⁷ Federal Council, *Confederation Wishes to Strengthen Coordination of Artificial Intelligence in the Administration*, Swiss Federal Administration (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-102454.html>

⁶⁹⁷⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹⁷⁹ Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for the Swiss Federal Council, *Overview of Artificial Intelligence Regulation, Report to the Federal Council* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.kmu.admin.ch/dam/kmu/en/dokumente/FaktenundTrends/Overview.pdf>

⁶⁹⁸⁰ Ibid, p. 26

⁶⁹⁸¹ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), *Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–2023*, p. 17 (Jan. 2020), https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/en/sd-web/vbBGW05iweno/Aussenpolitische-Strategie-2020-23_EN.pdf

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and technology debate” and to promote sustainable development using digital technologies, digital self-determination and cyber diplomacy.⁶⁹⁸²

Switzerland's Foreign Policy Strategy 2024–2027, reflects a commitment to open, inclusive governance that respects human rights and promotes democratic values. In this period, Switzerland plans to advance a strategic approach to AI policy, emphasizing its role in the creation of international regulations that support transparency, fairness, and ethical standards.⁶⁹⁸³

Public Participation

Switzerland is a direct democracy, which means that citizens have the right to decide on policy directly by optional referendums⁶⁹⁸⁴ or popular initiatives.⁶⁹⁸⁵ Further, policy revisions or proposals of importance go through a consultation procedure with relevant stakeholders to include their opinions and needs and therefore to minimize the chance of a referendum.⁶⁹⁸⁶

Further specifically in technology policy, the website for the “Digital Switzerland” Strategy provides a summary of the Strategy and lists related initiatives and committees. Updates on how the Strategy is being implemented are also published on a website.⁶⁹⁸⁷ Organizations, companies, municipalities, and cantons can upload proposals to be considered for the Digital Switzerland action plan on the digital dialogue website.⁶⁹⁸⁸

In 2018, the Federal Council established the OpenData website, “the Swiss public administration’s central portal for open government data.”⁶⁹⁸⁹ The website, managed by the Federal Statistical Office, “supports organisations in publishing their open data” and “continuously monitors the quality of the catalogue.”

The Swiss Tripartite Platform (*Plateforme Tripartite Suisse*) is an information hub and platform to exchange dialogue. The platform was established to prepare for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) conference in 2003. It now “serves as a national forum for the informal exchange of information and experience

⁶⁹⁸² Ibid

⁶⁹⁸³ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), *Foreign Policy Strategy, 2024–2027* (2024), <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/publikationen.html/content/publikationen/en/eda/schweizer-aussenpolitik/Aussenpolitische-Strategie-2024-2027.html>

⁶⁹⁸⁴ Federal Council, *Referendums*, <https://www.bk.admin.ch/bk/de/home/politische-rechte/referenden.html>

⁶⁹⁸⁵ Federal Council, *Popular Initiatives*, <https://www.bk.admin.ch/bk/de/home/politische-rechte/volksinitiativen.html>

⁶⁹⁸⁶ Fedlex, *Consultations*, <https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/bundesrecht/vernehmlassungen.html>

⁶⁹⁸⁷ Swiss Confederation, *Digital Switzerland Strategy*, <https://www.digitaldialog.swiss/en/>

⁶⁹⁸⁸ Digital Switzerland Strategy, *Propose a New Measure for the Action Plan*, <https://digital.swiss/en/propose-a-new-measure-for-the-action-plan/>

⁶⁹⁸⁹ opendata.swiss, *About Us*, <https://opendata.swiss/en/about/>

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on WSIS implementation and follow-up activities. It is open to all interested representatives from the administration, the business sector, civil society and the internet community at the national level and meets on an ad-hoc basis.”⁶⁹⁹⁰

The Federal Administration launched the Competence Network for Artificial Intelligence (CNAI) in 2022 to “coordinate AI-related issues within the Federal Administration, fostering cross-departmental networking, supporting specific AI projects and innovations, and promoting synergies.”⁶⁹⁹¹ The CNAI informs the public and facilitates information-sharing from the public to the administration. A project database of all AI projects in the federal administration ensures transparency. As a central point for questions related to AI and connector to expertise, the CNAI provides a “means of harnessing the potential of AI and developing employee skills to ensure that it is used efficiently, innovatively and securely.”

Switzerland hosted the AI Policy Summit 2024 organized by ETH Zurich and RegHorizon. The Summit was a pivotal forum for multistakeholder dialogue on AI policy.⁶⁹⁹² The summit covered crucial topics such as global AI policy, AI risk management, and AI's role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The event encouraged public participation by broadcasting sessions globally, thus providing a platform for engagement across various sectors, including academia, business, government, and civil society. The Summit underscored Switzerland's commitment to an inclusive approach to AI policymaking. Switzerland is hosted the AI for Good Global Summit in July 2025, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The summit is a leading platform for public-private collaboration, bringing together global experts, policymakers, and innovators to discuss AI's role in addressing humanitarian and sustainable development challenges.⁶⁹⁹³

A white paper on Generative AI published by digitalswitzerland [sic] incorporated insights from 279 Swiss professionals through workshops and surveys.⁶⁹⁹⁴ The paper stressed the importance of public participation in developing

⁶⁹⁹⁰ Federal Office of Communications OFCOM, *The Plateforme Tripartite for Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence in Switzerland* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://www.bakom.admin.ch/en/the-plateforme-tripartite-for-digital-governance-and-artificial-intelligence-in-switzerland>

⁶⁹⁹¹ Federal Chancellery FCh, *Competence Network for Artificial Intelligence*, https://www.bk.admin.ch/bk/en/home/digitale-transformation-ikt-lenkung/kuenstliche_intelligenz/kinetzwirk.html

⁶⁹⁹² RegHorizon, *AI Policy Summit 2024* (Nov. 1–2, 2024), <https://reghorizon.com/ai-policy-summit-2024/>

⁶⁹⁹³ International Telecommunication Union (ITU), *AI for Good Global Summit 2025* (2025), <https://aiforgood.itu.int/summit25/>

⁶⁹⁹⁴ digitalswitzerland et al., *Charting the Future: Switzerland's Path to Generative AI Leadership in 2024 and Beyond* (2024), <https://www.imd.org/research-knowledge/innovation/reports/charting-the-future-switzerlands-path-to-generative-ai-leadership-in-2024-and-beyond/>; summary available,

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policies to address challenges such as workforce reskilling and the broader implications of generative AI. The paper also stressed the importance of critical thinking in education along with adoption of AI tools and recommended that policymakers act swiftly to create principles-based, technology-neutral regulations.

The Swiss Government published the new e-ID Act in the Federal Gazette for public comment.⁶⁹⁹⁵ Swiss voters raises AI-related concerns on data protection, cyberattacks, and system interoperability.

Data Protection

The Federal Constitution states that every person has the right to respect for their private and family life, home, and correspondence, post, and telecommunications, and to protection against misuse of their personal data.⁶⁹⁹⁶ The Federal Law on Data Protection enshrined this protection in law in July 1993.⁶⁹⁹⁷ The FADP established the Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC) as the authority in charge of enforcing and overseeing data protection.

The data protection law was substantially revised into what's known as the new Data Protection Act (FADP). The FADP was passed in 2020 and came into effect along with the new Data Protection Ordinance (DPA) on September 1, 2023. The revisions address modern technological and social conditions, enhancing transparency, increasing data subjects' autonomy, and aligning with international standards such as the EU GDPR. For example, the FADP creates obligations to undertake privacy impact assessments in certain circumstances.⁶⁹⁹⁸

The revised FADP allowed the Swiss president to present the instrument of ratification to the Council of Europe Secretary General to confirm the country's adoption of Convention 108+.⁶⁹⁹⁹

<https://digitalswitzerland.com/news/switzerland-needs-to-address-reskilling-and-regulation-around-genai>

⁶⁹⁹⁵ Swiss Office of Electronic Identity and Trusted Infrastructure, *The e-ID Law Published in the Federal Gazette* (Jan. 9, 2025), <https://www.eid.admin.ch/en/e-id-gesetz-im-bundesblatt-publiziert-e>

⁶⁹⁹⁶ FedLex, *Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation*, Art. 13 (Apr. 18, 1999),

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1999/404/en>

⁶⁹⁹⁷ FedLex, *Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP)* (Jun. 19, 1992),

https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1993/1945_1945_1945/en

⁶⁹⁹⁸ FedLex, *Federal Act on Data Protection, Art 22: Data Protection Impact Assessment* (Sept. 1, 2023), <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2022/491/en>

⁶⁹⁹⁹ FDPIC, *Switzerland Ratifies the Convention 108+* (Sept. 8, 2023),

<https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/08092023-switzerland-ratifies-the-convention-108>

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In addition, numerous provisions on the protection of personality also exist in other laws and areas. Articles 28–28I of the Civil Code (ZGB)⁷⁰⁰⁰ specify how legal action is taken in the event of personality violations.

The FDPIC has taken action to clarify the application of the FADP to the training and use of artificial intelligence systems. In 2024, the FDPIC joined other data protection authorities on a concluding statement clarifying that data scraping from publicly accessible sources is not exempt from data protection obligations.⁷⁰⁰¹ Such processing must comply with the FADP's principles of transparency, proportionality, and purpose limitation. Guidance in 2025 confirmed that the FADP directly applies to AI systems processing personal data.⁷⁰⁰² According to the guidance: “manufacturers, providers and users of AI systems must make the purpose, functionality and data sources of AI-based processing transparent. The legal right to transparency is closely linked to the right of data subjects to object to automated data processing or to request that automated individual decisions be reviewed by a human being.”

Switzerland's FDPIC is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), along with data protection commissioners from the cantons of Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Zug, Zurich, and Bern.⁷⁰⁰³ The FDPIC sponsored or co-sponsored the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁰⁰⁴ 2022 Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁰⁰⁵ and 2023 Resolution on

⁷⁰⁰⁰ FedLex, *SR 210 Swiss Civil Code* (Dec. 10, 1907), https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/24/233_245_233/en

⁷⁰⁰¹ Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner, *Concluding Statement on Data Scraping* (Oct. 31, 2024), <https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/31102024-concluding-statement-on-data-scraping>

⁷⁰⁰² FDPIC, *Update: Current Data Protection Legislation Is Directly Applicable to AI* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/update-current-legislation-directly-applicable-ai>

⁷⁰⁰³ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷⁰⁰⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁰⁰⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

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Generative AI.⁷⁰⁰⁶ However, the FDPIC did not sponsor the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability.⁷⁰⁰⁷

Algorithmic Transparency

Switzerland signed the Council of Europe Convention 108+ in 2019 and ratified in 2023.⁷⁰⁰⁸ Convention 108+ ensures algorithmic transparency by granting every individual the right to request the logic behind automated decisions, the right to correct or erase data handled improperly, and the right to remedy “where his or her rights under this Convention have been violated.”⁷⁰⁰⁹

A key amendment to the FADP increased transparency in data processing, requiring notification when data is processed for automated decisions and the right to know “logic behind the decisions.”⁷⁰¹⁰ This introduces the general concept of automated individual decisions in Swiss law. The FADP states that: 1) “The person responsible shall inform the person concerned of a decision that is based exclusively on automated processing that is associated with a legal consequence for them or significantly affects them (automated individual decision) and 2) “On request, it shall give the data subject the opportunity to state his or her position. The data subject may request that the automated individual decision be reviewed by a natural person.” Automated individual decision issued by a federal body must also be labeled. This requirement shows that higher demands are placed on government action in general, and in particular with regard to transparency.

These amendments grew in part from increasing calls from civil society, including organizations calling for an ADM register for public administration.⁷⁰¹¹

⁷⁰⁰⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁰⁰⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁷⁰⁰⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/223/signatures>

⁷⁰⁰⁹ Council of Europe, 128th Session of the Committee of Ministers, *Modernized Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data, Article 9—Rights of the Data Subject* (May 18, 2018), <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=09000016807c65bf>

⁷⁰¹⁰ FedLex, *Federal Act on Data Protection, Art 21: Duty to Provide Information in the Case of an Automated Individual Decision, Art 25: Right of Access* (Sept. 1, 2023), <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2022/491/en>

⁷⁰¹¹ AlgorithmWatch/CH, *Automated Decision-Making Systems in the Public Sector — Some Recommendations* (Feb. 25, 2022), <https://algorithmwatch.ch/en/adm-publicsector-recommendation/>; Digital Society Initiative (DSI), *Position Paper: Legal Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Switzerland* (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://www.digitale->

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Demands for a register were taken up at the federal level⁷⁰¹² as well as at the cantonal level.⁷⁰¹³ The Federal Council rejected the federal motion, and it was subsequently written off. Developments in the canton of Zurich advanced farther. As part of the revision of the Information and Data Protection Act, the government council of the canton of Zurich proposed to establish a registry for automated decision-making systems (ADM systems).⁷⁰¹⁴ Neither parliamentary motion deals with all algorithmic systems, but with those that appear to be particularly problematic from the point of view of the comprehensibility of the decision-making process.

AI Oversight

The Swiss Federal Council included a possible expansion of the federal AI coordination office to centralize governance, manage risks, and foster trust and innovation as a 2026 goal.⁷⁰¹⁵ Expanding the federal AI coordination office will help Switzerland move from fragmented oversight to a more unified, strategic approach.

The Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC) is the “competent authority for data processing by federal bodies and private persons, including enterprises.” Data processing by cantonal or communal authorities is supervised further by cantonal and communal data protection commissioners.⁷⁰¹⁶ The FADP amendments extended the duties and powers of the FDPIC, which will increase the number of investigations.⁷⁰¹⁷

Established in 2019, the National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) extends its oversight to include AI applications, reflecting its broad mandate to safeguard human

gesellschaft.ch/2021/12/08/rechtsrahmen-fuer-kuenstliche-intelligenz-in-der-schweiz-positionspapier-digital-society-initiative-dsi/

⁷⁰¹² Federal Assembly—Swiss Parliament, *Motion 21.4508: Public List of Algorithms Use in Administration* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20214508>

⁷⁰¹³ Nicola Yuste, Arianne Mosser, Gabriel Mäder, Willi Wilma, and Erika Zahler, *Postulate 9/2022: Transparency about the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Administration* (Jan. 17, 2022), <https://www.kantonsrat.zh.ch/geschaeft/geschaeft/?id=7eaa64973b454a6ca4e5eceb86b13941>

⁷⁰¹⁴ AlgorithmWatch/CH, *Milestone: The Canton of Zurich Plans a Register for Automated Decision-Making Systems* (Oct. 17, 2022), <https://algorithmwatch.ch/de/adm-register-kt-zh/>

⁷⁰¹⁵ Swiss Council, *Bundesrat Presents Goals for the Year 2026 [Bundesrat präsentiert seine Ziele für das Jahr 2026]* (Sept. 8, 2025), https://cms.news.admin.ch/dam/de/der-schweizerische-bundesrat/pFjsrTzFDkAt/Rohstoff+zu+BRA+BK+20250722+Ziele+des+Bundesrates+2026_Deutsch.pdf

⁷⁰¹⁶ FDPIC, *Tasks: Data Protection* (Jul. 23, 2024), <https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/tasks-data-protection>

⁷⁰¹⁷ FDPIC, *New FDPIC's Role* (Jul. 23, 2024), <https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/new-fdpics-role>

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rights across all sectors.⁷⁰¹⁸ According to the Federal Council, “The NHRI will be independent, include members from across society and receive an annual financial support from the Confederation.”⁷⁰¹⁹ The NHRI developed from a pilot project by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR), which completed over 200 projects to further human rights in Switzerland before its mandate ended in 2022.⁷⁰²⁰

On the cantonal level, Zurich was the first canton to establish a regulatory sandbox for AI in 2022. The Innovation Sandbox for Artificial Intelligence aims to “promote responsible innovation by allowing public administration and participating organizations to collaborate closely on regulatory issues and enabling the use of new data sources.”⁷⁰²¹ The Sandbox grants organizations access to regulatory know-how. In exchange, the organizations publicize their findings and results.

Data Scraping

The FDPIC and international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy, following engagement with industry on an earlier statement.⁷⁰²² The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”⁷⁰²³ The concluding statement, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to

⁷⁰¹⁸ Federal Council, *National Human Rights Institution to Be Established in Switzerland*, Press Release (Dec. 13, 2019), <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-77508.html>

⁷⁰¹⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰²⁰ Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights, *About the SCHR*, <https://skmr.ch/en/about>

⁷⁰²¹ Canton of Zurich, *Innovation Sandbox for Artificial Intelligence (AI)* [*Innovation-Sandbox für Künstliche Intelligenz (KI)*], <https://www.zh.ch/de/wirtschaft-arbeit/wirtschaftsstandort/innovation-sandbox.html>

⁷⁰²² FDPIC, *Concluding Statement on Data Scraping* (Oct. 31, 2024),

<https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/31102024-concluding-statement-on-data-scraping>

⁷⁰²³ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2023/js-dc_20230824/

keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”⁷⁰²⁴

FDPIC’s guidelines on data processing using cookies and similar technologies reinforces online data protection measures.⁷⁰²⁵

AI and Criminal Justice

According to AlgorithmWatch, Swiss federal and canton institutions are using AI systems in a variety of applications. Federal government agencies are using AI systems to triage inmates as part of the process to develop an inmate’s release plan and for automatic vehicle detection and traffic monitoring at state borders. The Federal Customs Administration uses a data processing system to help assess goods coming into the country. Some cantons use a police software to predict domestic burglaries. AlgorithmWatch allays some concern about the use of the extension of these AI applications to predictive policing by noting “the use of predictive policing in Switzerland is currently limited to a relatively small and clearly defined area of preventive police work.”⁷⁰²⁶

Although there is no legal framework in the Criminal Procedure Code (CrimPC) governing the use of facial recognition technology by police,⁷⁰²⁷ police occasionally use facial recognition to compare mug shots. A cantonal police database of known criminals is compared with another, e.g., a cross-cantonal database. The images often come from surveillance cameras of injured parties, such as a clothing store that has been robbed. The concrete identification of the suspected person is still the responsibility of a police officer and not of a software.⁷⁰²⁸

⁷⁰²⁴ Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Concluding Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy (Oct. 2024), https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/speeches-and-statements/2024/js-dc_20241028/

⁷⁰²⁵ FDPIC, *Guidelines Published on Data Processing Using Cookies*, Press Release (Feb 3, 2025), <https://www.edoeb.admin.ch/en/guidelines-on-data-processing-using-cookies>

⁷⁰²⁶ Nadja Braun Binder and Catherine Egli, *Automating Society Report 2020: Switzerland*, AlgorithmWatch (Oct. 2020), <https://automatingsociety.algorithmwatch.org/report2020/switzerland/>

⁷⁰²⁷ Fedlex, *Swiss Criminal Procedure Code* (Apr. 1, 2025),

<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2010/267/en>

⁷⁰²⁸ Monika Simmler and Giulia Canova, *Facial Recognition Technology: The “Smart” Police Work on the Legal Test Bench [Gesichtserkennungstechnologie: Die «smarte» Polizeiarbeit auf dem rechtlichen Prüfstand]*, *Sicherheit&Recht [Security & Law]*, pp. 105–117 (Mar. 2021), <https://www.alexandria.unisg.ch/server/api/core/bitstreams/3fa84a86-4fdb-4888-94e1-3350e64ec16e/content>; Nadja Binder Braun, Eliane Kunz and Liliane Obrecht, *Machined Facial Recognition in Public Spaces [Maschinelle Gesichtserkennung im öffentlichen Raum]*, *sui generis*, pp. 54–61, open access (Apr. 11, 2022), <https://sui-generis.ch/204>

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Facial Recognition

The Swiss government submitted a draft amendment to the Aviation Act in August 2024 for consultation with legislative discussions continuing into early 2025.⁷⁰²⁹ The amendment would allow airports and airlines in Switzerland to use facial recognition to identify and move passengers through baggage drop-off, check-in, ticket control, and boarding.⁷⁰³⁰ The amendment allows for passengers to opt out of facial recognition, noting that “the current process without biometric data must be offered as an alternative for people who reject this.” While the legislature explores the possibility of expanding the use of this technology to customs and security screening,⁷⁰³¹ Zurich and Geneva airports, along with Aero Suisse, are advocating for streamlined biometric processing by removing the explicit consent requirement. These requests reflect the potential of a broader industry shift toward seamless, contactless passenger processing and the accompanying privacy and regulatory concerns.⁷⁰³²

Civil society organizations are campaigning hard for a ban on facial recognition in public spaces. Amnesty International, AlgorithmWatch CH, and the Digital Society are joined together⁷⁰³³ and launched a petition calling for a ban on automatic facial recognition and biometric mass surveillance in Switzerland.⁷⁰³⁴ The petition was signed by more than 10,000 people and has also led to effects at the political level.⁷⁰³⁵

Several local parliaments have discussed and even passed bans on facial recognition in public spaces. The St. Gallen city parliament agreed by a narrow margin to move toward a ban on facial recognition applications in public spaces in

⁷⁰²⁹ ID Tech Wire (formerly FindBiometrics), *Swiss Legislative Changes May Extend Airport Facial Recognition Technology Beyond Customs* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://idtechwire.com/swiss-legislative-changes-may-extend-airport-facial-recognition-technology-beyond-customs/>

⁷⁰³⁰ SwissInfo, *Swiss Airports and Airlines Allowed to Use Facial Recognition* (Aug. 29, 2024), <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/workplace-switzerland/airports-and-airlines-should-be-allowed-to-use-facial-recognition/87456669>

⁷⁰³¹ ID Tech Wire (formerly FindBiometrics), *Swiss Legislative Changes May Extend Airport Facial Recognition Technology Beyond Customs* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://idtechwire.com/swiss-legislative-changes-may-extend-airport-facial-recognition-technology-beyond-customs/>

⁷⁰³² Amnesty International, *Amnesty International and More Than 170 Organisations Call for a Ban on Biometric Surveillance* (Jun. 7, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/06/amnesty-international-and-more-than-170-organisations-call-for-a-ban-on-biometric-surveillance/>

⁷⁰³³ Amnesty International, Swiss Section, *Facial Recognition [Gesichtserkennung]*, <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/themen/ueberwachung/gesichtserkennung#>

⁷⁰³⁴ AlgorithmWatch / CH, *Petition: Stop Facial Recognition [Petition: Gesichtserkennung stoppen!]* (Nov. 17, 2021), <https://algorithmwatch.ch/de/gesichtserkennung-stoppen/>

⁷⁰³⁵ AlgorithmWatch / CH, *Great Successes in the Ban on Automatic Facial Recognition in Public Spaces* (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://algorithmwatch.ch/de/gesichtserkennung-erfolge/>

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September 2019, becoming the first city in Switzerland to do so.⁷⁰³⁶ The councils in Zurich,⁷⁰³⁷ Lausanne,⁷⁰³⁸ and the canton of Basel-Stadt⁷⁰³⁹ followed, each considering motions for a ban on facial recognition. Similar motions are in progress in other Swiss cities. In a national survey, 78% of parliamentary candidates supported such a ban.⁷⁰⁴⁰

Environmental Impact of AI

Switzerland aims to rely solely on renewable energy by 2050. The World Economic Forum sees “tremendous potential” in artificial intelligence to “help accelerate the global energy transition.”⁷⁰⁴¹ The Swiss government has tasked the Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) with monitoring and tackling the challenges AI poses for the energy industry, though no official policy or strategy has been announced.⁷⁰⁴²

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Switzerland supports a two-tiered approach in international agreements related to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). The two-tiered approach would prohibit AWS that cannot be used in compliance with international law and international humanitarian law in terms of reliability or the extent or timing of the use of the force. For weapons that can be used in compliance, Switzerland supports regulation focused on “risk mitigation, including a positive obligation to uphold

⁷⁰³⁶ St. Gallen City Parliament, *Motion: Stop Automatic Facial Recognition in Public Space* (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://www.stadt.sg.ch/home/verwaltung-politik/demokratie-politik/stadtparlament/geschaefte.geschaefteDetail.html?geschaefteGUID=233e32ab77714146b31d608b80dc4755>

⁷⁰³⁷ Zurich City Council, *Treatment of Proposals from City Council, 2022/629: Finance Department, Partial Revision of the Data Protection Regulation, Video Surveillance* (2022), <https://www.gemeinderat-zuerich.ch/geschaefte/detail.php?gid=99d77a00-a8dd-4cfc-b207-618a3dadf947>

⁷⁰³⁸ City of Lausanne, Municipal Council, *PR21/002 Prohibiting the Use of Facial and Biometric Recognition Technologies in Video Surveillance in Lausanne* (Aug. 20, 2024), <https://www.lausanne.ch/apps/agir/affaire/87/6f3999044b004229aab557844e5d1a87.htm>

⁷⁰³⁹ Grand Council of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, *Business 22.5022 Concerning No Use of Biometric Recognition Systems in Basel-Stadt* (Feb. 8, 2024), <https://grosserrat.bs.ch/ratsbetrieb/geschaefte/200111546>

⁷⁰⁴⁰ Amnesty International, *Switzerland 2024* (2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/western-central-and-south-eastern-europe/switzerland/report-switzerland/>

⁷⁰⁴¹ Swiss Info, *How AI Could Help Switzerland Shift to Renewables* (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/sci-tech/how-artificial-intelligence-could-help-switzerland-s-move-to-all-renewable-electricity/47092918>

⁷⁰⁴² European Commission, *Switzerland AI Strategy Report* (Sept. 1, 2021), https://ai-watch.ec.europa.eu/countries/switzerland/switzerland-ai-strategy-report_en

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human control and imposing limitations on weapon parameters and deployment contexts, all while considering military, security policy, and ethical considerations.”⁷⁰⁴³

In comments to the UN Secretary-General for the report on LAWS, Switzerland underlined support for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)’s Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS to “consider and formulate elements of an instrument on AWS by 2026 at the latest.”⁷⁰⁴⁴ The statement acknowledges the potential benefits and opportunity of AI and autonomous weapons in the armed forces, noting “autonomy can provide advantages, including improved safety and efficiency.” However, Switzerland reiterates that these benefits must be weighed against the necessity for strict adherence to international humanitarian law, with a focus on human control over decisions involving the use of force.

AI Literacy

The Education and Skills domain on Switzerland’s Digital Strategy 2026⁷⁰⁴⁵ defines a goal for “people, businesses and public authorities have sufficient skills to make the most of new technologies and are able to evaluate them critically.” The Strategy indicates 45% of the population had advanced digital skills in 2025. A number of initiatives under the strategy⁷⁰⁴⁶ target building basic digital skills, largely focused on the workplace with some attention to advanced AI skills to support research and development. The Competence Network for AI serves as a resource for employees in the public sector with Guidelines and Factsheets covering the use of AI tools in the federal government⁷⁰⁴⁷ and a contact point to respond to AI-related issues.

Human Rights

Switzerland is a signatory to many international human rights treaties and conventions. Switzerland typically ranks among the top nations in the world for the protection of human and political rights. Freedom House scored Switzerland 96/100

⁷⁰⁴³ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, Swiss Confederation, *Views of Switzerland on “Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems [...]” in Response to the Request of the UN Secretary-General* (Accessed Feb. 11, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Switzerland-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Switzerland-EN.pdf)

⁷⁰⁴⁴ Ibid

⁷⁰⁴⁵ Digital Switzerland Strategy, *Overview* (2026), <https://digital.swiss/en/strategy/>

⁷⁰⁴⁶ Digital Switzerland Strategy, *Education and Skills*, Related Measures (2026), <https://digital.swiss/en/strategy/impact-area/education-and-skills>

⁷⁰⁴⁷ Federal Chancellery FCh, *Competence Network for Artificial Intelligence*, https://www.bk.admin.ch/bk/en/home/digitale-transformation-ikt-lenkung/kuenstliche_intelligenz/kinetzwerk.html

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in 2024,⁷⁰⁴⁸ unchanged from 2021,⁷⁰⁴⁹ and noted that “Political rights and civil liberties are generally respected, though laws and policies adopted in recent years have reflected a growing wariness of immigration and ethnic minority groups, whose members face societal and systemic discrimination.”

Guaranteeing human rights is also one of Switzerland’s key goals for the Council of Europe’s AI framework.⁷⁰⁵⁰ As the Federal Council noted in a press release ahead of negotiations in 2022, “The new legal framework should regulate the negative effects of artificial intelligence rather than the technology itself. It is also important to foster innovation while guaranteeing human rights, including data protection.” Switzerland’s endorsement of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law in 2025 and plans to ratify reinforce the country’s commitment to regulate AI impacts while protecting fundamental rights and democracy.⁷⁰⁵¹

AI Safety Summit

Switzerland participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023.⁷⁰⁵² Switzerland thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The second AI safety Summit was a primarily virtual event co-hosted by Britain and South Korea with in-person events in Seoul. Swiss Ambassador Benedikt Weschsler, head of digitalization at the department of foreign affairs, attended the

⁷⁰⁴⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Switzerland* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/switzerland/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁰⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2021: Switzerland* (2021), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/switzerland/freedom-world/2021>

⁷⁰⁵⁰ Press Releases by the Federal Council, *Switzerland’s Participation in Negotiations on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 16, 2022), <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-90367.html>

⁷⁰⁵¹ News Service Bund, *Switzerland Signs Council of Europe Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.news.admin.ch/en/nsb?id=104646>

⁷⁰⁵² UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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event in-person.⁷⁰⁵³ Switzerland signed the Seoul Declaration, committing to safe, innovative, and inclusive AI.⁷⁰⁵⁴

The third AI Safety Summit took place in February 2025 in Paris, France.⁷⁰⁵⁵ Federal Councillor Albert Rösti participated and emphasized AI opportunities and risks. Rösti proposed hosting a future AI summit in Switzerland, possibly in Geneva,⁷⁰⁵⁶ to highlight the country's potential in AI governance and innovation. Switzerland endorsed the AI Action Summit outcome Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet.⁷⁰⁵⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Switzerland endorsed the G20 AI Guidelines / OECD AI Principles⁷⁰⁵⁸ as a member of both organizations. Switzerland's participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)⁷⁰⁵⁹ supports implementation of these principles. The OECD notes Switzerland's active involvement in relevant international organizations and processes as evidence of progress on implementation of the principles. In a report on AI policies, the G20 Digital Economy Task Force noted that "Particularly important for Switzerland is to ensure that fundamental and established values and norms such as human rights are respected and that all relevant stakeholders are involved in decision-making."⁷⁰⁶⁰

⁷⁰⁵³ Reuters, *Second Global AI Safety Summit Faces Tough Questions, Lower Turnout* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/second-global-ai-safety-summit-faces-tough-questions-lower-turnout-2024-04-29/>

⁷⁰⁵⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, *Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI : AI Seoul Summit 2024* (May 21, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-declaration-for-safe-innovative-and-inclusive-ai-ai-seoul-summit-2024>

⁷⁰⁵⁵ Élysée Palace, *AI Action Summit*, <https://www.elysee.fr/en/sommet-pour-l-action-sur-l-ia>

⁷⁰⁵⁶ SWI swissinfo.ch, *Swiss Government Minister Proposes AI Summit in Switzerland* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss-politics/federal-councillor-rösti-proposes-ai-summit-in-switzerland/88860364>

⁷⁰⁵⁷ Élysée, *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet* (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2025/02/11/statement-on-inclusive-and-sustainable-artificial-intelligence-for-people-and-the-planet>

⁷⁰⁵⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁷⁰⁵⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁷⁰⁶⁰ G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Saudia Arabia 2020, Examples of National AI Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Switzerland contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. Switzerland chaired the Council of Europe Committee on AI. However, the Swiss neutrality was questioned. According to an article published in the Swiss press, Switzerland prioritized the potential global reach of the Convention at the expense of the Council of Europe's human rights standards.⁷⁰⁶¹ Switzerland signed the treaty in 2025⁷⁰⁶² and tasked federal agencies to draft a bill for consultation by the end of 2026.⁷⁰⁶³

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Switzerland is a member of UNESCO and as such supported the adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation of the Ethics of AI. In his speech before the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis emphasized "Switzerland's unwavering commitment to encouraging respect for fundamental rights" and "support for the recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence."⁷⁰⁶⁴

Despite not yet having AI-specific legislation, Switzerland has shown a commitment to upholding fundamental rights through the Digital Switzerland Strategy and other initiatives. Switzerland has not initiated UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to help ensure ethical implementation of AI.⁷⁰⁶⁵

Evaluation

Switzerland has established a national set of guidelines on AI ethics aimed at the public administration. Further, most reports and initiatives consider, integrate, and implement ethics in the government's work on AI policy. The Federal Council announced that its approach to issuing a firm mandate for an AI regulatory project in

⁷⁰⁶¹ Adrienne Fichter, *AI Regulation: Is the Swiss Negotiator a US Stooge?* SwissInfo (Mar. 10, 2024), <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/foreign-affairs/ai-regulation-is-swiss-negotiator-a-us-stooge/73480128>

⁷⁰⁶² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 20, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁷⁰⁶³ News Service Bund, *Switzerland Signs Council of Europe Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 26, 2025), <https://www.news.admin.ch/en/nsb?id=104646>

⁷⁰⁶⁴ Press Releases by the Federal Council, *Federal Councillor [sic] Ignazio Cassis Speaks at UNESCO, Calls for Effective Multilateralism* (Nov. 12, 2021), <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-85852.html>

⁷⁰⁶⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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2025 will be based on a report analyzing existing Swiss law.⁷⁰⁶⁶ The project will define responsibilities with the goal of drafting national AI regulations, though the Council has indicated they will likely reserve cross-sectoral policies for areas requiring protections for fundamental rights like data protection.

In recent years, initiatives on the federal as well as the cantonal level demonstrate, that the topic of AI policy is picking up speed in Switzerland. With the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs 2022 report and Switzerland's contributions to and endorsement of the Council of Europe AI framework, the country's ambitions for AI policy that supports technological development compatible with human rights are clear. However, there is no clear regulatory strategy for the private sector. The ethics guidelines for public administration signal a step toward implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation combined with the history of commitment to human rights despite lack of progress on UNESCO tools such as the RAM. Switzerland's educational efforts and programs such as the Competence Network for AI align to the OECD AI Principles. Ratification of Convention 108+ solidified algorithmic transparency.

⁷⁰⁶⁶ Digital Switzerland Strategy, *Swiss Approach to Regulating AI Systems*, <https://digital.swiss/en/strategy/focus-topics/swiss-approach-to-regulating-ai-systems>

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Taiwan

In 2025, the Taiwan Legislative Yuan passed the Artificial Intelligence Basic Act, which entered into force in January 2026. The Legislative Yuan also adopted amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act to formally establish the Personal Data Protection Commission as Taiwan's independent data protection authority.

National AI Strategy

In 2018 the Government of Taiwan officially introduced its four-year AI Action Plan, which aims to propel Taiwan “into the ranks of the world's leading smart nations.”⁷⁰⁶⁷ “Guided by the principles of deregulation, open access and technology investment,” the AI Action Plan is designed to “sharpen Taiwan's advantages, prioritize innovation and real-world implementation, and develop software and hardware in tandem, thereby injecting greater momentum into Taiwan's industries.”

To this end, the Action Plan focuses on five action areas: 1) developing AI talent; 2) promoting Taiwan's lead role in AI by expanding its world-leading position in the semiconductor chip industry; 3) building Taiwan into an AI innovation; 4) liberalizing laws and opening test grounds to ease restrictions on innovative technologies; and 5) Transforming industry with AI.

The AI Action Plan follows on the five-year AI strategy developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST),⁷⁰⁶⁸ now known as the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), to “cultivate AI technology specialists and create an environment for AI scientific research.” This “Grand Strategy for a Small Country”⁷⁰⁶⁹ builds on Taiwan's “strengths and potential advantages, such as semiconductors and information and communications technology.”

The AI Strategy aims to “develop select fields for the future, including the internet of things, security solutions and driverless vehicles” and has five “key facets”: 1) R&D services with the creation of an AI cloud service and high-speed computing platform; 2) Value-added innovation with the establishment of four AI innovation research centers; 3) Creativity and practice with an AI Robot Makerspace; 4) Industrial pilot program with an AI semiconductor “moonshot” project; and 5) Social participation with three Formosa Grand Challenge technology competitions

⁷⁰⁶⁷ Executive Yuan, *AI Taiwan Action Plan* (Aug. 7, 2019), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/News3/9E5540D592A5FECD/1dec0902-e02a-49c6-870d-e77208481667>

⁷⁰⁶⁸ National Science and Technology Council, *Taiwan Science and Technology Institutions*, <https://www.nstc.gov.tw/belgium/en/list/fba9dd99-c3ae-4dbf-94bc-a909ada5c4a2>

⁷⁰⁶⁹ Executive Yuan), *AI Innovation: Grand Strategy for a Small Country*, Major Policies (Oct. 16, 2018), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/News3/9E5540D592A5FECD/edadb735-e6a6-43e1-ac93-1959602bb3ec>

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to uncover talent, develop technology, and stimulate creativity. Ethical questions are also targeted in Taiwan as one of the many aspects related to AI.⁷⁰⁷⁰

The Executive Yuan announced the Taiwan Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan 2.0 in June 2023⁷⁰⁷¹ to run from 2023 through 2026. The emphasis of the AI Action Plan 2.0 is Human-Centered AI, with a focus on the following five main tasks:⁷⁰⁷²

- Optimize and expand the AI talent pool
- Expand the country's AI software and core chip technology
- Build connections with international AI companies to build Taiwan as an innovation hub
- Create an innovation-friendly legal environment
- Embed AI talent to transform industry

These developments have since been consolidated in the Artificial Intelligence Basic Act,⁷⁰⁷³ which provides a legislative foundation for Taiwan's human-centered AI governance framework.

AI Core Values

Taiwan's AI Technology R&D Guidelines were announced in September 2019, "in a bid to create a reliable environment conforming to international trends of AI R&D and to provide directions for Taiwan AI researchers to follow."⁷⁰⁷⁴ When presenting the Guidelines, Minister Chen Liang-gee said that his ministry "has the responsibility of helping humans be able to trust" AI⁷⁰⁷⁵ and that "those who provide

⁷⁰⁷⁰ Netherland Innovation Network, *Artificial Intelligence: An Overview of Policies and Developments in Taiwan* (Mar. 2020), <https://netherlandsinnovation.tw/posts/report-on-artificial-intelligence-an-overview-of-policies-and-developments-in-taiwan-2020/>

⁷⁰⁷¹ NSTC, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan 2.0* (Feb. 2023) (original in Chinese), <https://digi.nstc.gov.tw/File/7C71629D702E2D89/e8ccec35-9e42-431c-b778-45dae073d5b5?A=C>

⁷⁰⁷² Science & Technology Advisory Meeting, *Executive Yuan Announces Taiwan Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan 2.0*, Taipei Times (Jun. 4, 2023), <https://stp.nstc.gov.tw/staben/440C143786470B9E/356a2273-bc1d-4980-931b-11376a58f5a4>

⁷⁰⁷³ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Legislative Yuan Passes Artificial Intelligence Fundamental Act in Third Reading, Laying Foundation for AI Innovation, Security Governance in Taiwan* (Dec. 23, 2025), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/press/press-releases/18316>

⁷⁰⁷⁴ Digital Innovation & Governance Initiative Committee, *Ministry Releases Guidelines for AI Research* (Sept. 25, 2019), <https://digi.nstc.gov.tw/en/BD28C14C8FBBF163/0ddb3598-4fa0-48a6-97a1-5563ac07deca>

⁷⁰⁷⁵ Shirley Lin, *Taiwan First in World to Set R&D Guidelines for AI*, Radio Taiwan International (Sept. 23, 2019), <https://en.rti.org.tw/news/view/id/2001895>

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digital tools must be ethical.”⁷⁰⁷⁶ He also explained that the whole world is still watching the evolution of artificial intelligence and that it is right now “more appropriate to adopt guidelines than sanctions.”

The AI R&D Guidelines are based on three core values:⁷⁰⁷⁷ Human-centered, Sustainable development, and Diversity and inclusion. The guidelines are 1) Common good and well-being; 2) Fairness and non-discrimination; 3) Autonomy and control; 4) Safety; 5) Privacy and data governance; 6) Transparency and traceability; 7) Explainability; and 8) Accountability and communication.

“Human-centered AI” for Taiwan AI start-up iKala means the involvement of people in AI development and applications, as well as the creation of ethical, humane AI. As an illustration, iKala Co-founder and CEO Cheng cites the example of an innovative picture-as-a-service (PicaaS) technology, which automatically edits product pictures to allow companies to circulate clean photos of their products. However, following complaints that the product could potentially be used to infringe on image owners’ intellectual property rights, Cheng and his team re-trained the software to recognize and reject copyrighted images. “That’s the kind of responsible AI we want to be working on,” says Cheng. “Putting humans in the equation—not just stealing and not just replacing people.”⁷⁰⁷⁸

The AI Basic Law as introduced in 2024 aims to reinforce these core values.⁷⁰⁷⁹ The legal framework would help to ensure that AI development and application align with human rights and democratic principles.⁷⁰⁸⁰

Smart Country Program (2021–2025)

The Smart Nation Program (2021–2025) builds on the foundation and achievements of the Digital Nation and Innovative Economic Development Program, 2017–2025 (DIGI+ Program).⁷⁰⁸¹

⁷⁰⁷⁶ Radio Taiwan International, *The Ministry of Science Defines a Research Framework for Artificial Intelligence [Le ministère des Sciences définit un cadre de recherche pour l’intelligence artificielle]* (Sept. 23, 2019), <https://fr.rti.org.tw/news/view/id/90832>

⁷⁰⁷⁷ Bryan Chuang and Adam Hwang, *MOST Announces AI R&D Guidelines*, DigiTIMES (Sept. 24, 2019), <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20190923PD209.html>

⁷⁰⁷⁸ Jeremy Olivier, *Taiwan Tests the Limits with Artificial Intelligence*, Taiwan Business (May 15, 2020), <https://topics.amcham.com.tw/2020/05/taiwan-tests-limits-ai/>

⁷⁰⁷⁹ National Development Commissioner, *National Science and Technology Commissioner: Preview the Formulation of the Draft of the “Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence”* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://join.gov.tw/policies/detail/4c714d85-ab9f-4b17-8335-f13b31148dc4>

⁷⁰⁸⁰ IAPP, *Taiwan’s AI Governance Framework Unveiled* (Aug. 28, 2024), <https://iapp.org/news/a/taiwan-s-ai-governance-framework-unveiled>

⁷⁰⁸¹ National Communications Commission, *Smart Country Program (2021–2025)*, https://www.hbku.edu.qa/sites/default/files/country_profile_taiwan.pdf

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As part of the Smart Country Program, Taiwan inaugurated the Ministry of Digital Affairs (MoDA) in August 2022. According to Minister Audrey Tang, MoDA “is aimed to build digital resilience for all, connect the digital technologies with civil affairs, strengthen industrial competitiveness and cybersecurity practices, accelerate social digital development and realize the vision of a smart country.”⁷⁰⁸²

MoDA is responsible for promoting Taiwan’s overall digital policy innovation and reform. Major digital development policies include holding deliberative assemblies⁷⁰⁸³ to determine the development direction of AI policy. The assemblies provided opportunities for public participation and informed the Executive Yuan in drafting the Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence.⁷⁰⁸⁴

Taiwan’s National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) announced a draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basic Law in September 2024.⁷⁰⁸⁵ This draft represents Taiwan’s commitment to advancing a “human-centered AI ecosystem” where research, development, and application of AI safeguard the essential dimensions of life, health, and safety, while preserving citizens’ rights, national welfare, cultural values, and societal resilience.⁷⁰⁸⁶

The Artificial Intelligence Basic Act, adopted in December 2025 and effective from January 2026, is guided by 7 basic principles: 1) Sustainable development and well-being, 2) Human autonomy, 3) Privacy Protection and Data Governance, 4) Security and safety, 5) Transparency and explainability, 6) Fairness and non-discrimination, and 7) Accountability. Governance provisions within the Act are intended to ensure that AI “supports human agency, safeguards fundamental rights, and reflects Taiwan’s cultural heritage,” all while fostering an environment of accountability and transparency.⁷⁰⁸⁷

⁷⁰⁸² Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Taiwan Inaugurates Ministry of Digital Affairs, Strives to “Free the Future”* (Aug. 27, 2022), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/press/press-releases/1986>

⁷⁰⁸³ MoDA, *Alignment Assemblies* (2024), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/major-policies/alignment-assemblies/1453>

⁷⁰⁸⁴ MoDA, *The Ministry of Digital Affairs Has Partnered with the International Organization, the “Collective Intelligence Project” (CIP), in Fostering Consensus on the Needs and Risks Associated with Artificial Intelligence* (May 2023), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/press/press-releases/5243>

⁷⁰⁸⁵ NSTC, *Preview of Draft Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence Promoting Innovation with Human Rights and Risks in Mind* (original Chinese) (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/detail/87e76bcd-a19f-4aa3-9707-ca8927dcb663?l=ch>

⁷⁰⁸⁶ Lee and Li Attorneys-at-Law, *NSTC Announced the Draft Artificial Intelligence Basic Act* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.leeandli.com/EN/NewslettersDetail/7293.htm>

⁷⁰⁸⁷ Science and Technology Law Institute, *After the European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Law, the Draft of AI Basic Law Is Announced in Taiwan* (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://stli.iii.org.tw/en/article-detail.aspx?tp=2&i=168&d=9246&no=105>

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Public Participation

One of the key goals of DIGI+ is to further participatory democracy.⁷⁰⁸⁸ The 2021 Taiwan Open Government National Action Plan goes in the same direction and aims at “deepening democratic values and strengthening international ties,” applying technology toward furthering government transparency and increasing public participation in government policies.⁷⁰⁸⁹

For the last few years, Taiwan has organized public debates via the citizen-run vTaiwan platform.⁷⁰⁹⁰ vTaiwan’s (for Virtual Taiwan) algorithms highlight where there is consensus in a debate while minimizing the voices at the most extreme ends.⁷⁰⁹¹ This system is officially and routinely part of the law-making process of Taiwanese institutions, involving thousands of citizens in varying degrees.⁷⁰⁹² The outcomes of vTaiwan have been put in front of Parliament by government to form the core of 11 laws and regulation, with eight more on everything from revenge porn to fintech regulation still pending.

The vTaiwan process is giving weight to the citizen voice and has led to regulatory innovations at four stages: (1) informing the public; (2) collecting the strategic approaches through Polis,⁷⁰⁹³ an open-source self-learning algorithm; (3) deliberating; and (4) observing decision-making.⁷⁰⁹⁴

“When people started using Polis, we found that it became a consensus-generating mechanism,” co-founder Colin Megill told *Wired*.⁷⁰⁹⁵ To bring the groups closer together, Polis has reengineered many of the features we take for granted on social media. No reply button, hence no trolling. No echo-chambers, replaced by an attitudes map showing you where you are in relation to everyone else. The statements

⁷⁰⁸⁸ Government of Taiwan, *DIGI+: Digital Nation and Innovative Economic Development Program* (Aug. 7, 2019), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/News3/9E5540D592A5FECD/659df63b-dad4-47e3-80ab-c62cb40a62cd>

⁷⁰⁸⁹ Government of Taiwan, National Development Council, *Taiwan Open Government National Action Plan* (2021–2024), <https://ws.ndc.gov.tw/Download.ashx?u=LzAwMS9hZG1pbmlzdHJhdG9yLzExL3JlbGZpbGUvMC8xMzY5My84YzRmMWVmNi01NTk0LTQyMTYtYjFkNS04MjE1YzEzY2JmODIucGRm&n=MTI4YTJkNDctZWJkYi00OGZhLTkyODAtMzY5YjQ4NmZiOTM2LnBkZg%3d%3d&icon=..pdf>

⁷⁰⁹⁰ vTaiwan, *About* (Dec. 2023), <https://info.vtaiwan.tw/>

⁷⁰⁹¹ Walter Kerr, *Taiwan Is Beating Political Disinformation. The West Can Too*, Foreign Policy (Nov. 11, 2020), <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/11/11/political-disinformation-taiwan-success/>

⁷⁰⁹² Bluenove, *vTaiwan : Making Citizens the Key to Public Debate* (May 28, 2018), <https://bluenove.com/en/blog/vtaiwan-making-citizens-the-key-to-public-debate/>

⁷⁰⁹³ The Computational Democracy Project, *Designing Future Democracies* (2026), <https://compdemocracy.org>

⁷⁰⁹⁴ Bluenove, *vTaiwan : Making Citizens the Key to Public Debate* (May 28, 2018), <https://bluenove.com/en/blog/vtaiwan-making-citizens-the-key-to-public-debate/>

⁷⁰⁹⁵ Wired, *Taiwan Is Making Democracy Work Again. It's Time We Paid Attention* (Nov. 26, 2019), <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/taiwan-democracy-social-media>

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that get attention are those that find support not only in one cluster, but across other groups, too.

The MoDA partnered with the international nongovernmental organization Collective Intelligence Project (CIP) to participate in the Alignment Assemblies project in May 2023 to ensure the governance and application of artificial intelligence is consistent with the people's interests.⁷⁰⁹⁶ The first Alignment Assembly focused on Democratizing AI Futures. The second focused on Utilizing AI to Enhance Information Integrity. These activities are recognized as innovative policy making ⁷⁰⁹⁷ processes.

The MoDA anticipates that these alignment assemblies will provide critical information to policymakers and technology developers through the CIP⁷⁰⁹⁸ pilot demonstration to ensure that the AI Basic Act and AI development is consistent with the interests of the people.

The public release of the General Explanation and Provisions of the Draft Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence⁷⁰⁹⁹ by the NTSC provided a meaningful opportunity for public participation. There was a sixty-day period for anyone to comment on the draft AI Basic Law, including CAIDP. ⁷¹⁰⁰ Minister Lang has also stated that the MoDA will be involved in the development of the AI Basic Law. ⁷¹⁰¹

In comments on the AI Basic Law, the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP) commended Taiwan for centering the draft law on human rights and democratic values.⁷¹⁰² However, CAIDP recommended that Taiwan establish red lines to prohibit practices that violate privacy laws and require protections such as human and civil rights impact assessments, algorithmic transparency, and human oversight and control, including a termination obligation if the system fails to uphold rights.

⁷⁰⁹⁶ MoDA, *Alignment Assemblies* (2024), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/major-policies/alignment-assemblies/1453>

⁷⁰⁹⁷ Min-sho Ho, *Exploring Worldwide Democratic Innovations: A Case Study of Taiwan*, European Democracy Hub (Jun. 2022), <https://epd.eu/content/uploads/2023/07/Case-Study-Taiwan.pdf>

⁷⁰⁹⁸ MoDA, *The Ministry of Digital Affairs Has Partnered with the International Organization, the "Collective Intelligence Project" (CIP), in Fostering Consensus on the Needs and Risks Associated with Artificial Intelligence* (May 2023), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/press/press-releases/5243>

⁷⁰⁹⁹ NSTC, *General Explanation and Provisions of the Draft Basic Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://join.gov.tw/policies/detail/4c714d85-ab9f-4b17-8335-f13b31148dc4>

⁷¹⁰⁰ CAIDP, *Comments to Taiwan/Republic of China (Roc) National Science Technology Council (NSTC) on The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basic Law Draft 2024* (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8527568963/CAIDP-Statement-Taiwan-AI-09092024.pdf>

⁷¹⁰¹ Amanda Ruth Stephens, *Draft AI Law Headed for October Legislative Review* (Sept. 30, 2024), <https://en.rti.org.tw/news/view/id/2011794>

⁷¹⁰² CAIDP, *Comments to Taiwan/Republic of China (Roc) National Science Technology Council (NSTC) on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Basic Law Draft 2024* (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8527568963/CAIDP-Statement-Taiwan-AI-09092024.pdf>

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The Fair Trade Commission released a Public Consultation Paper on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Competition to better understand the structure of AI-related supply chains and market dynamics, reflecting the ongoing efforts of regulatory authorities to promote public participation in AI policymaking.⁷¹⁰³

Data Protection

Personal data protection in Taiwan is essentially subject to the 2015 Personal Information Protection Act (PDPA), which applies to the public and private sectors.⁷¹⁰⁴ The 2016 Enforcement Rules of the Personal Data Protection Act supplement the original.⁷¹⁰⁵ Local and national government authorities enforce the Act.

The Personal Data Protection Office was originally established under the National Development Council was established on July 4, 2018⁷¹⁰⁶ to ensure a coherent enforcement of the PDPA, in part to align Taiwanese policy with the GDPR. In response to the Constitutional Court ruling the PDPA unconstitutional because of the lack of an independent authority,⁷¹⁰⁷ the Taiwan Legislative Yuan passed amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act in May 2023, including the provision that the competent authority of the PDPA is the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC).⁷¹⁰⁸ The Preparatory Office of the PDPC was established in December 2023. Following the Legislative Yuan's adoption of further amendments to the PDPA in October 2025, the PDPC has now been formally established as Taiwan's independent supervisory authority for personal data protection.

⁷¹⁰³ Fair Trade Commission, *The Fair Trade Commission Has Released the "Public Consultation Paper for Generative Artificial Intelligence and Competition" Calls for Contribution* (Jul. 18, 2025), <https://www.ftc.gov.tw/internet/english/doc/docDetail.aspx?uid=179&docid=18159>

⁷¹⁰⁴ Laws and Regulation Database of the Republic of China (Taiwan), *Personal Data Protection Act* (May 31, 2023), <https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx>

⁷¹⁰⁵ Laws and Regulation Database of the Republic of China (Taiwan), *Enforcement Rules of the Personal Data Protection Act* (Mar. 2, 2016), <https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=I0050022>

⁷¹⁰⁶ New Southbound Policy Portal, *NDC Launches Personal Data Protection Office* (Jul. 6, 2018), <https://nsp.pmo.gov.tw/nsppe/news.php?post=137448&unit=400>

⁷¹⁰⁷ Hannah Kuo, Jaime Cheng and Aaron Chen, *The Secondary Use of the National Health Insurance Database Found Partially Unconstitutional in Taiwan Constitutional Court Decision* (Oct. 2022), <https://covid-and-constitutionalism.tk.elte.hu/en/taiwan>; Wu Cheng-feng and William Hetherington, *Health Data Access Partly Unconstitutional: Court* (Aug. 13, 2022), <https://www.taipetimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2022/08/13/2003783452>

⁷¹⁰⁸ Laws and Regulations Retrieving System, *Personal Data Protection Act* (Nov. 11, 2025), <https://law.pdpc.gov.tw/EngLawContent.aspx?id=5>

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The PDPC is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)⁷¹⁰⁹ and thus has endorsed no AI-relevant resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

The PDPA regulates “the collection, processing and use of personal data so as to prevent harm on personality rights, and to facilitate the proper use of personal data.”⁷¹¹⁰ The PDPA covers data retrieval and management by automated and non-automated means. However, the PDPA does not provide for algorithmic transparency or mention automated decisions or algorithms.⁷¹¹¹

While the AI Basic Law seeks to address this gap by including provisions related to transparency and traceability, the language is vague.⁷¹¹² As written, the draft law does not include clear and enforceable requirements for algorithmic transparency and explainability to ensure that users are always informed when they are interacting with AI systems and are provided with clear and valid reasons for decisions affecting them.

The 2019 AI Technology R&D Guidelines identify “transparency and traceability,” as well as “explainability” as “core AI values.” The Artificial Intelligence Basic Act formally establishes transparency and explainability as guiding principles for AI development. This legally recognizes the necessity of algorithmic traceability and the user's right to understand automated decisions. It signifies a substantial regulatory move towards codified algorithmic governance, even before the introduction of explicit enforcement standards for automated decision-making.

Medical Data and AI Ethics

Research projects on AI Ethics in the medical and biomedical areas are ongoing with government support. One such project examines the Ethical, Legal, and Societal Issues Surrounding Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Medical Care (ELSI-AIM),⁷¹¹³ This project includes four subprojects: (1) The deliberation of ethical issues on artificial intelligence-assisted medicine; (2) legal and policy implications

⁷¹⁰⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷¹¹⁰ Laws and Regulations Database of the Republic of China, *Personal Data Protection Act*, Article 1 (May 31, 2023), <https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=I0050021>

⁷¹¹¹ Ibid, Article 2.a

⁷¹¹² CAIDP, *Comments on Taiwan's Basic AI Law* (Sept. 9, 2024),

<https://www.caidp.org/app/download/8527568963/CAIDP-Statement-Taiwan-AI-09092024.pdf>

⁷¹¹³ NTU Center for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Robotics, Medical and Health Care, *Examining the Ethical, Legal, and Societal issues Surrounding Artificial intelligence-Assisted Medical Care (ELSI-AIM)* (2019), http://mahc.ntu.edu.tw/en/research_view.php?id=14

of artificial intelligence in medicine; (3) the implications of societal issues on artificial intelligence-assisted end-of-life physician-patient communication: opportunities and challenges; and (4) artificial intelligence-based medicine assisted system from analytical design to practical application. The project is still in literature review and planning phases.

The Taiwan Biobank created in 2012 is a repository of tissues/information but is not allowed to carry out research directly. Information on participants, all voluntary, whose samples are included in the biobank will link several sources of data: national identification number, National Health Insurance system, cancer registry, and cause of death registry. Biobank operations are regulated by detailed legislation.

Current discussions focus on how the Taiwan Biobank can be transformed by leveraging digital technologies. For some, greater participant engagement and the uptake of Information Technology and AI applications can be used in partnership with vertical and horizontal integration as part of a four-pronged approach to promote biobank sustainability and facilitate the biobank's transformation.⁷¹¹⁴

Others seem more cautious,⁷¹¹⁵ pointing to key issues raised by the current ethical governance of the Taiwan Biobank, namely i) the handling of ethnicity, including the special requirements that it imposes with respect to obtaining participant consent, and ii) transparency (and accountability) around governance. Taiwan Biobank established an Ethics and Governance Council (EGC) to act as an independent guardian of the Ethics and Governance Framework, and to advise the Competent Authority (the MOHW) on its revision from time to time.⁷¹¹⁶

COVID-19 and Big Data Analytics

In January 2020, Taiwan integrated its national health insurance database with its immigration and customs database to begin the creation of big data for analytics and allow case identification by generating real-time alerts during a clinical visit based on travel history and clinical symptoms.⁷¹¹⁷

⁷¹¹⁴ Jui-Chu Lin, Wesley Wei-Wen Hsiao, and Chien-Te Fan, *Transformation of the Taiwan Biobank 3.0: Vertical and Horizontal Integration*, Journal of Translational Medicine 18, no. 1, p. 304 (Aug. 16, 2020), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7406956/>

⁷¹¹⁵ Shawn H.E. Harmon, Shang-Yung Yen, and Shu-Mei Tang, *Biobank Governance: The Cautionary Tale of Taiwan Biobank*, Journal of Law, Technology and Society 15, no. 1 (Aug. 2018), <https://script-ed.org/article/biobank-governance-the-cautionary-tale-of-taiwan-biobank/>

⁷¹¹⁶ Ibid

⁷¹¹⁷ Beth Duff-Brown, *How Taiwan Used Big Data, Transparency and a Central Command to Protect Its People from Coronavirus* (Mar. 3, 2020), <https://fsi.stanford.edu/news/how-taiwan-used-big-data-transparency-central-command-protect-its-people-coronavirus>

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“The combination of these two sets of data allows us to generate alerts to tell healthcare staff when a patient returns from a risk area,” said Yu-Lun Liu, doctor in the intelligence department of the Taiwan Center for Disease Control (CDC). The identified patients are then treated through a separate circuit, limiting contact with other patients.⁷¹¹⁸ To strengthen this new dataset, the authorities are “working with telephone providers, on the basis of roaming data, to identify people whose last stopover is not necessarily an area at risk, but who have made trips with stops in areas affected by the epidemic.” The authorities are developing a model for processing public video surveillance images to estimate the proportion of masked people. “This artificial intelligence-based model has allowed us to see a rapid increase in the number of people wearing masks. We have chosen to stop their export and increase local production,” recalls Yu-Lun Liu.

In March 2020, the BBC reported that when the phone belonging to an American University student in Taiwan, who was subject to 14 days quarantine after returning from Europe, ran out of battery power, in less than an hour he had received phone calls from four different local administrative units, a text message notifying him he would be arrested if he broke quarantine, and a visit from two police officers. The phone tracking system uses phone signals to triangulate locations of the more than 6,000 people subject to home quarantine; an alert was sent to the authorities if the phone is turned off for more than 15 minutes.⁷¹¹⁹

Autonomous Vehicles

In November 2018, the Legislative Yuan passed the Act for Unmanned Vehicle Technology Innovative Experiments, which was enacted by the President in December 2018. Entered into force in May 2019, the Act frees autonomous vehicles and drones from the limits of some traffic regulations in their test runs.⁷¹²⁰ Moreover, the regulations specifically call for AI-boosted algorithmic unmanned platforms.⁷¹²¹

⁷¹¹⁸ L’Usine Digital, *COVID-19: How Taiwan Relied on Technology to Control the Epidemic* (Mar. 20, 2020), <https://www.usine-digitale.fr/article/covid-19-comment-taiwan-s-est-appuye-sur-la-technologie-pour-contenir-l-epidemie.N943431>

⁷¹¹⁹ BBC, *Coronavirus: Under Surveillance and Confined at Home in Taiwan* (Mar. 24, 2020), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52017993>

⁷¹²⁰ GNSS Asia, *Taiwan’s Executive Yuan Approves Bill Promoting Unmanned Vehicle Experimentation* (May 24, 2019), <https://gnss.asia/new/taiwans-executive-yuan-approves-bill-promoting-unmanned-vehicle-experimentation/>

⁷¹²¹ Yisuo Tzeng, *Prospect for Artificial Intelligence in Taiwan’s Defense*, Jewish Policy Center (Winter 2019), <https://www.jewishpolicycenter.org/2019/01/11/prospect-for-artificial-intelligence-in-taiwans-defense/>

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Taiwan CAR (Connected, Autonomous, Road-test) Lab,⁷¹²² the nation's first closed field for testing self-driving cars, also opened for use in 2019.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) inaugurated Southeast Asia's first Intelligent Vehicle and Autonomous Driving Proving Ground in 2025. The Ground features all-weather, full-speed, and all-vehicle testing capabilities, at the domestic Automotive Research & Testing Center (ARTC).⁷¹²³

AI in HealthCare

Taiwan is leading the way in smart healthcare through the Ministry of Health and Welfare's Department of Information Management, which has established three national AI centers: the Center for Responsible AI in Healthcare, the Center for External AI Validation in Healthcare, and the Center for Clinical AI Impact Evaluation.⁷¹²⁴ These centers were created to address three major challenges in clinical AI: real-world implementation, regulatory approval by the TFDA, and reimbursement by the National Health Insurance.

Facial Recognition

Facial recognition has been implemented in Taiwan across various sectors, including banks,⁷¹²⁵ retail stores,⁷¹²⁶ airports,⁷¹²⁷ and law enforcement.⁷¹²⁸ In June 2019, the Taiwan Railways Administration announced that, due to privacy concerns, its surveillance system trial would no longer apply facial recognition technology.⁷¹²⁹

⁷¹²² Department of Information Services, Executive Yuan, *Taiwan Opens First Testing Facility for Self-Driving Vehicles* (Feb. 25, 2019), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/Page/61BF20C3E89B856/dfc542c3-ecfa-4bc7-a457-64b947c05e00>

⁷¹²³ Ministry of Economic Affairs, *MOEA Launches Asia's Most Advanced Intelligent Vehicle and Autonomous Driving Proving Ground Capable of Testing under Heavy Rain, Dense Fog, and Glare; Empowering Taiwan's Global Competitiveness* (Oct. 22, 2025), https://www.moea.gov.tw/MNS/english/news/News.aspx?kind=6&menu_id=176&news_id=120856

⁷¹²⁴ Ministry of Health and Welfare, *Ministry Launches New AI Centers to Aid e-Health* (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2024/10/08/2003824957>

⁷¹²⁵ Luana Pascu, *Public Bank of Taiwan Rolls Out Kneron Edge AI Facial Recognition*, Biometric Update (Sept. 24, 2019), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201909/public-bank-of-taiwan-rolls-out-kneron-edge-ai-facial-recognition>

⁷¹²⁶ Telpo, *7-Eleven Opens the 2nd Face Recognition Unstaffed Store in Taiwan* (Nov. 20, 2018), <https://www.telpo.com.cn/blog/7-eleven-taiwan-face-recognition-store>

⁷¹²⁷ Gorilla, *Gorilla Technology Secures Two Major Wins in Taiwan, Advancing Airport Security and National Law Enforcement Capabilities* (Sept. 3, 2024), <https://investors.gorilla-technology.com/gorilla-technology-secures-two-major-wins-in-taiwan-advancing-airport-security-and-national-law-enforcement-capabilities/>

⁷¹²⁸ Ibid

⁷¹²⁹ Focus Taiwan, *TRA to Cut Racial Recognition Feature from Surveillance System Trial* (Nov. 6, 2019), <https://focustaiwan.tw/society/201911060011>

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In 2019, Liao Wei-min, an associate professor at Taiwan National Chung Hsing University's Department of Law called for legislation limiting facial recognition and similar private data collection. "What is essentially a beneficial technology is deeply problematic given the lack of precise and targeted legislation, and this is the fault not of civil servants, but their politically appointed masters. Something needs to be done to address this."⁷¹³⁰ As yet, however, there have been no formal proposals by Taiwan's government to protect citizens from the risks of facial recognition used for surveillance.

EdTech and Children Tracking

A recent report from Human Rights Watch⁷¹³¹ highlighted a practice exacerbated by the need for virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic by which educational technology governments required students to use shared children's personal data with advertising technology companies. Taiwan-based technology companies produce several of the educational technology and advertising technology products implicated by the report. Additionally, Taiwan's government produced three of its own, proprietary educational technology products that transmitted personal data about children to advertising technology companies. As the report notes, by making it compulsory for children to use this technology to access public education, these governments not only subjected children to potential exploitation of their data but also left no alternative for children and families to opt out of this privacy infringement.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations and thus was not a party to the UN's October 2022 Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons. The Taiwan government has not taken a formal policy position on the application of these lethal technologies.

⁷¹³⁰ Liao Wei-min, *Legislation Needed for Advances in Surveillance*, Taipei Times (Dec. 28, 2019), <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2019/12/28/2003728301>

⁷¹³¹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

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Environmental Impact of AI

In Taiwan's AI Basic Law, Sustainable Development is the first of seven key principles.⁷¹³² The principle stipulates that the research and use of AI should be human-oriented, with the goals of benefiting the people and promoting sustainable development. Referencing the G7 Hiroshima Process Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems,⁷¹³³ AI stakeholders shall engage in responsible AI management to benefit humanity and the planet. The Act focuses on promoting social fairness and a sustainable environment. With the adoption of the Artificial Intelligence Basic Act in late 2025, sustainable development is now embedded as a binding principle in Taiwan's AI governance framework, aligning Taiwan's approach with international trends and guidelines for responsible AI development.

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) has officially approved the charging rates of carbon fees (Fee-Charging Rates of Carbon Fees).⁷¹³⁴ The primary objective of imposing carbon fees is to encourage greenhouse gas reduction.

Human Rights

Taiwan is ranked by Freedom House as a global leader in its protection of human rights and transparency, with a combined score for political and civil liberties of 94 out of 100.⁷¹³⁵ This rating underscores Taiwan's robust protection of political rights (38 out of 40) and civil liberties (56 out of 60), positioning it second in Asia behind Japan and tied for seventh globally with nations like Iceland and the Czech Republic. Taiwan's Human Rights Commission⁷¹³⁶ continues to provide national oversight.

Although internet freedom in the Asia-Pacific Region declined overall in 2025,⁷¹³⁷ Taiwan's score remained at 79 out of 100, the highest internet freedom ranking in Asia and seventh globally. Freedom House characterizes Taiwan as "one

⁷¹³² Science and Technology Law Institute, *After the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Law, the Draft of AI Basic Law Is Announced in Taiwan* (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://stli.iii.org.tw/en/article-detail.aspx?tp=2&i=168&d=9246&no=105>

⁷¹³³ Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, G7 2023 Hiroshima Summit, *Hiroshima Process Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems* (Oct. 30, 2023), <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100573473.pdf>

⁷¹³⁴ Ministry of Environment, *Taiwan's Ministry of Environment Announces "Fee-Charging Rates of Carbon Fees"* (Oct. 23, 2024), <https://www.moenv.gov.tw/en/news/press-releases/31552.html>

⁷¹³⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Taiwan* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/taiwan/freedom-world/2025>

⁷¹³⁶ National Human Rights Commission Taiwan, *The Website Security and Privacy Policy* (Aug. 2023), <https://nhrc.cy.gov.tw/en-US/cp.aspx?n=9742>

⁷¹³⁷ Focus Taiwan, *Taiwan Ranks Top in Asia, 7th in World for Internet Freedom: Report* (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/202511130013>

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of the most open online environments in the world,” noting that an independent judiciary protects free expression and that civil society, the technology sector, and the government have taken innovative action to counter disinformation campaigns originating from China.”⁷¹³⁸ Freedom House notes that a prominent concern threatening the continuation of these liberties relates to “the Chinese government’s efforts to influence policy-making, the media, and democratic infrastructure in Taiwan.”⁷¹³⁹

In April 2022, the Executive Yuan authorized the establishment of the Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice under its authority and approved the first national action plan on human rights that May. In the announcement, Premier Su Tseng-chang pointed out that “to date, Taiwan has created its own laws to implement five of the United Nations’ nine core international human rights instruments” and issued national reports addressing their implemented.

The human rights action plan lays out open and transparent procedures and involves widespread participation by government, civic groups, and scholars and experts from all sectors “to reconcile and align the nation’s policies to human rights values.” The plan includes efforts such as those “to prevent digital technologies from violating human rights” among the actions and indicators designed to address emerging human rights issues in addition to “striving for equality and nondiscrimination against vulnerable groups such as children and youth, the elderly, mentally or physically disabled people, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and the LGBTI community.”⁷¹⁴⁰

AI Literacy

In 2025, Taiwan launched an AI literacy initiative focused on providing AI training for civil servants enhance public-sector efficiency, innovation, and digital governance as the country integrates artificial intelligence into e-government services.⁷¹⁴¹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Although Taiwan is not an OECD member country, many of its AI policies align with the OECD AI Principles. The Ministry of Science and Technology noted

⁷¹³⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2022: Taiwan* (2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/taiwan/freedom-net/2022>

⁷¹³⁹ Ibid

⁷¹⁴⁰ Department of Information Services, Executive Yuan, *Taiwan Unveils First National Human Rights Action Plan* (May 5, 2022), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/Page/61BF20C3E89B856/d4db0a5a-0a13-47fe-bd4c-bbab6af39405>

⁷¹⁴¹ Executive Yuan, *Cultivating Public Sector AI Talent for Smart Government* (Jun. 13, 2025), <https://english.ey.gov.tw/News/3/9E5540D592A5FECDF7afed842-0d86-4d59-9144-0269b120ece6>

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in the announcement of the AI Technology R&D Guidelines that “many countries and organizations have established ethical standards for AI R&D, such as the EU's Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI, OECD's Principles on Artificial Intelligence and IEEE's Ethically Aligned Design-Version II.”⁷¹⁴²

Taiwan AI Labs and Taiwan Federated Learning were invited to participate in the 2021 Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Annual Meetings,⁷¹⁴³ a demonstration of Taiwan's international influence.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Taiwan is not an EU member state. Taiwan's unique geopolitical status precludes participation in this legally binding international AI Treaty.⁷¹⁴⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Taiwan has not been a member of the United Nations since 1971, when it was expelled via United Nations Resolution 2758, in deference to the People's Republic of China, which was henceforth recognized as “the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations.”⁷¹⁴⁵ Taiwan is not a party to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

Evaluation

While Taiwan's unique geopolitical status precludes its formal membership in organizations like UNESCO, the OECD, and the EU, its AI policies demonstrate a strong alignment with international trends, frameworks, and guidelines for AI development and deployment. The AI Basic Law emphasizes human-centered AI and democratic values, showing progress in policy development.

Taiwan upholds human rights by endorsing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)⁷¹⁴⁶ and establishing an independent National Human Rights

⁷¹⁴² Digitimes, *MOST Announces AI R&D Guidelines* (Sept. 24, 2019), <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20190923PD209.html>

⁷¹⁴³ Digital Innovation & Governance Initiative Committee, “*Taiwan AI Federated Learning Alliance*” *Encourages AI Advancement Protecting Privacy Rights* (Jan. 29, 2021), <https://digi.nstc.gov.tw/en/BD28C14C8FBBF163/5a582d33-35a2-4b57-8006-1c5d18feaf5b>

⁷¹⁴⁴ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 16, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁷¹⁴⁵ Sigrid Winkler, *Taiwan's UN Dilemma: To Be or Not to Be*, Brookings Institute Op-Ed (Jun. 20, 2012), <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/taiwans-un-dilemma-to-be-or-not-to-be/>

⁷¹⁴⁶ Office of the President, *The Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee*, <https://english.president.gov.tw/Page/225>

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Commission.⁷¹⁴⁷ Public participation is encouraged through the Ministry of Digital Affairs (MoDA) initiatives and public consultations⁷¹⁴⁸ on the policy initiatives including the AI Action Plan 2.0 and AI Basic Law.

An independent, AI-specific oversight agency has not yet been established, but amendments to the data protection law in 2025 entrench the Personal Data Protection Commission as an independent data protection authority. Taiwan continues to develop a broader institutional framework for AI governance.⁷¹⁴⁹ While AI policy goals are articulated, issues remain regarding algorithmic transparency, as current provisions are considered vague with more scope for further improvement. Taiwan is not a signatory to the GDPR, Council of Europe AI Treaty, or the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

⁷¹⁴⁷ National Human Rights Commission, Taiwan, *International Conventions* (Mar. 27, 2024), <https://nhrc.cy.gov.tw/en-US/cp.aspx?n=8693>

⁷¹⁴⁸ Ministry of Digital Affairs, *Utilizing AI to Enhance Information Integrity, Citizens' Deliberative Assembly* (Mar. 16, 2026), <https://moda.gov.tw/en/major-policies/alignment-assemblies/2024-deliberative-assembly/1521>

⁷¹⁴⁹ Executive Yuan, *The Cabinet passed the draft "Organizational Law of the Personal Data Protection Commission" and the draft amendment to some provisions of the "Personal Data Protection Law", completing the independent supervision mechanism and law enforcement authority, and establishing data governance in the era of comprehensive application of AI* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.ey.gov.tw/Page/9277F759E41CCD91/747cda78-926f-4205-99b3-1a735fc1b97b>

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Tanzania

In 2025, the report on Tanzania's UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) was published. The country also progressed on a draft of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework.

National AI Strategy

Tanzania's approach to Artificial Intelligence centers on a values-based AI Governance structure. The enablement of the Personal Data Protection Act (2022) specifically focused on AI and other emerging technologies.⁷¹⁵⁰ Tanzania released a draft of Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of AI in Tanzania in June 2024.⁷¹⁵¹ The UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report followed in 2025.⁷¹⁵² The Tanzania Digital Economy Strategic Framework 2024-2034⁷¹⁵³ and Tanzania Vision 2050 provide an overarching roadmap of digital technologies and AI deployment.⁷¹⁵⁴

The Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of AI in Tanzania outline eight core AI principles to guide the development, deployment, and use of AI. These principles include Necessary, Valid, Proportionate, and Reliable use; Safe results and use; Managed Bias, likely through human oversight; Resiliency against cyberattacks; Transparency in use; Accountability of designers and deployers; Explainable and Interpretable outputs or results; and Privacy protections for data subject across the lifecycle.⁷¹⁵⁵

⁷¹⁵⁰ United Republic of Tanzania, *Government Notice No. 395B: The Personal Data Protection Act* (Jun. 13, 2023), <https://oagmis.oag.go.tz/portal/acts/237/download>

⁷¹⁵¹ Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, *Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of AI in Tanzania*, draft Version 1 (Jun. 2024),

<https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1749982790-Guidelines%20for%20AI%20ethical%20USE%20Guideline%20MICIT%202025ver.pdf>

⁷¹⁵² UNESCO, *National Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment: United Republic of Tanzania* (2025), <https://tanzania.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/National%20AI%20Readiness%20Report.pdf>

⁷¹⁵³ Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, *Tanzania Digital Economy Strategic Framework* (2026), <https://ictc.go.tz/about-us/tz-digital-future>

⁷¹⁵⁴ National Planning Commission, *Tanzania Development Vision 2050* (2025),

<https://www.planning.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1752762713-THE%20TANZANIA%20DEVELOPMENT%20VISION%202050.pdf>

⁷¹⁵⁵ Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, *Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of AI in Tanzania, Draft Version One*, pp. 10–11 (Jun. 2024),

<https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1749982790-Guidelines%20for%20AI%20ethical%20USE%20Guideline%20MICIT%202025ver.pdf>

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The draft makes strong recommendations for institutions to use an AI Code of Ethics.⁷¹⁵⁶ The Code is not legally binding but provides guidelines for ethos and implementation, such as quality and ethical conduct, openness, fairness and inclusivity, and upholding ethical conduct across data pipelines.

As of February 2026, the National AI Strategy is in draft form.⁷¹⁵⁷ The draft Strategy outlines eight focus areas, including Establish AI governance, regulatory and standard frameworks to ensure a robust AI ecosystem among public and private stakeholders; Embed inclusion and accessibility in AI development and deployment to ensure awareness and access to marginalized groups and minimize historical biases and social inequalities; and Establish a robust AI data governance framework to ensure data required to train AI systems is of high quality, accessible, fair, and inclusive.⁷¹⁵⁸ The draft takes into account the international frameworks, such as UNESCO AI Ethics Framework and the UN Global Digital Compact, AU Continental AI Strategy, as well as OECD initiatives and Global Partnership of AI (GPAI) as part of the Global Context for the national strategy.⁷¹⁵⁹

Government engagement on developing the National AI Strategy continues largely through workshops and stakeholder consultations led by the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology (MCIT) and UNESCO-supported national dialogues. The MCIT announced in September 2025 that it was in the final stages of preparing a national guideline for the responsible use of AI.⁷¹⁶⁰

Public Participation

Tanzania has taken steps to engage in public and stakeholder consultation in AI policymaking, primarily through consultative forums, national dialogues, and stakeholder engagement. However, formal consultation processes for providing comments to AI policy initiatives are limited.

In February 2025, UNESCO organized national AI consultations in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar to bring together policymakers, technology experts, academia, civil society, and private sector institutions to assess the country's preparedness for

⁷¹⁵⁶ Ibid, p. 11

⁷¹⁵⁷ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *The Tanzania National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework (Draft version 0.6)* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/document-groups/strategies>

⁷¹⁵⁸ Ibid, pp. 2–3

⁷¹⁵⁹ Ibid, p. 7

⁷¹⁶⁰ National Newspaper: Daily News, *AI Guideline in Final Stages, Govt Confirms* (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://dailynews.co.tz/ai-guideline-in-final-stages-govt-confirms/>

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AI adoption.⁷¹⁶¹ During these consultations, participants emphasized the need for strong AI policies and regulations, investments in AI literacy and training programs, strengthening digital infrastructure, and the need for ethical AI implementation. In March 2025, the Tanzania Tech and Media Convergence launched the Media and AI Report, which stemmed from UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.⁷¹⁶² Policymakers, AI experts, media professionals, and academics attended the launch. The participants highlighted the need for capacity-building initiatives, regulatory frameworks, and collaborative opportunities between media and tech industries to harness AI's benefits while also recognizing the risks involved. Further, the Information and Communications Technologies Commission (ICT) set up the first Tanzania Artificial Intelligence Forum in July 2025 to facilitate stakeholder dialogue on AI technology. The forum is supposed to meet every July of the year to provide a comprehensive overview of AI issues and their societal impacts, while also providing a platform to discuss policy challenges.⁷¹⁶³

In terms of public access to government initiatives, the draft National AI Strategy⁷¹⁶⁴ and draft Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence are publicly available.⁷¹⁶⁵ While both acknowledge stakeholder involvement, no specific procedures for submitting public comments are outlined.

Data Protection

The Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2022 was passed by the National Assembly of Tanzania. The Personal Data Protection Commission was established as an implementation measure to oversee the protection of data on the same day the PDPA entered into force in 2023.⁷¹⁶⁶

The PDPA is designed to protect privacy and personal data as a baseline safeguard for people by establishing “minimum requirements” for

⁷¹⁶¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Supports Consultations for AI Readiness Assessment in Tanzania* (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-supports-consultations-ai-readiness-assessment-tanzania>

⁷¹⁶² UNESCO, *Launch of the UNESCO IPDC Supported Tanzania Media and AI Report* (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/launch-unesco-ipdc-supported-tanzania-media-and-ai-report>

⁷¹⁶³ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Information and Communications Technologies Commission, *Tanzania Artificial Intelligence Forum*, <https://ictc.go.tz/event/8>

⁷¹⁶⁴ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *The Tanzania National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework (Draft version 6.0)* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/document-groups/strategies>

⁷¹⁶⁵ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *The Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Tanzania (Draft Version One)* (Jun. 2024), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/document-groups/guidelines>

⁷¹⁶⁶ Personal Data Protection Commission, *About PDPC - Background History* (2026), <https://www.pdpc.go.tz/en/about-pdpc/background-history>

collection/processing, improve protection in public/private bodies, and establish the Commission).⁷¹⁶⁷ The Commission's functions include monitoring compliance, registering controllers/processors, receiving and investigating complaints, taking measures on matters affecting protection/privacy, public education, research and monitoring of tech developments, international cooperation and advising the government on implementation. The Act's core protections guarantee that personal data is processed in line with data subject rights.

Tanzania's Personal Data Protection Commission is not an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) so has not sponsored AI-related GPA resolutions.⁷¹⁶⁸

Algorithmic Transparency

Tanzania's current approach to algorithmic transparency is primarily policy-based rather than rights-based. The draft National AI Strategy and AI Readiness Assessment emphasize transparency, explainability, and human oversight as governance objectives, but these principles are articulated as aspirational goals rather than enforceable legal rights.⁷¹⁶⁹ Tanzanian law does not currently recognize a specific, sanctionable right to algorithmic transparency or explanation in relation to AI-driven decision-making.

This gap has been acknowledged within the legal system. The High Court of Tanzania has called for updates to the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) to address persistent weaknesses in data protection and oversight,⁷¹⁷⁰ highlighting the need for stronger safeguards as automated and data-driven systems expand in public and private decision-making.

Tanzania's reliance on policy instruments and soft law leaves significant limitations on the enforceability of transparency and human oversight protections in AI systems. While the Personal Data Protection Act 2022 allows individuals to request that significant decisions are not made solely through automated processing, it does not establish a binding right to be notified of automated decision-making, to

⁷¹⁶⁷ United Republic of Tanzania, *Government Notice No. 395B: The Personal Data Protection Act* (Jun. 13, 2023),

https://www.pdpc.go.tz/media/media/THE_PERSONAL_DATA_PROTECTION_ACT.pdf

⁷¹⁶⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷¹⁶⁹ UNESCO, *National Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment: United Republic of Tanzania* (2025), <https://tanzania.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/National%20AI%20Readiness%20Report.pdf>

⁷¹⁷⁰ East African Court of Justice, *Reference No. 2 of 2020 Tito Elias Magoti Another v. the Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania* (Nov. 30, 2023), <https://www.eacj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Reference-No.-2-of-2020-Tito-Elias-Magoti-Another-v.-The-Attorney-General-of-the-United-Republic-of-Tanzania.pdf>

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receive a meaningful explanation of algorithmic outcomes, or to directly challenge and seek remedies for such decisions. As a result, protections related to algorithmic transparency remain fragmented and largely discretionary, falling short of emerging international standards that frame transparency and contestability as core individual rights.

Environmental Impact of AI

Tanzania does not have AI-specific legislation addressing the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence. Environmental risks associated with AI-related infrastructure, including data centres, telecommunications facilities, and electronic equipment, are instead regulated through the general environmental framework under the Environmental Management Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Audit Regulations, administered by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).⁷¹⁷¹ Amendments to the EIA Regulations in 2024 integrate climate considerations into environmental assessments, which may apply to energy-intensive digital infrastructure supporting AI systems.⁷¹⁷² In parallel, the National ICT Policy identifies electronic waste as a growing concern and promotes e-waste management systems and the use of green energy technologies for ICT infrastructure.⁷¹⁷³ Stakeholder consultations conducted as part of Tanzania's National AI Readiness Assessment have nonetheless highlighted the absence of AI-specific environmental guidance and recommended that AI-related energy use, data-center siting, and electronic waste be more explicitly addressed within the EIA framework.⁷¹⁷⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Tanzania is not a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁷¹⁷⁵ Tanzania has not participated directly in CCW negotiations or the expert

⁷¹⁷¹ United Republic of Tanzania, *The Environmental Management Act* (2004), <https://procedures.tiseza.go.tz/media/Environmental%20Audit%20Regulations%202005.pdf>

⁷¹⁷² United Republic of Tanzania, *Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations* (2005), as amended by *Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit (Amendment) Regulations*, Government Notice No. 957 (2024), <https://oagmis.oag.go.tz/portal/legislation/3910>

⁷¹⁷³ Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology (MICIT), *Draft National Information and Communications Technology Policy (NICTP)* (2023), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1693455522-DOCUMENT%20TO%20UPLOAD%20DRAFT%20AUGUST%20NICTP.pdf>

⁷¹⁷⁴ UNESCO, *National Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment: United Republic of Tanzania* (2025), <https://tanzania.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/National%20AI%20Readiness%20Report.pdf>

⁷¹⁷⁵ Automated Decision Research. *Tanzania—State Position on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems*, https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/tanzania/

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group processes on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), and therefore has no formal ratification obligations under the CCW framework.

Tanzania has expressed support at the United Nations for collective international action to address the challenges posed by autonomous weapons systems. In December 2023, Tanzania voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on LAWS, which calls for preparation of a report reflecting member and observer state views on autonomous weapons and the role of humans in the use of force, signaling support for advancing multilateral discussion and a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems.⁷¹⁷⁶ As part of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Tanzania aligns with blocs that advocate negotiating a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems rather than treating them as purely technological developments.⁷¹⁷⁷

AI Literacy

Tanzania's emerging AI policy framework treats AI literacy as a strategic enabler of responsible and inclusive digital transformation. The framework focuses on soft-law instruments and does not guarantee accessible AI education for all. Tanzania's AI Readiness Assessment identifies low digital and AI awareness as a key vulnerability.⁷¹⁷⁸ The Assessment warns that without broad-based skills and civic understanding AI adoption could deepen inequalities and concentrate benefits among already advantaged groups. The draft National AI Strategy frames AI and data literacy as cross-cutting priorities for workforce development and education, urging national skills-building programs, teacher training, and creation of locally relevant content, but it leaves implementation details and sustained funding largely undefined.⁷¹⁷⁹ The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology's Ethical AI Guidelines require institutions to educate staff on AI risks, ethics, bias, privacy, and security, echoing UNESCO's focus on transparency, accountability, and human-rights-aligned AI. The guidelines position AI literacy as a prerequisite for

⁷¹⁷⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/241>

⁷¹⁷⁷ UN, *Statement of the United Republic of Tanzania to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly 80th Session General Debate* (Oct. 16, 2025), https://estatements.un.org/estatements/11.0010/20251017100000000/myBhYXqtX-tAD/yodFqqrUA_nyc_en.pdf

⁷¹⁷⁸ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, *National Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence in Education* (2025), <http://www.moe.go.tz/sites/default/files/NATIONAL%20GUIDELINES%20FOR%20ARTIFICIAL%20INTELLIGENCE%20N%20EDUCATION.pdf>

⁷¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *The Tanzania National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework (Draft version 0.6)* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/document-groups/strategies>

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trustworthy deployment in both public and private sectors.⁷¹⁸⁰ Despite this principled alignment with UNESCO’s ethics framework, Tanzania still does not guarantee an enforceable right to AI literacy or access to structured, rights-anchored AI education.

Tanzania’s Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has issued the National Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence in Education, a non-binding but detailed policy framework that promotes ethical, secure, and inclusive use of AI in education by integrating AI and digital literacy into curricula, clarifying institutional responsibilities and risk management, protecting data privacy, and encouraging participatory development of AI tools that reflect local languages, cultures, accessibility needs, and international norms, while advancing sectoral implementation of fairness, transparency, and learner protections. However, these guidelines do not create a legally enforceable right to AI literacy and do not guarantee adequately funded AI education, particularly for rural and marginalized learners.⁷¹⁸¹

Human Rights

Tanzania is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR provisions guaranteeing equality, non-discrimination, and fundamental freedoms are enshrined in Tanzania’s 1977 Constitution. However, despite legal frameworks, serious human rights issues persist, including violations of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, enforced disappearances and excessive force. Freedom House rates Tanzania as “Not Free” with an overall score of 35/100.⁷¹⁸² According to the 2025 Freedom in the World report, Tanzania’s status declined from “Partly Free” to “Not Free” due to multiple violations by the authorities, including altering the voter registrations of ethnic Maasai citizens as part of a repressive campaign to expel their communities from a planned game reserve.

Tanzania’s general elections in October 2025 were marred by state-sanctioned violence and internet blackouts. On polling day, there were widespread reports of the authorities imposing a nationwide internet and electricity shutdown, disrupting mobile data services and blocking access to social media platforms across

⁷¹⁸⁰ Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, *Guidelines for the Secure and Ethical Use of AI in Tanzania* (Jun. 2024), [https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1749982790-](https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1749982790-Guidelines%20for%20AI%20ethical%20USE%20Guideline%20MICIT%202025ver.pdf)

[Guidelines%20for%20AI%20ethical%20USE%20Guideline%20MICIT%202025ver.pdf](https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/uploads/documents/sw-1749982790-Guidelines%20for%20AI%20ethical%20USE%20Guideline%20MICIT%202025ver.pdf)

⁷¹⁸¹ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, *National Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence in Education* (2025),

<http://www.moe.go.tz/sites/default/files/NATIONAL%20GUIDELINES%20FOR%20ARTIFICIAL%20INTELLIGENCE%20N%20EDUCATION.pdf>

⁷¹⁸² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Tanzania* (2025),

<https://freedomhouse.org/country/tanzania/freedom-world/2025>

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major networks.⁷¹⁸³ During the blackouts, reports indicated that security forces used excessive force to suppress and disperse ongoing post-election protests, resulting in the deaths and injuries of protesters. Internet shutdowns and blocks on social media are common at times of increased political tension. In 2024, the government banned unauthorized use of virtual private networks (VPNs), an important tool allowing people to use the internet anonymously and access blocked content.⁷¹⁸⁴

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Tanzania is not a member of the OECD or the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁷¹⁸⁵

Despite this, Tanzania is actively preparing for AI governance at the national level and is drafting the National AI Strategy taking into account OECD initiatives, and specifically Global Partnership of AI (GPAI).⁷¹⁸⁶ The government completed a national AI Readiness Assessment in 2025, with UNESCO support, including multi-stakeholder consultations to align emerging AI frameworks with ethical and sustainable development goals⁷¹⁸⁷.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Tanzania is not a member of the Council of Europe⁷¹⁸⁸ and has not signed or ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁷¹⁸⁹

⁷¹⁸³ Amnesty International, *Tanzania: Unlawful Killings and Other Human Rights Violations Continue Amid Internet and Electricity Blackouts* (2025), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/11/tanzania-unlawful-killings-and-other-human-rights-violations-continue-amid-internet-and-electricity-blackouts/>

⁷¹⁸⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Tanzania* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tanzania/freedom-world/2025>

⁷¹⁸⁵ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, Adherents (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁷¹⁸⁶ Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, *The Tanzania National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Framework (Draft version 0.6)* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.mawasiliano.go.tz/document-groups/strategies>

⁷¹⁸⁷ UNESCO, *AI Ready and Responsible: Tanzania Unveils National Assessment at Africa Internet Governance Forum* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-ready-and-responsible-tanzania-unveils-national-assessment-africa-internet-governance-forum>

⁷¹⁸⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁷¹⁸⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Tanzania is a member of UNESCO⁷¹⁹⁰ and adopted the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI in November 2021.⁷¹⁹¹ In June 2025, the country successfully completed the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), aligning with the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI.⁷¹⁹² The AI Readiness Assessment report highlights Tanzania's efforts for AI advancement, crediting the enactment of the Personal Data Protection Act (2022), the AI Policy Framework for the health sector (2022), and the Guidelines for AI in Education.⁷¹⁹³ The report emphasizes the country's AI potential by showcasing policy advancements, growing digital infrastructure, stakeholder engagement, and the innovation ecosystem.

Based on the study, UNESCO encourages Tanzania to finalize and adopt a National AI strategy with priority given to human-centered design, diversity, and safe spaces for AI development. Further, the report recommends building on the PDPA by establishing clear rules for AI ethics, accountability, and transparency as part of a legal framework addressing harms caused by AI systems and clarifying responsibility while fostering innovation. UNESCO's recommendations focus on human oversight and algorithmic impact assessments and recommends the deployment of UNESCO's Ethical Impact Assessment tool to operationalize these principles.

To build a strong framework, UNESCO recommends the creation of a multi-stakeholder body or a National AI Council that oversees national AI initiatives and advises on policy, ethical, social, and legal issues. It further advises the country to establish facilities that ensure AI systems meet quality, safety, and ethical standards to build trust in AI technologies and avail the help of UNESCO if needed. In a similar spirit, UNESCO calls for the establishment of an Independent AI Ethics Review Board to assess high-risk AI applications, provide ethical guidance where necessary, and address emerging challenges with the support of international experts. The Assessment also reflects on public engagement and encourages AI education.

⁷¹⁹⁰ UNESCO, *Member States and Country Profiles*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

⁷¹⁹¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁷¹⁹² UNESCO, *AI Ready and Responsible: Tanzania Unveils National Assessment at Africa Internet Governance Forum* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-ready-and-responsible-tanzania-unveils-national-assessment-africa-internet-governance-forum>

⁷¹⁹³ UNESCO, *The United Republic of Tanzania: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://tanzania.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/National%20AI%20Readiness%20Report.pdf>

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While Tanzania has made significant progress in enabling AI policy development in certain sectors, the implementation of UNESCO's Recommendations remains in process. Full implementation depends on the adoption and implementation of a National AI strategy, independent oversight bodies, and the establishment of binding regulatory mechanisms.

Evaluation

Tanzania's current approach to AI governance reflects early-stage development, with emerging policy initiatives and partial alignment with human rights and transparency principles but limited institutionalization and implementation. The availability of public materials and ongoing work toward national AI frameworks and assessments indicate growing engagement with responsible AI. However, key gaps remain, including the absence of endorsement or implementation of the OECD AI Principles; limited legal integration of fairness, accountability, and rule-of-law safeguards; and the lack of an independent oversight mechanism for AI. Participation in international governance frameworks also appears incomplete, which may affect alignment with global standards. Implementation of the final draft of the National AI Strategy and the Ethical and Secure Use of AI framework provide an opportunity for significant advancement in AI governance.

Thailand

In 2025, Thailand consolidated the Business Operations that Use Artificial Intelligence Systems and an Act on Artificial Intelligence Promotion and Support, into a single Draft Principles of the AI Law for public consultation. The country also announced the intention to adhere to the OECD Recommendations on Artificial Intelligence and is advancing in the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

National AI Strategy

The Prime Minister's Cabinet Office approved the Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2027 on July 26, 2022.⁷¹⁹⁴ The vision of the strategy is for Thailand to have an effective ecosystem for developing and applying AI, one proven to enhance the economy and improve the quality of life of Thais by 2027. The National AI Strategy has 5 sub-strategies with 15 more actionable work plans and measures.⁷¹⁹⁵ These are:

- Preparing Thailand's readiness in social, ethics, law, and regulation for AI application, including policies, standards, awareness, and education for AI Ethics as part of enforceable AI Law and Regulation
- Developing Infrastructure for Sustainable AI Development by increasing investment in digital infrastructure by 10% per year, improving the Government AI Readiness index to the top 50 globally, creating AI expert networks, creating a national platform for advanced data analytics and management, creating a national AI service platform, and developing High-Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure
- Increasing human capability and improving AI education to develop AI talent for more than 30,000 citizens by improving AI education and knowledge creation, AI Scholarship programs, and cooperation mechanisms with researchers & experts from abroad
- Driving AI technology and innovation development to strengthen AI technology by developing at least 100 R&D prototypes within 6 years and to facilitate wide adoption of AI research, development, and innovation that helps create business & social impact of at least 48 billion Baht by 2027 by applying AI technology and innovation for strategic sectors developing AI core technology and platform

⁷¹⁹⁴ AI Thailand, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan, 2022–2027* (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://www.ai.in.th/en/about-ai-thailand/>; AI Thailand, *NAIS Presentation* (Dec. 2022), <https://ai.in.th/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-NAIS-Presentation-eng.pdf>

⁷¹⁹⁵ Ibid

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- Promoting the use of AI in public and private sectors so the number of agencies (government, business & new entrepreneurs) using AI innovation increases to at least 600 agencies in 6 years and Thailand's AI competitiveness is increased by AI applications.

The national policy and plan are formulated with an emphasis on digital technologies, empowering people to increase their “citizen well-being and quality of life.” Increasing the transparency and accountability of public agencies is mentioned several times in these plans. The government formed a National AI Committee to oversee implementation and coordination of the national AI policy across departments. Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra chaired the first Committee meeting on May 1, 2025 to review progress and achievements of the 2022–2024 action plan.⁷¹⁹⁶

The strategy and action plan make no explicit mention of concepts such as fundamental rights, human rights, rule of law, and fairness with respect to AI. However, Thailand’s Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) endorsed a global statement on inclusive and sustainable AI governance that emphasizes digital equity, human rights protection, and ethical principles at the AI Action Summit in Paris in February 2025.⁷¹⁹⁷ The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan acknowledges that Thailand “has high inequality and a lack of fairness”⁷¹⁹⁸ across society. The only mention of specific AI ethics guidelines is acknowledging the existence of EU Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI, and the World Government Summit’s Ethical AI Systems Design through a reference in a Thailand Digital Government Development (TDG) Plan summary document.⁷¹⁹⁹ The Electronic Government Agency (EGA), as the agency responsible to implement standards, models, measures, principles, and approaches in the form of digital technology, only mentions openness, integrity, and collaboration under its eight core values.⁷²⁰⁰

In 2019, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, academics and experts from Mahidol University and Microsoft Thailand joined together to draft Digital

⁷¹⁹⁶ AI Thailand, *Prime Minister Chairs First National AI Committee Meeting, Aiming for Thailand to Become a Regional AI Leader* (May 1, 2025), <https://www.ai.in.th/en/national-ai-committee-meeting/>

⁷¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES), *Thailand’s MDES Participates in SAIA Summit* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://thailand.prd.go.th/en/content/category/detail/id/52/iid/364686>

⁷¹⁹⁸ Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, *The Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017–2021)*, https://www.nesdc.go.th/nesdb_en/ewt_dl_link.php?nid=4345

⁷¹⁹⁹ Digital Government Development Agency, *How Government Is Transforming with AI*, https://www.dga.or.th/upload/download/file_310433b825a546dcfd59203b423ca175.pdf

⁷²⁰⁰ Digital Government Development Agency, *DGA Core Value* (Aug. 18, 2020), <https://www.dga.or.th/en/about-us/core-value/>

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Thailand: Draft AI Ethics Guidelines.⁷²⁰¹ The Ethics Guidelines serve as a manual and provide ethical codes regarding AI development for government agencies, private firms, regulatory bodies, researcher, designers, developers, and users. The draft guidelines cover six aspects of development: competitiveness and sustainable development; legal regulations and international ethical standards; operational codes and duties; security and privacy; equality, diversity, and fairness; and credibility. Digital Thailand: AI Ethics Guideline was published in November 2019,⁷²⁰² taken up by the Cabinet of Thailand in December 2020,⁷²⁰³ and approved by the Cabinet in February 2021. The guideline is freely available and accessible online; however, the document is currently only in the Thai language.⁷²⁰⁴

The Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO) established five technical working groups to explore ethical issues in genetic engineering and technology; artificial intelligence, robotics, and big data; climate change and environment; research ethics; and communications and youth engagement in science and technology policy development.⁷²⁰⁵ One outcome was the Bangkok Statement on the Ethics of Science and Technology and Sustainable Development.⁷²⁰⁶ The statement calls for concerted efforts of all stakeholders to take action on the ethics of science and technology so that new technologies can progress and develop to benefit mankind.

While Thailand's National AI Strategy seeks to enhance the development of AI across multiple sectors of the economy, the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) has also highlighted the risk of job disruption due to AI.⁷²⁰⁷ The TDRI estimated that 3 million Thais work in high-risk occupations with an over-70

⁷²⁰¹ National News Bureau of Thailand, *Digital Ministry Outlines AI Ethics* (Oct. 24, 2019), <https://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news/detail/TCATG191024113200588>

⁷²⁰² Thailand Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, *Digital Thailand: AI Ethics Guideline* (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://www.etcha.or.th/getattachment/9d370f25-f37a-4b7c-b661-48d2d730651d/Digital-Thailand-AI-Ethics-Principle-and-Guideline.pdf.aspx?lang=th-TH>

⁷²⁰³ Suchit Leesa-Nguansuk, *National AI Ethics Going to Cabinet*, Bangkok Post (Nov. 17, 2020), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/tech/2020635/national-ai-ethics-going-to-cabinet>

⁷²⁰⁴ Thailand Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, *Digital Thailand: AI Ethics Guideline* (Mar. 22, 2022), <https://www.etcha.or.th/getattachment/9d370f25-f37a-4b7c-b661-48d2d730651d/Digital-Thailand-AI-Ethics-Principle-and-Guideline.pdf.aspx?lang=th-TH>

⁷²⁰⁵ Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO), *Ethics of S&T* (2026), <https://www.nxpo.or.th/th/en/ethics-of-st/>

⁷²⁰⁶ OECD AI Observatory, *Bangkok Statement on the Ethics of Science and Technology and Sustainable Development* (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/Thailand>

⁷²⁰⁷ Bangkok Post, *TDRI: Government Badly Needs AI Strategy for Competitiveness* (Jun. 28, 2018), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1493554/tdri-government-badly-needs-ai-strategy-for-competitiveness>

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percent likelihood to be replaced by AI.⁷²⁰⁸ The International Labor Organization (ILO) warned that women in Thailand face a higher risk of job disruption from AI as they currently lack access to STEM education and training opportunities.⁷²⁰⁹

A report commissioned by the Institute of Public Policy and Development predicted: “If Thai workers whose jobs are at risk of automation fail to retrain, by 2035, the employment rate could fall by 23 percentage points,” requiring decisive policies to reform workforce development.⁷²¹⁰ Whether AI adoption in Thailand will result in job disruption or job transformation will be determined by the overall readiness and AI-preparedness of both younger and older Thais.⁷²¹¹ These findings demonstrate the significance of Thailand’s National AI Strategy envisioning the increase of human capability and the improvement of AI education.⁷²¹²

The National Science and Technology Development Agency shared in February 2024 the McKinsey & Company report on recommended questions to be answered before government agencies use Gen AI.⁷²¹³ Questions include whether the government is able to address risks posed by the AI tool. In addition, in March 2024, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society discussed the National Artificial Intelligence Action Plan for the Development of Thailand Phase 2, 2024–2027.⁷²¹⁴ A Thai Large Language Model was discussed, among other topics.

The Bank of Thailand released the AI Risk Management Guidelines on September 12, 2025 for Financial Service Providers, establishing a framework for

⁷²⁰⁸ TDRI, *3 Million Jobs to Go If Thailand Fails to Navigate Technology Upheavals* (May 16, 2018), <https://tdri.or.th/en/2018/05/3m-job-and-technology-disrupt/>

⁷²⁰⁹ Jae-Hee Chang and Phu Huynh, *ASEAN in Transformation: The Future of Jobs at Risk of Automation*, International Labour Organization (ILO) (Jul. 2016), https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---act_emp/documents/publication/wcms_579554.pdf

⁷²¹⁰ Economic Intelligence Unit, *Impacts of AI on Thailand’s Economy and Society* (Feb. 25, 2020), <https://www.eiu.com/n/impacts-of-ai-on-thailand/>

⁷²¹¹ Rachaniphorn Ngotngamwong, *Artificial Intelligence and Its Impacts on Employability, Human Behavior, Development and Society* (Jun. 2020), <https://so01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/hbds/article/download/230753/164140>

⁷²¹² AI Thailand, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan, 2022–2027* (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://www.ai.in.th/en/about-ai-thailand/>; AI Thailand, *NAIS Presentation* (Dec. 2022), <https://ai.in.th/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-NAIS-Presentation-eng.pdf>

⁷²¹³ AI Thailand, *3 Questions that the “Government Sector” Must Answer Before Using GenAI in Organizations* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://ai.in.th/news/3-question-gov-genai/>

⁷²¹⁴ AI Thailand, *Open 6 Projects to Push Thailand’s AI Plan! 2 Major Ministries, MHESI and DE, Sit at the Head of the Table to Brainstorm Ideas on the Direction of AI Development to Cover All Dimensions* (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://ai.in.th/en/news/ai-thailand-phase2-flagship-project/>

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responsible and transparent AI adoption within the financial sector.⁷²¹⁵ The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society published the AI Security Guideline, establishing principles for secure and auditable AI deployment.⁷²¹⁶

Bangkok hosted ASEAN's 5th Digital Ministers Meeting in January 2025, establishing an AI Safety Network and revising the ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance to strengthen regional coordination.⁷²¹⁷ Additionally, Thailand hosted the 3rd UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI from June 24–27, 2025, in Bangkok.⁷²¹⁸

Public Participation

The Digital Government Plan (2017–2021) defined improving government transparency and public participation by facilitating easy access to government data as one of four goals.⁷²¹⁹ Two of the indicators that the plan commits to measuring itself against are “Promoting Country’s Open Data Index to place in the World’s top 25” and “Creating e-Gov Act.” However, the plans and initiatives relating to AI have been developed by the central government without meaningful public participation. The National AI Strategy includes no indication of public participation or consultation.⁷²²⁰ However, the Thailand Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) opened the draft Principles of the Law on Artificial Intelligence for public comment.⁷²²¹ Additionally, Thailand's Council of State initiated a public

⁷²¹⁵ Bank of Thailand, *AI Risk Management Guidelines for Financial Service Providers*, FPG2568 (Sept 12, 2025),

<https://www.bot.or.th/content/dam/bot/fipcs/documents/FOG/2568/ThaiPDF/25680178.pdf>

⁷²¹⁶ National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) and Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, *AI Security Guideline* (Oct. 1, 2025),

<https://www.ncsa.or.th/news/f732130b653930f93100024e?category=news>

⁷²¹⁷ ASEAN, *Joint Media Statement of the 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN)* (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/15-ENDORSED-JOINT-MEDIA-STATEMENT-5th-ADGSOM-v2-Cleaned.pdf>

⁷²¹⁸ UNESCO, *3rd Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (June 24–27, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/forum-ethics-ai>

⁷²¹⁹ Digital Government Development Agency, *The Digital Government Development Plan of Thailand B.E. 2563-2565* (Sept. 23, 2021), <https://www.dga.or.th/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Presentation-DGA-TRANSLATED-INTO-ENG-Vfinal.pdf>

⁷²²⁰ AI Thailand, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan, 2022–2027* (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://ai.in.th/en/about-ai-thailand/>

⁷²²¹ Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), *(Draft) Principles for the Artificial Intelligence Act* (Jun. 11, 2025), https://www.etda.or.th/th/pr-news/law_ai.aspx

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consultation on the draft Platform Economy Act (PEA) for a one-month consultation. The Act is still under development in early 2026.⁷²²²

Data Protection

Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) is the country's first consolidated law on data protection, framing the collection, use, and disclosure of personal data. The PDPA draws key concepts and principles from the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and establishes a Personal Data Protection Committee.⁷²²³ Enforcement of the PDPA began on June 1, 2022.⁷²²⁴

The PDPA defines personal data as "any information relating to a Person, which enables the identification of that Person, whether directly or indirectly."⁷²²⁵ The PDPA mandates that Data Protection Officers (DPO) be appointed for government agencies and firms with large-scale data processing. DPOs will be responsible for helping organizations ensure that personal data is processed in compliance with the PDPA. DPOs will also serve as contact points on PDPA issues with authorities and data subjects.⁷²²⁶ The PDPA's expert committee imposed its first administrative fine on August 21, 2024. A major online sales company was fined 7 million baht (approximately \$205,520) for failing to appoint a DPO and for inadequate security measures, leading to a significant data breach.⁷²²⁷

Research on the PDPA highlights gaps in data protection, such as provisions that grant the Thai government preferential exemptions and allow the government to exercise a relative degree of flexibility to expand its powers should it deem necessary.⁷²²⁸ For example, the PDPA currently mandates the outright exclusion of

⁷²²² Bangkok Post, *Setting Up a Platform Economy* (Jan. 15, 2025),

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2961545/setting-up-a-platform-economy>

⁷²²³ Government Gazette, *Personal Data Protection Act B.E. 2562*, unofficial translation (May 27, 2019), https://data.thailand.opendevelopmentmekong.net/en/laws_record/2562/resource/ec616be5-9fbf-4071-b4b5-cb1f3e46e826; [original Thai], <https://www.mdes.go.th/law/detail/3577-Personal-Data-Protection-Act-B-E--2562--2019->

⁷²²⁴ Janine Phakdeetham, *Explainer: What is PDPA, Thailand's New Data Law?* (Jun. 1, 2022), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2319054/explainer-what-is-pdpa-thailands-new-data-law->;

Digital Council of Thailand, *The Personal Data Protection Act* [Thai],

https://www.dct.or.th/upload/downloads/1612025563SummaryPDPA_DigitalCouncilofThailand.pdf

⁷²²⁵ Government Gazette, *Personal Data Protection Act B.E. 2562*, unofficial translation, Section 6 (May 27, 2019), https://data.thailand.opendevelopmentmekong.net/en/laws_record/2562/resource/ec616be5-9fbf-4071-b4b5-cb1f3e46e826

⁷²²⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 17–19

⁷²²⁷ IAPP, *First Fine Imposed under Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act*, IAPP News (Nov 14, 2024), <https://iapp.org/news/a/first-fine-imposed-under-thailand-s-personal-data-protection-act>

⁷²²⁸ Elina Noor and Mark Bryan Manantan, *Raising Standards: Data and Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia*, Asia Society Policy Institute (Jul. 2022),

https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ASPI_RaisingStandards_report_fin_web_0.pdf

public authorities involved in national security, law enforcement, and the National Credit Bureau from its ambit.⁷²²⁹ The definition of personal data in the PDPA also lacks clarity as to whether it covers IP addresses and cookie identifiers.⁷²³⁰ Moreover, the PDPA does not provide a definition of anonymized or pseudonymized data.⁷²³¹ Toward the end of 2025, a draft PDPA amendment bill was released for public consultation to address such implementation gaps. However, the consultation process was not completed and a provision-by-provision public hearing is expected in 2026.⁷²³²

The Digitalization of Public Administration and Services Delivery Act requires the establishment of a government data exchange center to act as a sharing center for digital data and digital registration between State Agencies. The exchange center would support agency operations in the provision of services to the people via digital means.⁷²³³ The data exchange center shall also determine policies and standards in relation to interconnectivity and sharing of digital data and present them for the approval of the Digital Government Development Commission. The Act mandates that the public shall have free access to the digital data from state agencies and be able to distribute or utilize the data or use it as a means to develop services and innovation in various ways.⁷²³⁴ As per the Act, the Digital Government Development Commission will prescribe standards and rules on the disclosure of such data.

The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, builds confidence in innovation with the ETDA Sandbox testing field. The ETDA cooperates with the Bank of Thailand to expand the scope of innovation testing, which covers innovations in health tech and AI. The ETDA and Bank of Thailand also cooperate in driving operations corresponding to the government policy of the Face Verification System (FVS).⁷²³⁵ The PDPC published a Binding Corporate Rules (BCR) framework in September

⁷²²⁹ Ibid

⁷²³⁰ Ibid

⁷²³¹ Alexis Kateifides et al., *Comparing Privacy Laws: GDPR v. Thai Personal Protection Act*, OneTrust DataGuidance (Dec. 18, 2019), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/gdpr_v_thailand_updated.pdf

⁷²³² Chambers and Partners, *Data Protection & Privacy 2026 — Thailand: Trends and Developments* (2026), <https://practiceguides.chambers.com/practice-guides/data-protection-privacy-2026/thailand/trends-and-developments>

⁷²³³ Digital Government Development Agency Thailand, *Digitalization of Public Administration and Services Delivery Act* (May 19, 2019), <https://www.dga.or.th/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/6.pdf>

⁷²³⁴ Ibid

⁷²³⁵ Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) Thailand, *ETDA Revamps New Step in 2022 “Build a Better Digital Life with Digital Technology”* (Nov. 17, 2021), <https://www.eta.or.th/en/pr-news/ETDA-Revamps-New-Step-in-1.aspx>

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2025, establishing clearer pathways for intra-group international data transfers, and approved BCRs for two companies operating in Thailand—the first such approvals under the PDPA.⁷²³⁶

Thailand does not have a representative in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA). Thus, the country did not co-sponsor the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁷²³⁷ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁷²³⁸ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁷²³⁹ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁷²⁴⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Thailand's PDPA does not provide for algorithmic transparency, and no other protections guarantee such a right. Draft legislation or the Digital Thailand ethical principles may provide guidance for such a right, but they are not available in English.

Thailand's Council of State concluded a public consultation on the draft Platform Economy Act (PEA) on February 15, 2025, which introduced requirements for online platform service providers to disclose information about their algorithms in their terms and conditions.⁷²⁴¹

More broadly, Thailand's draft AI law, under development by ETDA since 2025, explicitly includes algorithmic transparency and accountability as core design principles, requiring that persons subject to AI-driven decisions receive a clear

⁷²³⁶ Chambers and Partners, *Data Protection & Privacy 2026 — Thailand: Trends and Developments* (2026), <https://practiceguides.chambers.com/practice-guides/data-protection-privacy-2026/thailand/trends-and-developments>

⁷²³⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷²³⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁷²³⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁷²⁴⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷²⁴¹ Bangkok Post, "Setting Up a Platform Economy" (Jan. 15, 2025), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2961545/setting-up-a-platform-economy>

explanation of the underlying reasoning and a meaningful opportunity to contest the outcome.⁷²⁴²

AI System for Surveillance

The AI System for Surveillance and Criminal Analysis in Public in east Bangkok links with security cameras at crime hotspots under Huai Kwang police jurisdiction. The system's facial recognition compares faces against photos in a database of arrest warrants, while its behavior analysis aims to prevent petty crime.⁷²⁴³ The Thai government positioned the pilot program in 2019 as a public safety tool under its wider Thailand 4.0 and Smart Cities initiatives. Following a pilot phase, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration ordered its Traffic and Transportation Department to install more CCTVs along Khao San Road, one of the top tourist destinations. The Administration is also considering using AI in other ways to boost safety.⁷²⁴⁴

The Interim report of the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in 2020 found that Thai authorities reportedly used AI-enabled closed-circuit television system, biometric data, and frequent police checks to surveil minority Muslim groups.⁷²⁴⁵ The Thai military denied using AI to surveil Muslims in the restive southern provinces where an armed insurgency since 2004 has killed more than 7000 people.⁷²⁴⁶

Thailand's draft AI law identifies biometric surveillance systems as high-risk AI applications subject to stringent regulation, signaling a potential shift toward formal legal oversight of government surveillance tools. The draft mandates that

⁷²⁴² Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), *Draft Principles for the Artificial Intelligence Act, Public Consultation* (May 2–Jun. 9, 2025), https://www.etda.or.th/th/pr-news/law_ai.aspx?feed=cb66f430-5546-4dd8-b279-3827e88d154b; Tilleke & Gibbins, *Thailand Resumes Development of AI Regulatory Framework* (May 15, 2025), <https://www.tilleke.com/insights/thailand-resumes-development-of-ai-regulatory-framework/>

⁷²⁴³ Nation Thailand, *Bangkok Police to Pilot AI Surveillance System* (Jul. 25, 2019), <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30373672>

⁷²⁴⁴ Supoj Wancharoen, *AI, More Cameras Mull'd to Boost Revelers' Safety* (Mar. 6, 2024), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2753664/ai-more-cameras-mulled-to-boost-revellers-safety>

⁷²⁴⁵ OHCHR, A/75/385: *Interim Report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed: Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance* (Oct. 12, 2020), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a75385-interim-report-special-rapporteur-freedom-religion-or-belief>

⁷²⁴⁶ Mariyam Ahmad, *Thai Military Denies Using AI to Monitor Muslims in Deep South*, Benar News (Nov. 16, 2020), <https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/thai/monitoring-concerns-11162020172147.html>

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high-risk AI systems undergo transparency and human oversight requirements, though enforcement mechanisms remain pending final legislative enactment.

Anti-Fake News Centre

Thailand launched the Anti-Fake News Centre in November 2019. The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) defines “fake news” as any viral online content that misleads people or damages the country’s image. The Centre is staffed by around 30 officers at a time, who review online content gathered through “social listening” tools. Coupled with a law prohibiting criticism of the monarchy, the Centre allows the government to censor or suppress any news it finds broadly affecting “peace and order, good morals, and national security”⁷²⁴⁷ without the need for evidence.

In February 2022, the Cabinet of Thailand approved a regulation to set up centers at three different levels to coordinate efforts to tackle fake news on social media. A central coordination center would be set up at the permanent secretary’s office of MDES. Furthermore, each ministry will also set up its own center to deal with fake news. The Provincial Administration Department of the Interior Ministry would also set up similar centers in all provinces under the leadership of provincial governors or their deputies.⁷²⁴⁸ According to the regulation, officials must alert the public immediately in the event of the spread of fake news and inform the Public Relations Department within one hour to correct the news and take action against those spreading it. Officials must also promptly notify the MDES to remove the fake news from the computer system.⁷²⁴⁹

However, the Move Forward Party considers that the original Centre failed in its task and asked to cut the total budget. According to their metrics, the Centre received 5.47 million complaints about fake news in September 2023 from which 539 messages were flagged for fact-checking. Of those items, 235 were verified and deemed able to be disseminated.⁷²⁵⁰ As of July 2025, the AFNC reported processing over 1.18 billion messages since its launch in November 2019, of which nearly 2.3 million were flagged as suspicious. Of the 41,882 cases examined, 7,714 were confirmed false, 8,577 accurate, and 2,456 misleading. The MDES announced plans

⁷²⁴⁷ Reuters, *Thailand Unveils “Anti-Fake News” Center to Police the Internet* (Nov. 1, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/technology/thailand-unveils-anti-fake-news-center-to-police-the-internet-idUSKBN1XB48N/>

⁷²⁴⁸ Bangkok Post, *Government to Form Centres to Tackle Fake News* (Feb. 1, 2022), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2257119/government-adopts-multi-level-approach-to-fake-news>

⁷²⁴⁹ Ibid

⁷²⁵⁰ Aekarach Sattaburuth, *Anti-Fake News Hub under Fire* (Mar. 22, 2024), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2762639/anti-fake-news-hub-under-fire>

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to strengthen cooperation with social media platforms and expand the Centre's 24-hour monitoring capacity.⁷²⁵¹

Digital ID

Thailand is currently working on legislation that would replace physical ID cards with the Digi-ID as the backbone of e-commerce transactions in the country. The Digi-ID would use blockchain to securely exchange user data but also require facial-recognition verification in an effort toward a “self-sovereign” digital identity management system.⁷²⁵² It remains unclear how the government conducted the risk or impact assessment on the mandatory use of biometric data.

The Digital Economy and Society Ministry began working on a Digital ID Framework for Thailand to ease the process to access online services by using a digital ID.⁷²⁵³ The first phase of this framework, 2022–2024, comprised eight strategies including making the Ministry of Interior the main agency providing identity information; giving Thai citizens, corporations, and foreigners Digital ID; and making Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) the entity responsible for Digital ID policy.⁷²⁵⁴ ETDA issued a Royal Decree on the Supervision of Regulated Digital Identification Authentication and Verification Service Businesses to regulate business operators that provide digital identification authentication and verification services.⁷²⁵⁵

During this first phase, digital ID cards were introduced for people who use public services provided by agencies under the Ministry of Interior. To access D.Dopa, the digital ID mobile application, the citizens had to register with their district office’s registry division using their physical ID cards.⁷²⁵⁶ By the end of Phase 1, the number of digital ID users grew from under 20 million to over 40 million, boosted significantly by Thailand's digital wallet stimulus program, which required

⁷²⁵¹ Nation Thailand, *DES Ministry to Escalate Measures to Counter Fake News through AFNC* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40053707>

⁷²⁵² ND ID, *About Us*, <https://ndid.co.th/about-us/ndid/>

⁷²⁵³ Mongkol Bangprapa, *Govt Readies Phone App Digital IDs*, Bangkok Post (Jan. 4, 2023), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2474884/govt-readies-phone-app-digital-ids>

⁷²⁵⁴ Sawasdee Thailand, *Digital ID Framework: Access to Online Services of the Public and Private Sectors* (Aug. 9, 2023), https://thailand.go.th/issue-focus-detail/001_05_005-2

⁷²⁵⁵ Electronic Transactions Development Agency, *Royal Decree on the Supervision of Regulated Digital Identification Authentication and Verification Service Businesses B.E. 2565* (2022), <https://www.eta.or.th/getattachment/Regulator/DigitalID/law/Clean-Royal-Decree-on-DID-Corrected-2.pdf.aspx?lang=th-TH>

⁷²⁵⁶ Mongkol Bangprapa, *Govt Readies Phone App Digital IDs*, Bangkok Post (Jan. 4, 2023), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2474884/govt-readies-phone-app-digital-ids>

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citizens to use the Pao Tang app — and therefore a digital ID — to access government benefits.⁷²⁵⁷

The Digital Economy and Society Ministry approved the draft of phase 2 of the Framework,⁷²⁵⁸ which will cover 2025–2027, in November 2024. Phase 2 targets an increase in e-government services accepting digital ID from approximately 400 to 1,000 by 2027, expands coverage to foreign nationals residing in Thailand, and advances digital ID for legal entities, which remains in pilot phase pending user confidence and court acceptance. The Digital Government Development Agency (DGA) has allocated a budget of 7.96 billion baht (approximately USD 237 million) for digital government development in 2025.

Environmental Impact of AI

The Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan consider Social and Environmental Impact among the objectives.⁷²⁵⁹ More specifically, the strategy aims to provide for a better environment and efficient use of natural resources. Thailand's rapid expansion as a regional AI infrastructure hub intensified scrutiny of the environmental costs of AI. In 2025, the Board of Investment approved 36 data center projects worth approximately \$23 billion, with the country targeting 1 gigawatt of data center capacity by 2027, up from roughly 0.35 GW in 2024.⁷²⁶⁰ Local residents, government officials, and activists have raised concerns about the lack of publicly available information on resource consumption, water usage, and whether environmental impact assessments have been completed in Chonburi and Rayong, where several facilities are being built. In response, the Ministry of Energy updated the Power Development Plan (PDP), targeting at least 50% renewable energy by 2037 and a 30–40% reduction in power sector carbon emissions, while introducing green electricity tariff programs for data center operators.⁷²⁶¹

⁷²⁵⁷ Suchit Leesa-Nguansuk, *Examining the Digital ID Framework*, Bangkok Post (Nov. 2, 2024), <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2894617/examining-the-digital-id-framework>

⁷²⁵⁸ Ibid

⁷²⁵⁹ AI Thailand, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2027* (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://ai.in.th/en/about-ai-thailand/>

⁷²⁶⁰ Chiang Rai Times, *Thailand Pushes to Become Data AI-Ready in 2026*, (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://www.chiangraitimes.com/ai/thailand-data-ai-ready-in-2026/>

⁷²⁶¹ Nation Thailand, *Thailand Powers Up for Data Center Boom with Clean Energy Overhaul* (Jun. 6, 2025), <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/economy/40050878>; Mongabay, *Thai Data Center Boom Sparks Fears of Water Shortage, Air Pollution* (Mar. 2026), <https://news.mongabay.com/2026/03/thai-data-center-boom-sparks-fears-of-water-shortage-air-pollution/amp/>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Thailand is not a party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁷²⁶² However, Thailand voted in support of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in December 2023. The Resolution stresses the need to address challenges and concerns raised by LAWS.⁷²⁶³ Additionally, Thailand voted in favor of Draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2024.⁷²⁶⁴

As an observer state to the CCW, Thailand associated itself with a joint statement delivered at the September 2025 session of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS,⁷²⁶⁵ alongside 39 High Contracting Parties and two other observer states, signaling readiness to move toward negotiations of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems on the basis of the GGE's rolling text.

Thailand supported the Resolution L.41 on autonomous weapons systems at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2025.⁷²⁶⁶ The resolution calls on CCW High Contracting Parties to complete the elements of an instrument with a view to future negotiations.

AI Literacy

Thailand has made public AI literacy a national priority, focusing on equipping citizens to use AI responsibly and participate in AI governance

⁷²⁶² UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW, States Which Are Not Parties to the CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷²⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2023 [on the Report of the First Committee A/78/409, para. 89]* (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

⁷²⁶⁴ UN General Assembly, *Draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com24/resolutions/L77.pdf>

⁷²⁶⁵ Stop Killer Robots, *Cross-Regional Group of States Reay to Start Treaty Negotiations on Autonomous Weapons* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/news/september-2025-gge-joint-statement/>

⁷²⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Resolution A/RES/80/57 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/80/57>; see also, UN Press Release, *General Assembly Adopts More Than 60 Resolutions, Decisions of Its First Committee* (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://press.un.org/en/2025/ga12736.doc.htm>

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discussions.⁷²⁶⁷ The Cabinet approved implementation guidelines for the Coding for Better Life project in September 2024, aimed at building foundational AI awareness among the general public and upskilling the labor market.⁷²⁶⁸ In April 2025, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society launched the THAI Academy platform in partnership with Microsoft. The platform offers more than 200 AI-related courses in Thai and English and is part of an effort to gain one million Thais using AI tools.⁷²⁶⁹

The Bureau of Academic Affairs and Educational Standards developed AI teaching materials for teachers and students,⁷²⁷⁰ with more than 60,000 students and 700 pilot schools participating in AI literacy training.

Human Rights

Thailand's status declined from Partly Free to Not Free in Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2025 report, with a score of 34/100.⁷²⁷¹ The Constitutional Court's dissolution of the leading opposition party and the forced repatriation of activists and asylum seekers to countries where they faced ill-treatment were cited as key reasons for the downgrade.

Thailand has experienced 19 constitutional changes in less than a century. The government acknowledges that Thailand is both a destination and transit country for human trafficking linked to illegal immigration, child labor, and prostitution.⁷²⁷² However, most of the plans put the responsibility of respecting human rights on the citizens and not the government.

In 2020, citizen protests criticize the government and requested reform of the monarchy. In response, the Thai government extended the powers of an emergency decree.

⁷²⁶⁷ AI Thailand, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2027* (Jul. 26, 2022), <https://ai.in.th/en/about-ai-thailand/>

⁷²⁶⁸ Foreign Affairs Office, *Cabinet Acknowledges Guidelines for 'Coding for Better Life' Project* (Sept. 1, 2024), <https://thailand.prd.go.th/en/content/category/detail/id/48/iid/248672>

⁷²⁶⁹ THAI Academy, *Accelerating Thailand's AI Future* (Apr. 21, 2025), <https://thai-academy.com/en/>

⁷²⁷⁰ OpenGov Asia, *Digital Transformation: Thailand's Nine Key Initiatives for 2025* (Dec. 28, 2024), <https://archive.opengovasia.com/2024/12/28/digital-transformation-thailands-nine-key-initiatives-for-2025/>

⁷²⁷¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Thailand* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/thailand/freedom-world/2025>

⁷²⁷² Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, *The Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan, 2017–2021* (2017), https://www.nesdc.go.th/nesdb_en/ewt_dl_link.php?nid=4345

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Under the 2017 Constitution, members of the NCPO are protected from prosecution for human rights violations committed during NCPO rule.⁷²⁷³ This protection is concerning given the reports of torture, extrajudicial executions, and enforced disappearances against human rights defenders.

The 2019 Thailand Cybersecurity Act gives the government the authority to monitor and seize data and equipment without a court order in the name of cybersecurity risk and denies a right to appeal to anyone targeted by the law in the cases of a crisis or critical threat.⁷²⁷⁴

Despite continuous promises of reform, Thai authorities continue to suppress and prosecute citizens criticizing the monarchy or the military. The combination of AI policing, Fake-News monitoring, and the Cybersecurity Act creates further concerns about fundamental rights. A group of international public and private experts and NGOs launched the study *Thailand's Cybersecurity Act: Towards a Human-Centered Act Protecting Online Freedom and Privacy, While Tackling Cyber Threat* to help build the discourse on the necessity of applying a human rights-based approach to cybersecurity legislation.⁷²⁷⁵ Additionally, on January 21, 2025, Thailand's Police entered into a five-year partnership with Gorilla Technology Group to implement AI-powered facial recognition and video analytics systems in tourism centers, raising significant human rights concerns.⁷²⁷⁶

Thailand passed the Gender Equality Act in 2015. However, the legislation still allows for exceptions to gender discrimination on grounds of religion and national security.⁷²⁷⁷

Thailand endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

⁷²⁷³ *Constitute, Thailand's Constitution of 2017* (PDF generated Apr. 27, 2022),

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Thailand_2017.pdf?lang=en

⁷²⁷⁴ Voice of America, *Rights Groups Urge Thai Government to Curb Powers in New Cybersecurity Act* (Sept. 24, 2019), https://www.voanews.com/a/east-asia-pacific_rights-groups-urge-thai-government-curb-powers-new-cybersecurity-act/6176371.html

⁷²⁷⁵ Manushya Foundation, *Thailand's Cybersecurity Act: Toward a Human-Centered Act Protecting Online Freedom and Privacy, While Tackling Cyber Threats* (Sept. 2019), <https://www.manushyafoundation.org/study-on-cybersecurity-act>

⁷²⁷⁶ Gorilla Technology Group Inc., *Gorilla Technology and Royal Thai Tourist Police Advance Thailand's AI Tourism Safety Initiative* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://investors.gorilla-technology.com/gorilla-technology-and-royal-thai-tourist-police-advance-thailands-ai-tourism-safety-initiative>

⁷²⁷⁷ United Nations Human Rights Committee, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Thailand*, p. 3 (Apr. 25, 2017), https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/TH/A/CO/2&Lang=En

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Thailand has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁷²⁷⁸ However, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs announced in June 2025 that Thailand will soon adhere to the OECD Recommendations on Artificial Intelligence.⁷²⁷⁹ Also, an evaluation by the OECD AI Observatory shows that various OECD AI principles are reflected in the Thailand National AI Strategy.⁷²⁸⁰

Thailand is also the only country from Southeast Asia to benefit from an OECD Country Program, which comprises 15 projects drawing from four key strategic pillars: good governance and transparency, business climate and competitiveness, Thailand 4.0, and inclusive growth. The program includes peer reviews, capacity-building activities, inclusion in the OECD's statistical tools, participation in ten OECD Committees or their subsidiary bodies, and adherence to eleven OECD legal instruments.⁷²⁸¹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Thailand has not signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁷²⁸²

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Thailand adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁷²⁸³ Thailand is implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and is advancing in the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁷²⁸⁴ The RAM report was published, providing recommendations for bridging any gaps in Thailand's

⁷²⁷⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁷²⁷⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs on Digital Economy at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting 2025 (Jun. 4, 2025), <https://mfa.go.th/en/content/fm-statement-digital-economy-oecd-mcm-2025>

⁷²⁸⁰ OECD AI Observatory, *Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan* (Feb. 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/countries/Thailand>

⁷²⁸¹ OECD, *Thailand and the OECD* (2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/countries/thailand.html>

⁷²⁸² Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Nov. 24, 2024), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁷²⁸³ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁷²⁸⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO's AI Readiness Assessment to Boost Ethical Governance of AI in Thailand, Host Country of 2025 Global Forum* (Dec. 12, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unescos-ai-readiness-assessment-boost-ethical-governance-ai-thailand-host-country-2025-global-forum>

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ethical AI implementation.⁷²⁸⁵ Thailand hosted the 3rd UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of AI in Bangkok from June 24–27, 2025, reinforcing its commitment to AI ethics.⁷²⁸⁶

Evaluation

Thailand has taken steps to govern AI and protect personal data with the release of its National AI Strategy, Digital Thailand: AI Ethics Guideline, enforcement of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), and adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The Draft Royal Decree on Business Operations that Use Artificial Intelligence Systems and the Draft Act on Thailand Artificial Intelligence Promotion and Support now under consultation as a combined AI law offer insight into upcoming policy action.⁷²⁸⁷ The coordination of AI policy by the National AI Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, mandatory AI Risk Management Guidelines for financial institutions, and plans to adhere to the OECD Recommendations on Artificial Intelligence mark further progress.

However, concerns remain regarding AI-powered surveillance practices, especially given limited human rights protections. The draft AI law has not yet been enacted, and meaningful public participation in AI policymaking, while improving, remains limited.

⁷²⁸⁵ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Thailand* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/thailand>

⁷²⁸⁶ UNESCO, Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (Jun. 24–27, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/forum-ethics-ai>

⁷²⁸⁷ Lexology, *Current Stage of Thailand's Regulatory Approach to AI* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=4e09c320-e675-456e-b0eb-2f2264d79c18>

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Trinidad and Tobago

In 2025, Trinidad and Tobago transitioned AI governance to the newly established Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence and initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).

National AI Strategy

Trinidad and Tobago has not developed a national AI strategy. However, other relevant policy initiatives, including the National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027,⁷²⁸⁸ address AI and other technologies as they relate to the overarching objective of digital transition for inclusion, access, safety, and security.⁷²⁸⁹ The strategy identifies three pillars of digital transformation: Digital Society, described as “people centered and knowledge based—access, skills, participation (inclusion), connected communities”; Digital Government focusing on “Public value—efficiency in service delivery, citizen-centric, no-wrong door”; and Digital Economy.⁷²⁹⁰ The strategy includes guidelines such as inclusion (digital, social, financial), access, safety and security (protection of fundamental rights), for policymakers supporting digital transformation. The Ministry of Digital Transformation—since restructured as the Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI)—released a draft of the strategy in August 2022 for public consultation.⁷²⁹¹

In this context, the e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) sets out specifications for integrating ICT systems across the public sector to facilitate seamless communication between agencies and secure data sharing. According to the IMF, this framework is part of a broader strategy to enhance public sector efficiency, citizen engagement, and service delivery through initiatives such as building a government cloud and data center to establish a reliable foundation for

⁷²⁸⁸ National Digital Transformation, *National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/general-reports/digital-transformation-strategy-2024-2027>

⁷²⁸⁹ International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Trinidad and Tobago: Digitalization in Trinidad and Tobago*, IMF Staff Country Report No. 24/151 (Jun. 5, 2024), <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2024/151/article-A004-en.xml>

⁷²⁹⁰ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Review the National Strategy for a DigitalTT* (2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/sites/default/files/2025-09/ndts-building-our-lives-digitally.pdf>

⁷²⁹¹ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Let's Build a #DigitalTT Together: Consultations on a National Strategy for a DigitalTT: 2023–2026* (Aug. 2022), <https://ttwif.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Digital-Priorities-2.pdf>

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digital transformation.⁷²⁹² According to UNDP, the aim is “to increase the ease of access and efficiency of government services for members of society,”⁷²⁹³ particularly benefiting underserved and vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, rural residents, and women.

The national digital transformation strategy is part of the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016–2030, Vision 2030. The Vision is “intended to provide for an orderly long-term development process, inclusive of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”⁷²⁹⁴ Keith Rowley, Trinidad and Tobago’s former Prime Minister stated, “I am committed to rebuilding our country and economy, restoring confidence, equity and social justice, and improving every area of national life. We recognise that, as a nation, we face several challenges—some triggered by global events beyond our control, with consequential ripple effects at the national level.”⁷²⁹⁵

Trinidad and Tobago’s digital policy will be supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In December 2023, Trinidad and Tobago signed a US\$90 million IDB credit line and an initial US\$42 million loan to help step up its digital transformation strategy by enhancing public services, cybersecurity, and AI capabilities. The program will boost digital skills, support over 150 firms, and increase digital inclusion to drive innovation and inclusive growth.⁷²⁹⁶ The loan supports key initiatives such as the National e-ID system, the Interoperability Framework, and cybersecurity modernization. These align with the Ministry of Digital Transformation’s 2024 budget allocation of TT\$329 million, which prioritizes \$50 million for the Digital Government Program, encompassing e-ID development and cybersecurity strategies, and \$20 million for digital society initiatives such as broadband expansion and ICT access centers.⁷²⁹⁷ Combining IDB

⁷²⁹² International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Trinidad and Tobago: Digitalization in Trinidad and Tobago*, IMF Staff Country Report No. 24/151 (Jun. 5, 2024),

<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2024/151/article-A004-en.xml>

⁷²⁹³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *The Trinidad and Tobago Digital Transformation Project*, UNDP Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten (2023), <https://www.undp.org/trinidad-and-tobago/projects/trinidad-and-tobago-digital-transformation-project>

⁷²⁹⁴ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Vision 2030*, World Bank Group Public Documents (2016), <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/d265f594531eb28b44e50ff05aaf4632-0460012022/original/Vision-2030-The-National-Development-Strategy-of-Trinidad-and-Tobago-2016-2030.pdf>

⁷²⁹⁵ Ibid, Preface

⁷²⁹⁶ Inter-American Development Bank, *Trinidad and Tobago Will Advance Digital Transformation with IDB Support* (Dec. 13, 2023), <https://www.iadb.org/en/news/trinidad-and-tobago-will-advance-digital-transformation-idb-support-0>

⁷²⁹⁷ Parliament, Financial Scrutiny Unit, *Head 82: Ministry of Digital Transformation – Allocation: \$329,645,032: A Summary of the Department’s Projects Expenditure, Divisions and Projects*, Fourth

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funding with national budget commitments demonstrates Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the implementation of concrete policies to enhance AI implementation, bolster cybersecurity, and promote digital inclusion, ensuring a more citizen-centric and secure digital transformation.

Trinidad and Tobago has also been part of the Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative led by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean and the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ), with the support of UNESCO Information for all Program (IFAP) National Committee of Jamaica.⁷²⁹⁸ The Initiative created the Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap released in June 2021,⁷²⁹⁹ following a period of stakeholder consultation in which Trinidad and Tobago participated. An updated Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap was released in 2024⁷³⁰⁰ following regional consultations with more than 1000 institutions and individuals in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean. The updated Roadmap prioritizes 4 pillars: 1) Culture & Creativity designed to preserve regional culture and identity and protecting intellectual property rights; 2) Governance & transformation aiming to establish a framework for legal and ethical oversight of AI systems; 3) Education & Upskilling to develop the workforce to seize on the potential to drive economic growth; and 4) Resiliency & Sustainability to ensure adoption aligns with sustainability along with "safety, privacy, and human rights, while promoting regional cooperation and knowledge sharing."

In May 2025, the Ministry of Digital Transformation restructured into the Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI), creating the Caribbean's first ministerial post explicitly for AI.⁷³⁰¹ Senator Dominic Smith was appointed Minister of PAAI, signaling that the government views AI as a strategic priority for governance and public service modernization.⁷³⁰² Under Minister Smith's leadership, Trinidad and Tobago has articulated a vision of an "AI-powered public

Session of the 12th Parliament (2024), https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BG2024_MDT.pdf

⁷²⁹⁸ UNESCO Web Archive, *UNESCO Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative* (May 8, 2024), <https://webarchive.unesco.org/20240621164530/https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-caribbean-artificial-intelligence-initiative>

⁷²⁹⁹ Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Roadmap* (2021), <https://ai4caribbean.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Caribbean-Artificial-Intelligence-Policy-Roadmap.pdf>

⁷³⁰⁰ UNESCO, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (Dec. 9, 2024),

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caribbean-artificial-intelligence-policy-roadmap>

⁷³⁰¹ Barbados Today, *Trinidad Leads with First AI Minister: A New Era for Caribbean Governance* (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://barbadostoday.bb/2025/09/16/trinidad-leads-with-first-ai-minister-a-new-era-for-caribbean-governance/amp/>; Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Appointment of Ministers, Ministers in the Ministry and Parliamentary Secretaries*, Trinidad and Tobago Gazette No. 81 Vol. 65 (May 23, 2025), https://printery.gov.tt/e-gazette/2025/Gazette/Gazette_No._81_of_2025.pdf

⁷³⁰² Ibid

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service,” aiming to leverage AI for more efficient, citizen-centric government operations.⁷³⁰³ The government is developing a National AI Governance Framework aligned with global best practices and Trinidad and Tobago’s values.⁷³⁰⁴ This emerging AI framework emphasizes that technology must be “citizen-centred, inclusive and results-driven,” and seeks to ensure AI is used to empower, not exploit citizens. The framework will address issues such as data ethics, algorithmic transparency, procurement standards, and citizen redress mechanisms for AI systems. Fairness and ethical use of AI, accountability, transparency, and respect for fundamental rights are goals being built into the country’s nascent AI policy approach. This focus aligns with the UNESCO-backed Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap in which Trinidad and Tobago participated.

Public Participation

Following release of the draft national digital transformation strategy, the Ministry of Digital Transformation/MPAAI sought public and stakeholder engagement. According to the Ministry, “co-creation and stakeholder engagement are key elements of the development of the National Digital Transformation Strategy. Contributions will be curated by four Technical Working Groups under the categories of Digital Society; Digital Economy; Digital Government; and Regional Integration and Global Linkages.”⁷³⁰⁵

Vision 2030 was also the object of public consultation.⁷³⁰⁶ The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards issued a draft Voluntary National Standard for Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology for public comment in 2024.⁷³⁰⁷ This voluntary national standard would specify the requirements and provide guidance for “establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving an AI

⁷³⁰³ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Senator the Honourable Dominic Smith, at 2nd Caribbean Spectrum Management Conference, Speech* (May 13, 2025), <https://mpaa.gov.tt/speeches/senator-honourable-dominic-smith-2nd-caribbean-spectrum-management-conference>

⁷³⁰⁴ Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs & Development, *2025 AMCHAM TT T.H.I.S Speech: Minister Swaratsingh* (Jul. 2, 2025), <https://www.planning.gov.tt/newsite/2025-amcham-tt-t-h-i-s-speech-minister-swaratsingh-july-2/>

⁷³⁰⁵ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Trinidad and Tobago Digital Transformation Strategy 2023–2026* (Aug. 2022), <https://ttwifi.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Digital-Priorities-2.pdf>

⁷³⁰⁶ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Vision 2030*, World Bank Group Public Documents (2016), <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/d265f594531eb28b44e50ff05aaf4632-0460012022/original/Vision-2030-The-National-Development-Strategy-of-Trinidad-and-Tobago-2016-2030.pdf>

⁷³⁰⁷ Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, *For Public Comment: Draft Voluntary National Standard Related to Information Technology — Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 31, 2024), <https://gottbs.com/2024/07/31/for-public-comment-draft-voluntary-national-standard-related-to-information-technology-artificial-intelligence>

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management system within the context of an organisation.”⁷³⁰⁸ The standard applies to all types of organizations, including public sector organizations, private sector organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, and conformity assessment bodies, enabling them to demonstrate compliance with AI management best practices.⁷³⁰⁹

The MPAAI partnered with the UN Development Programme for the launch of a survey and stakeholder consultations to initiate the National AI Landscape Assessment in late 2025.⁷³¹⁰ The efforts combine with preparations for the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), which began in early 2026. The survey is not available online

Data Protection

Trinidad and Tobago’s Data Protection Act (DPA) was enacted in 2011 to protect personal data of citizens in the private and public sector but is only partly proclaimed.⁷³¹¹ In January 2012, the following sections were proclaimed with Legal Notice: Preliminary Provisions; general objective of the Act; and the provisions concerning the Office of the Information Commissioner.⁷³¹² In August 2021, two additional sections regarding the Protection of Personal Data by Public Bodies were proclaimed with Legal Notice.⁷³¹³ Most of the other provisions covering the protection of personal data are not yet in force. The Data Protection Act is also notably missing the right to erasure, the right to object or opt out of consent, the right to data portability, and the right not to be subject to data processing decisions based solely on automated decision making.⁷³¹⁴

A draft bill, inspired by the GDPR “to be in greater compliance with more recent legislation in Jamaica and Barbados,” was expected to be read in Parliament in 2022.⁷³¹⁵ However, no such bill has been reported. The parliamentary opposition

⁷³⁰⁸ Ibid, p. x

⁷³⁰⁹ Ibid, p. viii

⁷³¹⁰ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Launch of T&T’s National AI Assessment and Artificial Intelligence Landscape Assessment (AILA)* (2026), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/news/launch-tts-national-artificial-intelligence-ai-assessment>

⁷³¹¹ Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, Data Protection Act 2011 (Jan. 2012), https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Alphabetical_List/lawspdfs/22.04.pdf

⁷³¹² Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Legal Notice No. 2* (Jan. 5, 2012), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/ln2012_2.pdf

⁷³¹³ Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Legal Notice No. 220* (Aug. 20, 2021), https://www.dataguidance.com/sites/default/files/ln2021_220.pdf

⁷³¹⁴ Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *Act No. 13 of 2021, Data Protection Act, 2011* (Jan. 2012), https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/a2011_13g.pdf

⁷³¹⁵ Mark Lyndersay, *What’s Happening with Regional Data Protection Legislation?* (May. 23, 2022), <https://technewstt.com/bd1355-caribbean-data-protection/>

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introduced a motion calling for the Government to fully proclaim the Data Protection Act in February 2023.⁷³¹⁶ The Trinidad and Tobago Guardian reported that Senator Jearlean John stressed that “the PNM Government is keeping T&T in the Stone Age, failing to protect citizens’ information by not fully proclaiming the Data Protection Act 2011. This is the situation at a time when people’s lives are stored on phones, there’s ChatGPT technology and the US Government has banned TikTok on government-issued devices following security concerns.”⁷³¹⁷

In March 2023, Parliament granted an 18-month extension for updating and operationalizing the Data Protection Act.⁷³¹⁸ The extension period has ended without any action from the government. Opposition senator Wade Mark highlighted that critical provisions necessary to safeguard citizens’ privacy remain unenacted. He urged the Senate to call on the government to address this gap immediately.⁷³¹⁹ Media sources reported in November 2023 that the Ministry of Digital Transportation expected to conclude updates to the Data Protection Act and operationalize the Office of the Information Commissioner by 2024.⁷³²⁰

The Office of the Information Commissioner will be responsible for the oversight, interpretation and enforcement of the DPA.⁷³²¹ However, the implementation of the DPA as proclaimed has also been delayed. The Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago announced in the press in 2020 that the position of the Information Commissioner “is expected to be filled with immediacy”⁷³²² and the new MPAAI issued a candidate information brief for the Office of the Information Commissioner in 2025,⁷³²³ but the role remains vacant.

⁷³¹⁶ Trinidad and Tobago Parliament, *Motion to Proclaim the Remaining Sections of the Data Protection Act* (Mar. 28, 2023), <https://www.ttparliament.org/motions/proclaim-the-remaining-sections-of-the-data-protection-act/>

⁷³¹⁷ Trinidad & Tobago Guardian, *Jearlean John: PNM Keeping T&T in Stone Age without Data Protection* (Feb. 28, 2023), <https://guardian.co.tt/news/jearlean-john-pnm-keeping-tt-in-stone-age-without-data-protection-6.2.1645083.b26b8523a6>

⁷³¹⁸ Elizabeth Gonzales, *Government Gets 18 Months to Update the Data Protection Law*, Newsday (Mar. 31, 2023), <https://newsday.co.tt/2023/03/31/government-gets-18-months-to-update-data-protection-law/>

⁷³¹⁹ Trinidad and Tobago Parliament, *Motion to Proclaim the Remaining Sections of the Data Protection Act* (Mar. 28, 2023), <https://www.ttparliament.org/motions/proclaim-the-remaining-sections-of-the-data-protection-act/>

⁷³²⁰ Loop News, *Data Protection Act to Be Proclaimed in 2024* (Nov. 23, 2023), <https://tt.loopnews.com/content/data-protection-act-be-proclaimed-2024>

⁷³²¹ Mark Lyndersay, *What’s Happening with Regional Data Protection Legislation?* (May. 23, 2022) <https://technewstt.com/bd1355-caribbean-data-protection/>

⁷³²² Clint Chan Tack, *AG: Changes Coming to Data Protection Laws*, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday (Dec. 1, 2020), <https://newsday.co.tt/2020/12/01/ag-changes-coming-to-dataprotection-laws/>

⁷³²³ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Information Commissioner* (2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/vacancies/information-commissioner>

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Trinidad and Tobago has no representative in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁷³²⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Although transparency and explainability are mentioned in the Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap, no law in Trinidad and Tobago guarantees a right to algorithmic transparency.

Online Disinformation

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) released the Buenos Aires Declaration in January 2023.⁷³²⁵ Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the Declaration. The Declaration strengthens the signatories' commitment to safeguard the rights and interests of citizens, fostering greater regional integration and collaboration. The signatories also recognized the need for further integration and collaboration to fight against disinformation with AI and algorithms and their impact on state infrastructures, firms, and people's well-being.⁷³²⁶ Trinidad and Tobago continued regional engagement on digital trust through CELAC, though no new national disinformation policy or legislation has been introduced.

Digital ID Initiative

In its post-COVID recovery plan, the government of Trinidad and Tobago stresses the importance of a digital society.⁷³²⁷ The plan includes the goal of a cashless society and the creation of an e-identity for every citizen. The e-identity will be mandatory for using governmental services and aims at integrating existing identifiers. In effect, the e-identity will be used for government services as well as digital commerce. The e-identity should also address the digital divide between different social groups.⁷³²⁸ The National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027 continues these efforts with the e-ID as a central pillar of its digital public service

⁷³²⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷³²⁵ CELAC Summit, *Declaration of Buenos Aires* (Jan. 24, 2023),

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Declaration of Buenos Aires.pdf>

⁷³²⁶ CELAC Summit, *Declaration of Buenos Aires*, (Jan. 24, 2023),

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/prensa/declaracion de buenos aires - version final.pdf>;

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Declaration of Buenos Aires.pdf>

⁷³²⁷ Office of the Prime Minister, *Phase 2 Roadmap for Trinidad and Tobago* (Sept. 10, 2020),

https://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Report of the Roadmap to Recovery Committee_1st .pdf

⁷³²⁸ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, *Roadmap Committee Recommends e-ID for Nationals* (Jun. 7, 2020), <https://newsday.co.tt/2020/06/07/roadmap-committee-recommends-e-id-for-nationals/>

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delivery.⁷³²⁹ According to the strategy, the e-ID is intended to be a secure, inclusive, and trustworthy means for authenticating citizen identity across government platforms.

The e-identity integrates with a larger ecosystem for access to digital government that will include “all GoRTT services, digital signing, accessing financial, education and health services as well as Private Sector services.”⁷³³⁰ The European Commission, in collaboration with CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, approved a €3 million grant to support Trinidad and Tobago's digital transformation, including the development of a national e-ID system, a public data interoperability platform, and a government data center.⁷³³¹

UNDP in Trinidad and Tobago launched programs aimed at bolstering digital public infrastructure (DPI), including the e-ID. These initiatives focus on integrating digital identification systems and financial inclusion mechanisms. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with the UNDP and the CAF, announced a digital support facility for the Caribbean to provide funding and technical assistance for implementing DPI systems.⁷³³²

Facial Recognition

Prime Minister Keith Rowley stated in November 2022 that “the Government was spending \$80 Million to acquire and install 2500 CCTV cameras across the country.” A few days later, the Acting Police Commissioner announced that facial recognition software to detect and prevent crime will soon be used. There is currently no legal framework in Trinidad and Tobago regarding the use of facial recognition, no guidelines made public to prevent racial profiling/biases, no algorithmic transparency, and no opportunity for public comment.⁷³³³

⁷³²⁹ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027*, p. 59 (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/general-reports/digital-transformation-strategy-2024-2027>

⁷³³⁰ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *e-identity and Interoperability Infrastructure*, <https://mdt.gov.tt/digital-solutions-services/e-identity/>

⁷³³¹ CAF, *CAF and the EU Will Promote Digitization in Trinidad and Tobago with the First Global Gateway Project in the Country* (Jan 15, 2024), <https://www.caf.com/en/currently/news/caf-and-the-eu-will-promote-digitization-in-trinidad-and-tobago-with-the-first-global-gateway-project-in-the-country/>

⁷³³² Biometric Update, *UNDP Advancing DPI in Trinidad and Tobago, Working through Innovation Challenges* (Nov 8, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202411/undp-advancing-dpi-in-trinidad-and-tobago-working-through-innovation-challenges>

⁷³³³ Sharlene Rampersad, *Ag. CoP: Facial Recognition to Fight Crime Coming Soon*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (Nov. 11, 2022), <https://guardian.co.tt/news/ag-cop-facial-recognition-to-fight-crime-coming-soon-6.2.1565456.ad6427e451>

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Trinidad and Tobago, through UNDP, issued a bid for the procurement of a facial biometric software development kit (SDK) and auxiliary services.⁷³³⁴ The sought-after software includes capabilities such as presentation attack detection (PAD), deduplication, and support for ICAO's facial image quality standards for identification documents.

Environmental Impact of AI

While there has been no concrete development specifically targeting the environmental impacts of AI in Trinidad and Tobago, the country has begun integrating sustainability considerations into the broader digital transformation agenda. Initiatives like the establishment of a government cloud and secure data center aim to reduce paperwork and improve efficiency, indirectly contributing to environmentally responsible practices.⁷³³⁵ The National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027 emphasizes “greening”⁷³³⁶ technology across its lifecycle, promoting energy efficiency, and reducing carbon emissions and digital waste. The government has also implemented formal collection and recycling programs for e-waste management. These efforts are part of the country's broader push to integrate sustainability into the development of digital infrastructure, including AI-driven technologies, thereby mitigating potential environmental impacts and contributing to a greener digital future.

As a signatory to the Montevideo Declaration, Trinidad and Tobago has committed to prioritizing “environment, sustainability, and climate change”⁷³³⁷ in AI governance, supporting measures to align AI technologies with sustainable development. ECLAC has further emphasized the need for regulatory frameworks that mitigate environmental harm, promote data-efficient AI models, and encourage innovation through AI sandboxes, aligning with the region's sustainability goals.⁷³³⁸

⁷³³⁴ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Procurement of Facial Biometric SDK including PAD and ICAO, Deduplication* (May 3, 2024), https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=18901

⁷³³⁵ Intellectual Property Office, *Digital Innovations for Sustainable Environmental and Economic Recovery in Trinidad and Tobago Project* (Aug. 14, 2024), <https://ipo.gov.tt/digital-innovations-for-sustainable-environmental-and-economic-recovery-in-trinidad-and-tobago-project/>

⁷³³⁶ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *National Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2027* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://mpaa.gov.tt/general-reports/digital-transformation-strategy-2024-2027>

⁷³³⁷ Government of Uruguay, *Montevideo Declaration Approved: For the Construction of a Regional Approach on the Governance of Artificial Intelligence and Its Impacts on Our Society* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/EN - Montevideo Declaration approved.pdf>

⁷³³⁸ ECLAC, *Artificial Intelligence and the Caribbean: Towards Ethical and Sustainable AI Governance in the Region* (Oct.–Dec. 2023),

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the Bélen Communiqué in February 2023, along with more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states.⁷³³⁹ The Bélen Communiqué calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

On this occasion, Trinidad and Tobago issued a statement acknowledging “that new and emerging technologies hold great promise for the advancement of human welfare, yet it is becoming increasingly evident that the introduction of new technological applications, such as those related to autonomy in weapon systems, raise serious concerns from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives. The risk is real. It has not yet been demonstrated that any algorithm can reliably make the human-like decisions and judgments required to comply with international law.”⁷³⁴⁰

Trinidad and Tobago’s Office of the Attorney General co-hosted CARICOM (Caribbean Community) member states and civil society organizations including Stop Killer Robots for a two-day regional Conference on the Human Impacts of Autonomous Weapons in September 2023. At the end of the conference, the member states issued the CARICOM Declaration on Autonomous Weapons, which called for the “urgent pursuit of an international legally binding instrument, incorporating prohibitions and regulations on autonomous weapons systems.”⁷³⁴¹

Trinidad and Tobago cited the CARICOM statement and Belén Communiqué in the country’s input to the Report of the UN Secretary on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.⁷³⁴² Trinidad and Tobago’s input cited concerns over a lack of

<https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d3b32e18-7912-4e27-a7d5-42450e6042d8/content>

⁷³³⁹ *Communiqué of the Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons* (Feb. 24, 2023),

<https://conferenciaawscostarica2023.com/communiqué/?lang=en>

⁷³⁴⁰ Regional Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean States on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Trinidad and Tobago Statement* (Feb. 2023), <https://conferenciaawscostarica2023.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Trinidad-and-Tobago-statement-Regional-Conference.pdf>.

⁷³⁴¹ CARICOM, *CARICOM Member States Call for Urgent Negotiation of New International Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit and Regulation Autonomous Weapons* (Sept. 11, 2023), <https://caricom.org/caricom-states-call-for-urgent-negotiation-of-new-international-legally-binding-instrument-to-prohibit-and-regulate-autonomous-weapons/>

⁷³⁴² UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Input by Trinidad and Tobago to the Report of the Secretary-General on UNGA Resolution 78/241 of 22 December 2023 Entitled, “Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems”* (2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/78-241-Trinidad-and-Tobago-EN.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-_Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/78-241-Trinidad-and-Tobago-EN.pdf)

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conformity with international criminal, human-rights, and humanitarian laws and “the implications of LAWS for non-proliferation and the risks of diversion to non-state actors, including criminals and terrorist groups and the challenges of LAWS to internal and domestic security.” The statement concluded by reiterating the country’s support for “an international legally binding instrument that prohibits unpredictable or uncontrollable autonomous weapons systems, capable of using force without meaningful human control [...] while implementing regulations for other forms of autonomous weapons systems.”

AI Literacy

No publicly available information was identified indicating the existence of nationwide programs dedicated to AI capacity-building or foundational AI literacy in Trinidad and Tobago. Nonetheless, in 2025, the MPAAI introduced an awareness initiative as part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Through its Cybersecure Saturdays series, the Ministry delivered free public sessions addressing cybersecurity risks associated with AI with a session called Artificial Intelligence: A Deep Dive into the World of AI.⁷³⁴³ Trinidad and Tobago partnered with OpenAI under the Education for Countries initiative.⁷³⁴⁴ Through this collaboration, the country aims expected to strengthen its education system by integrating AI tools into schools and universities to support more personalized learning, reduce administrative burdens on educators, and equip the workforce with skills relevant to an AI-driven economy. However, this program does not clarify standards around critical use of generative AI tools or evaluation of the broader impacts of AI systems for ethical use.

Human Rights

Trinidad and Tobago received a score of 82/100 by Freedom House and is thus classified as “Free.”⁷³⁴⁵ The country has a functioning parliamentary democracy with an active and free civil society. However, discrimination against LGBT+ people, violence against women, and human trafficking persist.

Discrimination against LGBT+ people remains in law. In 2025, the Court of Appeal maintained that buggery (anal sex) remains a criminal offense under section 13 of the Sexual Offences Act but decreased the prison term from 25 to 5 years.

⁷³⁴³ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2025* (Oct. 2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/cyber-security-awareness-2025>

⁷³⁴⁴ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *T&T Government Partners with OpenAI to Revolutionise National Education and Public Service*, Media Release (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/sites/default/files/2026-01/media-release---t%26t-partners-with-openai---jan-21-2026.pdf>

⁷³⁴⁵ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Trinidad and Tobago* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/trinidad-and-tobago/freedom-world/2025>

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⁷³⁴⁶The court reinstated section 61 of the Offences against the Person Act (1925), maintaining legal prohibitions against acts of “gross indecency” with a penalty of up to two years of imprisonment but struck down other sections for all consenting adults. The judiciary stressed that the legislature must initiate changes to law.

Trinidad and Tobago has endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratified a number of UN treaties protecting these rights. These treaties include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁷³⁴⁷

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Trinidad and Tobago has not endorsed the OECD AI principles.⁷³⁴⁸ According to OECD AI Principle 2.5 regarding international co-operation for trustworthy AI, “Governments, including developing countries and with stakeholders, should actively cooperate to advance these principles and to progress on responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI. Governments should work together in the OECD and other global and regional fora to foster the sharing of AI knowledge, as appropriate.” The OECD acknowledges the work of the Inter-American Development and its ““fAIr LAC” initiative to promote the responsible and ethical use of AI and improve the public services e.g., education, health, and social protection, in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries,”⁷³⁴⁹ which includes Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2022, the OECD, in partnership with the CAF also published a report on “The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean” including Trinidad and Tobago.

⁷³⁴⁶ Newsday, Penalties reduced by Appeal Court, says buggery still illegal in Trinidad and Tobago, (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://newsday.co.tt/2025/03/25/penalties-reduced-by-appeal-court-says-buggery-still-illegal-in-trinidad-and-tobago/>

⁷³⁴⁷ OHCHR, *UN Treaty Body Database: Trinidad and Tobago*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=177&Lang=EN

⁷³⁴⁸ OECD, *Recommendations of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 21, 2019), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

⁷³⁴⁹ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles*, p. 76 (Jun. 2021), <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1cd40c44-en.pdf?expires=1679145707&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=4A7E8011553F4B626AD9EF4C04ACCDE1>

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Council of Europe AI Treaty

Trinidad and Tobago has not signed the first legally binding international treaty on AI, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁷³⁵⁰

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Trinidad and Tobago is a member state of UNESCO⁷³⁵¹ and endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on AI Ethics.⁷³⁵² Trinidad and Tobago has taken steps to implement the UNESCO Recommendation through regional initiatives such as those organized in cooperation with the CAF.⁷³⁵³ Although Trinidad and Tobago did not participate in the first meeting of the regional council on AI ethics in Santiago, Chile, in 2023, the country endorsed the Montevideo Declaration, the outcome document from the Second Ministerial and High-Level Summit in 2024.⁷³⁵⁴

The Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap to which Trinidad and Tobago contributed was developed in collaboration with UNESCO “as a framework for policy development and regional collaboration [based on] The Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.”⁷³⁵⁵

Trinidad and Tobago has also called for responsible, secure, inclusive, and people-centered AI systems as a member of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The CELAC 2024 Declaration of Kingston asserts “We recognize that the responsible, inclusive, people centered, and ethical design, development, deployment, and use of secure artificial intelligence systems has the

⁷³⁵⁰ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 26, 20256), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁷³⁵¹ UNESCO, *List of the Member States*, <https://pax.unesco.org/countries/ListeMS.html>

⁷³⁵² United Nations, *193 Countries Adopt First-Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

⁷³⁵³ UNESCO, *CAF and UNESCO Will Create a Council to Review Ethical Criteria for Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and Caribbean* (Jun. 23, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caf-and-unesco-will-create-council-review-ethical-criteria-artificial-intelligence-latin-america-and>

⁷³⁵⁴ Government of Uruguay, *Montevideo Declaration Approved: For the Construction of a Regional Approach on the Governance of Artificial Intelligence and Its Impacts on Our Society* (Oct. 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/EN%20-%20Montevideo%20Declaration%20approved.pdf>

⁷³⁵⁵ UNESCO, *Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap* (Dec. 9, 2024), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caribbean-artificial-intelligence-policy-roadmap>

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potential to accelerate sustainable development, we also acknowledge that AI systems pose risks that are particularly challenging for developing countries.”⁷³⁵⁶

The MPAAI launched three national initiatives: the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁷³⁵⁷ UNDP AI Landscape Assessment (AILA), and the creation of the country’s first Open-Source Programme Office (OSPO) in collaboration with the UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).⁷³⁵⁸ The implementation of the RAM and AILA began at the end of November 2025, alongside the launch of a dedicated website to track and support activities related to the National AI Assessment process.⁷³⁵⁹

Evaluation

Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and has participated in regional initiatives to foster implementation. The country’s participation in the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and UNDP AI Landscape Assessment (AILA) are concrete steps in realizing this commitment. Trinidad and Tobago continues to advance digital transformation with the National Digital Transformation Strategy and is working to develop a dedicated national AI strategy or regulatory framework.

Fully proclaiming and implementing the Data Protection Act 2011, including by operationalizing the Office of the Information Commissioner, are necessary steps to enforce key data-subject rights. The Act also requires modernisation to address AI-related risks concerning algorithmic transparency, automated decision-making, and data portability.

These governance gaps are especially significant in light of expanding digital projects, including the national e-identity initiative and the use of facial recognition technologies for crime prevention. Without updated legal safeguards, clear oversight

⁷³⁵⁶ Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, *Declaration of Kingstown*, VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, p. 12 (Mar. 1, 2024), https://propuestaciudadana.org.pe/forociudadano-celac-ue/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CELAC-Kingstown-Final-Declaration_March-2024_ENG.pdf

⁷³⁵⁷ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Trinidad and Tobago Ignites National AI Readiness Drive with Global Partners*, Media Release (Dec. 3, 2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/media-releases/trinidad-and-tobago-ignites-national-ai-readiness-drive-global-partners>

⁷³⁵⁸ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Government Partners with UNDP and UNESCO to Launch National Digital Initiatives, Including AI Assessments* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/media-releases/government-partners-undp-unesco-launch-national-digital-initiatives-ai-assessments>

⁷³⁵⁹ Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *National AI Assessment* (2025), <https://mpaai.gov.tt/initiatives/ai-readiness-assessment>

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mechanisms, and independent supervision, these tools pose heightened risks to privacy, due process, and fundamental rights.

Tunisia

In 2025, Tunisia began working on a Digital Transformation Strategy 2026–2030 and announced drafts for an updated AI Strategy.

National AI Strategy

Tunisia's path toward the establishment of a National AI Strategy started in 2018 when the Minister of Higher Education in partnership with the National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research (ANPR) produced a five-year AI development plan (2016–2020). The ANPR set up a Task Force to provide oversight of the project and a Steering Committee to define a methodology and action plan.⁷³⁶⁰ This was further discussed during workshops organized by the UNESCO Chair on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.⁷³⁶¹

Tunisian's political instability curtailed the plans to move the initiative forward.⁷³⁶² In 2019, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy led the development of a 5-year AI roadmap for 2021–2025 with the aims to:⁷³⁶³

- Raise awareness of the real challenges and possibilities of AI
- Strengthen the ecosystem to develop AI by addressing the main pillars of AI
- Implement AI pilot projects in public and private sectors.

The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIEM) and the National Institute of Normalization and Intellectual Property also drafted a bill to protect the Intellectual Property of Algorithms.⁷³⁶⁴

The Ministries of Communication Technologies; Industry, Mines and Energy; Economics & Planning; and Higher Education & Scientific Research signed a memorandum aiming to define the general orientations of the national artificial

⁷³⁶⁰ Agence Nationale de la Promotion de la Recherche Scientifique (ANPR), *Unlocking Tunisia's Capabilities Potential* (2017), [https://www.jaist.ac.jp/~bao/AI/OtherAIstrategies/National AI Strategy: Unlocking Tunisia's capabilities potential. – Agence Nationale de la Promotion de la Recherche scientifique.pdf](https://www.jaist.ac.jp/~bao/AI/OtherAIstrategies/NationalAIStrategy:UnlockingTunisia'scapabilitiespotential.-AgenceNationalede laPromotiondelarecherche scientifique.pdf)

⁷³⁶¹ Tim Dutton, *Artificial Intelligence Strategies* (Jun. 28, 2018), <https://medium.com/politics-ai/an-overview-of-national-ai-strategies-2a70ec6edfd>

⁷³⁶² UNESCO web Archive, *Maghreb: Mapping the Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem [Mapping de l'écosystème de l'intelligence artificielle]* (Dec. 2020), <https://webarchive.unesco.org/20240313054533/https://fr.unesco.org/sites/default/files/20210526mappingecosystemeiadsmaghreb.pdf>

⁷³⁶³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Tunisia AI Roadmap* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/tunisia-ai-roadmap-1825>

⁷³⁶⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Intellectual Property Policy for AI* [draft] (2021), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/intellectual-property-policy-for-ai-4703>

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intelligence strategy and to follow up on the results of a study planned for this purpose.⁷³⁶⁵

Tunisia continued talks for an updated Digital Transformation strategy for 2026–2030 and a National AI Strategy.⁷³⁶⁶ The Council of Ministers discussion on data infrastructure related to a 2026–2030 digital transformation strategy includes many of the priorities described in the AI Roadmap. The Communication Technology Minister also announced plans at the 10th International Forum for Chief Information Officer (CIOs) to implement a digital transformation strategy to replace the 2022–2025 plan and an AI Strategy set for launch in 2025.⁷³⁶⁷ The Minister of Communication Technologies informed the press of a draft AI strategy expected to be available for broader consultation in February 2025. The Strategy will call for building data centers and infrastructure. The Minister reported that the Strategy is based on “the pillars commonly mentioned in various UN, ITU, and other documents, but taking into our needs, capabilities, values, and practices.” The strategy will include establishing a legal framework to protect users and defining governance.⁷³⁶⁸ However, these documents are not available.

As a member of the African Union, Tunisia is committed to working toward the alignment of the country’s efforts with the vision of the Union to build a continental digital transformation strategy⁷³⁶⁹ and a continental AI strategy.⁷³⁷⁰

For engagement beyond the African region, with the aim of cooperation on Artificial Intelligence, Tunisia signed a Memorandum of Intent with the Ministry of Companies and Industry of Italy to advance digital technology,⁷³⁷¹ a Memorandum

⁷³⁶⁵ Kapitalis, *Tunisia Toward the Development of a National AI Strategy* (Feb. 2022), <http://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2022/02/20/tunisie-vers-lelaboration-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-lintelligence-artificielle/>

⁷³⁶⁶ Government of Tunisia, *Council of Ministers—Decision [Conseil des ministres – Décision n° 2875]* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://pm.gov.tn/fr/detail-decision/2875>

⁷³⁶⁷ Samira Njoya, *Tunisia Announces New Digital Transformation and AI Strategy* (Nov. 13, 2024), <https://www.wearetech.africa/en/fils-uk/tech-stars/tunisia-announces-new-digital-transformation-and-ai-strategy/>

⁷³⁶⁸ Leaders, *AI: A Tunisian National Strategy Will Be Submitted for a Broad Consultation at the End of February [IA: Une stratégie nationale tunisienne sera soumise à une large consultation, fin février]* (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.leaders.com.tn/article/36651-ia-une-strategie-nationale-tunisienne-sera-soumise-a-une-large-consultation-fin-fevrier>

⁷³⁶⁹ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁷³⁷⁰ AUDA-NEPAD, *The African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa* (May 30, 2022), <https://www.nepad.org/news/african-union-artificial-intelligence-continental-strategy-africa>

⁷³⁷¹ Agency Tunis-Afrique Press, *Tunisia-Italy Ink MoU in Digital Technology, Applications in Industry*, Zawya (May 29, 2024), <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/north-africa/tunisia-italy-ink-mou-in-digital-technology-applications-in-industry-dk7lx3zh>

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of Understanding with the Ministry of Science and Communication Technologies of Korea centered on developing 5G,⁷³⁷² and discussions with the Swedish Ambassador and others to enhance cooperation and shared expertise on digital areas such as AI strategies and legislative frameworks.⁷³⁷³

Public Participation

The Tunisian government does not have a systematic public participation process to develop policies in general or AI policies in particular. Discussions took place among task forces and steering committees designated by the Tunisian government. Since September 2021, The Future Society (TFS) and GIZ Digital Transformation Center Tunisia have also supported a multi-stakeholder process to develop Tunisia's National AI Strategy with the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Energy. According to TFS, "The project's goal is to capitalize on Tunisia's strengths in AI in order to support economic growth, promote social inclusion, and ensure better service to citizens." This project emphasizes the Tunisia Government's efforts to consult with civil society and different stakeholders in the drafting process.⁷³⁷⁴

Notwithstanding the various initiatives put forth by the Tunisian government to establish a national AI policy, not all the documents are available on the government's official websites. The Organic Act No. 2004-63 for Personal Data Protection is available online through the National Authority for the Protection of Personal Data website.⁷³⁷⁵

The first ever political consultation took place in January 2022 on the matter of the referendum to revise the constitution. The government set the website E-Istichara (e-consultation) as the repository of public input.⁷³⁷⁶ The initiative had mixed reviews due to the requirement of a national identity number and a validation

⁷³⁷² Isaac K. Kassouwi, *Tunisia Taps South Korean Expertise for 5G Deployment*, WeAreTech.Africa (Jun. 7, 2024), <https://www.wearetech.africa/fr/fils/actualites/tech/tunisia-taps-south-korean-expertise-for-5g-deployment>

⁷³⁷³ Isaac K. Kassouwi, *Tunisia, Sweden Explore Tech Cooperation* (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://www.wearetech.africa/en/fils-uk/news/public-management/tunisia-sweden-explore-tech-cooperation>

⁷³⁷⁴ The Future Society, *Stakeholder Consultation Workshops Drive Insights for National AI Strategies in Tunisia and Ghana* (Jun. 9, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/stakeholder-consultation-workshops-drive-insights-for-national-ai-strategies-in-tunisia-and-ghana/>

⁷³⁷⁵ National Authority for Protection of Personal Data, *Organic Act n°2004-63 on the Protection of Personal Data* [French and Arabic], *Textes* (Jul. 2004), <https://www.inpdp.tn/Texte.html>

⁷³⁷⁶ Cathrin Schaefer and Tarak Guizani, *Tunisia's Controversial First Online Political Consultation* (Jan. 12, 2022), <https://www.dw.com/en/tunisias-first-digital-political-consultation-divides/a-60390183>

code sent to mobile phones. While E-Istichara is presented as a portal for citizens to express their opinions, under the motto “your opinion, our decision,” reservations were evident about the degree of inclusiveness and privacy of the platform.⁷³⁷⁷ The National Center for Informatics, the Ministry of Communication Technologies, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports oversee operation of E-Istichara.⁷³⁷⁸

The OECD offered guidance and technical assistance to support the Tunisian government in improving public participation and creating citizen charters for public projects in three municipalities.⁷³⁷⁹ In 2016, the OECD worked with Tunisia to create a citizen dialogue platform, activating working groups to promote stakeholder participation. The enactment of the Access to Information (ATI) Law of 2016 led to the publication of the Access to Information Guide for public officials, which was adopted by over 600 public institutions in Tunisia. The Guide aims to promote the participation of civil society, government, and ATI stakeholders in matters of public governance.

In August 2020, the UNESCO Maghreb office, the Ministry of Industry and SMEs organized a reflection workshop entitled “Inclusive Dialogue on the Ethics of AI” to draft international recommendations and establish a normative instrument on the ethics of AI.⁷³⁸⁰ Tunisian AI experts, such as start-ups, university researchers, and public officials attended the event.

The Ministry of Communication Technology launched a platform for citizen participation, including submission of complaints, an ideation forum, and access to open data and government documents.⁷³⁸¹ In 2021, the Ministry of Interior called for a public consultation on a new national ID and biometric database, yet the results of the process are not public. Tunisia set up a National Digital Observatory in 2023 with the aim of informing public decision-making in the digital sector.⁷³⁸²

⁷³⁷⁷ Bedirhan Mutlu and Salih Yasun, *Tunisia’s e-Consultation Process Is Another Pretence for Saied’s Power Grab*, TRTWorld Opinion (Mar. 4, 2022), <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/tunisia-s-e-consultation-process-is-another-pretence-for-saied-s-power-grab-55131>

⁷³⁷⁸ All Africa, *Tunisia: Online Platform E-Istichara.tn, Operational from January 15* (Jan. 14, 2022), <https://allafrica.com/stories/202201170221.html>

⁷³⁷⁹ OECD, *Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in Tunisia: Project Highlights*, OECD Web Archive (Sept. 2019), <https://web.archive.oecd.org/2019-12-16/511741%20-good-governance-and-anti-corruption-in-tunisia-highlights-en.pdf>

⁷³⁸⁰ Agence Tunis Afrique Presse, *Deliberation on AI Ethics* (Aug. 6, 2020), https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal_Sciences_Technology_Eng/12952220-deliberation-on-ai; UNESCO and Mila, *Missing Links in AI Governance*, UNESCO Digital Library (2023), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384787?posInSet=2&queryId=N-EXPLORE-d451c47f-26f8-4a54-8eed-fb60fe1bf75b>

⁷³⁸¹ Republique Tunisienne [Tunisian Republic], *Tunisian Government Portal [Portail du Gouvernement Tunisien]* (2023), <http://fr.tunisie.gov.tn/>

⁷³⁸² acteurs publics, *Tunisia Sets Up a National Digital Observatory* (Jan. 17, 2023), <https://acteurspublics.fr/articles/la-tunisie-se-dote-dun-observatoire-national-du-numerique>

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In the recent UN e-Government Survey of 2024, Tunisia ranked 99th out of 193 countries in the world in e-participation⁷³⁸³ and among the top 3 African countries, in terms of the e-Government development index (EGDI).⁷³⁸⁴ The Open Government Partnership's 2025 IRM Action Plan⁷³⁸⁵ reported only modest progress in open-government reforms in Tunisia, however, due to shrinking civic space and limited stakeholder consultation. Freedom House similarly reports constraints on meaningful public input.⁷³⁸⁶

Data Protection

The protection of personal data was included in the review of the Tunisian constitution of 1959 in 2002, with Article 9, mentioning: "protection of personal data shall be guaranteed, save in exceptional cases prescribed by law."⁷³⁸⁷ The Constitution of 2014 expanded the rights to data protection by including Article 24 about Privacy and Personal Data⁷³⁸⁸ which provides that "the state protects the right to privacy and the inviolability of the home, and the confidentiality of correspondence, communications, and personal information." Following a referendum, Tunisia created a new Constitution of 2022 that maintains protection of the right to privacy (Art 30), endorsing Law No. 2004-63, to protect the rights and freedoms of Tunisians.

In 2004, the Ministry of Justice established a legal framework for data protection rights that later led to the enactment of the Organic Act no. 2004-63 of July 27, 2004 on the Protection of Personal Data.⁷³⁸⁹ The National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP) was created that same year, later renamed National Personal Data Authority. This entity is deemed an independent oversight body for data protection.

⁷³⁸³ United Nations, *UN E-Government Knowledgebase, Tunisia* (2024), <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data/Country-Information/id/175-Tunisia/dataYear/2024>

⁷³⁸⁴ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *E-Government Survey 2024* (Sept. 17, 2024), <https://desapublications.un.org/file/20866/download>

⁷³⁸⁵ Government of Tunisia, *Tunisia Action Plan Review 2023–2025: For Public Comment* (Jan. 15, 2025), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/tunisia-action-plan-review-2023-2025-for-public-comment/>

⁷³⁸⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World Report 2025: Tunisia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tunisia/freedom-world/2025>

⁷³⁸⁷ Centre for Internet and Human Rights, *Policy Analysis of Data Protection in Tunisia: A Legal Illusion?* <https://cihr.eu/policy-analysis-data-protection-in-tunisia-a-legal-illusion/>

⁷³⁸⁸ National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), *History of Personal Data Protection in Tunisia*, <https://www.inpdp.tn/Diapositive1.JPG>

⁷³⁸⁹ National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), *Organic Law No. 63 of 2004 on the Protection of Personal Data* (Jul. 27, 2004), https://www.inpdp.tn/ressources/loi_2004.pdf

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Under the authoritarian regime of Ben Ali, the National Agency for Data Protection (INPDP) did not operate as an independent body. After the Tunisian Jasmine Revolution of 2011, processors began to regularly declare their personal data processing activities under the law.⁷³⁹⁰

The Data Protection Law of 2004 includes only certain provisions on transparency, related to notifications that data is being processed but it does not include provisions to notify the authority or data subjects in case of a data breach. In terms of accountability, there is no explicit provision for civil liability, but the Data Protection Authority is designated to investigate cases and subpoena or require evidence, and to impose penalties.⁷³⁹¹

While the 2004 Organic Act is based on principles of lawfulness, processing, and accountability, the multiple exemptions for law enforcement, tribunals and universities, public entities, and employers weaken the protection of personal data.⁷³⁹²

The Ministry of Justice was expected to propose a review of the framework for the protection of personal data. The review project of the Law was under parliamentary scrutiny since 2017. However, in March 2018, a new legislative project was introduced before the Tunisian Parliament. The new draft law on the Protection of Personal Data is aligned with the GDPR.⁷³⁹³ Tunisia's general data protection regime strongly seeks to align with that of the EU. Negotiations in 2015 between Tunisia and the EU in the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, increased the Tunisian government's awareness of the need for alignment.

Tunisia ratified the Council of Europe Convention 108⁷³⁹⁴ for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data in 2017.⁷³⁹⁵ Basic Law No. 2017/33 on the Approval of the Accession of the Republic of Tunisia to Convention 108 and its additional protocol was passed by the Parliament in

⁷³⁹⁰ National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), *Forms*, <https://www.inpdp.tn/Formulaires.html>

⁷³⁹¹ Data Protection Africa, *Data Protection Factsheet: Tunisia* (2023), <https://dataprotection.africa/tunisia/>

⁷³⁹² Centre for Internet and Human Rights, *Policy Analysis of Data Protection in Tunisia: A Legal Illusion?* <https://cihr.eu/policy-analysis-data-protection-in-tunisia-a-legal-illusion/>

⁷³⁹³ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World, Data Protection in Tunisia* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=TN>

⁷³⁹⁴ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (May 18, 2018), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>

⁷³⁹⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 108* (Mar. 22, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=108>

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2017.⁷³⁹⁶ Tunisia has signed but not yet ratified the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals about Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+).⁷³⁹⁷

In 2019, Tunisia also signed the African Union (AU) Convention on Cyber Security (Malabo Convention).⁷³⁹⁸ However, the country has not ratified the Convention yet.⁷³⁹⁹ The Convention emphasizes that each country is to develop its legislative framework, observing the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Tunisia's 2022 Cybercrime Decree⁷⁴⁰⁰ has instead been used to stifle free speech.⁷⁴⁰¹

Tunisia's Data Protection Authority was accredited to join the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) during the 34th Session held in 2012 in Uruguay.⁷⁴⁰² Tunisia has not endorsed the GPA 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection,⁷⁴⁰³ the GPA 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of AI,⁷⁴⁰⁴ the GPA 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal

⁷³⁹⁶ Council of Europe, *Details of Treaty No. 108*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=108>

⁷³⁹⁷ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁷³⁹⁸ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

⁷³⁹⁹ African Union, *List of Countries Which Have Signed, Ratified/Acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Mar. 25, 2022), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl->

[AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl-)

⁷⁴⁰⁰ President of the Republic, *Decree-Law No. 2022-54 Relating to the Fight against Offenses Relating to Information and Communication Systems*, DCAF (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/decret-loi-n-2022-54-du-13-septembre-2022-relatif-a-la-lutte-contre-les-infractions-se-rapportant-aux-systemes-dinformation-et-de-communication/>

⁷⁴⁰¹ Human Rights Watch, *Tunisia: Cybercrime Decree Used against Critics* (Dec. 19, 2023), https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/19/tunisia-cybercrime-decree-used-against-critics?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAwtu9BhC8ARIsAI9JHanDnrN01LS4JJzKJDmvVJLFgi5SvbbLfAodRpEcbM0xqx7AC8N3qoYaAn-qEALw_wcB

⁷⁴⁰² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accreditation* (2012), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2-Accreditation-Resolution-Uruguay.pdf>

⁷⁴⁰³ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners. *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁴⁰⁴ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA). *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020). <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

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Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁴⁰⁵ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁷⁴⁰⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Since Tunisia has not ratified Convention 108+, the right to algorithmic transparency in Tunisia remains limited.⁷⁴⁰⁷ The Law of Protection of Personal Data applies to automatic processing of personal data as well as non-automatic processing of personal data carried out by individuals or by legal entities. The law imposes mandatory obligations on individuals or legal entities responsible for the automated processing of personal data and their sub-contractors to take all the required technical steps to ensure that they provide the data subject, their heirs or their tutor a means for rectification, modification, correction, or deletion of their personal data through request by e-mail.⁷⁴⁰⁸ However, the law does not explicitly address automatic decision-making.

AI Projects in the Public Sector

The ecosystem of AI innovation is in the nascent stages in Tunisia. A report by UNESCO mapping the AI ecosystem of the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria) included government initiatives to support AI startups.⁷⁴⁰⁹ The Smart Tunisia Program was launched through a Public-Private Partnership to create 50,000 jobs in the digital sector.⁷⁴¹⁰ The Program offers multiple opportunities

⁷⁴⁰⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁷⁴⁰⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁴⁰⁷ Data Protection Africa, *Data Protection Factsheet: Tunisia* (2023), <https://dataprotection.africa/tunisia/>

⁷⁴⁰⁸ National Authority for Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), *Organic Law No. 63 of 2004 on the Protection of Personal Data* [French and Arabic] (Jul. 27, 2004), https://www.inpdp.tn/ressources/loi_2004.pdf

⁷⁴⁰⁹ UNESCO Web Archives, *Maghreb, Mapping the Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem [Maghreb, Mapping de l'écosystème de l'intelligence artificielle]* (Dec. 2020), <https://webarchive.unesco.org/20240313054533/https://fr.unesco.org/sites/default/files/20210526mappingecosystemeiadsmaghreb.pdf>

⁷⁴¹⁰ Fondation Tunisie pour le Développement [Tunisian Foundation for Development], *Smart Tunisia* (2022), <https://fondationtunisie.org/en/smart-tunisia/>

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for the promotion of entrepreneurship and investment in digital start-ups through cooperation with different Tunisian bodies.

As of 2020, the government has launched AI projects in the public sector through the Directorate of Innovation and Technology Development. Projects included a predictive model for fraud detection, voice transcriptions for parliamentary deliberations, image recognition to monitor mask-use in public, industry chatbots, chatbots for questions related to COVID-19, and imaging to detect COVID-19.

International cooperation supports the Tunisian initiatives in the AI landscape. The FIRST program (Fiscal Reform for a Strong Tunisia) is an initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the government of Tunisia through the Ministry of Finance in matters of tax policy and fiscal reforms. The project relies on an AI algorithm and general algebraic modeling system (GAMS) software to analyze data as input to policy decisions.⁷⁴¹¹

Tunisia received a score of B (or high) for its digital government transformation by the World Bank's GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI) for 2022.⁷⁴¹² The index evaluates core government system indexes, public service delivery, digital citizen engagement, and gov tech enablers in the country.

The Ministry of Communication Technologies published the Electronic Government (e-Government) policy in a circular in early 2024. The policy requires all government authorities to adopt common building blocks centered on 12 Rules designed to accelerate digitization and modernize how the state serves citizens and businesses through online administrative procedures.⁷⁴¹³

Biometric ID

The Tunisian Parliament approved draft laws on Biometric Identity Cards and Biometric Passports in March 2024.⁷⁴¹⁴ This decision comes despite a campaign led by Access Now and civil society partners in Tunisia since 2016 advocating against

⁷⁴¹¹ US Embassy, *Fiscal Reform for a Strong Tunisia First* (2025),

<https://tn.usembassy.gov/embassy/tunis/usaid-tunisia/economic-growth/fiscal-reform-for-a-strong-tunisia-first/>

⁷⁴¹² World Bank, *State of GovTech Maturity by GTMI Groups 2022* (Nov. 2022),

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2022/10/21/govtech-maturity-index-gtmi-data-dashboard>

⁷⁴¹³ Ministry of Communication Technologies, *Circular n° 03 of 19 January 2024 on the Development of Electronic Administrative Services* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://legislation-securite.tn/ar/latest-laws/ال-حول-تطوير-ال-19-جانفي-2024-مؤر-خ-في-منشور-عدد-03-مؤر-خ-في-19-جانفي-2024-حول-تطوير-ال>

⁷⁴¹⁴ Masha Borak, *Tunisia Biometric ID Card and Passport Law Approved by Parliament*, Biometric Update (Mar. 8, 2024), <http://biometricupdate.com/202403/tunisia-biometric-id-card-and-passport-law-approved-by-parliament>

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the creation of a mandatory biometric ID system without robust data protection and privacy safeguards for Tunisian citizens.⁷⁴¹⁵

Biometric data such as fingerprints and photographs will be recorded and stored in a database managed by the Ministry of Interior, particularly by the central administration of information. Only specifically authorized agents, such as the police, national guard, and customs, will have access to this information through automated readers.⁷⁴¹⁶

The implementation of the biometric ID project will fall under the National Personal Data Protection Authority despite critics arguing that “this data protection agency lacks the necessary authority to enforce effective privacy and security measures.” To ensure respect for individual rights in this transition to biometrics, the rights and freedoms commission proposes the creation of a new oversight body.

The laws must still receive approval from the President of the Republic and be published in the Official Gazette. No estimate has yet been provided of when the laws would take effect.⁷⁴¹⁷

Facial Recognition

Reports of practices of mass surveillance in Tunisia are closely linked to the history of authoritarian regimes and the suppression of political opposition.⁷⁴¹⁸ Following the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, the new government dismantled intelligence services and created new ones. In 2015, the Tunisian government declared a state of emergency as the result of a terrorist attack and in 2016 announced the installation of more than 1,000 surveillance cameras in 30 electronic checkpoints in Tunis and at least four cities.

Practices of surveillance in public spaces and the use of facial recognition are concerning. A report by Privacy International identified surveillance practices in public spaces under the pretense of enforcement of the COVID lockdown.⁷⁴¹⁹ The

⁷⁴¹⁵ Access Now, *Eight Years in the Making: Tunisia’s Controversial Biometric ID and Passport Bills Risk Rights* (Mar. 7, 2024), <https://www.accessnow.org/press-release/tunisia-biometric-id-passport-bills-passed/>

⁷⁴¹⁶ Masha Borak, *Tunisia Biometric ID Card and Passport Law Approved by Parliament*, Biometric Update (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202403/tunisia-biometric-id-card-and-passport-law-approved-by-parliament>

⁷⁴¹⁷ Access Now, *Eight Years in the Making: Tunisia’s Controversial Biometric ID and Passport Bills Risk Rights* (Mar. 7, 2024), <https://www.accessnow.org/press-release/tunisia-biometric-id-passport-bills-passed/>

⁷⁴¹⁸ Privacy International, *State of Surveillance Tunisia* (Mar. 14, 2019), <https://privacyinternational.org/state-privacy/1012/state-surveillance-tunisia>

⁷⁴¹⁹ Privacy International, *Under Surveillance: (Mis)use of Technologies in Emergency Responses. Global lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Dec. 14, 2022), <https://ecnl.org/publications/under-surveillance-misuse-technologies-emergency-responses>

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Ministry of Interior of Tunisia operated a robot that patrolled the streets and required ID documentation to be shown to the camera. The PGuard robot was equipped with infrared and thermal imaging cameras to question “suspected violators” of the lockdown.⁷⁴²⁰ These robots, valued at \$100,000–140,000 were donated to the Ministry.

Environmental Impact of AI

The Future Society reported on its contribution to the drafting of Tunisia’s National AI Strategy 2021–2025 and the aim to harness AI responsibly to achieve national objectives and inclusive and sustainable development goals.⁷⁴²¹

Reports suggest that the application of AI in environment-impacting sectors like agriculture are well under way.⁷⁴²² Tunisian officials announced in late 2024 that the AI Strategy to be launched in 2025 will aim to integrate AI into the environmental sector, among others.⁷⁴²³

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Tunisia is a UN Member State and High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁷⁴²⁴ and has participated in several meetings since 2015.⁷⁴²⁵ Tunisia supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) as a member of the African Group and Arab Group in the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement in the CCW.⁷⁴²⁶ The African Group stressed to the Group of Government Experts on LAWS in 2023 that “the regulation, prohibition and restriction of the use

⁷⁴²⁰ Agence French Presse, *Tunisia “Robocop” Enforces Coronavirus Lockdown*, The National (Apr. 5, 2020), <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/mena/tunisia-robocop-enforces-coronavirus-lockdown-1.1001263>

⁷⁴²¹ The Future Society, *National AI Strategies for Inclusive & Sustainable Development* (Oct. 28, 2022), <https://thefuturesociety.org/policies-ai-sustainable-development/>

⁷⁴²² Top Africa News, *Tunisia’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Potential: A Path to Economic Growth and Job Creation* (May 8, 2024), <https://www.topafricanews.com/2024/05/08/tunisias-artificial-intelligence-ai-potential-a-path-to-economic-growth-and-job-creation/>

⁷⁴²³ Samira Njoya, *Tunisia Announces New Digital Transformation and AI Strategy* (Nov. 13, 2024) <https://www.wearetech.africa/en/fils-uk/tech-stars/tunisia-announces-new-digital-transformation-and-ai-strategy>

⁷⁴²⁴ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁴²⁵ Automated Decision Research, *State Positions: Tunisia* (2023), https://automatedresearch.org/news/state_position/tunisia/

⁷⁴²⁶ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

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of certain types of weapons that could cause unnecessary suffering to combatants or have indiscriminate effects on civilians must remain the prime focus of the CCW.”⁷⁴²⁷

In February 2023, Tunisia participated in the first international summit on the responsible application of artificial intelligence in the military domain hosted by the Netherlands (REAIM 2023). Tunisia agreed on a joint call for action “stress[ing] the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.”⁷⁴²⁸

Tunisia supported Draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2024. The resolution raises concerns about the “negative consequences and impact of autonomous weapon systems on global security and regional and international stability, including the risk of an emerging arms race, of exacerbating existing conflicts and humanitarian crises, miscalculations, lowering the threshold for and escalation of conflicts and proliferation, including to unauthorized recipients and non-State actors” and stresses the “the importance of the role of humans in the use of force to ensure responsibility and accountability and for States to comply with international law.” It also notes “the repeated calls by the Secretary-General to urgently conclude negotiations of a legally binding instrument with prohibitions and regulations for autonomous weapons systems, in line with a two-tier approach.”⁷⁴²⁹

AI Literacy

Tunisia launched the first public institute dedicated to Artificial Intelligence at the University of Tunis in September 2024.⁷⁴³⁰ The AI Institute will promote Tunisia’s 2035 vision of “fostering a knowledge-based society based on the development of AI programs across various Tunisian institutions” by teaching everyone AI, not just experts. The AI Institute is part of the country’s efforts to

⁷⁴²⁷ Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, *Statement on Behalf of the African Group Member States That Are High Contraction Parties* (Nov. 15–17, 2023), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_\(2023\)/Nigeria_-_African_Group_-_2023_MHCP.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_(2023)/Nigeria_-_African_Group_-_2023_MHCP.pdf)

⁷⁴²⁸ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁷⁴²⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Seventy-Ninth Session First Committee Agenda Item 98 (ss) General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ld/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

⁷⁴³⁰ Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, *The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Supervises the Opening of a Scientific Event on Artificial Intelligence and Its Role in the Development of the Economy* (Apr. 17, 2024), https://www.mes.tn/detail_evennement.php?code_menu=548&code_evennement=4029

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expand the application of AI to address Tunisia's economic, industrial, and technological challenges while ensuring the ethical use and protection of citizens' data. The AI Institute will help Tunisia play a pioneering role in AI training in the region and on the African continent, which will be advantageous for developing comprehensive AI legislation and using AI for good.⁷⁴³¹ The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced the launch of the institute during a seminar on AI for a Resilient Economy. Tunisia's Minister of Education has taken steps to integrate AI tools and curriculum into national schools, aiming to develop initiatives focused on capacity building for students and teachers.⁷⁴³²

Human Rights

Freedom House scored Tunisia as "Partly Free" with a score of 44/100 in 2025,⁷⁴³³ continuing to decline from 64/100 in 2022.⁷⁴³⁴ Freedom House describes an increasingly authoritarian state under President Saïed since 2019, including legal persecution of opponents and extension of executive authority by dismissing the legislature and undermining the judiciary and electoral commission.

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance in 2024 scored Tunisia at 61.2/100 for overall governance, and 56.1/100 in Participation Rights & Inclusion, placing the country in position 9 out of 45 African countries, with an overall decreasing trend since 2014.⁷⁴³⁵

Tunisia endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter). Tunisia is a member of the Arab League but has not ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights.⁷⁴³⁶ The country ratified various covenants including the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on

⁷⁴³¹ University World News, Africa Edition, *Tunisia's First Public AI Institute to Start Its Work Soon* (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240423064239372>

⁷⁴³² Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), *ICESCO Director-General, Tunisian Minister of Education Explore Ways to Strengthen Cooperation and Integration of AI in Education* (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://icesco.org/en/2025/01/28/icesco-director-general-tunisian-minister-of-education-explore-ways-to-strengthen-cooperation-and-integration-of-ai-in-education/>

⁷⁴³³ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World: Tunisia* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tunisia/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁴³⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World: Tunisia* (2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tunisia/freedom-world/2022>

⁷⁴³⁵ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Tunisia 2024, Overall Governance* (2024), <https://iiag.online/locations/tn.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=TN>

⁷⁴³⁶ Center for Global Law and Justice, *Country Factsheet Series: Tunisia* (Sept. 15, 2017), <https://cglj.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Tunisia.pdf>

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Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICSECR).⁷⁴³⁷ Other agreements Tunisia is a Party to are: The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.⁷⁴³⁸ Tunisia acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) in early 2024.⁷⁴³⁹

Tunisia's national human rights institution, known as the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,⁷⁴⁴⁰ was established in 2008 with financial autonomy. The institution promotes and protecting human rights in the country, including advising on legislation, investigating complaints, and conducting research. The Higher Committee holds a "B" status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), indicating partial compliance with the Paris Principles. This status allows the institution to participate in GANHRI meetings but without voting rights or eligibility for governance positions.⁷⁴⁴¹ Enhancing the High Committee's independence, resources, and mandate could strengthen its role in safeguarding human rights in Tunisia and align the institution more closely with international peers.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Tunisia is not a member of the OECD or the G20 and has not endorsed the G20 or the OECD AI principles.⁷⁴⁴² Tunisia is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁷⁴⁴³

The country has submitted the National AI Strategy and reports to OECD AI Observatory on AI use cases in the public sector, the law on the protection of personal data, and a draft bill on intellectual property policy for AI to protect algorithms.

⁷⁴³⁷ University of Minnesota, *Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties—Tunisia* (2023), <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/ratification-tunisia.html>

⁷⁴³⁸ Center for Global Law and Justice, *Country Factsheet Series: Tunisia* (Sept. 15, 2017), <https://cglj.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Tunisia.pdf>

⁷⁴³⁹ Council of Europe, *Tunisia Becomes the 70th Party to Convention on Cybercrime* (Mar. 8, 2024) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/tunisia-becomes-the-70th-party-to-convention-on-cybercrime>

⁷⁴⁴⁰ Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, *Presentation of the Committee [Présentation du Comité]* (Mar. 29, 2025), <http://www.csdhlf.tn/presentation-2/?lang=fr>

⁷⁴⁴¹ Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, *Chart of the Status of National Institutions* (Dec. 31, 2024), https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Status-Accreditation-Chart-NHRIs_Dec2024.pdf

⁷⁴⁴² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁷⁴⁴³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

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OECD recognized alignment with the value-based principles of inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being; human rights and fairness; and robustness; and security and safety. OECD also recognized the National AI Strategy's alignment with recommendations for policymakers to invest in AI R&D and build human capacity and prepare for labor market transition.⁷⁴⁴⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Tunisia has not endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁷⁴⁴⁵

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Tunisia is a member state of UNESCO since 1956,⁷⁴⁴⁶ and is one of 193 countries that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics in November 2021.⁷⁴⁴⁷ Tunisia was also one of only five African nations that offered comments on the first draft of the Recommendation.⁷⁴⁴⁸ However, the 2021 UNESCO AI Needs Assessment Survey did not include responses from Tunisia.⁷⁴⁴⁹ Tunisia is currently in the process of the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a key step toward implementing the UNESCO Recommendation.⁷⁴⁵⁰

Evaluation

Although Tunisia has yet to formulate a National AI policy, the 2021–2025 AI Roadmap offered a starting point. Despite taking preliminary steps to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics with preparation for the RAM, the approval of biometric ID systems and persistence of AI-powered surveillance deepen human rights concerns in the context of restricted freedom of expression and political

⁷⁴⁴⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Tunisia, Tunisia AI Roadmap* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/tunisia-ai-roadmap-1825>

⁷⁴⁴⁵ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 22, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁷⁴⁴⁶ UNESCO, *Tunisia* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/tn>

⁷⁴⁴⁷ UNESCO, *193 Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106612>

⁷⁴⁴⁸ DiploFoundation, *Africa's Participation in International Processes Related to AI* (2021), <https://www.diplomacy.edu/resource/report-stronger-digital-voices-from-africa/africa-participation-international-processes-ai/>

⁷⁴⁴⁹ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

⁷⁴⁵⁰ UNESCO, Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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rights. The ratification of Council of Europe Convention 108+ and a comprehensive modernization of the country's data protection legal regime would contribute to strengthening the protection of human rights in the digital age.

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Türkiye

In 2025, Türkiye’s Ministry of National Education released an AI Policy Document and Action Plan to realize tasks assigned in the National AI Strategy, in part to align with EU AI Act AI literacy requirements. The National Plan for EU Accession 2025–2028 outlined reforms to align data protection and AI legislation with EU standards.

National AI Strategy

In 2020, the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of the Turkish government published a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.⁷⁴⁵¹ The Strategy was prepared in accordance with the Eleventh Development Plan⁷⁴⁵² and Presidential Annual Programs,⁷⁴⁵³ and in line with the Digital Türkiye vision and the National Technology Initiative.⁷⁴⁵⁴ The Strategy is based on six strategic priorities: 1) Training AI Experts and Increasing Employment in the Domain, 2) Supporting Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, 3) Facilitating Access to Quality Data and Technical Infrastructure, 4) Regulating to Accelerate Socioeconomic Adaptation, 5) Strengthening International Cooperation, and 6) Accelerating Structural and Labor Transformation.

The National AI Strategy dedicates a section to AI values and principles and cites frameworks published by international organizations including the OECD, G20, EU, and UNESCO. The Strategy explicitly adopts values aligned with these frameworks, including Respect for Human Rights, Democracy, and Rule of Law such that “Human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms must be essential throughout the lifecycle of AI systems. [...] No human should be harmed physically, economically, socially, politically or psychologically at any stage in the lifecycle of

⁷⁴⁵¹ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

⁷⁴⁵² Presidency of Strategy and Budget, *Eleventh Development Plan (2019–2023)*, pp. 84–85 (Jul. 18, 2019), https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Eleventh_Development_Plan_2019-2023.pdf

⁷⁴⁵³ Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Presidency of Strategy and Budget, *Presidential Annual Program (2020) [2020 Yılı Cumhurbaşkanlığı Yillik Programı]*, p. 218 (Nov. 3, 2019), https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2020_Yili_Cumhurbaskanligi_Yillik_Programi.pdf

⁷⁴⁵⁴ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

AI systems.”⁷⁴⁵⁵ Other values are Flourishing the Environment and Biological Ecosystem, Ensuring Diversity and Inclusiveness by guarding against discrimination across the lifecycle,⁷⁴⁵⁶ and Living in Peaceful, Just and Interconnected Societies. The Strategy defines “trustworthy and responsible AI” according to Proportionality, Safety and Security, Fairness, Privacy, Transparency and Explainability, Responsibility and Accountability, Data Sovereignty, and Multi-Stakeholder Governance.⁷⁴⁵⁷

The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Steering Committee is responsible⁷⁴⁵⁸ for the appointment of the ministries that will prepare and coordinate the implementation of the detailed action plans for the measures in the Strategy, the preparation of said action plans in harmony with each other, and the coordination between institutions.⁷⁴⁵⁹ In a statement before the second Steering Committee meeting, Mr Oktay stated that a draft of the Action Plan for the National AI Strategy consisted of 120 actions and 451 execution steps had been prepared.⁷⁴⁶⁰ Among these actions, Mr Oktay emphasized the preparation of Data Governance Guidance, along with the establishment of an AI Ecosystem Advisory Committee and the Türkiye AI Portal.⁷⁴⁶¹

Building on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for 2021–2025, the DTO and the Ministry of Industry and Technology released a National AI Action Plan for 2024–2025.⁷⁴⁶² This plan⁷⁴⁶³ articulates strategic initiatives, including comprehensive AI legislation, targeted talent attraction, educational enhancement, infrastructure investment, and the introduction of a Trusted AI Seal certification system. It identifies six strategic priorities: 1) training AI experts and increasing

⁷⁴⁵⁵ Ibid, p. 19

⁷⁴⁵⁶ Ibid

⁷⁴⁵⁷ Ibid, pp. 60–61

⁷⁴⁵⁸ Ibid, p. 38

⁷⁴⁵⁹ Kemal Montenegro, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Steering Committee Held Its First Meeting*, Anadolu Ajans (Jan. 13, 2022), <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/bilim-teknoloji/ulusal-yapay-zeka-stratejisi-yonlendirme-kurulu-ilk-toplantisini-yapti/2472776>

⁷⁴⁶⁰ Fuat Oktay, Vice-President of the Republic of Türkiye, *Mr Oktay’s Speech at the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Steering Committee Meeting* [Turkish] (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmYmteHZZLWA>

⁷⁴⁶¹ Özcan Yıldırım, *Vice President Oktay: The Big Data We Create on Artificial Intelligence Will Be Processed and Value Will Be Generated*, Anadolu Ajans (Apr. 21, 2022), <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/cumhurbaskani-yardimcisi-oktay-yapay-zeka-konusunda-olusturdugumuz-buyuk-verinin-islenerek-deger-uretilmesi-saglanacak/2569443>

⁷⁴⁶² AzerNews, *National AI Plan Promises to Rewrite Rules of Innovation* (Jul. 3, 2025), <https://www.azernews.az/region/244112.html>

⁷⁴⁶³ Ministry of Industry and Technology, *National AI Strategy 2024–2025 Action Plan [Ulusal Yapay Zekâ Stratejisi 2024–2025 Eylem Planı]* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/assets/pdf/UlusalYapayZekaStratejisi2024-2025EylemPlanı.pdf>

recruitment in relevant fields; 2) supporting research, entrepreneurship, and innovation; 3) expanding access to quality data and technical infrastructure; 4) enacting regulations to foster socioeconomic integration; 5) strengthening international cooperation; and 6) facilitating structural and labor market transitions.⁷⁴⁶⁴

The Ministry of Education published the AI in Education Policy Document and Action Plan (2025–2028)⁷⁴⁶⁵ to fulfill the actions outlined in the national action plan and AI Strategy. The document presents a “holistic framework based on the ethical, safe, effective, and sustainable use principles, taking into account the impacts of artificial intelligence technologies on teachers, students, parents, education administrators, and policymakers.”

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (*Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi*, TBMM) established a Parliamentary Research Commission on Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁴⁶⁶ whose members were announced in the Official Gazette on January 16, 2025.⁷⁴⁶⁷ The Commission is tasked with defining the roadmap for leveraging AI technologies, building the necessary legal infrastructure, and addressing the risks associated with AI use. The Commission includes 22 representatives from multiple political parties with a three-month mandate to focus on AI-related issues concerning personal data security, transparency, ethical values, and legal regulations and to explore effective and active utilization of AI across various disciplines. The commission’s work is expected to guide future legislative efforts⁷⁴⁶⁸ to the establish a legal and ethical framework for AI that allows for innovation while imposing the “obligation to comply with ethical rules in certain areas.”⁷⁴⁶⁹

⁷⁴⁶⁴ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

⁷⁴⁶⁵ Ministry of National Education, *Artificial Intelligence in Education Policy Paper and Action Plan 2025–2029 [Eğitimde Yapay Zekâ Politika Belgesi ve Eylem Planı (2025–2029)]*, pp. 15–16 (Jun. 2025), https://yegitek.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2025_06/17092340_egitimdevapayzekapolitikabelgesi_veeylemplani202520291.pdf

⁷⁴⁶⁶ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, *Decision No. 1426* (Oct. 2, 2024), <https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/MecelisArastirmasiKomisyonlari/YapayZeka-AnaSayfa>

⁷⁴⁶⁷ Presidency Official Gazette, *Decision on the Establishment of the TBMM AI Research Commission* (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2025/01/20250116-1.pdf>

⁷⁴⁶⁸ Daily Sabah with AA, *Türkiye’s AI Research Commission Eyes Unveiling “Vision Document”* (Feb. 16, 2025), <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/tech/turkiyes-ai-research-commission-eyes-unveiling-vision-document>

⁷⁴⁶⁹ Mustafa Çalkaya and Ayşe Böcüoğlu Bodur, *Legal Infrastructure for Artificial Intelligence Is on Its Way in Türkiye*, Anadolu Ajans (Mar. 8, 2025), <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/bilim-teknoloji/turkiyede-yapay-zeka-ile-ilgili-hukuki-altyapi-yolda/3503659>

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AI Legislation

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye introduced a draft law regulating Artificial Intelligence in 2024.⁷⁴⁷⁰ The Draft Law⁷⁴⁷¹ aims to ensure that AI technologies are used safely, ethically, and equitably while safeguarding personal data and privacy rights. This legislative effort aligns with global concerns about the misuse of AI and sets a regulatory framework covering AI developers, distributors, users and importers in Türkiye. The Draft Law mandates a risk assessment process and introduces compliance mechanisms, especially for high-risk AI systems such as those used in healthcare, transportation, and law enforcement. The Justice Commission is studying the draft legislation.

Public Participation

Türkiye has consulted multistakeholder groups to consult on digital policies. Türkiye established a Working Group in January 2020 to develop the AI Technology Roadmap. The working Group comprised representatives from academia, the private sector, and major umbrella NGOs.⁷⁴⁷² The Working Group operates under the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Council of the Turkish Presidency, via the technical contribution of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye. The Working Group aims to ensure effective intergovernmental coordination and to identify frontier scientific themes and priority sectoral applications of AI technologies. The National AI Strategy explicitly addressed the AI Technology Roadmap and views from this multistakeholder group to establish priorities and development of the National AI Strategy.⁷⁴⁷³ Workshops and evaluations by domain experts provided additional opportunities for stakeholder input. Public participation continues after the entry into force of the National Strategy. The Steering Committee for the National AI Strategy is supported in its work by an AI Ecosystem Advisory Group and various working groups representing all relevant stakeholders.

⁷⁴⁷⁰ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, *Artificial Intelligence Bill* (Jun. 24, 2024), <https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/Yasama/KanunTeklifi/e21539a0-888a-4500-81be-01904a918c53>

⁷⁴⁷¹ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, *Artificial Intelligence Bill*, 2/2234 (Jun. 24, 2024), <https://cdn.tbmm.gov.tr/KKBSPublicFile/D28/Y2/T2/WebOnergeMetni/e50ccc8a-ab90-45fa-a553-76b880c78fb8.pdf>

⁷⁴⁷² OECD G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Examples of AI National Policies*, p. 19 (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

⁷⁴⁷³ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD, p. 6 (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

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The Parliamentary Research Commission on Artificial Intelligence is engaging with international and national stakeholders to align Türkiye's AI legislation with global standards and address emerging regulatory gaps.⁷⁴⁷⁴ As part of its efforts to develop a comprehensive legal framework, the Commission will examine key issues including ethical principles, data privacy, algorithmic transparency, and accountability. These discussions aim to ensure that Türkiye's AI governance reflects best practices and safeguards fundamental rights in the digital age.

Data Protection

The Turkish Constitution establishes rights for privacy and for data protection with limits.⁷⁴⁷⁵ The Turkish Law on the Protection of Personal Data published in April 2016 protects those rights.⁷⁴⁷⁶ Türkiye ratified Convention 108 of the Council of Europe and its data protection law originates from European Union Directive 95/46/EC, which predated the GDPR.

The data protection legislation upholds common data protection rights, such as purpose specification and storage limitations as well as informed consent.⁷⁴⁷⁷ The legislation strictly regulates data transfer outside of Türkiye⁷⁴⁷⁸ and individuals have the right to access and complain regarding data collection.⁷⁴⁷⁹ The Law on the Protection of Personal Data adopts a broad definition of the processing of personal data that encompasses both “automated means and non-automated means.”⁷⁴⁸⁰

The Law on the Protection of Personal Data established the Turkish Data Protection Authority (DPA), an independent regulatory authority. The DPA is composed of the Personal Data Protection Board and the Presidency. The Personal Data Protection Board implements and interprets the data protection law in line with the GDPR. Türkiye will align its national legislation with the EU AI Act-style safeguards to protect personal data in AI systems, especially high-risk applications. As part of this, the full alignment of its personal data law with the GDPR is scheduled

⁷⁴⁷⁴ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, *Commission Minutes, 3rd Legislative Year* (2025) <https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/Tutanaklar/KomisyonTutanaklariDonemTutanaklari?Kodu=1094&DonemKodu=28&YasamaYili=3>

⁷⁴⁷⁵ Republic of Turkey, *Constitution*, Article 20, Official Translation (May 2019), https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/media/7258/anayasa_eng.pdf

⁷⁴⁷⁶ Turkish Data Protection Authority, *About Us: History* (2022), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/6634/History>

⁷⁴⁷⁷ Turkish Data Protection Authority, *Personal Data Protection Law, Law No. 6698*, Article 4(2) (Mar. 24, 2016), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/6649/Personal-Data-Protection-Law>

⁷⁴⁷⁸ Ibid, Article 5

⁷⁴⁷⁹ Ibid, Chapter 4

⁷⁴⁸⁰ Ibid, Article 2(2)

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to be completed in 2026.⁷⁴⁸¹ The National Action Plan for EU Accession (2025-2028) also states Türkiye's plan to ratify Council of Europe Convention 108 + and to sign the EU AI treaty."⁷⁴⁸²

The mission of the DPA is to provide personal data protection and to develop public awareness in line with the fundamental rights related to privacy and freedom stated in the Constitution.

Concerning personal data processing in relation to AI, the DPA issued its Recommendations on the Protection of Personal Data in the Field of Artificial Intelligence in September 2021.⁷⁴⁸³ The DPA specifies that: "In the process of developing and adopting AI applications, the fundamental rights and freedoms of data subjects should be respected and there should be no violation of any right. [...] An approach that focuses on avoiding and mitigating the potential risks and considers human rights, functioning of democracy, social and ethical values, should be adopted in processing of personal data. [...] Data subjects should be able to have control over the processing activities, considering the effect of processing activities on individuals and society."⁷⁴⁸⁴

The 2021 Recommendation further specified that "The role of human intervention in decision-making processes should be ensured."⁷⁴⁸⁵ The DPA makes clear that the principles enshrined in the Protection of Personal Data Law and applicable in general to the processing of personal data are applicable when AI is involved. These include lawfulness, fairness, proportionality, accountability, transparency.

The DPA has also issued information notes to address specific challenges posed by AI applications. The Deepfake Information Note⁷⁴⁸⁶ released in January 2024 defined Deepfake and the threats they pose to personal data as well as advice on how individuals and organizations can protect themselves. The information note

⁷⁴⁸¹ Strategy and Budget Directorate, *Medium-Term Program (2026–2028)* (Sept. 2025), <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Medium-Term-Program-2026-2028.pdf>

⁷⁴⁸² Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs, *Türkiye's National Action Plan for EU Accession 2025–2028* (Oct. 2025), https://www.ab.gov.tr/siteimages/birimler/kpb/uep2025-2028_en_final_ekim-2025.pdf

⁷⁴⁸³ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Recommendations on the Protection of Personal Data in the Field of Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/SharedFolderServer/CMSFiles/58678459-eba4-451a-a2f3-c1baf17b90f5.pdf>

⁷⁴⁸⁴ Ibid, p. 17

⁷⁴⁸⁵ Ibid, p. 20

⁷⁴⁸⁶ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Deepfake Information Note [Deefake Bilgi Notu]* (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/7807/Deepfake-Bilgi-Notu>

on chatbots⁷⁴⁸⁷ in November 2024 emphasized the need for transparency about data usage, secure data transmission, risk assessments, and adherence to international standards to mitigate privacy risks for users, especially children.

The DPA Strategic Plan 2024–2028⁷⁴⁸⁸ called for legislation on developing technologies given the impact of “instant data analysis with analytical tools such as [...] artificial intelligence” on the DPA’s activities. The DPA assigned the Department of Data Security and Information Systems the responsibility of “close monitoring of new technological issues such as artificial intelligence” in relation to ensuring that necessary administrative and technical measures are undertaken by data controllers under the Personal Data Protection Law.⁷⁴⁸⁹

The DPA is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2017. The DPA hosted the 2022 GPA in Türkiye. However, the DPA did not endorse the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁴⁹⁰ the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability,⁷⁴⁹¹ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁴⁹² or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁷⁴⁹³

The Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, affiliated with the Ministry of Justice, could also provide independent oversight of AI practices. Established by Law No. 6701 in 2016,⁷⁴⁹⁴ the Human Rights Institution is a public body endowed with an independent legal status and administrative and financial autonomy. The mission of the Human Rights Institution is to ensure the protection

⁷⁴⁸⁷ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Information Note on Chatbots [Sohbet Robotları (ChatGPT Örneği) Hakkında Bilgi Notu]* (Nov. 8, 2024),

<https://kvkk.gov.tr/SharedFolderServer/CMSFiles/cf1ba9a7-6108-42f1-9b27-cc416545693d.pdf>

⁷⁴⁸⁸ Turkish Data Protection Board, *Strategic Plan (2024–2028) [Stratejik Plan]*, p. 44,

<https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/SharedFolderServer/CMSFiles/bdee3837-8560-4a02-be75-e5c312c28768.pdf>

⁷⁴⁸⁹ Ibid, pp. 55–56.

⁷⁴⁹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁴⁹¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁷⁴⁹² Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁷⁴⁹³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁴⁹⁴ Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, *About Us, Promotion Brochure*,

<https://www.tihek.gov.tr/public/editor/uploads/1551881762.pdf>

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and promotion of human rights, to guarantee individuals' right to equal treatment, and to prevent discrimination in the exercise of rights and freedoms.

The Ombudsman Institution of the Republic of Türkiye could also provide independent oversight. The Ombudsman was established in 2012 as a constitutional public entity affiliated with the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.⁷⁴⁹⁵ The Ombudsman has its own private budget, headquarters in Ankara, and an office in Istanbul. According to the Ombudsman Law, the Ombudsman shall be responsible for examining, investigating, and submitting recommendations to the Administration regarding all sorts of acts and actions as well as attitudes and behaviors of the Administration upon complaint. The Ombudsman Institution aims to increase the service quality of the administration, contribute to internalizing principles of good administration, foster transparent and accountable administration, improve human rights standards, and strengthen a culture of seeking legal remedies among citizens.⁷⁴⁹⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

Transparency and explainability are among the AI values and principles enshrined in the National AI Strategy. The Strategy provides that: “Person(s) and organizations involved in the lifecycle of AI systems should ensure that the AI system is transparent and explainable in accordance with its context. People have the right to be informed of a decision that was made based on AI algorithms and to request explanatory information from public institutions and private sector organizations in such cases. It should be possible to explain to the end user and other stakeholders in non-technical terms and in plain language, why, how, where and for what purpose the decisions made based on automatic and algorithmic decisions, the data leading to said decisions and the information obtained from that data are used.”⁷⁴⁹⁷

Türkiye has not signed yet the protocol modernizing Council of Europe Convention 108,⁷⁴⁹⁸ which enshrines the right to algorithmic transparency.⁷⁴⁹⁹ The

⁷⁴⁹⁵ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, *Ombudsman Institution* (2024), <https://english.ombudsman.gov.tr/about-the-institution>

⁷⁴⁹⁶ Ibid

⁷⁴⁹⁷ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD, p. 61 (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

⁷⁴⁹⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Mar. 15, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁷⁴⁹⁹ Council of Europe, *Convention 108+: Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data*, Article 9 (c) (Jun. 2018), <https://rm.coe.int/convention-108-convention-for-the-protection-of-individuals-with-regar/16808b36f1>

Law on the Protection of Personal Data provides for the obligation of data controller to inform the data subjects about “the method and legal basis of collection of personal data.”⁷⁵⁰⁰ Data subjects are also entitled “to object to the occurrence of a result against the person himself/herself by analyzing the data processed solely through automated systems.”⁷⁵⁰¹ However, the principles of transparency, algorithmic transparency, and explainability are not enshrined explicitly in the Law on the Protection of Personal Data.

As for the DPA’s Recommendations on the Protection of Personal Data in the Field of Artificial Intelligence, they provide that “the Artificial intelligence and data collection works that rely on processing of personal data should be based on the principles of [...] transparency and accountability.”⁷⁵⁰²

Amendment to the Law No. 5651 on Regulating Broadcasting in the Internet and Fighting Against Crimes Committed through Internet Broadcasting (Internet Law), which entered into force in October 2022, imposed a new obligation on the foreign and local social network providers that receive over one million daily visits from Türkiye.⁷⁵⁰³ Additional Article 4/5 states that these social network providers shall submit biannual reports containing information on their algorithms, advertising policies, and transparency policies regarding title tags and featured or reduced-access content to the Information Technologies and Communication Authority of Türkiye. The amendments require that the “social network provider shall include on its website in a clear, understandable and easily accessible manner which ‘parameters’ it uses when providing suggestions to users. Social network provider shall take the necessary measures to update users’ preferences regarding the content it recommends and to offer the option to limit the use of their personal data, and shall include these measures in its report.”⁷⁵⁰⁴

With the 18th paragraph added to Additional Article 4 on the date above, the Information Technologies and Communication Authority of Türkiye is authorized to request explanations from the social network provider regarding the provider’s

⁷⁵⁰⁰ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Law No. 6698, Personal Data Protection Law*, Article 10 (ç) (Mar. 24, 2016), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/6649/Personal-Data-Protection-Law>

⁷⁵⁰¹ Ibid, Article 11(g)

⁷⁵⁰² Turkish Data Protection Board, *Recommendations on the Protection of Personal Data in the Field of Artificial Intelligence*, p. 16, <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/SharedFolderServer/CMSFiles/58678459-eba4-451a-a2f3-c1baf17b90f5.pdf>

⁷⁵⁰³ Legislation Information System, *Law No. 5651 on the Regulating Broadcasting in the Internet and Fighting Against Crimes Committed through Internet Broadcasting, Additional Article 4/5* (Oct. 13, 2022), <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=5651&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

⁷⁵⁰⁴ Mehmet Bedii Kaya, *The Turkish Internet Law: Full Translation* (Jan. 5, 2021), <https://mbkaya.com/turkish-internet-law/>

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compliance with this Law, including organizational structure, information systems, algorithms, data processing mechanisms, and commercial attitudes.⁷⁵⁰⁵

The DTO Big Data and Artificial Intelligence Department has carried out the COVID-19 Detection with Artificial Intelligence project,⁷⁵⁰⁶ in which the predictions made by the developed AI models using the X-Ray and Computed Tomography images and the reasoning for these predictions can be presented to the relevant doctors.

Open Data Project

Türkiye's Open Data Project, which was launched under the coordination of the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, aims to establish an open data portal to make public data available "as open data under privacy principles in order to increase transparency, accountability and participation and to enable production of new value-added services."⁷⁵⁰⁷ As a platform for the datasets needed for developing AI technologies and applications, the initiative will contribute to fostering a digital ecosystem for AI.

The Project includes managing the regulatory and legislative area of open data, which are necessary steps for participation in the Open Government Partnership.⁷⁵⁰⁸ The initiative also aims to provide effective coordination in preparing the labor market for digital transformation.⁷⁵⁰⁹ However, Türkiye left the Open Government Partnership in 2017⁷⁵¹⁰ and no evidence of reengagement has been found.

⁷⁵⁰⁵ Legislation Information System, *Law No. 5651 on the Regulating Broadcasting in the Internet and Fighting Against Crimes Committed through Internet Broadcasting*, Additional Article 4/18 (Oct. 13, 2022),

<https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=5651&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

⁷⁵⁰⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI in Türkiye, COVID-19 Detection with AI* (Nov. 8, 2022),

<https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/covid-19-detection-with-ai-2463>

⁷⁵⁰⁷ Digital Transformation Office, *Open Data: Generating Value from Data for Our Country*,

<https://cbddo.gov.tr/en/opendata/about-the-project/>

⁷⁵⁰⁸ STIP COMPASS, *Open Data Project and Open Government Partnership* (Aug. 2, 2021),

<https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F26589>

⁷⁵⁰⁹ Digital Transformation Office, *Open Data: Generating Value from Data for Our Country*,

<https://cbddo.gov.tr/en/opendata/about-the-project/>

⁷⁵¹⁰ Open Government Partnership, *Government of Turkey Leaves the Open Government Partnership* (Sept. 29, 2017), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/news/government-of-turkey-leaves-the-open-government-partnership/>

Some municipalities, including Istanbul and İzmir, the 1st and the 3rd biggest cities in Türkiye respectively, have already launched open data portals.⁷⁵¹¹ Ankara Metropolitan Municipality implemented the Transparent Ankara⁷⁵¹² project, which the municipality described as the first and only map-based open data platform in the world.⁷⁵¹³ Turkish citizens from all over the world can easily access data such as transportation boarding data, social benefits, green areas, level of dams, population and demographic information, weather conditions, WiFi hotspots, bicycle paths, and trekking routes in Ankara from the open data on this platform 24/7.

Several sectoral open data infrastructures have also continued to operate and expand. The Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (*T.C. Çevre, Şehircilik ve İklim Değişikliği Bakanlığı*) maintains the National Smart City Open Data Platform (ULASAV).⁷⁵¹⁴ The open data interface run by the Ministry of Health (*T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı*) remains active, too.⁷⁵¹⁵ Both support the broader data ecosystem that enables AI-driven innovation.

Freedom of Expression

In October 2020, a law entered into force requiring all domestic and foreign social network providers that serve more than one million users in Türkiye to have local representation in the country. Rules on content removal and the obligation for social media companies to respond to official takedown orders, usually within 48 hours, are defined under Law No. 5651.⁷⁵¹⁶ The Information and Communication

⁷⁵¹¹ For Istanbul, see Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, *Open Data Portal*, <https://data.ibb.gov.tr/en/dataset>; İzmir Department of Information Technology, *Open Data Portal [Açık Veri Portalı]*, <https://acikveri.bizizmir.com/>

⁷⁵¹² Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, *The World's First and Only Map-Based Open Data Sharing in the World: "Transparent Ankara" Has Started* (Jul. 18, 2022), <https://www.ankara.bel.tr/haberler/dunyada-ilk-ve-tek-harita-tabanli-acik-veri-paylasimi-seffaf-ankara-basladi-15749>; to see the map: <https://seffaf.ankara.bel.tr/>

⁷⁵¹³ Ibid

⁷⁵¹⁴ Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, *ULASAV National Smart Cities Open Data Platform*, Official Government Open Data Portal, <https://ulasav.csb.gov.tr/>

⁷⁵¹⁵ Ministry of Health, *Ministry of Health Open Data Portal*, Official Government Open Data Portal, <https://acikveri.saglik.gov.tr/>

⁷⁵¹⁶ Republic of Türkiye, *Law No. 5651 on the Regulation of Publications on the Internet and Combating Crimes Committed Through Such Publications İnternet Ortamında Yapılan Yayınların Düzenlenmesi ve Bu Yayınlar Yoluyla İşlenen Suçlarla Mücadele Edilmesi Hakkında Kanun* (May 23, 2007), <https://www.aile.gov.tr/uploads/chgm/uploads/pages/kanunlar/5651-sayili-internet-ortaminda-yapilan-yayinlarin-duzenlenmesi-ve-bu-yayinlar-yoluyla-islenen-suclarla-mucadele-edilmesi-hakkinda-kanun.pdf>

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Technologies Authority's (*Bilgi Teknolojileri ve İletişim Kurumu, BTK*) regulations for social network providers published in 2023 provide further detail.⁷⁵¹⁷

The Turkish Criminal Code was amended in October 2022 with Article 217/A on Openly Disseminating Misleading Information. The criminal code now provides that "publicly disseminating false information about the internal and external security, public order and general health of the country, in a way that is suitable for disturbing the public peace, solely for the purpose of creating anxiety, fear or panic among the people" constitutes a crime to be punished by imprisonment.⁷⁵¹⁸

EdTech and Children Tracking

In May 2022, Human Rights Watch published a global investigative report on the education technology (EdTech) endorsed by 49 governments, including Türkiye, for children's education during the pandemic. Based on technical and policy analysis of 163 EdTech products, including some built and offered by the Turkish Government, Human Rights Watch found that governments' endorsements of the majority of these online learning platforms put at risk or directly violated children's rights. Some EdTech products targeted children with behavioral advertising. Many more EdTech products sent children's data to AdTech companies that specialize in behavioral advertising or whose algorithms determine what children see online.⁷⁵¹⁹

Against this background, the 2024 DPA's information note on chatbots⁷⁵²⁰ emphasizes the importance of safeguarding children's data in digital environments, aligning with international standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and GDPR. The DPA stresses the need for parental consent and the principle of the best interests of the child in data processing. These actions align with concerns raised by Human Rights Watch regarding the risks posed by EdTech platforms. While the DPA's guidance supports stronger protections, further development may be needed to address the broader risks identified in digital education tools. The Ministry of National Education established the Ethics Board for Artificial Intelligence Applications in 2025,⁷⁵²¹ providing a formal mechanism for

⁷⁵¹⁷ Information and Communication Technologies Authority, *Decision No. 2023/DK-İD/119* (Mar 28, 2023), <https://telkoder.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-DK-İD-119.pdf>

⁷⁵¹⁸ Legislation Information System, *Turkish Criminal Code, Law No.5237*, Article 217/A (Oct. 12, 2004), <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=5237&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

⁷⁵¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, *How Dare They Peep into My Private Life* (May 25, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/05/25/how-dare-they-peep-my-private-life/childrens-rights-violations-governments>

⁷⁵²⁰ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Information Note on Chatbots [Sohbet Robotları (ChatGPT Örneği) Hakkında Bilgi Notu]* (Nov. 8, 2024), <https://kvkk.gov.tr/SharedFolderServer/CMSFiles/cf1ba9a7-6108-42f1-9b27-cc416545693d.pdf>

⁷⁵²¹ Ministry of National Education, *Guidelines for the Ethics Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications Have Been Published [Yapay Zekâ Uygulamaları Etik Kurulu Yönergesi Yayınlandı]*

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ethical review and documentation of AI use in education, complementing the DPA's guidance on data protection and children's rights.

AI in the Judiciary

Türkiye's Judicial Reform Strategy 2025–2029⁷⁵²² includes integrating AI into judicial services and establishing an AI Scientific Commission within the Ministry of Justice. The aim is to strengthen the legal framework for AI, minimizing potential risks and ensuring access to justice. The proposed judicial reform emphasizes the integration of AI to modernize the judicial system, improve efficiency, and promote access to justice. The reform includes the consideration of AI-based recommendation systems to aid judicial decision-making and support judicial processes with the goal of reducing workload, bureaucracy, and errors. A specialized institutional body will be created to regulate the ethical use of AI in judicial processes, and all AI applications will be designed in compliance with the EU's GDPR and other international legal standards.

Environmental Impact of AI

Türkiye's National AI Strategy identifies “Flourishing the Environment and Biological Ecosystem” as an AI value.⁷⁵²³ The Strategy advises that “All actors involved in the lifecycle of AI systems should adhere to relevant international and national legislation, standards and practices designed for the protection, restoration and sustainable development of the environment and ecosystem.” However, Türkiye has published no information on specific requirements or regulations to limit the negative environmental impact of AI development, deployment, or use.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Türkiye is one of the most important lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) developers and exporters in the world. “Though Turkey's defense sector remains small compared with giants like China, it has outsized influence because of the impact of its drones in recent conflicts. The country's Bayraktar TB-2 drones

(Oct 23, 2025), <https://ttkb.meb.gov.tr/www/yapay-zek-uygulamalari-etik-kurulu-yonergesi-yayimlandi/icerik/818/tr>

⁷⁵²² Ministry of Justice, *Judicial Reform Strategy 2025–2029* (Jan. 23, 2025),

<https://cdn.uyap.gov.tr/yrsportal/strategydocument/lwTey8la/VWeqh7C5q.pdf>

⁷⁵²³ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD, p. 59 (Aug. 20, 2021),

https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

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have been used in at least four different conflicts—Ukraine, Syria, Libya⁷⁵²⁴ and in Azerbaijan’s conflict with Armenia.”⁷⁵²⁵

Türkiye has participated in every Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems between 2014 and 2023. At the 2022 meeting of the CCW Meeting High Contracting Parties, Türkiye stated that “We believe that the development and use of autonomous weapons systems which does not have meaningful human control are undesirable and risk compliance with our obligations stemming from the International Humanitarian Law. Humans (commanders and operators) have to be involved in the decision loop and bear the ultimate responsibility when dealing with the decision of life and death in order to ensure compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law.”⁷⁵²⁶ Türkiye also repeated its commitment to fully implement the CCW and its annexed Protocols.

However, Türkiye abstained from voting on Resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2023. This resolution aimed to address the development, use, and potential consequences of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), calling for an international regulatory framework to prevent the weaponization of autonomous systems that could undermine human accountability in warfare.⁷⁵²⁷

Türkiye endorsed the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023,⁷⁵²⁸ following the first global Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Realm in the Hague. At the

⁷⁵²⁴ For the use of Kargu-2 drones on human targets in 2020 in Libya, see also British Embassy Ankara, *Open Data in Turkey* (Mar. 2020), http://www.novusens.com/s/2462/i/UK-Turkey_Open_Data_Writeup_ENG.pdf;

Panel of Experts on Libya Established Pursuant to Resolution 1973 of 2011, *Letter to President of the Security Council, Final Report*, UN Digital Library (Mar. 8, 2021), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3905159?ln=en>

⁷⁵²⁵ J. Malsin, *Drones, Unmanned Boats and Killer Robots Have Made Turkey an Arms-Industry Powerhouse*, The Wall Street Journal (Jul. 21, 2022), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/drones-unmanned-boats-and-killer-robots-have-made-turkey-an-arms-industry-powerhouse-11658404887>

⁷⁵²⁶ Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW, *Statement by Türkiye*, Reaching Critical Will (Nov. 16, 2022), https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/ccw/2022/hcp-meeting/statements/16Nov_Turkiye.pdf

⁷⁵²⁷ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Dec. 22 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>; United Nations voting data are available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4060887>

⁷⁵²⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy*, Endorsing States (Nov. 27, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

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Summit, attendees issued joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain.⁷⁵²⁹

Türkiye also endorsed the Blueprint for Action, the outcome document from the second REAIM summit in 2024, hosted by the Republic of Korea.⁷⁵³⁰ The Blueprint for Action is the first step toward operationalizing the commitments from the first REAIM Summit.

AI Literacy

Türkiye's AI literacy for policymaking and governance has developed through various initiatives rooted in the National AI Strategy 2024–2025 Action Plan.⁷⁵³¹ The Strategy mandates in-service training in advanced analytics and AI in public institutions to strengthen the capacity of rule-making and supervisory bodies. The National E-Learning Portal for Public Servants (*Uzaktan Eğitim Kapısı*) began delivering an AI Awareness Program designed and implemented with public universities in 2024, with rollout documentation extending into March 2025.⁷⁵³²

The Turkish Personal Data Protection Authority supports broader data literacy through nationwide programs for children, Learning Personal Data with Verican⁷⁵³³ and Digital Adventures with Verinaz,⁷⁵³⁴ which promote early understanding of privacy and responsible data use as foundations for ethical AI governance. The Ministry of National Education released the AI in Education Policy Paper and Action Plan 2025–2029, outlining measures for capacity-building and governance readiness in the education sector.⁷⁵³⁵ The Ministry of National Education's guidance to the Ethics Board for AI Applications established review

⁷⁵²⁹ Government of the Netherlands, *REAIM 2023 Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁷⁵³⁰ REAIM 2024, *Blueprint for Action*, DigWatch (Sept. 11, 2024), https://dig.watch/resource/responsible-ai-in-the-military-domain-ream-blueprint-for-action#REAIM_Blueprint_for_Action

⁷⁵³¹ Ministry of Industry and Technology, *National AI Strategy 2024–2025 Action Plan [Ulusal Yapay Zekâ Stratejisi 2024-2025 Eylem Planı]* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/assets/pdf/UlusalYapayZekaStratejisi2024-2025EylemPlanı.pdf>

⁷⁵³² Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, *AI Awareness Training Program* (Dec. 27, 2024), <https://www.ksu.edu.tr/default.aspx?Did=87717>

⁷⁵³³ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Learning Personal Data with Verican [Verican ile Kişisel Verileri Öğreniyorum]* (Oct. 9, 2024), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/8033/Verican-Ile-Kisisel-Verileri-Ogreniyorum>

⁷⁵³⁴ Personal Data Protection Authority, *Digital Adventures with Verinaz [Verinaz ile Dijital Maceralar]* (Jun 05, 2025), <https://www.kvkk.gov.tr/Icerik/8328/Verinaz-ile-Dijital-Maceralar>

⁷⁵³⁵ Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Education, *AI in Education Policy Paper and Action Plan 2025–2029* (Jun. 2025), https://yegitek.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2025_06/17092340_egitimdevapayzekapolitikabelgesi_vceylemplani202520291.pdf

procedures and documentation duties to institutionalize literacy around AI-related decisions in education.⁷⁵³⁶ Finally, Türkiye’s 2025–2028 EU Accession National Action Plan includes alignment with the EU AI Act, which promotes AI literacy within public administration and oversight bodies.⁷⁵³⁷ This alignment indicates that Türkiye’s convergence with the EU’s AI governance framework will soon encompass the Act’s literacy and capacity-building commitments.

Human Rights

Freedom House classifies Türkiye as “Not Free” in 2025 with a score of 33/100.⁷⁵³⁸ This assessment reflects ongoing restrictions on freedoms of expression, assembly, and political participation, alongside concerns over judicial independence and human rights practices. Freedom House reports that while Turkish law officially grants citizens access to information, “Turkey’s political and legal environment has made democratic oversight of the government nearly impossible.” Algorithm Watch has reported that rollbacks on factchecking and content moderation by big tech companies including Meta and X “may have severe consequences” for users.⁷⁵³⁹ The organization notes that X, in particular, “has facilitated authoritarian censorship in India and Turkey” by allowing what Algorithm Watch called one-sided oversight.

AI Safety Summit

Türkiye participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023.⁷⁵⁴⁰ Türkiye thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully realise their

⁷⁵³⁶ Ministry of National Education, *Guidelines for the Ethics Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications Have Been Published [Yapay Zekâ Uygulamaları Etik Kurulu Yönergesi Yayınlandı]* (Oct 23, 2025), <https://ttkb.meb.gov.tr/www/yapay-zek-uygulamalari-etik-kurulu-yonergesi-yayimlandi/icerik/818/tr>

⁷⁵³⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs, *Türkiye’s National Action Plan for the EU Accession 2025–2028* (Oct 6, 2025), https://www.ab.gov.tr/turkiyes-national-action-plan-for-the-eu-accession-2025-2028-54111_en.html

⁷⁵³⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Turkey* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/turkey/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁵³⁹ Algorithm Watch, *Statement on Meta’s Announcement to Gut Moderation and Fact-checking* (Jan. 8, 2025), <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/full-statement-on-meta-announcement/>

⁷⁵⁴⁰ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 2, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

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potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

OECD / G20 AI Principles

As a founding member of the OECD, NATO ally, and G20 member, Türkiye adopted the OECD AI Principles.⁷⁵⁴¹ According to the OECD, Türkiye’s AI Technology Roadmap is a multistakeholder effort that supports implementation of the G20 AI Principles on inclusive growth, robustness, and accountability.⁷⁵⁴² The National AI Strategy explicitly acknowledges that Türkiye is a stakeholder of human-centric AI principles determined by OECD and adopts “trustworthy and responsible AI” values and principles.⁷⁵⁴³

Türkiye is an active member of the OECD Network of Experts on Artificial Intelligence with representatives at ministerial and presidential levels⁷⁵⁴⁴ and contributes to the OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance (WPAIGO) meetings and policy documents at both the technical and bureau membership levels.⁷⁵⁴⁵

Türkiye also commits to the OECD AI Principles as a member of the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁷⁵⁴⁶ As a GPAI member, Türkiye participates in the ongoing international cooperation on the responsible development and use of AI and benefits from the multi-stakeholder cooperation within GPAI to adopt trustworthy AI, share multi-disciplinary research, identify knowledge gaps, maximize coordination, and identify and mitigate potential challenges.

Türkiye’s government adopted an AI Ethics Decision mandating public sector compliance with several principles for ethical behavior, emphasizing human-

⁷⁵⁴¹ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁷⁵⁴² OECD G20 Digital Economy Task Force, *Examples of AI National Policies* (2020), <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/sites/default/files/examples-of-ai-national-policies.pdf>

⁷⁵⁴³ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

⁷⁵⁴⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD.AI Community* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/community>

⁷⁵⁴⁵ OECD, *Online Guide to OECD Intergovernmental Activity* (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://oecdgroups.oecd.org/Bodies/ShowBodyView.aspx?BodyID=7755&BodyPID=13964&Book=False>

⁷⁵⁴⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

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centered design and rights in September 2024.⁷⁵⁴⁷ The Ethics Decision enables the country to make further strides in implementing OECD principles. Focused on public sector applications that could impact citizen welfare, the decision highlights human rights concerns in line with international AI guidelines. It underscores the importance of accountability, transparency, and fairness in AI usage, aligning with Türkiye's broader focus on maintaining data sovereignty and enforcing strict data protection protocols.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Türkiye contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.⁷⁵⁴⁸ Türkiye's Digital Transformation Office (DTO) served as the national coordinator and secretariat for the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI)⁷⁵⁴⁹ and represented Türkiye⁷⁵⁵⁰ as one of the lead coordinators of the Policy Development sub-working⁷⁵⁵¹ group and Legal Frameworks group.⁷⁵⁵² The DTO also served as the national coordinator and secretariat for the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) that took over after the CAHAI mandate expired. Türkiye was represented at the plenary meetings by the observers and government-appointed representatives.

Despite these contributions, Türkiye has not signed this first legally binding international treaty on AI.⁷⁵⁵³ However, Türkiye's National Action Plan for EU

⁷⁵⁴⁷ Government of Türkiye, *Resolution No. 2024/108 Principles of Ethical Behavior to be Followed by Public Officials in the Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Sept. 16 2024), <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/personel/2024108-sayili-ilke-karari-yapay-zek-sistemlerinin-kullaniminda-kamu-gorevliilerinin-uyyasi-gereken-etik-davranis-ilkeleri>

⁷⁵⁴⁸ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁵⁴⁹ Council of Europe, Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) Policy Development Group, *6th Online Meeting: Abridged Report* (Oct. 12, 2021) <https://rm.coe.int/cahai-pdg-2021-pv4-meeting-report-6th-meeting/1680a45412>

⁷⁵⁵⁰ Council of Europe, CAHAI - Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence, *List of Participants* (Dec. 2, 2021) <https://rm.coe.int/cahai-2021-lp3-fin-nov-dec-web-2778-2444-1349-v-1/1680a4d242>

⁷⁵⁵¹ Council of Europe, Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) Policy Development Group, *5th Online Meeting: Abridged Report* (May 27, 2021), <https://rm.coe.int/cahai-pdg-2021-pv3-abridged-meeting-report-5th-meeting-2763-0718-0035-/1680a2d8a1>

⁷⁵⁵² Council of Europe, *Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) Legal Frameworks Group (CAHAI-LFG)* (Jun. 1, 2021), <https://rm.coe.int/cahai-lfg-2021-pv3-en-3rd-meeting-report-2787-1916-6723-v-1/1680a2d64a>

⁷⁵⁵³ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 15, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

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Accession (2025–2028) includes an action to sign the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence within the accession period.⁷⁵⁵⁴

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Türkiye has endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI. The Turkish National AI Strategy mentions that the “country is a stakeholder of human-centric AI principles determined by [...] UNESCO, and adopts ‘trustworthy and responsible AI’ values and principles,”⁷⁵⁵⁵ although the strategy does not refer explicitly to the UNESCO Recommendation.

Türkiye carried out its membership in the Executive Board of UNESCO for the period of 2017–2021. In addition, in the election of Members to the Executive Board held at the 41st General Conference of UNESCO in November 2021, Türkiye was re-elected for the 2021–2025 period.⁷⁵⁵⁶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that Türkiye “embraces the purpose and ideals of UNESCO,” believes “in the significance of maintaining active support to all levels of the Organization,” and “will continue to contribute strengthening UNESCO’s activities and values as a member of the Executive Board.”⁷⁵⁵⁷ The Executive Board adopted a decision to include a section on the Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence at its 215th session held in October 2022.⁷⁵⁵⁸

Türkiye has taken the step to begin the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁷⁵⁵⁹ Türkiye’s Human Rights and Equality Institution (*Türkiye İnsan Hakları ve Eşitlik Kurumu*) participated in workshops on data privacy as part of a launch for the RAM studies.⁷⁵⁶⁰ The event collected opinions, evaluations, and contributions from public institutions as well as stakeholders from the public, private sector,

⁷⁵⁵⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs, *Türkiye’s National Action Plan for EU Accession 2025–2028* (Oct. 2025), https://www.ab.gov.tr/siteimages/birimler/kpb/uep2025-2028_en_final_ekim-2025.pdf

⁷⁵⁵⁵ Digital Transformation Office, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025*, OECD, p. 58 (Aug. 20, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Turkey_National_Artificial_Intelligence_Strategy_2021-2025.pdf

⁷⁵⁵⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Press Release Regarding Turkey’s Election as a Member to the UNESCO Executive Board* (Nov. 17, 2021), https://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-384_-unesco-yurutme-kurulu-uyeligine-secilmemiz-hk.en.mfa

⁷⁵⁵⁷ Ibid

⁷⁵⁵⁸ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

⁷⁵⁵⁹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁷⁵⁶⁰ Türkiye İnsan Hakları ve Eşitlik Kurumu, *Participation Was Made in UNESCO RAM Türkiye Review Launch and Workshops* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://www.tihek.gov.tr/participation-was-made-in-unesco-ram-turkiye-review-launch-and-workshops>

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academia, and civil society to contribute to the RAM report. The initiative aims to translate UNESCO's AI Ethics Recommendation into Türkiye's national institutional and regulatory frameworks while fostering a national consensus on a shared vision for AI.

Evaluation

Türkiye is an emerging market for AI and a regional leader in AI. Türkiye adopted a National AI Strategy with a clear human-centered approach and has worked to operationalize the strategy with an action plan for 2024–2025 and sectoral plans. In the absence of any AI legislation and despite the lack of provisions in the Law on the Protection of Personal Data regarding algorithmic transparency, the Turkish Data Protection Authority has issued Recommendations on the Protection of Personal Data in the Field of Artificial Intelligence, including a note on the use of chatbots.

Türkiye's government adopted an AI Ethics Decision mandating public sector compliance with several principles of ethical behavior, emphasizing human-centered design and rights. Türkiye's EU accession plans and Medium-Term Program indicate an intention to explicitly align Turkish legislation on data privacy and AI with the GDPR and EU AI Act. Additionally, the accession plans anticipate the signing of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence.

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Uganda

In 2025, Uganda progressed on effort to define a national AI policy framework by presenting the AI Landscape Assessment. Preparations for the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) begun in 2025 will continue this effort. The country also signed the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence, stressing sovereignty, inclusivity, and diversity in AI design and deployment.

National AI Strategy

Uganda's Ministry of Information, Communications Technology & National Guidance announced that a formal decision on a national AI governance approach is expected by the end of 2025.⁷⁵⁶¹ The ministry noted inclusive consultations “to develop an AI strategy tailored to the country's needs” aligned with Uganda's digital transformation goals. Ethical governance, protecting data privacy, and continuing digital skilling efforts are central to the AI strategy, which will align with the digital transformation roadmap. The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance included the development of an AI Framework among the top outputs for the 2025/26 fiscal year.⁷⁵⁶² The National AI Landscape Assessment⁷⁵⁶³ published in 2025 marks progress toward this goal and alignment with the Digital Transformation Roadmap, 2023–2027⁷⁵⁶⁴ and the National Development Plan. The assessment evaluated the use and potential of AI across public and private organizations as the basis for a plan to “harness AI's economic and social benefits in Uganda while mitigating its potential adverse effects.” Participants in the survey supported efforts to develop national AI policy: 50% reported a positive impact for policy and only 18.2% suggested that a lack of regulations allowed for greater innovation.⁷⁵⁶⁵

Plans by the Ministry of ICT follow efforts begun in 2024 by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) AI task force to develop a concept note for AI governance in the communications sector. The AI task force comprises regulatory

⁷⁵⁶¹ Fiona Luboga, *Shaping Uganda's AI Future*, News, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/shaping-ugandas-ai-future>

⁷⁵⁶² Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Ministerial Policy Statement FY 2025/26*, p. 5 (Mar. 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/ministerial-policy-statement-mps-20252026.pdf>

⁷⁵⁶³ Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Uganda National AI Landscape Assessment* (2025), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/uganda-national-ai-landscape-assessment.pdf>

⁷⁵⁶⁴ Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Digital Transformation Roadmap 2023/24–2027/28*, <https://ict.go.ug/programs/digital-transformation>

⁷⁵⁶⁵ *Ibid*, p. 13

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and academic experts continued efforts in 2025 and initiated a program to increase connectivity in schools.⁷⁵⁶⁶ Local authorities continue to call for a law.⁷⁵⁶⁷

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance developed the Digital Uganda Vision⁷⁵⁶⁸ as a policy and strategy framework aligned with Uganda's National Vision 2040 to transform the country to a competitive upper-middle-income country.⁷⁵⁶⁹ The Digital Uganda Vision aspires to “digitalization that inspires innovation and productivity of people, organizations, businesses and government by 2040. The national strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)⁷⁵⁷⁰ developed by an expert task force⁷⁵⁷¹ also informed and aligned with these visions.

The National Development Plan (NDP III) sets the aspirations articulated in Uganda Vision 2040.⁷⁵⁷² Within the theme of sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth and sustainable wealth creation, the goals of the NDP III center on increasing household incomes and improving the quality of life of Ugandans. The NDP III plan includes a Digital Transformation Program aiming to realize 18 projects to increase ICT penetration and use of ICT services for social and economic development, ICT incubation and increasing e-government services.

The focus of the Digital Transformation Program for Artificial Intelligence is on capacity-building but not on policy or regulatory framework, or strategic intent in the field of AI. Notable in the NDPIII, however, is the commitment to a Human-Rights Based Approach (HRBA) for sustainable economic development, expressed as follows: “Ensure inclusive sustainable development [...] with particular attention to human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination, empowerment and participation and attention to vulnerable groups. [...] All sectors, ministries, departments, agencies, and local governments are expected to adopt HRBA in their respective policies, programs, legislation, and plans.”⁷⁵⁷³

⁷⁵⁶⁶ Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), @UCC_Official, X account (May 8, 2025), https://x.com/UCC_Official/status/1920471508532535695

⁷⁵⁶⁷ Priscilla Maloba, Monitor, *Tayebwa Renews Call for Law on Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 14, 2024), <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/tayebwa-renews-call-for-law-on-artificial-intelligence-4823444>

⁷⁵⁶⁸ Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Digital Uganda Vision*, <https://ict.go.ug/programs/digital-uganda>; Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Vision for a Digital Uganda 2040* (Sept. 2022), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/digital-vision-uganda-2040.pdf>

⁷⁵⁶⁹ National Planning Authority, *Uganda Vision 2040*, <https://npa.go.ug/uganda-vision-2040/>

⁷⁵⁷⁰ Ministry of ICT, *Uganda's National 4IR Strategy* (Oct 2020), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/Executive-Summary-Ugandas-National-4IR-Strategy.pdf>

⁷⁵⁷¹ OECD.AI, *Expert National Task Force on Fourth Industrial Revolution* (2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/expert-national-task-force-on-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-2910>

⁷⁵⁷² National Planning Authority, *National Development Plan III 2020/21–2024/25* (Jul. 2020), https://www.npa.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/NDPIII-Finale_Compressed.pdf

⁷⁵⁷³ *Ibid*, p. 72

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African AI Policy

At the regional level, Uganda has been actively participating in several relevant policy initiatives. As a member of the African Union (AU), Uganda is committed to take specific measures to formulate and implement human-centered policies, in alignment with the goals of the AU digital transformation strategy,⁷⁵⁷⁴ the AU Continental Data Policy Framework,⁷⁵⁷⁵ and the AU Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy.⁷⁵⁷⁶ Ugandan representatives from government, academia and private sectors form part of the committees and AI working groups that hold discussions around AI and ICT for social-economic development in Smart Africa and the African Union.. The Smart Africa Alliance brings together African Heads of State and Government committed to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development through information and ICTs and affordable broadband access.⁷⁵⁷⁷ Uganda actively participated in the drafting of the 2014 Smart Africa AI for Africa Blueprint strategy report.⁷⁵⁷⁸ Uganda also contributes to the African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET),⁷⁵⁷⁹ which advises the AU on harnessing emerging technology innovations for Africa's social-economic transformation.

Uganda recommitted to the AU Continental AI Strategy and protecting African values and sovereignty through AI development as a signatory to the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence⁷⁵⁸⁰ as part of the Global AI Summit on Africa. The Declaration provides for the establishment of the Africa AI Council aligned to existing collaboration efforts through the African Union, Smart Africa Steering Committee, and International Telecommunications Union.

⁷⁵⁷⁴ African Union, *The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030)*, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>

⁷⁵⁷⁵ African Union, *40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council* (Feb. 2-3, 2022), https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/41584-EX_CL_Dec_1143-1167_XL_E.pdf

⁷⁵⁷⁶ African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://unctad.org/publication/science-technology-and-innovation-policy-review-uganda>

⁷⁵⁷⁷ Smart Africa, *Who We Are: Smart Africa* (Jan. 31, 2014), <https://smartafrica.org/who-we-are/>

⁷⁵⁷⁸ Sedola, Pescino, and Greene, *First Edition Blueprint: Artificial Intelligence for Africa* (2021), https://smartafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/70029-eng_ai-for-africa-blueprint-min.pdf

⁷⁵⁷⁹ African Union Development Agency, *African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET)* (Dec. 11, 2020), <https://www.nepad.org/microsite/african-union-high-level-panel-emerging-technologies-aped>

⁷⁵⁸⁰ Global AI Summit on Africa, *Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 4, 2025), <https://c4ir.rw/docs/Africa-Declaration-on-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

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Public Participation

The Republic of Uganda set a Guide to Policy Development & Management for the country in 2013⁷⁵⁸¹ to address the lack of a formalized process for policy management. The government set forth a commitment to public consultations to promote democratization and empowerment. Modes of public consultation range from information consultations to one-time meetings with stakeholders to discussion papers and draft legislation. Recommendations included reasonable periods for consultation and participation in the early stages of policy formulation.

As evidence of these efforts, the government of Uganda in collaboration with UN Global Pulse organized the Expert National Task Force on Fourth Industrial Revolution, under the leadership of the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance.⁷⁵⁸² The process involved 23 experts from academia, engineering, science, and policy-makers.⁷⁵⁸³ The draft strategy validated in October 2020⁷⁵⁸⁴ guides the Ugandan government in harnessing emerging technologies.

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance includes national, public consultations on drafts as steps in the plan for developing a national AI governance framework.⁷⁵⁸⁵ The methodology for the National AI Landscape Assessment⁷⁵⁸⁶ included stakeholder consultation through interviews, guided questionnaires, and a webinar with private and public organizations and actors.

Data Protection

The Data Protection and Privacy Act (DPPA)⁷⁵⁸⁷ was enacted in 2019 and ancillary regulations known as the Data Protection and Privacy Regulations were

⁷⁵⁸¹ Republic of Uganda, *Revised Guide to Policy Development Management 2013* (Sept. 2016), <http://regulatoryreform.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Uganda-Revised-Guide-to-Policy-Development-Mgt-2013.pdf>

⁷⁵⁸² UN Global Pulse, *Breakfast Meeting on Governance of Data and AI for the Expert Task Force on Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies* (Dec. 17, 2019), <https://www.unglobalpulse.org/un-global-pulse-uganda/>

⁷⁵⁸³ OECD, *Expert National Task Force on Fourth Industrial Revolution* (2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/expert-national-task-force-on-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-2910>

⁷⁵⁸⁴ Ministry of ICT, *Uganda's National 4IR Strategy* (Oct. 2020), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/Executive-Summary-Ugandas-National-4IR-Strategy.pdf>

⁷⁵⁸⁵ Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Ministerial Policy Statement FY 2025/26*, pp. 18, 20 (Mar. 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/ministerial-policy-statement-mps-20252026.pdf>

⁷⁵⁸⁶ Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Uganda National AI Landscape Assessment*, p. 10 (2025), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/uganda-national-ai-landscape-assessment.pdf>

⁷⁵⁸⁷ NITA Uganda, *Data Protection and Privacy Act 2019* (May 3, 2019), <https://ulii.org/en/akn/ug/act/2019/9/eng@2019-05-03>

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published in 2021.⁷⁵⁸⁸ The DPPA was modeled on the European Union GDPR and seeks to “protect the privacy of individual and personal data by regulating the collection and processing of personal information; to provide for the rights of the persons whose data is collected (data subjects) and the obligations of data collectors, data processors and data controllers; and to regulate the use or disclosure of personal information; and for related matters.”

The DPPA provides that all personal data must be handled in accordance with the principles of accountability, lawfulness, minimization, retention, quality, transparency, and security.⁷⁵⁸⁹ The Law establishes the Personal Data Protection Office under the National Information Technology Authority, Uganda (NITA-U) to oversee the implementation of and be responsible for the enforcement of the Act.⁷⁵⁹⁰

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance drafted a National Data Strategy, which is currently in the pre-validation stage.⁷⁵⁹¹ At Data Protection Day 2024, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament launched the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan of the Personal Data Protection Office and the braille version of the Data Protection and Privacy Act.⁷⁵⁹² The Deputy Speaker’s speech emphasized the importance of updating existing data protection laws to adapt to developments in artificial intelligence and technology.

The Data Protection and Privacy Regulations of May 2021 give effect to Article 27 of the Constitution on the right to privacy.⁷⁵⁹³ Some data protection safeguards are also contained in other laws including the Electronic Transactions Act, 2011, Computer Misuse Act, 2011, Electronic Signatures Act, 2011, National Information Technology Authority, Uganda Act (NITA-U Act), and the Access to Information Act, 2005.

Uganda is not a party to the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention).⁷⁵⁹⁴ The Convention addresses the

⁷⁵⁸⁸ Personal Data Protection Office, *Data Protection and Privacy Regulations 2021* (Mar. 12, 2021), https://pdpo.go.ug/media/2022/03/Data_Protection_and_Privacy_Regulations-2021.pdf

⁷⁵⁸⁹ Ibid, p. 26

⁷⁵⁹⁰ Personal Data Protection Office, *About Us*, <https://www.pdpo.go.ug/about-us>

⁷⁵⁹¹ Brandy Azeirwe, *Paving the Way for a Data-Driven Future through a National Data Strategy* (Jun. 19, 2024), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/paving-the-way-for-a-data-driven-future-through-a-national-data-strategy>

⁷⁵⁹² Thomas Tayebwa, X Platform, @Thomas_Tayebwa (Feb 2, 2024), https://x.com/Thomas_Tayebwa/status/1753312588237275568

⁷⁵⁹³ Personal Data Protection Office, *Data Protection and Privacy Regulations 2021* (Mar. 12, 2021), https://pdpo.go.ug/media/2022/03/Data_Protection_and_Privacy_Regulations-2021.pdf

⁷⁵⁹⁴ African Union, *African Union Convention on Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention)* (Jun. 27, 2014), <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>; African Union, *List of Countries which Have Signed, Ratified/Acceded to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* (Jul. 8. 2024), <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl->

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development of information and communication technologies while upholding fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Personal Data Protection Officer is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2024.⁷⁵⁹⁵ The Personal Data Protection Office has not endorsed the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection,⁷⁵⁹⁶ the 2020 GPA Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of AI,⁷⁵⁹⁷ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁵⁹⁸ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁷⁵⁹⁹

Algorithmic Transparency

The Data Protection and Privacy Act⁷⁶⁰⁰ covers automated decision-making but does not establish a right to algorithmic transparency. In 2024, the Personal Data Protection Office began consultations on accountability mechanisms for AI-driven decisions, referencing the 2023 Global Privacy Assembly Resolution on Generative AI.⁷⁶⁰¹

AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION.pdf

⁷⁵⁹⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2023),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷⁵⁹⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁵⁹⁷ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁷⁵⁹⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁷⁵⁹⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁶⁰⁰ NITA Uganda, *Data Protection and Privacy Act 2019*, Section 27 (May 3, 2019), <https://ulii.org/en/akn/ug/act/2019/9/eng@2019-05-03>

⁷⁶⁰¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

Biometric Identification

Uganda's National Identification (ID) program was launched in 2014 and further expanded after the passage of the Registration of Persons Act in 2015, making purchasing a SIM card mandatory and making registration essentially a pre-requisite for getting online.⁷⁶⁰² Registration for the National ID is also required for a range of other vital services, including accessing public education or healthcare services; obtaining a passport; opening a bank account; voting and public service verification, which has led to the weeding out of many "ghost" workers; citizen verification for passport issuance; and tax identification.⁷⁶⁰³

Under the National ID system citizens' biometric data is captured and validated for adults and children. Infants are issued a National Identification Number (NIN) or an ID card upon registration of their birth. The National ID system managed by the National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA) is moving towards the development of its digital ID ecosystem that was to be put in place by 2024, including a new biometrics registration drive.⁷⁶⁰⁴ The process will expand the system to forms of biometrics other than fingerprints, including iris and face biometrics. However, the system has also been plagued by technical challenges since its inception, including allegations of a major data breach in June 2017. Though the government denied these reports, it admitted that citizens' biometric data had been shared with telecommunications companies as part of the process of verifying SIM cards.⁷⁶⁰⁵

A coalition of civil society organizations filed a lawsuit in the High Court of Kampala for digital exclusion in 2022.⁷⁶⁰⁶ The case Initiative for Social and Economic Rights [ISER], the Health Equity and Policy Initiative [HEAPI], & Unwanted Witness v. Attorney General and National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) alleges that the digital ID system, also known as Ndaga Muntu,

⁷⁶⁰² Michael Karanicolas, *Serious Concerns Around Uganda's National Biometric ID Program*, Yale Law School Initiative on Intermediaries and Information, Information Society Project (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://law.yale.edu/isp/initiatives/wikimedia-initiative-intermediaries-and-information/wiii-blog/serious-concerns-around-ugandas-national-biometric-id-program>

⁷⁶⁰³ Ibid

⁷⁶⁰⁴ Ayang Macdonald, *Uganda's Digital ID Achievements, Challenges, and Prospects: Biometrics Registration Drive Planned* (Jan. 31, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202201/ugandas-digital-id-achievements-challenges-and-prospects>

⁷⁶⁰⁵ Michael Karanicolas, *Serious Concerns Around Uganda's National Biometric ID Program*, Yale Law School Initiative on Intermediaries and Information, Information Society Project (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://law.yale.edu/isp/initiatives/wikimedia-initiative-intermediaries-and-information/wiii-blog/serious-concerns-around-ugandas-national-biometric-id-program>

⁷⁶⁰⁶ Nita Bhalla, Reuters, *FEATURE: Uganda Sued over Digital ID System that Excludes Millions* (May 16, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/article/markets/commodities/feature-uganda-sued-over-digital-id-system-that-excludes-millions-idUSL3N2X32RG/>

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poses an exclusionary barrier that violates women's rights to health care, and the right to social security benefits.⁷⁶⁰⁷ The alleged exclusion has been fatal, especially among the elderly and pregnant women who have been barred from healthcare and welfare services. Research conducted by the plaintiffs estimates that up to 33% of adults in Uganda have yet to receive the biometric ID card launched in 2015, limiting their access to a range of public services from welfare benefits and maternity care to college enrollment, formal employment, and opening bank accounts.⁷⁶⁰⁸

Facial Recognition

The government of Uganda has actively used AI and new technologies for purposes of mass surveillance, policing, and crime prevention. The government rushed the procurement of 24-hour CCTV cameras in crime-prone areas in Kampala and surrounding areas following a wave of murders. These crimes included high-profile Ugandan citizens, Muslim clerics, military and police officers, Cabinet Ministers, among others. The first phase of the plan included the installation of 1,940 cameras in 2018 in the capital city area.⁷⁶⁰⁹ The second phase cost the Ugandan public over USD 104 million, in a procurement deal hastened through Parliament under vague loan terms.⁷⁶¹⁰

The Ugandan Parliament endorsed the deployment of the technology for policing functions without legislating a corresponding legal framework fostering issues of the legality of such actions.⁷⁶¹¹ Human rights concerns emerged over the fact that the system was operated on a centralized database, with the potential of negatively affecting citizens' right to privacy, and freedom of peaceful assembly.

The CCTV project was not well received due to the lack of openness, and transparency in the procurement process and in the management of the system, hindering public trust. Reports of unexplainable leaked footage from CCTV

⁷⁶⁰⁷ Frank Hersey, *Civil Society Coalition Sues Ugandan Government, Alleging Digital ID Exclusion* (Apr. 26, 2022), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202204/civil-society-coalition-sues-ugandan-government-alleging-digital-id-exclusion>

⁷⁶⁰⁸ Nita Bhalla, Reuters, *FEATURE—Uganda Sued over Digital ID System that Excludes Millions* (May 16, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/article/markets/commodities/feature-uganda-sued-over-digital-id-system-that-excludes-millions-idUSL3N2X32RG/>

⁷⁶⁰⁹ The Independent, *More than 1900 CCTV Cameras Installed in Kampala* (Apr. 15, 2019), <https://www.independent.co.ug/more-than-1900-cctv-cameras-installed-in-kampala>

⁷⁶¹⁰ Privacy International, *Huawei Infiltration in Uganda* (Jun. 25, 2020), <https://privacyinternational.org/case-study/3969/huawei-infiltration-uganda>

⁷⁶¹¹ Unwanted Witness, *Parliament Endorses Unregulated Surveillance amidst Risks to Human Rights* (Jan. 2022), <https://www.unwantedwitness.org/download/Surveillance-State-Parliament-Endorses-Unregulated-Surveillance.pdf>

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cameras⁷⁶¹² raised further questions on the ethical standards and requirements to manage the retrieval, sharing and elimination of public CCTV footage.⁷⁶¹³ Additionally, concerns exist about how the infrastructural deficiencies (poor or no street lighting, limited connectivity, low standards of maintenance) have undermined the benefits of the use of CCTV in several instances of application of the system. Despite these reservations, the Ugandan police proceeded with the plans to integrate their CCTV camera and forensic system with other key agencies' data such as Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), NITA-U, NIRA, and the immigration office. In the second phase of this plan, started in 2020, 20 facial recognition cameras were installed and connected to 107 monitoring centers at different police stations within 2,319 mapped countryside municipalities and major towns.⁷⁶¹⁴

Key concerns around transparency and accountability of both resources and personal data remain unanswered, in particular the use of AI facial recognition technologies to indiscriminately deal with persons of interest, including dissidents.⁷⁶¹⁵ In a report regarding concerns in the use of AI in Africa, AfriPoli found the use of facial recognition systems in the 2020 Ugandan elections, to monitor, track and arrest 836 supporters of the opposition.⁷⁶¹⁶ The participation of Huawei AI in 16 African countries, including Uganda has led to the use of mass surveillance data to local law enforcement.⁷⁶¹⁷

Tracking

In 2020, the government adopted a measure that linked the RECS system to the efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁶¹⁸ A task force that included the

⁷⁶¹² Kampala Dispatch, *Who Are These People Who Leak Footage from CCTV Cameras in Kampala* (Apr. 25, 2019), <https://twitter.com/dispatchug/status/1121455937724788736>

⁷⁶¹³ Daniel Mwesigwa, *Cameras, Mobiles, Radios – Action!: Old Surveillance Tools in New Robes in Uganda*, Global Information Society Watch (2019), <https://giswatch.org/node/6194>

⁷⁶¹⁴ Privacy International, *Huawei Infiltration in Uganda* (Jun. 25, 2020), <https://privacyinternational.org/case-study/3969/huawei-infiltration-uganda>

⁷⁶¹⁵ Global Information Society Watch, *Artificial intelligence: Human Rights, Social Justice and Development*, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) (2019), https://giswatch.org/sites/default/files/gisw2019_web_uganda.pdf

⁷⁶¹⁶ Rachel Adams, *AI in Africa: Key Concerns and Policy Considerations for the Future of the Continent*, Africa Policy Institute (AfriPoli) (May 30, 2022), <https://afripoli.org/ai-in-africa-key-concerns-and-policy-considerations-for-the-future-of-the-continent>

⁷⁶¹⁷ Khwezi Nkwanyana, *China's AI Deployment in Africa Poses Risks to Security and Sovereignty*, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (May 5, 2021), <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-ai-deployment-in-africa-poses-risks-to-security-and-sovereignty/>

⁷⁶¹⁸ The Independent, *How URA Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) Helped Intercept Truck Driver Who Tested Positive for COVID-19* (Apr. 16, 2020), <https://www.independent.co.ug/how-ura-electronic-cargo-tracking-system-rects-helped-intercept-truck-driver-who-tested-positive-for-covid-19/>

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Uganda Revenue Administration Commissioner General and the Uganda Trade Minister, set up to discuss how the RECS could trace the movement of trucks (and their drivers) in real-time across trade routes. The plans came about after a COVID-positive truck driver was intercepted at the border upon mandatory testing, a condition to clear Customs.

The Ugandan government later announced a plan to install GPS trackers on every vehicle in the country.⁷⁶¹⁹ The project would require the registration of all number plates for every public and private vehicle, water vessel, and motorcycles (commonly known as Boda Bodas.). This plan posed an evident risk to freedom of mobility as the government would be able to track the whereabouts of a person at all times.

In the original plan, the Ugandan government signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a 10-year agreement with the Russian firm Joint-stock Company Global Security, under a project dubbed Intelligent Transport Monitoring System (ITMS).⁷⁶²⁰ While the government presented these plans as an effort to curb the rampant transport kidnappings and robberies to aid during investigations, legal groups sued the government over these plans, and pleaded to the High Court to halt and restrain the implementation of the compulsory digital surveillance, due to privacy concerns.⁷⁶²¹ The lawsuit includes a request for explanations to the government regarding the adjudication of the contract to a foreign entity without due diligence. The government planned to deploy the systems in March 2023.

Environmental Impact of AI

Uganda does not have formal policies addressing the environmental impact of AI. However, the country employs AI-enabled air quality monitors in the capital city to reduce pollution-related illnesses.⁷⁶²²

⁷⁶¹⁹ Elias Biryabarema, *Ugandan Opposition, Activists Denounce Digital Car Tracker Plan*, Reuters (Jul. 29, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ugandan-opposition-activists-denounce-digital-car-tracker-plan-2021-07-29/>

⁷⁶²⁰ Roger Bambino, *How the Vehicle Number Plates Tracking Technology Will Work in Uganda and Looming Privacy Concerns* (Jul. 26, 2021), <https://techjaja.com/of-how-the-vehicle-number-plates-tracking-technology-will-work-in-uganda-and-looming-privacy-concerns/>

⁷⁶²¹ Nebert Rugadya, *Court Petitioned Over Delays to Decide Case on Installation of Digital Trackers in Vehicles*, Uganda Radio Network (Jan. 6, 2023), <https://ugandaradionetwork.net/story/court-petitioned-over-delays-to-decide-case-on-installation-of-digital-trackers-in-vehicles>

⁷⁶²² Reuters, *International AI Leaders to Gather in Kampala for GAIME Conference 2025: Creating Measurable Impact Frameworks Linking Innovation, Ethics, and Sustainable Development*, Press Release (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/press-releases/international-ai-leaders-gather-kampala-gaime-conference-2025-2025-10-29>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The governance and control of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), or drones, have been a concern of the Uganda authorities. In a report of 2019, the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority and Customs officials started awareness sessions about the threats that non-registered drones pose to national security.⁷⁶²³ Uganda developed laws to regulate drones under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Regulations 2020, but is lacking a unified legal framework.⁷⁶²⁴ The Uganda Communications Commission issued guidelines for the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (RPAS)/drones in Uganda in 2020.⁷⁶²⁵ In January 2025, the director general of the Civil Aviation Authority called on drone operators to follow the set guidelines and get clearance for operations in Uganda's airspace and adhere to all the certification procedures to legally operationalize drone activities in the country.⁷⁶²⁶

Uganda is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons,⁷⁶²⁷ a member of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement in the CCW,⁷⁶²⁸ and a member of the African Group in the UN General Assembly.⁷⁶²⁹ The African Group issued a joint statement calling for an international discussion on the "ethical, legal, moral and technical questions" raised by the use of autonomous weapons systems and urging concrete policy recommendations, including prohibitions and regulations in 2023.⁷⁶³⁰ The Non-Aligned Movement has called for

⁷⁶²³ Monitor, *251 Drones Held at Entebbe* (Jul. 5, 2019),

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/251-drones-held-at-entebbe-1835474>

⁷⁶²⁴ Uganda Gazette Statutory, *Instruments 2020 No. 23. The Civil Aviation Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Regulations 2020* (Feb. 17, 2020), <https://caa.go.ug/unmanned-aircraft-systems-drones/>

⁷⁶²⁵ Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, *Regulatory Framework and Procedures for Drone Operations* (Jul. 2024), https://caa.go.ug/wpfd_file/regulatory-framework-and-procedures-for-drone-operations/

⁷⁶²⁶ Uganda Update News, *Uganda Civil Aviation Authority Calls upon Drones Operators to Follow the Set Guidelines and Get Clearance for Operations in Uganda's Airspace* (Jan. 26, 2025), <https://ugandaupdatenews.com/uganda-civil-aviation-authority-calls-upon-drones-operators-to-follow-the-set-guidelines-and-get-clearance-for-operations-in-ugandas-airspace/>

⁷⁶²⁷ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁶²⁸ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Regional Groups* (Dec. 2022), <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Regional-Groups-Dec-2022.pdf>

⁷⁶²⁹ Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, *The African Group* (2022), <https://www.africanunion-un.org/africangroup>

⁷⁶³⁰ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Statement by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva on Behalf of the African Group Member States That Are High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (Nov. 15–17, 2023), <https://docs->

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a legally binding instrument based on a two-tier approach, stressing: “There is an urgent need to pursue a legally binding instrument under the Convention that will contain prohibitions and regulations for addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies in the area of LAWS.”⁷⁶³¹

AI Literacy

Digital skills and capacity building for ethical and responsible digital practices, including with artificial intelligence,⁷⁶³² are pillars in Uganda’s digital transformation strategy and explicit in communication about the AI strategy.⁷⁶³³ AI literacy programs within this broader digital transformation agenda emphasize data protection, public participation, and inclusive governance.⁷⁶³⁴ These measures aim to prepare officials to create effective AI oversight frameworks and enable informed public input into AI policy development.⁷⁶³⁵ The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance is leading efforts to train policymakers and government officials on how AI affects society.

Uganda is also working with universities and training centers to expand AI knowledge,⁷⁶³⁶ ensuring policy makers receive timely knowledge of AI’s ethical, privacy and governance challenges.⁷⁶³⁷ In September 2025, Uganda began artificial intelligence initiatives within the Digital Learning Agenda Strategy. The National Teacher Institute is also preparing training programs for educators focused on AI

[library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons -
Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_\(2023\)/Nigeria - African Group - 2023 MHCP.pdf](https://library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Meeting_of_High_Contracting_Parties_(2023)/Nigeria_-_African_Group_-_2023_MHCP.pdf)

⁷⁶³¹ Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter, *Working Paper by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Other States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)*, p. 3 (Mar. 7–11, Jul. 25–29, 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WP-NAM.pdf>

⁷⁶³² Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, *Uganda National AI Landscape Assessment* (2025), <https://ict.go.ug/site/documents/uganda-national-ai-landscape-assessment.pdf>

⁷⁶³³ Fiona Luboga, *Shaping Uganda’s AI Future*, News, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/shaping-ugandas-ai-future>

⁷⁶³⁴ iAfrica, *Uganda Begins Drafting National AI Policy to Balance Innovation and Data Privacy* (Jul. 4, 2025), <https://iafrica.com/uganda-begins-drafting-national-ai-policy-to-balance-innovation-and-data-privacy/>

⁷⁶³⁵ Nemko Digital, *Uganda AI Regulation: Digital Policy and Legal Framework*, <https://digital.nemko.com/regulations/uganda-ai-regulation>

⁷⁶³⁶ Fiona Luboga, *Shaping Uganda’s AI Future*, *Artificial Intelligence*, News, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/shaping-ugandas-ai-future>

⁷⁶³⁷ Fiona Luboga, *Uganda Champions Ethical AI at UNESCO Global Forum in Bangkok*, *Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 26, 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/uganda-champions-ethical-ai-at-unesco-global-forum-in-bangkok>

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applications and data protection.⁷⁶³⁸ These actions highlight Uganda’s commitment to embedding ethical and inclusive AI governance in its education sector, while also addressing teacher capacity and data privacy concerns.

Human Rights

Freedom House ranks Uganda as “Not Free” in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report, with a score of 34/100.⁷⁶³⁹ Freedom House rates Uganda low on political and civil rights because of the ruling party’s use of “patronage, intimidation, and politicized prosecutions of opposition leaders” to maintain power. The report also notes that “civil society and media sectors face legal and extralegal harassment and state violence.”

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance report in 2023 scores Uganda at 49.1/100 for overall governance and 45.3/100 in Participation Rights & Inclusion, placing the country in position 26 out of 54 African countries, with a decreasing change trend of -1.8 since 2014.⁷⁶⁴⁰

Uganda is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has ratified various covenants including the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICSECR).⁷⁶⁴¹ Uganda ratified the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights in 1986.⁷⁶⁴² Chapter four (4) of the Constitution of Uganda of 1995 provides for the protection of fundamental civic, economic, social, and political rights and freedoms. Article 20 (1) of the Constitution stipulates that the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals are inherent and not granted by the State.

In line with the Constitution, the country has a Uganda Human Rights Commission that monitors human rights violations.⁷⁶⁴³ There is a Human Rights

⁷⁶³⁸ UNESCO, *Digital Learning for Africa: Ministers, Practitioners and Pathways Forward* (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/digital-learning-africa-ministers-practitioners-and-pathways-forward>

⁷⁶³⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Uganda* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uganda/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁶⁴⁰ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, *Uganda, Overall Governance* (2026), <https://iiaonline.org/data.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=UG&view=overview&subview=absoluteTrends>

⁷⁶⁴¹ International Justice Resource Center, *Country Factsheet Series: Uganda* (Sept. 15, 2017), <https://ijrcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Uganda.pdf>

⁷⁶⁴² African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, *Concluding Observations and Recommendations, Uganda: Periodic Reports, 2006–2008* (May 29, 2009), <https://achpr.au.int/en/state-reports/concluding-observations-and-recommendations-uganda-3rd-periodic-report-2006>

⁷⁶⁴³ Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), *UHRC Background*, <https://uhrc.ug/about/uhrc-background/>

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Committee in Parliament⁷⁶⁴⁴ scrutinizing the work of the government, making recommendations aimed to improve human rights protection, and overseeing the National Action Plan on Human Rights. The Inter-Parliamentary Union reported on the lack of Parliamentary action in response to reported human rights abuses, including torture and abduction, of parliamentarians and candidates for Parliament in cases active since 2023.⁷⁶⁴⁵

Uganda is a multiparty democracy, yet the same party (National Resistance Movement) and President have ruled since 1986 with fast-rising opposition to the incumbency.⁷⁶⁴⁶ In the 2021 elections, media reports indicated that the political campaign was marred by killings, arrests, beatings, and disappearances by security forces as well as harassment and intimidation of journalists.⁷⁶⁴⁷

The Human Rights Foundation's universal periodic review (UPR) report of Uganda⁷⁶⁴⁸ found actions by the Uganda government such as ordering internet blackouts on the evening of elections in 2018. A five-day internet shutdown and blockage of social media, compounded by a government decision to replace a 200 shilling (\$0.05) social media tax with a 12 percent tax on internet data. The government adopted further regulations to restrict freedom of expression by levying fees on the use of online communication. A new shutdown of social media services occurred close to the date of the 2021 elections. The UPR report exhorts the Ugandan government to ensure the protection of all individuals and cooperate with international human rights organizations and generate an internal dialogue toward peace.

Amnesty International highlighted that freedom of expression has become increasingly constrained and civic space significantly narrowed as Human Rights defenders (HRDs) and organizations working on electoral accountability were particularly targeted for their work.⁷⁶⁴⁹

⁷⁶⁴⁴ Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, *Standing Committees*

<https://ftp.parliament.go.ug/standing-committees>

⁷⁶⁴⁵ Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Uganda: Decision Adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at Its 179th Session* (Feb. 2–18, 2026),

https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/uganda_-_e_1.pdf

⁷⁶⁴⁶ Daniel Mwesigwa, *Cameras, Mobiles, Radios – Action!: Old Surveillance Tools in New Robes in Uganda*, Global Information Society Watch (2019), <https://giswatch.org/node/6194>

⁷⁶⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Uganda*, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/uganda>

⁷⁶⁴⁸ Human Rights Foundation, *Universal Periodic Review Submission for Uganda* (Jul. 14, 2021), https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-01/h.r.f_upr40_uga_e_main.pdf

⁷⁶⁴⁹ Amnesty International, *Uganda: Guarantee Human Rights*, Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 40TH Session of the UPR Working Group (Jan.–Feb. 2022) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AFR5945392021ENGLISH.pdf>

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OECD / G20 AI Principles

Uganda is not a member of the OECD and is not a signatory to OECD AI Principles.⁷⁶⁵⁰ The OECD AI Observatory reports that the 4IR strategy is aligned with two OECD AI principles: (1) Fostering a digital ecosystem for AI and (2) Providing and enabling policy environments for AI. However, no reports are available for implementation.⁷⁶⁵¹ Uganda is not a member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).⁷⁶⁵²

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Uganda has not endorsed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and Rule of Law, the first legally binding international treaty on AI and human rights.⁷⁶⁵³

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Uganda is a member of UNESCO since 1962⁷⁶⁵⁴ and is among the member states that adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁷⁶⁵⁵

According to the UNESCO AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa, Uganda is one of the countries in Africa that established AI as a priority in their national development plans. Strategies and policies are underway, but legislation and ethical guidelines as well as the operation of Centers of Excellence are yet to be implemented. Uganda reported work in progress in the establishment of a legal framework and plans for education programs to introduce government officials to AI skills. Uganda has requested support from UNESCO to guide the development of AI at the national level.⁷⁶⁵⁶

⁷⁶⁵⁰ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449#adherents>

⁷⁶⁵¹ OECD, *Expert National Task Force on Fourth Industrial Revolution* (2019), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/national/uganda>

⁷⁶⁵² OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁷⁶⁵³ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 24, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁷⁶⁵⁴ Uganda National Commission for UNESCO, *About Us* (2026), <https://unesco-uganda.ug/about/>

⁷⁶⁵⁵ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380455>

⁷⁶⁵⁶ UNESCO, *Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375322>

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Uganda is preparing for the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM),⁷⁶⁵⁷ a tool to support implementation of the UNESCO AI ethics Recommendation. UNESCO announced Uganda's selection at the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.⁷⁶⁵⁸ The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance noted the RAM report will build on the AI Landscape Assessment and the Research and Development department's progress in "scoping national AI use cases, identifying policy and institutional gaps, and engaging with partners."

Evaluation

Uganda's engagement at regional and international level as well as Uganda's 4IR strategy, 2019 Data Protection and Privacy Act, Vision 2040, and NDP III indicate the country's intent to spearhead digital transformation. The AI Landscape Assessment and Ministry of ICT and National Guidance's plan mark progress toward ensuring the human-centered approach at the core of the earlier strategies extends to AI. Further strengthening the Data Protection and Privacy Act to extend data subjects' right to algorithmic transparency and providing greater independence of the data protection authority would be meaningful next steps. Tackling the widespread use of AI for surveillance purposes would be another. Should Uganda take its commitment to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI seriously, the Recommendation could provide a template for regulating the deployment of AI in a way that respects human rights.

⁷⁶⁵⁷ UNESCO Global Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub#country-profiles>

⁷⁶⁵⁸ Fiona Luboga, *Uganda Champions Ethical AI at UNESCO Global Forum in Bangkok*, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (Jun. 26, 2025), <https://ict.go.ug/media/news/uganda-champions-ethical-ai-at-unesco-global-forum-in-bangkok>

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Ukraine

In 2025, Ukraine updated the Action Plan for AI development. Ukraine signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.

National AI Strategy

Ukraine's government approach to AI is set out in two Orders issued by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The Cabinet published its first Order⁷⁶⁵⁹ approving the "Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine." The order recognized that deployment of AI systems must include compliance with fundamental principles, such as those enshrined in personal data protection legislation and respect the constitutional rights to privacy and private and family life. The second order approved the Action Plan for implementing the Concept between 2021–2024.⁷⁶⁶⁰

The Action Plan elaborates on AI priorities for Ukraine, highlighting the use of AI in support of defense and public welfare while emphasizing responsible and trustworthy AI use.⁷⁶⁶¹ The Cabinet of Ministers manages and oversees Plan implementation. An Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence—an independent expert body established under the Ministry of Digital Transformation—assists in strategic planning of the activities, advises on the thematic issues, and facilitates cooperation between key stakeholders.⁷⁶⁶² The 2025–2026 Action Plan continues this implementation, assigning concrete tasks and deadlines to each Ministry. Ministries must submit results to the Ministry of Digital Transformation each year and agencies must act within existing budgets.⁷⁶⁶³

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has also published its proposed, much more detailed National Strategy for the Development of Artificial

⁷⁶⁵⁹ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers, *On the Approval of the Concept of the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine* (Dec. 2, 2020), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-2020-p>

⁷⁶⁶⁰ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers, *On the Approval of the Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the Concept of the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine for 2021–2024* (May 12, 2021), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/438-2021-%D1%80#n10>

⁷⁶⁶¹ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers, *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Concept of Artificial Intelligence Development in Ukraine* (Jul. 2023), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/438-2021-%D1%80#n10>

⁷⁶⁶² Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine* (Nov. 3, 2023), <https://ai.org.ua/>

⁷⁶⁶³ Cabinet of Ministers, *On Approval of the Plan of Measures for Implementation of the Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine for 2025–2026* (Order No. 457-r) (May 9, 2025), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/457-2025-%D1%80>

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Intelligence for 2021–2030.⁷⁶⁶⁴ In particular, the strategy notes that as a member of the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Ukraine should focus primarily on the standards of the EU, the Council of Europe, and other pan-European institutions that work on AI-related matters. The strategy also acknowledges the need to ensure alignment with the OECD AI Principles and the principles enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights including human dignity, non-discrimination, and consumer protection. Ukraine’s commitment to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence reflects this focus.⁷⁶⁶⁵

Recent updates from the Ministry of Digital Transformation reaffirm these principles, with Ukraine joining global AI governance efforts through participation in summits such as the AI Seoul Summit.⁷⁶⁶⁶ The government presented a draft National AI Development Strategy, WINWIN 2030, and indicated that consultations would inform the final text.⁷⁶⁶⁷

The Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation presented a Roadmap for the regulation of AI in Ukraine.⁷⁶⁶⁸ The Roadmap proposes a bottom-up approach to AI regulation, which involves a gradual “moving from less to more,” starting from self-regulatory initiatives in phase one and ending up with the legislative acts similar to the EU AI Act in the second phase. A phased approach further detailed in the 2024 White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine emphasizes readiness tools like AI regulatory sandboxes.⁷⁶⁶⁹ In line with phase one, the Ministry of Digital Transformation has published guides for the responsible use of AI across sectors, including for lawyers, civil servants, developers,

⁷⁶⁶⁴ Ministry of Education and Science, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Artificial Intelligence Problems, *National Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine* (Jun. 11, 2021), <https://www.naiu.kiev.ua/images/news/img/2021/06/strategiya-110621.pdf>

⁷⁶⁶⁵ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Safe AI for Millions of Ukrainians: Ukraine Signed the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights* (May 15, 2025), <https://thedigital.gov.ua/news/technologies/bezpechniy-shi-dlya-milyoniv-ukraintsiv-ukraina-pidpisala-ramkovu-konventsuyu-pro-shtuchniy-intelekt-ta-prava-lyudini>

⁷⁶⁶⁶ Dnipropetrovsk Investment Agency, *Ukraine Joins Global Cooperation on Safe AI Development* (Jun. 3, 2024), <https://dia.dp.gov.ua/en/ukraine-joins-global-cooperation-on-safe-ai-development/>

⁷⁶⁶⁷ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *WINWIN 2030: Draft National AI Development Strategy—Consultations* (Jun. 2025), <https://thedigital.gov.ua/news/technologies/mintsifra-formue-strategiyu-z-shi-doluchaytesya-do-opituvannya-i-vplivayte-na-maybutne-shi-v-ukraini>

⁷⁶⁶⁸ Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine, *A Road Map of AI Regulation in Ukraine* (Oct. 7, 2023), <https://ai.org.ua/a-road-map-of-ai-regulation-in-ukraine/>

⁷⁶⁶⁹ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine: Vision of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine* for Consultation (Jun. 2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bcddffcc.pdf>

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and in education.⁷⁶⁷⁰ The National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting also addresses the responsible use of AI in the media with guidelines providing specific frameworks for transparency, ethics, and human oversight.⁷⁶⁷¹ No standalone AI regulator has been designated.

The Ministry of Digital Transformation and Office of the Ombudsman published a report under the under the EU4DigitalUA framework on the impact of AI on human rights and recommends approaches for regulation.⁷⁶⁷² The initiative draws from international principles, laws, and standards, including GDPR and UN guidelines, and provides recommendations for balancing technological progress with the protection of rights and freedoms. The initiative further highlights Ukraine's goals to align with global standards while addressing unique domestic challenges like data protection and ethical AI use. By emphasizing transparency, accountability, and risk management, EU4DigitalUA seeks to ensure safe AI adoption that supports societal progress without compromising individual rights.⁷⁶⁷³

Public Participation

Ukraine has developed AI policies through meetings and consultations of various forms. For example, the Ministry of Digital Transformation's digital government AI site provides a standing channel for public materials and future consultations of the National AI Committee.⁷⁶⁷⁴ Likewise, the Ministry of Digital Transformation ran Digital Literacy Month with Diia.Education in November 2025, expanding AI-focused digital skills for citizens and supporting informed participation in technology policy.⁷⁶⁷⁵ The Law on Access to Public Information allows Ukrainians to submit requests for information, including on AI policies and

⁷⁶⁷⁰ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Documents* (2026), <https://ai.thedigital.gov.ua/documents>

⁷⁶⁷¹ National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine, *Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the News Media* (Mar. 2024), <https://webportal.nrada.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Ukraine-AI-Guidelines-for-Media.pdf>

⁷⁶⁷² Secretariat of the Commissioner for Human Rights, *The Ombudsman's Office Discussed the Prospect of Regulating AI [У Офіці Омбудсмана обговорили перспективи регулювання штучного інтелекту (III)]* (Nov. 28, 2023), https://ombudsman.gov.ua/news_details/u-ofisi-ombudsmiana-vidbulosya-obgovorennya-perspektiv-regulyuvannya-shtuchnogo-intelektu-shi

⁷⁶⁷³ EU4Digital and Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Human Rights in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Challenges and Legal Regulation* (2024), <https://eufordigital.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/EU4DigitalUA-Human-rights-in-the-area-of-AI.pdf>

⁷⁶⁷⁴ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *Regulation*, <https://ai.thedigital.gov.ua/vision>

⁷⁶⁷⁵ Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine [MinDigital], *Diia.Education—National platform for Digital Literacy and Skills* (May 22, 2025), <https://digitalstate.gov.ua/projects/govtech/diia-education>

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state decisions in this area.⁷⁶⁷⁶ Another platform for citizen input consists of electronic petitions on the President's website. These petitions must garner 25,000 supporters within 90 days to be reviewed by the President.⁷⁶⁷⁷

The Institute of Artificial Intelligence Problems of the Ministry of Education and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine sent letters of inquiry to more than 300 different organizations for their views to inform the development and implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence for 2022–2030. These included most ministries in Ukraine, scientific institutions, public and private institutions of higher education, and commercial entities.⁷⁶⁷⁸

The Roadmap for the regulation of AI in Ukraine was developed following a series of meetings with representatives of business, education, science, NGOs, and the parliament, as well as the Expert Committee.⁷⁶⁷⁹ Interested individuals can also engage by applying to join the Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence under the Ministry of Digital Transformation. A three-month public consultation window preceded the release of the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation,⁷⁶⁸⁰ developed through collaboration with development agencies from the US, UK, Spain, and the EU.

The Ministry of Strategy and Industry of Ukraine also published a public consultation on the draft Act regarding the State targeted scientific and technical program for the use of AI technologies in priority sectors of the economy. The electronic consultation will enable individuals, legal entities and their associations to comment on proposals to create favorable conditions for the development and deployment of innovative AI technologies in priority sectors of the economy and to

⁷⁶⁷⁶ Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine), *The Law of Ukraine on Access to Public Information*, Article 19.org, <https://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/laws/ukraine-the-law-on-access-to-public-information.pdf>

⁷⁶⁷⁷ Official Online Representation the President of Ukraine, *Electronic Petitions*, <https://petition.president.gov.ua/>

⁷⁶⁷⁸ A. Shevchenko et al., *Regarding the Draft Strategy Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine, 2022–2030* (Aug. 2022), <https://doi.org/10.15407/jai2022.01.008>

⁷⁶⁷⁹ Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine, *A Road Map of AI Regulation in Ukraine* (Oct. 7, 2023), <https://ai.org.ua/a-road-map-of-ai-regulation-in-ukraine/>; Tech Ukraine, *Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine: MinDigital Presents a Roadmap* (Oct. 13, 2023), <https://techukraine.org/2023/10/13/regulation-of-artificial-intelligence-in-ukraine-mindigital-presents-a-roadmap/>

⁷⁶⁸⁰ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine: Vision of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine Version for Consultation* (Jun. 2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bcddffcc.pdf>

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strengthen Ukraine's position in the world market.⁷⁶⁸¹ The Ministry of Digital Transformation signaled open consultations around the draft National AI Development Strategy presented within WINWIN 2030 in 2025,⁷⁶⁸² with further public input to inform the final text.

Data Protection

The primary legislation governing data protection in Ukraine is the Law of Ukraine on Personal Data Protection (PDP), enacted in 2010. The legislation has been amended several times, most recently in 2025.⁷⁶⁸³ The law outlines fundamental requirements and obligations concerning the collection, processing, and use of personal data by both private entities and the Ukrainian government and applies to data processed through automatic as well as non-automated means.

The Constitution of Ukraine, the Council of Europe Convention 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, the Civil Code of Ukraine, and various by-law documents and recommendations approved by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights⁷⁶⁸⁴ constitute sources of personal data protection standards in Ukraine.

The Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine underscores cooperation to ensure an adequate level of personal data protection in line with European and international standards. Several drafts, including a Draft Law on Protection of Personal Data and the Draft Law on the National Commission on Personal Data Protection and Access to Public Information, reflect ongoing efforts to align Ukrainian legislation with EU requirements. The aim is to establish a comprehensive framework for personal data protection in both public and private sectors.⁷⁶⁸⁵ As of 2023, the Draft Law incorporates key GDPR principles but introduces some variations in matters such as the certification of Data Protection

⁷⁶⁸¹ Ministry of Strategic Industries of Ukraine, *Electronic Consultation with the Public* (Feb. 20, 2024), <https://mspu.gov.ua/dlya-gromadskosti/konsultaciyi-z-gromadskistyu/elektronni-konsultaciyi-z-gromadskistyu>

⁷⁶⁸² Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, *Ministry Develops an AI Strategy—Join the Survey and Shape the Future of AI in Ukraine* (Jun. 26, 2025), <https://thedigital.gov.ua/news/technologies/mintsifra-formue-strategiyu-z-shi-doluchaytesya-do-opituvannya-i-vplivayte-na-maybutne-shi-v-ukraini>

⁷⁶⁸³ Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada, *Law of Ukraine about Personal Data Protection [ЗАКОН УКРАЇНИ Про захист персональних даних]* (Jun. 14, 2025), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/main/2297-17#Text>

⁷⁶⁸⁴ DLA Piper, *Data Protection in Ukraine* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=UA>

⁷⁶⁸⁵ Council of Europe, *Opinion on the Draft Law of Ukraine “On Personal Data Protection,”* No. 8153 as of 25 October 2022 (Apr. 24, 2023), <https://rm.coe.int/opinion-on-the-draft-law-on-personal-data-protection-in-ukraine-final-/1680ab9e06>

Officers, adherence to EU guidelines and case law, CCTV recording retention periods, extraterritoriality, posthumous personal data processing, cross-border transfer, data breach notification or reasonable fees for data subject requests.

Articles 18(15), 19, and 25 would, with certain exceptions, provide data subjects with a right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning individuals or similarly significantly affects such individuals.

The Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, also known as the Ombudsman, is an independent, authoritative institution that oversees the protection of human and citizen rights and freedoms across Ukraine and for Ukrainians abroad.⁷⁶⁸⁶ Specifically, the Department for Personal Data Protection, an independent structural unit of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, ensures compliance and aligns Ukraine's personal data protection practices with national and EU standards.⁷⁶⁸⁷ Draft amendments to align the personal data framework with the GDPR remained under consideration in 2025, with priority on lawful processing, data subject rights, and supervisory powers.⁷⁶⁸⁸

The Parliament Commissioner publishes an annual report on the state of protection of citizens' rights and freedoms in Ukraine. The latest report relating to 2023 highlighted the progress on legislation to protect personal data and the access to information.⁷⁶⁸⁹ The report noted the increased threat of cyberattacks given the ongoing war with Russia. The report noted that the Commissioner acted on violations of human rights in the following high-risk areas: Unlawful processing of personal data, Fraudulent actions with personal data, Unlawful publication of videos containing personal data (including images of people), Violation of the right to access personal information, Issues of organization of personal data processing.

The Draft Law on the DPA proposes to establish an independent government agency that would be responsible for both policymaking (adopting mandatory regulations) and enforcement (prosecuting infringers) in the sphere of data privacy and access to public information.

⁷⁶⁸⁶ Ombudsman of Ukraine, *About Us* (2026), <https://ombudsman.gov.ua/en/about>

⁷⁶⁸⁷ Ombudsman of Ukraine, *Information about the Department* (2026), <https://ombudsman.gov.ua/en/informaciya-pro-pidrozdil-zpd>

⁷⁶⁸⁸ Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), *About Us* (2026), <https://ombudsman.gov.ua/en/about>

⁷⁶⁸⁹ Ombudsman of Ukraine, *Report on the State of Observance and Protection of Rights and Freedoms of Persons and Citizens in Ukraine in 2023* (2024), <https://ombudsman.gov.ua/report-2023/rozdil-9-informatsiini-prava>

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The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights joined the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) in 2015.⁷⁶⁹⁰ Ukraine did not endorse the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁶⁹¹ 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and use of Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁶⁹² 2022 Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁶⁹³ or 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.⁷⁶⁹⁴

Algorithmic Transparency

Ukraine has not yet signed and ratified the modernized version of Council of Europe Convention 108 which provides for algorithmic transparency.⁷⁶⁹⁵ Ukraine has no specific law granting a right to algorithmic transparency. However, the Ministerial Statement from the AI Seoul Summit, an international agreement signed by Ukraine and 26 other countries, commits the country to uphold transparency in the public use of AI applications.⁷⁶⁹⁶

Articles 8(12) and 8(13) of the Ukrainian Data Protection Law does provide data subjects with the right to: (i) be made aware of the automatic processing of personal data; and (ii) be protected from automated decisions that have legal

⁷⁶⁹⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷⁶⁹¹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁶⁹² Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁷⁶⁹³ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁷⁶⁹⁴ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁶⁹⁵ Council of Europe Portal, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 223* (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁷⁶⁹⁶ Odessa Journal, *Ukraine Joins Global Cooperation for Safe AI Development* (May 30, 2024), <https://odessa-journal.com/public/ukraine-joins-global-cooperation-for-safe-ai-development>

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consequences,⁷⁶⁹⁷ i.e. request the provision of public services by humans as an alternative to algorithmic processing.⁷⁶⁹⁸

Use of AI in the Media

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced an AI-generated spokesperson, Victoria Shi, to provide accurate consular information to the public and media. This initiative marks a significant step in Ukraine's use of AI to enhance governmental communication and transparency, offering a model for integrating AI in public services responsibly.⁷⁶⁹⁹

The AI-generated spokesperson followed the Ministry of Digital Transformation published Recommendations for Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Media.⁷⁷⁰⁰ “The purpose of the recommendations is to implement and use the Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems in Journalism, as well as to disseminate current international practices, principles and approaches to the responsible use of AI systems in the media to respect human rights and professional ethical standards.” The recommendations can be applied to content creation using generative AI systems, analyzing large amounts of data, administration and automation of work processes, content management such as searching and verifying content, and translating material.

The basic principles of using AI in the media include: responsible editorial decision (implementation of AI systems based on a conscious decision of the editorial staff taking into account the understanding of the mission of media outlets), legality, regular assessment of risks associated with the use of AI systems, transparency and clarity (disclosure of information on the use of AI systems), confidentiality and data protection (preventing leakage of personal data or other confidential information through the AI systems used), diversity and non-discrimination (ensuring audience access to diverse content when using personalization tools), human oversight, responsibility and adaptability (improvement in line with technological development of AI systems and changes in legal regulation). Significant attention is paid to the labeling requirement and content curation mechanisms.

⁷⁶⁹⁷ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Legislation of Ukraine, *On Protection of Personal Data*, Art. 8 (Jun. 7, 2021), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2297-17?lang=en#Text>

⁷⁶⁹⁸ Tetyana Avdeeva, *Actions and Dreams: Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector* (Feb. 19, 2024), <https://dslua.org/publications/dii-ta-mrii-shtuchnyy-intelekt-u-publichnomu-sektori/>

⁷⁶⁹⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, *Announcement of AI-generated Spokesperson Victoria Shi*, X (formerly Twitter) (May 2024), https://x.com/MFA_Ukraine/status/1785558101908742526

⁷⁷⁰⁰ Ministry for the Digital Transformation, *Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the News Media* (Jan. 24, 2024), <https://webportal.nrada.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Ukraine-AI-Guidelines-for-Media.pdf>

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The Ministry expanded on these recommendations with the White Paper on AI Regulation in Ukraine, which provides a broader framework for AI governance across sectors, including media.⁷⁷⁰¹ While the original recommendations focused on editorial responsibility and content integrity, the White Paper introduces additional safeguards, particularly concerning AI-generated disinformation, content labeling, and algorithmic transparency in media operations.

Use of Facial Recognition

According to media reports, the Ukrainian government is using Clearview AI's facial recognition technology for a range of potential purposes related to its wartime efforts including uncovering Russian soldiers, combating misinformation, and identifying personnel at checkpoints, abducted children, and deceased servicemen.⁷⁷⁰² This use, while potentially advantageous for national security, raises substantial privacy concerns as the technology has been widely criticized for its lack of transparency and accuracy.⁷⁷⁰³

More than 1,500 officials across 18 Ukrainian government agencies had been reported to be using the facial-recognition tool in March 2022.⁷⁷⁰⁴ The use of this type of surveillance technology is unprecedented in a war context and remains controversial as Clearview AI faces several legal challenges including infringement of privacy rights. In addition to privacy concerns, reports indicate that some Ukrainian officials have raised concerns about the potential for misidentification and reliance on unverified AI-generated matches in military operations.

Facial recognition has also been implemented in street surveillance cameras. In 2021, the then-Minister for Internal Affairs even threatened to use facial recognition to identify protesters.⁷⁷⁰⁵ Journalistic investigation also revealed that

⁷⁷⁰¹ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine: Vision of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine Version for Consultation* (Jun. 2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bcdedffcc.pdf>

⁷⁷⁰² Paresh Dave and Jeffrey Dastin, Reuters, *Exclusive: Ukraine Has Started Using Clearview AI's Facial Recognition during War* (Mar. 14, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/exclusive-ukraine-has-started-using-clearview-ais-facial-recognition-during-war-2022-03-13/>

⁷⁷⁰³ Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, *Guidelines on Protecting Human Rights and Privacy in AI (Section 2, p. 4), White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine* (2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bcdedffcc.pdf>

⁷⁷⁰⁴ Reuters, *Exclusive: Ukraine Has Started Using Clearview AI's Facial Recognition during War* (Mar. 13, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/exclusive-ukraine-has-started-using-clearview-ais-facial-recognition-during-war-2022-03-13/>

⁷⁷⁰⁵ Pravda, *Kyiv Has Purchased Cameras: They Can Recognize Faces and Temperatures, the Data Will Be Transmitted to Police* (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2020/04/3/7246428/>

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some systems used by the municipal authorities were based on Russian software TRASSIR.⁷⁷⁰⁶

Ukraine has introduced facial-recognition components under the Safe City and municipal video-monitoring programs (including in Kyiv and Vinnytsia).⁷⁷⁰⁷ No dedicated statute authorizes biometric recognition in public spaces; personal-data law offers only indirect safeguards. Civil-society groups have warned that current deployments lack a clear legal basis and independent oversight.

A Draft Law on video surveillance was introduced in Parliament. However, Ukrainian civil society finds the law to be overly permissive toward the technology and lacking safeguards against abusive practices because it allows law enforcement to access both private and public surveillance infrastructure without a court order.⁷⁷⁰⁸

Environmental Impact of AI

Ukraine has not published specific documents addressing the environmental impacts of AI. However, as a member of the United Nations (UN), Ukraine agreed to the resolution on Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly.⁷⁷⁰⁹ This resolution includes commitments to seizing the benefits while mitigating the negative impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Potential negative impacts include those to the environment.

In 2025, Ukrainian scholars analyzed the environmental footprint of generative AI. The report suggested that electricity and water consumption in large-model training could undercut savings identified by systems and recommended integration of AI-specific sustainability metrics into the 2030 National Sustainable Development Strategy.⁷⁷¹⁰

⁷⁷⁰⁶ Radio Svoboda, *Klymenko: the Ministry of Internal Affairs Will Thoroughly Check the Information of “Scheme” about the Possible Transfer of Data from Thousands of Surveillance Cameras in Ukraine to Russia* (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-skhemy-trassir-kamery-mvs-klymenko/32722531.html>

⁷⁷⁰⁷ Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law, *Cameras with Facial Recognition on City Streets: Is It Legal?* (Jun. 30, 2021), <https://cedem.org.ua/en/analytics/cameras-facial-recognition/>

⁷⁷⁰⁸ Digital Laboratory, Security, *Video Surveillance Bill: Protection of Public Safety or License for Mass Surveillance* (Mar. 9, 2024), <https://dslua.org/publications/zakonoproiekt-pro-vidomitorynh-zakhyst-publichnoi-bezpeky-chy-litsenziia-na-masove-stezhennia/>

⁷⁷⁰⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development A/78/L.49* (Nov 11, 2024), <https://undocs.org/en/A/78/L.49>

⁷⁷¹⁰ Dmytro Antoniuk and Oleksandr Koliada, *Ensuring Sustainable Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Enterprises Based on Resource Consumption Optimization*, Eastern-European Journal of Enterprise Technologies (2025), <https://journals.uran.ua/eejet/article/view/330586>

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Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The Concept of AI Development in Ukraine prioritizes the development of AI capacities for command-and-control tasks and AI use in weapons and military equipment. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has intensified work on applying AI in the military industry. The Ministry of Defense is advancing its logistics and supply operations by diversifying technological resources to better equip the Armed Forces of Ukraine for effective mission support.⁷⁷¹¹ According to media reports, Ukraine is becoming a testing field for weapons using AI components to strengthen defense capabilities. Particularly, Ukraine uses “AI to analyze satellite imagery, open-source data, drone footage, and reports from the ground to present commanders with military options.”⁷⁷¹²

Ukraine has secured an extensive contract covering 1.8 million drones through collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Digital Transformation.⁷⁷¹³ Fully autonomous drones are already being used to defend Ukrainian energy facilities from other drones, thus being anti-vehicle weapon systems. Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, stated “so far, six systems to counter enemy drones have been purchased. These are the most advanced defensive technologies that are used to protect strategic facilities in the US. Radar jamming and deception systems help detect and block enemy UAVs, then the system releases its own drones. For example, the Fortem DroneHunter F700 is an autonomous drone with radar control and artificial intelligence that flies at speeds of over 100 km/h, and intercepts and lands enemy drones. The operators have already been trained and the systems have been installed at energy plants.”⁷⁷¹⁴

Ukraine deployed the world's first drones that are capable of both detecting and attacking targets autonomously in September 2023.⁷⁷¹⁵ The Ukrainian

⁷⁷¹¹ John A. Nagl and Katie Crombe, *A Call to Action: Lessons from Ukraine for the Future Force*, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College (Jun. 2024), <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/monographs/968/>

⁷⁷¹² Vera Bergengruen, *How Tech Giants Turned Ukraine into an AI War Lab*, Time (Feb. 8, 2024) <https://time.com/6691662/ai-ukraine-war-palantir/>

⁷⁷¹³ Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, *For 2024-2025, the Ministry of Defense, in Collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Transformation, Has Already Contracted 1.8 Million Drones Totaling Nearly UAH 147 Billion* (Accessed Nov. 11, 2024), <https://mod.gov.ua/en/news/2024/10/29/for-2024-2025-the-ministry-of-defense-in-collaboration-with-the-ministry-of-digital-transformation-has-already-contracted-1-8-million-drones-totaling-nearly-uah-147-billion>

⁷⁷¹⁴ United24, “*Shahed Hunter*”: *First Anti-Drone Systems Now Installed at Critical Infrastructure Facilities* (Jan. 27, 2023), https://u24.gov.ua/news/shahed_hunters_defenders

⁷⁷¹⁵ David Hambling, *Ukraine's AI Drones Seek and Attack Russian Forces Without Human Oversight*, Forbes (Oct. 17, 2023),

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government stresses that a key challenge implies an active use of autonomous weapons by Russia and a need to counterbalance it and gain a military advantage, which is currently impossible to achieve with the conventional means.⁷⁷¹⁶ Ukraine is also using multiple situation awareness systems, which assist in planning operations, conducting intelligence and predicting threats, e.g. Delta and Palantir systems.⁷⁷¹⁷ Ukraine is also using Clearview AI facial recognition systems for a number of military purposes, most notably to identify Russian army soldiers, conduct intelligence operations or find kidnapped Ukrainian children.⁷⁷¹⁸

The efforts around research and development of AI MilTech are currently coordinated by the defense state-governed cluster Brave1, which unites industry representatives and the relevant state authorities.⁷⁷¹⁹

At the Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit (REAIM 2023) co-hosted by the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, nearly sixty states agreed to issue a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain.⁷⁷²⁰ Ukraine endorsed the resulting Political Declaration.⁷⁷²¹

Ukraine participated in the second REAIM summit took place in Korea.⁷⁷²² As the focus was on responsible behavior in military AI, it was concluded with a more concrete Blueprint for Action, negotiated by 35 countries including Ukraine prior to the event. The document outlines specific commitments across the summit's themes and aims to pave the way for a more structured Plan for Action in 2025.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidhambling/2023/10/17/ukraines-ai-drones-seek-and-attack-russian-forces-without-human-oversight/>

⁷⁷¹⁶ Morgan Meaker, Wired, *Ukraine's War Brings Autonomous Weapons to the Front Lines* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/ukraine-war-autonomous-weapons-frontlines>

⁷⁷¹⁷ Taisa Melnyk, "Nuclear Weapons in IT": American Palantir Has Contracts with the CIA, and Since May Has Been Helping Ukraine Forbes, (Mar. 16, 2023), <https://forbes.ua/innovations/yaderna-zbroya-v-it-amerikanskiy-palantir-mac-kontrakti-z-tsru-a-z-travnya-dopomagae-ukraini-naskilki-virishalna-rol-shtuchnogo-intelektu-na-viyni-10032023-12280>

⁷⁷¹⁸ Vera Bergengruen, Time, *Ukraine's "Secret Weapon" against Russia Is a Controversial U.S. Tech Company* (Nov. 14, 2023), <https://time.com/6334176/ukraine-clearview-ai-russia/>

⁷⁷¹⁹ Brave1, *Ukrainian Defense Innovations: United Coordinational Platform for Defense Tech Powered by the Government*, <https://brave1.gov.ua/en/>

⁷⁷²⁰ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁷⁷²¹ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial and Autonomy, Endorsing States* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁷⁷²² Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, *Outcome of the Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024* (Sept. 12, 2024), https://tls.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=321057

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Ukraine signed the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.⁷⁷²³ At the 78th UN General Assembly First Committee in 2023, Ukraine voted in favor of resolution L.56 on autonomous weapons systems, along with 163 other states. Resolution L.56 stressed the “urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapons systems,” and mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a report, reflecting the views of member and observer states on autonomous weapons systems and ways to address the related challenges and concerns they raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and on the role of humans in the use of force.⁷⁷²⁴

AI Literacy

Ukraine’s Ministry of Digital Transformation has launched significant AI literacy initiatives through the Digital Education Web Portal.⁷⁷²⁵ The national digital education platform, Diia.Osvita, was expanded in 2024–2025 to include a dedicated section on artificial intelligence. The platform offers free courses such as Artificial Intelligence; ChatGPT: Your Personal Assistant for Work, Study, and Life; and ChatGPT for Personal Effectiveness.⁷⁷²⁶

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and with support from the EU4DigitalUA project, the government also launched IT Studios to integrate modern digital skills, including AI modules, into the national school curriculum for grades 1–11.⁷⁷²⁷ For public sector professionals, the CDTO Campus initiative provides specialized training on AI adoption in e-government, focusing on ethical frameworks and alignment with EU standards.⁷⁷²⁸

⁷⁷²³ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁷²⁴ UN General Assembly First Committee, *Resolution L.56 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com23/resolutions/L56.pdf>

⁷⁷²⁵ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Unified State Web Portal of Digital Education “Diia.Education”* (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/unified-state-web-portal-of-digital-education-diaaeducation>

⁷⁷²⁶ Diia.Osvita, *Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://osvita.diia.gov.ua/en/courses/artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁷²⁷ FIAP, *Empowering Ukraine through Digital Learning* (Sept. 2, 2025), https://www.fiap.gob.es/en/blog_fiapp/empowering-ukraine-through-digital-learning/

⁷⁷²⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *CDTO Campus AI Faculty* (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/cdto-campus-ai-faculty>

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Human Rights

According to Freedom in the World 2025 report on Ukraine, the country is “Partly Free” with an overall score of 51/100.⁷⁷²⁹ This reflects an improvement from the previous year's score of 49 but continuation of a “Partly Free” classification, exacerbated by the Russian invasion in February 2022 and reactions to the invasion, such as the declaration of martial law. Even under martial law, reforms have strengthened democratic institutions, but corruption remains a problem. A number of civil liberties and freedoms have been curtailed as a result of the martial law in force.⁷⁷³⁰

As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an essential part of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights work in Ukraine is to assist citizens daily.⁷⁷³¹ Freedom House identified deliberate Russian interference with online communication, indirect loss of access to online communications arising from the current conflict, and new domestic laws aimed at tackling online disinformation and the sharing of sensitive data as possible threats to online freedoms in 2024.⁷⁷³² The 2025 Human Rights Watch⁷⁷³³ report highlights the devastating consequences of Russia's invasion, with 12,162 civilian deaths and 26,919 injuries have been documented by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plus millions displaced, and widespread human rights violations, including torture, enforced disappearances, and war crimes. Reports also highlight the devastating civilian impact of systematic Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, the resulting blackouts, and the continued repression of non-Russian identities in occupied territories.⁷⁷³⁴

⁷⁷²⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Ukraine* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ukraine/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁷³⁰ Maxim Tucker, *Zelensky Wants to Hold Elections. Are They Possible under Martial Law?* The Times (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.thetimes.com/world/russia-ukraine-war/article/elections-peace-deal-news-latest-d7nl59klq>

⁷⁷³¹ Ombudsman of Ukraine, *Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights* (2026), <https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/uk/prava-civilnih-osib-yaki-postrazhdali-vid-zbrojnogo-konfliktu/rozyasnennya-ta-infografiki>

⁷⁷³² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Ukraine* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ukraine/freedom-world/2024>

⁷⁷³³ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025 – Events of 2024* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/ukraine>

⁷⁷³⁴ Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Ukraine - Report 2024/25* (2025), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/eastern-europe-and-central-asia/ukraine/report-ukraine/>

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The Law About Electronic Communications,⁷⁷³⁵ which requires service providers to retain data relating to their users and to share that data with state authorities to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of offenses, could be used to limit citizens' speech even before the Russian invasion.

Ukraine's commitment to human rights is enshrined in its constitution. Article 9 incorporates international treaties as part of domestic legislation. An action plan for the National Human Rights Strategy 2021–23⁷⁷³⁶ re-asserts Ukraine's commitment to the principles of international human rights law, their implementation in domestic law and public institutions, and engagement with international human rights bodies. Ukraine also committed to an annual internal review by a new Interagency Working Group. Ukraine expanded this commitment by continuing the annual review process, with the Interagency Working Group intensifying efforts to monitor and adapt the strategy to address evolving human rights challenges, especially in the context of digital rights and AI governance.⁷⁷³⁷

Ukraine became a member of the United Nations in October 1945 and ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Collectively those three instruments constitute the UN International Bill of Human Rights. The UN reports that Ukraine has ratified 16 out of 18 key international human rights treaties.⁷⁷³⁸ Following the full-scale invasion, Ukraine submitted a declaration with derogation from international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and the ICCPR.

The UN Human Rights Council periodic review of Ukraine's peace-time human rights position in 2018 remarked positively on the country's efforts in the field of judicial reform, discrimination, prevention of torture, gender equality, and the treatment of people with disabilities.⁷⁷³⁹ The UN Human Rights Council also noted the work being done to reform policing and tackle corruption. 190 recommendations were made to Ukraine and the government accepted 163 of those.

⁷⁷³⁵ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, *About Electronic Communications*, No 1089-IX (Dec. 16, 2020), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1089-20>

⁷⁷³⁶ President of Ukraine, *Decree of the President of Ukraine No 119/2021 on the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights [УКАЗ ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАЇНИ №119/2021 Про Національну стратегію у сфері прав людини]* (Mar. 24, 2021), <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/1192021-37537>

⁷⁷³⁷ European Commission, *Digital Public Administration Factsheet 2024: Ukraine* (Jul. 2024), https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/inline-files/NIFO_2024%20DPAF_Ukraine_vFinal.pdf

⁷⁷³⁸ United Nations, *Status of Ratification: Interactive Dashboard*, <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>

⁷⁷³⁹ United Nations, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ukraine* (Jan. 3, 2018), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/000/33/PDF/G1800033.pdf>

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The UN Human Rights Council created an Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes in the context of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. The Commission's report expressed concerns regarding "continuing patterns of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law" by Russia.⁷⁷⁴⁰

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The OECD has been working in close partnership with Ukraine for more than 30 years to support its reform agenda.⁷⁷⁴¹ Ukraine is not a member of the OECD but endorsed the OECD AI Principles in 2019.⁷⁷⁴² Ukraine also committed to the updated OECD AI Principles.⁷⁷⁴³ The 2020 Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine expressed commitment to implement the OECD AI Principles.⁷⁷⁴⁴

The OECD Council recognized Ukraine as a prospective Member and opened an initial accession dialogue, following a request from the Government.⁷⁷⁴⁵ The OECD and the Government of Ukraine later began implementing a four-year OECD-Ukraine Country Programme that supports Ukraine's agenda for reform, recovery, and reconstruction, and helps the country advance its ambitions to join the OECD and European Union.⁷⁷⁴⁶

Ukraine is not a member of the Global Partnership on AI, a multistakeholder initiative to foster international cooperation on AI research and applied activities, and an integrated partner with the OECD. Membership of GPAI is contingent on support for the OECD AI Principles.⁷⁷⁴⁷

⁷⁷⁴⁰ UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Ukraine: UN Commission Concerned by Continuing Patterns of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law* (Mar. 15, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/ukraine-un-commission-concerned-continuing-patterns-violations-human-rights>

⁷⁷⁴¹ OECD, *Ukraine* (2026), <https://www.oecd.org/country/ukraine/>

⁷⁷⁴² OECD, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence*, OECD/LEGAL/0449 (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

⁷⁷⁴³ OECD, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁷⁷⁴⁴ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, *No. 1556-R On Approvement of the Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine* (Dec. 2, 2020), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-2020-p#Text>

⁷⁷⁴⁵ OECD, *OECD Strengthens Support for Ukraine with Four-Year Country Programme* (Jun. 7, 2023), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2023/06/oecd-strengthens-support-for-ukraine-with-four-year-country-programme.html>

⁷⁷⁴⁶ OECD, *Ukraine* (2026), <https://www.oecd.org/country/ukraine/>

⁷⁷⁴⁷ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

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The OECD report has noted the national AI strategy (2021–2030) focus on leveraging existing AI capabilities to achieve strategic national objectives. These objectives include “advancing Ukraine's digital economy, improving public administration efficiency, and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.” The OECD recognizes that this strategy prioritizes AI applications in education, defense, security, and key economic sectors.⁷⁷⁴⁸ Ukraine’s Roadmap for the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine⁷⁷⁴⁹ and White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation,⁷⁷⁵⁰ designed to help businesses prepare for future legal requirements based on these principles, mark further progress toward implementing the OECD Principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Ukraine contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. Ukraine signed this first legally binding international treaty on AI and human rights in 2025.⁷⁷⁵¹

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Ukraine has been a member of UNESCO since 1954⁷⁷⁵² and along with 192 other member states it adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in November 2021.⁷⁷⁵³ The UNESCO Recommendation is not explicitly referenced in Ukraine's current AI policy framework even though Ukraine’s emerging policy framework, including the White Paper on AI reflects many of the concerns and priorities in the UNESCO recommendation such as transparency, fairness, and human-centeredness.

Ukraine has also initiated alignment with the Recommendation by preparing to implement the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM). Ukraine is

⁷⁷⁴⁸ OECD, *The State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* (Oct. 27, 2023), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en.html

⁷⁷⁴⁹ Expert Committee on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Ukraine, *A Road Map of AI Regulation in Ukraine* (Oct. 7, 2023), <https://ai.org.ua/a-road-map-of-ai-regulation-in-ukraine/>

⁷⁷⁵⁰ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine: Vision of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine Version for Consultation* (Jun. 2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bceddfffcc.pdf>

⁷⁷⁵¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁷⁷⁵² UNESCO, *Member States: Ukraine*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

⁷⁷⁵³ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

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listed as “in preparation” for implementing the RAM on UNESCO’s Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory’s Global Hub.⁷⁷⁵⁴

Evaluation

The Russian invasion of Ukraine caused severe human rights violations, especially on the territories currently under Russian occupation. In response to the invasion, Ukraine has imposed martial law and derogated its obligations under certain human rights treaties. Reacting to the rapid digitalization of warfare, Ukraine has become a field for the development and use of autonomous weapons, which raises serious concerns among Ukrainian and international civil society.

Ukraine’s AI policy landscape has shifted toward action with reforms designed to align Ukrainian legal frameworks with the corresponding EU laws, including the GDPR, the EU AI Act, or the Digital Services Act. The 2025–2026 operationalized earlier concept papers. The White Paper on AI Regulation⁷⁷⁵⁵ and related guidelines for various sectors published by the Ministry of Digital Transformation mark further progress.

Ukraine has continued to make progress toward implementing the OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Recommendation as well as national AI legislation.

⁷⁷⁵⁴ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁷⁷⁵⁵ Ministry of Digital Transformation, *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Regulation in Ukraine: Vision of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine Version for Consultation* (Jun. 2024), <https://storage.thedigital.gov.ua/files/c/fc/36c4cae89deedfbf3781ec6bcdedffcc.pdf>

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United Arab Emirates

In 2025, the UAE introduced a Regulatory Intelligence Ecosystem integrating AI into the legislative process. The federal government also integrated AI literacy content into K–12 education and continued AI Camps to prepare citizens for a future with artificial intelligence.

National AI Strategy

In 2017, the United Arab Emirates became the first country to appoint a Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence.⁷⁷⁵⁶ H.E. Omar Al Olama was later appointed as Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications in July 2020. Now he serves as the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO) as part of the UAE Whole-of-Government approach to public administration.⁷⁷⁵⁷ The CAIO invests and investigates potential AI applications and technologies to enhance government performance and contribute to GDP.

The UAE Cabinet formed the UAE Council for Artificial Intelligence (AI) to facilitate the implementation of AI policies, and oversee AI integration in government departments and the education sector.⁷⁷⁵⁸ The Council is tasked with proposing policies to create an AI-friendly ecosystem, encourage advanced research in the sector and promote collaboration between the public and private sectors, including international institutions to accelerate the adoption of AI. The General Secretariat of the Cabinet introduced a Regulatory Intelligence Ecosystem in May 2025, integrating AI into the legislative process to anticipate, draft, develop, and implement future regulations.⁷⁷⁵⁹ This achievement built on UAE and local AI

⁷⁷⁵⁶ UAE Government Portal, *Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO)* (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/whole-of-government-approach/Chief-Artificial-Intelligence-Officer-CAIO>

⁷⁷⁵⁷ UAE Government Portal, *Whole of Government Approach* (2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/whole-of-government-approach>

⁷⁷⁵⁸ UAE Government Portal, *Artificial Intelligence in Government Policies* (Jul. 8, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-in-government-policies>

⁷⁷⁵⁹ UAE Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, *The General Secretariat of the Cabinet Introduces Its New Regulatory Intelligence Ecosystem* (May 12, 2025), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/news/the-general-secretariat-of-the-cabinet-introduces-its-new-regulatory-intelligence-ecosystem-to-government-leaders-and-experts-2>

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guidelines centered on AI governance, Data governance, Cybersecurity, and Bias,⁷⁷⁶⁰ available along with the UAE AI Strategy on an AI Resources page.

The Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence launched the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031.⁷⁷⁶¹ The strategy aligned with UAE Centennial 2071,⁷⁷⁶² which has an ambitious goal to make the UAE the best country in the world by 2071. In the plan, AI will play a significant role in education, economy, government development, and community happiness through applications in various sectors, including energy, tourism, and education. The National AI Strategy outlines strategic objectives, including ensuring strong governance and regulation as well as supporting data and infrastructure, attracting and training talent for future jobs in artificial intelligence and research, and adopting AI across customer services.⁷⁷⁶³

The Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence built on efforts in Dubai to adopt federal AI Ethics Principles & Guidelines in 2022. The Ethics Principles & Guidelines offer detailed guidance for developing AI systems aligned with 8 principles of AI ethics: explainable; transparent; accountable; fair; privacy preserving; sustainable and environmentally friendly; human centered; and robust, safe, and secure.⁷⁷⁶⁴

Preceding the publication of the National AI Strategy, the UAE launched the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Strategy⁷⁷⁶⁵ that included innovations in government services, intelligent cities, and next-gen mobility as well as in policies and regulations to maintain the privacy and well-being of citizens. 4IR Values and Ethics are part of another pillar in the strategy.

⁷⁷⁶⁰ UAE Government Portal, *AI Resources* (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/ai-resources>

⁷⁷⁶¹ UAE Government Portal, *UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/government-services-and-digital-transformation/uae-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁷⁶² UAE Government Portal, *UAE Centennial 2071* (Dec. 30, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/innovation-and-future-shaping/uae-centennial-2071>

⁷⁷⁶³ UAE Artificial Intelligence Office, *UAE National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031* (2018), <https://assets.u.ae/api/public/content/deed2bf9d68244ab8119c27f2c52813f?v=87559d49>

⁷⁷⁶⁴ Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, & Remote Work Applications Office, *AI Ethics Principles & Guidelines* (Dec. 2022), <https://assets.u.ae/api/public/content/893c940c21c4403ea8df7faad66a889e?v=b2f9c1a1>

⁷⁷⁶⁵ UAE Government Portal, *The UAE's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Strategy* (Dec. 30, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/government-services-and-digital-transformation/the-uae-strategy-for-the-fourth-industrial-revolution>

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The UAE AI Office later launched the Charter for Development and Use of AI,⁷⁷⁶⁶ stipulating 12 priorities, including strengthening Human-Machine Ties, safety, algorithmic bias, data privacy, transparency, human oversight, governance and accountability, technological excellence, human commitment, peaceful coexistence with AI, promoting AI awareness for an inclusive future, commitment to treaties and applicable laws. The charter aims to position the UAE as a global hub for AI innovation, ensure ethical and responsible AI development, protect privacy and data security, balance technological advancement with social values, and encourage innovation and support economic growth. The charter reflects the UAE's National Strategy for AI goal of becoming a leading AI nation by 2031.

The UAE AI Office also published a Generative AI Guide. The Guide provides a comprehensive overview of generative AI, including challenges and opportunities across 100 use cases and applications in sectors such as education, healthcare, and government services.⁷⁷⁶⁷

The National Elections Committee and Federal National Council unveiled a Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence requiring all candidates in the Federal National Council elections to declare and register any use of AI tools in their campaigns. Described as the first of its kind globally, the policy aims to ensure transparency and prevent voter manipulation.⁷⁷⁶⁸

Emirate-Level AI Policies

Smart Dubai's AI Ethics Principles & Guidelines describe key principles for a fair, transparent, accountable, and explainable AI system.⁷⁷⁶⁹ Launched in January 2019, the AI Principles and Guidelines for the Emirate of Dubai demonstrate Dubai's broader approach to ethical AI. Accompanying the Principles and Guidelines is an Ethical AI Self-Assessment Tool built to enable AI developers or operator organizations to evaluate the ethics level of an AI system.⁷⁷⁷⁰ The AI Ethics Guidelines provide an assessment (from proof of concept to production) of the ethical

⁷⁷⁶⁶ Government of United Arab Emirates, *The UAE Charter for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 10, 2024), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/policy/details/the-uae-charter-for-the-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁷⁶⁷ UAE Government Portal, *Artificial Intelligence in Government Policies* (Jul. 8, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-in-government-policies>

⁷⁷⁶⁸ Gulf News, *UAE Unveils World's First AI Policy for National Elections* (Oct. 12, 2025), <https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/uae-unveils-worlds-first-ai-policy-for-national-elections-1.500304225>

⁷⁷⁶⁹ Smart Dubai, *AI Ethics Principles & Guidelines* (2019), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/docs/default-source/ai-principles-resources/ai-ethics.pdf>

⁷⁷⁷⁰ Government of Dubai, *AI System Ethics Self-Assessment Tool* (2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/self-assessment>

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issues that may arise throughout the development process and how specific AI applications could be improved to ensure fairness, transparency, accountability, and explainability. The Ethical Toolkit also aims to ensure adoption of AI that optimizes the innovation potential and delivers economic and social value. The Executive Council of Dubai directed government entities to use the principles and guidelines when considering AI development, and entities including the Road and Transport Authority and the Dubai Police have formally acknowledged their adoption of the self-assessment tool when developing AI.⁷⁷⁷¹

Government entities, such as the Digital Dubai Authority (DDA) followed the plans of the National AI Strategy, with specific strategies and guidance on AI.⁷⁷⁷² The DDA published an AI Ethical impact assessment framework and established a governing AI ethics board comprising government, policy, academic, legal, and industry experts to oversee and guide the strategic development of the AI Ethics Guidelines. The 2025 State of AI Report⁷⁷⁷³ offers further details and how current use cases align to the vision for the decade ahead.

The Dubai Electronic Security Centre (DESC) launched the Dubai AI Security Policy⁷⁷⁷⁴ to support AI development by protecting Dubai from cyber risks. The policy aims to bolster confidence in AI solutions and technologies, promote the growth and development of AI, and mitigate electronic security risks associated with AI. The policy was unveiled during DESC's participation as the official cybersecurity partner at the inaugural Dubai AI and Web3 Festival 2024 at Madinat Jumeirah.

The Abu Dhabi Government announced the Abu Dhabi Government Digital Strategy 2025–2027 to make Abu Dhabi the world's first AI-enabled government by 2027.⁷⁷⁷⁵ To advance this goal, Abu Dhabi appointed Chief Digital and AI Officers in every government entity.⁷⁷⁷⁶

⁷⁷⁷¹ Digital Dubai Authority, *Ethical AI Toolkit: Request for Information* (May 18, 2020), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/knowledge-hub/blogs/ethical-ai-toolkit-request-for-information>

⁷⁷⁷² Digital Dubai, *Digital Regulations* (2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/knowledge-hub/references>

⁷⁷⁷³ Digital Dubai and Digital Future Foundation, *Dubai's State of AI Report* (2025), https://www.digitaldubai.ae/docs/default-source/publications/dubai-state-of-ai-report.pdf?sfvrsn=a486e23f_5

⁷⁷⁷⁴ Dubai Electronic Security Center, *Dubai Electronic Security Center Launches the Dubai AI Security Policy* (Accessed Dec. 26, 2024), <https://www.desc.gov.ae/dubai-electronic-security-center-launches-the-dubai-ai-security-policy/>

⁷⁷⁷⁵ Department of Government Enablement, *Abu Dhabi to be the World's First Fully AI-Native Government across All Digital Services by 2027* (2025), <https://www.dge.gov.ae/en/news/adg-digital-strategy>

⁷⁷⁷⁶ Department of Government Enablement, *Department of Government Enablement Records Landmark Year Under AI-Native Vision* (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://www.dge.gov.ae/en/news/2025-dge-highlights>

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Public Participation

The UAE has a robust system of information and services for the public. The UAE Strategy for Government Services, Unified Digital Platform Policy, the Digital Participation Policy, and the Digital Customer and Digital Government Service Policy, aim to provide access to digital services.

The UAE Digital Participation Policy⁷⁷⁷⁷ establishes what can be posted on the public platforms, the conditions to facilitate a healthy environment for sharing information and enabling meaningful discussion on topics concerning the services of the UAE Digital Government and life in the UAE in general. The Sharik.AE platform created in 2022 is an interactive interface to keep the UAE public informed and seek consultations on matters related to government activities.⁷⁷⁷⁸ Sharik.AE includes an interface for input for the co-creation of public services, community engagement, and participatory budget.

The Ministry of Artificial Intelligence launched the Think AI initiative to develop legislation, policies, and initiatives for a responsible and efficient adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) within the private sector. Think AI established a series of roundtables, workshops, and panel discussions with the participation of more than 100 government officials, representatives from the private sector, and experts from local and international organizations. The dialogue aimed to support the UAE's efforts to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence in key sectors such as infrastructure, governance and legislation to strengthen the position as a global hub for artificial intelligence.⁷⁷⁷⁹

The UAE Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office ensures public awareness and digital participation through a variety of initiatives. The AI Camp 5.0 in 2023 attracted more than 8,000 participants aiming to develop their digital skills.⁷⁷⁸⁰ The AI Camp 6.0 in 2024 covered seven main areas: the future of artificial intelligence; data science and machine learning; AI in education, healthcare, and finance sectors; web development and robotics; AI ethics and governance; cybersecurity; and virtual and augmented reality.⁷⁷⁸¹ The 7th edition of the AI Camp held in July-August 2025 included over 70 knowledge

⁷⁷⁷⁷ UAE Government Portal, *Digital Participation Policy* (Accessed Dec. 26, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/footer/digital-participation-policy>

⁷⁷⁷⁸ UAE Government Portal, *Consultations Sharik.ae* (2025), <https://sharik.ae/en>

⁷⁷⁷⁹ Nour Salman and Mohd Aamir, *UAE Government Launches “Think AI” Initiative*, Emirates News Agency (Mar. 6, 2019), <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302745072>

⁷⁷⁸⁰ Emirates News Agency, *The UAE AI Camp Witnessed the Participation of More than 8,000 Individuals* (Aug. 17, 2023), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/hszrhqpq-uae-camp-witnessed-the-participation-more-than>

⁷⁷⁸¹ Emirates News Agency, *UAE AI Camp Kicks Off Its Sixth Edition* (Jul. 28, 2024), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b4e0s03-uae-camp-kicks-off-its-sixth-edition>

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sessions, workshops, hackathons, and lectures with people across ages and backgrounds. Since its inception, the AI Camp has engaged over 34,000 participants and positioned itself as a national platform for building future AI capabilities.⁷⁷⁸²

At the emirate level, Digital Dubai has set a vision to make Dubai the happiest city on earth through effectiveness in Government to Consumer and Government to Government services.⁷⁷⁸³ Dubai has a website with information about AI principles and ethics for public access. Dubai's Ethical AI Toolkit supports Government Entities, Private Sector Entities, and Individuals.⁷⁷⁸⁴ The Digital Dubai Authority (DDA) introduced new methods of e-participation on various issues including AI Ethics work.⁷⁷⁸⁵ Digital Dubai partnered with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) in February 2025 to launch the first UN Citiverse Challenge at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, inviting youth and startups worldwide to develop AI-driven solutions to address sustainable development goals through AI-powered virtual worlds.⁷⁷⁸⁶

Data Protection

The UAE adopted sweeping legislative reforms in November 2021, including the Personal Data Protection Law and Federal Decree-Law on the Protection of Personal Data modeled after the GDPR. The Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) has extraterritorial geographical effect and applies to data controllers and data processors within UAE or outside the UAE processing personal data of UAE residents.⁷⁷⁸⁷ Four principles underpin the Law: 1) Single Data Authority, 2) Right for Consent, 3) Incentivizing SMEs, 3) Allows Cross Border Data Flow.

Introduced by the Minister of AI as “the law with the lowest cost of compliance,” the PDPL is an integrated framework to ensure the confidentiality of information, protect the privacy of individuals, and achieve proper governance for data management and data protection. The PDPL defines the rights and duties of data

⁷⁷⁸² Emirates News Agency, *UAE AI Camp Concludes Seventh Edition with Over 70 Diverse Workshops* (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bl9wcpy-uae-camp-concludes-seventh-edition-with-over>

⁷⁷⁸³ Digital Dubai, *About Us* (2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/about-us/vision-mission-values>

⁷⁷⁸⁴ OECD, *AI Principles and Ethics for the Emirate of Dubai* (Jul. 9, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/ai-principles-and-ethics-for-the-emirate-of-dubai-5969>

⁷⁷⁸⁵ Digital Dubai Authority, *E-participation*, <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/entities/e-participation>

⁷⁷⁸⁶ Digital Dubai, *Digital Dubai, ITU & UNICC Launch UN Citiverse Challenge* (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/newsroom/news/digital-dubai-itu-unicc-launch-un-citiverse-challenge-and-unveil-bold-vision-for-ai-powered-virtual-worlds>

⁷⁷⁸⁷ UAE Government Portal, *Personal Data Protection Law* (Nov. 27, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uac/data/data-protection-laws>

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subjects, data controllers, data processors, data protection officers (where applicable), service providers, third party vendors, and public and private entities involved in data processing activities.⁷⁷⁸⁸ The PDPL establishes the rights of access to information, to request personal data portability, to rectification or erasure of personal data, of processing and automated processing. Noted exceptions to the right to consent include protection of public interest, legal procedures and rights, and previous knowledge by the data owner. The PDPL does not apply to government data, government authorities that control or process personal data, or personal data processed by the security and judicial authorities.⁷⁷⁸⁹ PDPL does not cover the processing of health, banking, and credit data that are subject to sector-specific legislation.

The UAE Data Office (DO), as the federal data regulator, oversees policies, standards, and legislation, and responds to inquiries and complaints about the PDPL.⁷⁷⁹⁰

Executive Regulations to the PDPL entered into force on January 1, 2026, with organizations required to achieve full compliance a year later.⁷⁷⁹¹

The PDPL does not apply to companies and institutions located in free zones that have specific data protection laws, such as the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) and the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM). The DIFC became the region's first fully accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), following the enactment of the DIFC Data Protection Law No. 5 of 2020.⁷⁷⁹² In October 2021, the ADGM Office of Data Protection was also granted accredited membership in the GPA.⁷⁷⁹³

DIFC strengthened data subject rights, clarified the data protection law's extraterritorial application, introduced a private right of action in the DIFC Courts,

⁷⁷⁸⁸ UAE Cabinet, *Federal Decree-Law No. 45 of 2021 on the Protection of Personal Data* (Nov. 2021), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1972/download>

⁷⁷⁸⁹ UAE Government Portal, *Data Protection Laws* (Nov. 27, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/data/data-protection-laws> *Personal Data Protection Law*

⁷⁷⁹⁰ UAE Government Portal, *UAE Data Office* (Nov. 27, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/data/data-protection-laws>

⁷⁷⁹¹ UAE Ahead, *UAE IT Law Updates 2026* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://uaeahead.com/uae-it-law-updates-2026-guide/>

⁷⁷⁹² Dubai Media Office, *DIFC Becomes Region's First Fully Accredited Member of Global Privacy Assembly* (Oct. 13, 2020), <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2020/october/13-10/difc-becomes-region-first-fully-accredited-member-of-global-privacy-assembly>

⁷⁷⁹³ ADGM, *ADGM Office of Data Protection Becomes an Accredited Member of the Global Privacy Assembly* (Oct. 21, 2021), <https://www.adgm.com/media/announcements/adgm-office-of-data-protection-becomes-an-accredited-member-of-the-global-privacy-assembly>

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and increased enforcement penalties through Amendment Law No. 1 of 2025.⁷⁷⁹⁴ In September 2025, ADGM introduced the Data Protection (Substantial Public Interest Conditions) Rules, clarifying when Special Categories of Personal Data may be processed under defined public interest grounds without consent, including provisions for the insurance sector and protections for vulnerable individuals.⁷⁷⁹⁵ Significant divergences with the GDPR include the limited legal basis, with a focus on consent as the primary legal basis, and less comprehensive transparency requirements.⁷⁷⁹⁶ The data protection law also has less onerous transparency requirements (only certain limited information will be required before processing) than the GDPR and no specific privacy notice requirement.⁷⁷⁹⁷

Other UAE laws that provide general rights to privacy include the UAE Constitution, which grants freedom of communication by post or other means of communication and the secrecy thereof in accordance with the law;⁷⁷⁹⁸ the UAE Penal Code, which prohibits those who have access to an individual's personal data from disclosing or publicizing that information;⁷⁷⁹⁹ and the Federal Decree-Law on Combatting Rumors and Cybercrime:, which criminalizes the misuse of the personal data of others.⁷⁸⁰⁰

The UAE federal DO is not an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA).⁷⁸⁰¹ Thus, the DO did not sponsor the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁸⁰² the 2020 Resolution on

⁷⁷⁹⁴ DIFC, *DIFC Announces Enactment of Amendments to Select DIFC Legislation* (Jul. 16, 2025), <https://www.difc.com/whats-on/news/difc-announces-enactment-of-amendments-to-select-difc-legislation-through-difc-law-amendment-law>

⁷⁷⁹⁵ ADGM, *ADGM Enacts New Substantial Public Interest Rules Under Data Protection Regulations 2021* (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://www.adgm.com/media/announcements/adgm-enacts-new-substantial-public-interest-rules-under-data-protection-regulations-2021>

⁷⁷⁹⁶ Latham and Watkins, *UAE Publishes First Data Protection Law* (Dec. 14, 2021), <https://www.globalprivacyblog.com/legislative-regulatory-developments/uae-publishes-first-federal-data-protection-law/>

⁷⁷⁹⁷ DLA Piper, *Data Protection Laws of the World: UAE* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/countries/uae-general/law.html>

⁷⁷⁹⁸ Constitute Project, *United Arab Emirates's Constitution of 1971 with Amendments through 2004* (Apr. 27, 2022), [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/United Arab Emirates 2004.pdf](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/United%20Arab%20Emirates/2004.pdf)

⁷⁷⁹⁹ UAE Legislation, *Federal Law by Decree No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law* (2021), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1529/download>

⁷⁸⁰⁰ Government of United Arab Emirates, *Federal Decree-Law No.34 of 2021, Article (6) Attack on Personal Data and Information* (2021), <https://laws.uaecabinet.ae/ar/materials/law/1526>

⁷⁸⁰¹ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁷⁸⁰² International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

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Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁸⁰³ the 2022 GPA Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁷⁸⁰⁴ or the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems.⁷⁸⁰⁵ The 48th Global Privacy Assembly is scheduled to be hosted in Dubai by the DIFC in December 2026.⁷⁸⁰⁶

Algorithmic Transparency

UAE regulations do not include a specific law guaranteeing the right to algorithmic transparency, though the PDPL and non-binding guidance from the AI ministry offer some protections. Article 18 of the PDPL⁷⁸⁰⁷ gives data subjects the right to object to automated decision-making that may impact them, including profiling, with some exceptions given by other UAE laws—namely where the automated processing is contractually agreed, required under applicable UAE law, or where the data subject has given prior consent.⁷⁸⁰⁸ The UAE Data Office has not yet issued specific guidance on AI and automated decision-making, though the AI ministry has released a number of guidance documents work on non-binding principles is progressing. In addition, Article 21 of the PDPL requires Controllers to assess the impact of processing operations on personal data protection, particularly where technologies pose high privacy risks.⁷⁸⁰⁹

Under the Charter for Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁸¹⁰ the government intends to prioritize transparency for clear understanding of AI and how

⁷⁸⁰³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁷⁸⁰⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁷⁸⁰⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁸⁰⁶ DIFC, *48th Global Privacy Assembly — Dubai 2026*, <https://www.gpa48.difc.com/>

⁷⁸⁰⁷ UAE Government Portal, *Data Protection Laws* (Nov. 27, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/data/data-protection-laws>

⁷⁸⁰⁸ UAE Cabinet, *Federal Decree-Law No. 45 of 2021 on the Protection of Personal Data*, Article 18(2), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1972/download>

⁷⁸⁰⁹ *Ibid*, Articles 18 and 21

⁷⁸¹⁰ Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office, *UAE Charter for Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 10, 2024),

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AI systems operate and make decisions. The government aims to foster trust and enhance responsibility and accountability in the use of AI technologies. The Charter also identifies addressing algorithmic bias and developing a fair and equitable environment for all community members as a key priority.

In July 2025, the Government of Dubai launched a Human-Machine Collaboration Classification System, requiring Dubai government entities to disclose the extent of AI involvement in the creation of research, publications, and content.⁷⁸¹¹

The UAE's Artificial Intelligence Guide⁷⁸¹² issued by the Ministry of AI addresses the subject of AI transparency in several sections. Section 3.4 describes the principles established in the Ethical AI Toolkit of the Smart Dubai Office by which systems should be ethical, fair, accountable, transparent, explainable, safe, secure, and “serve to protect humanity.” The UAE AI Guide includes a restatement of the focused efforts of the UAE in removing bias in the algorithms of AI systems. Section 3.5 includes examples and case studies to avoid the perpetuation of racial and gender bias. The recommendations include the implementation of evaluations of the decision-making process based on AI for fairness and posing the question “Should we build AI?” The AI Guide highlights the Smart Dubai ethical self-assessment tool as a resource for government companies, private firms, and individuals.

The UAE AI Ethics Principles and Guidelines⁷⁸¹³ specify that fair AI systems must use representative data, avoid non-operational bias, mitigate dataset biases, ensure provably fair outcomes, with diverse development teams, including representative end-user groups, consulted throughout the AI lifecycle. On transparency, the Guidelines require AI developers to enable failure traceability, inform users of significant AI-driven decisions, disclose data and algorithms within the limits of privacy and intellectual property, and provide timely, understandable justifications for AI outcomes.

While these tools represent meaningful transparency obligations, there is no explicit legally binding right to algorithmic transparency in the UAE.

<https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/policy/details/the-uae-charter-for-the-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁸¹¹ Dubai Media Office, *Hamdan bin Mohammed Approves Launch of Pioneering Human-Machine Collaboration Classification System* (Jul. 16, 2025), <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2025/july/16-07/hamdan-bin-mohammed-approves-launch-of-pioneering-human-machine-collaboration-classification-system>

⁷⁸¹² Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, *AI Guide* (2020),

<https://assets.u.ae/api/public/content/129f71cdf3454d9cba0e6f876a158a83?v=770e53d4>

⁷⁸¹³ UAE Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, & Remote Work Applications Office, *AI Ethics Principles and Guidelines* (Dec. 2022),

<https://assets.u.ae/api/public/content/893c940c21c4403ea8df7faad66a889e?v=b2f9c1a1>

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Facial Recognition

The UAE's digital transformation has led to the adoption of an AI-powered facial recognition system. In 2021, the UAE Government announced the enhancement of the UAE Pass, by adding biometric face recognition systems (Facial ID) to register users into the application.⁷⁸¹⁴ The integration of facial recognition was set to reduce the transaction time from 20 minutes to 5 minutes. Under the UAE Personal Data Protection Law,⁷⁸¹⁵ biometric identifiers are classified as sensitive personal data and require stronger safeguards. Implementing regulations and sectoral guidance remain crucial for clarifying consent, public-interest exceptions, and cross-border transfers.

In November 2022, Abu Dhabi Airports replaced passport checks with facial recognition technology.⁷⁸¹⁶ Biometric data is used during check-in, immigration, determining access to lounges, and boarding. The first phase of the project took place at one of the terminals at Abu Dhabi International Airport at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility. The Managing Director and CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports presented this innovation as the “first of its kind in the UAE and the world, to further enhance our passenger journey.”⁷⁸¹⁷ This is part of the Smart Travel Project at Zayed International Airport, launched in collaboration with the ICP, which aims to integrate biometric authentication across all passenger touchpoints at the airport.⁷⁸¹⁸

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), which had previously piloted emotional AI for tram drivers,⁷⁸¹⁹ launched a next-generation AI and digital twin-based traffic signal control system in February 2025.⁷⁸²⁰ Dubai Police introduced Ghiath vehicles, equipped with a 360-degree camera backed with facial and plate

⁷⁸¹⁴ Esraa Ismail and Tariq Alfaham, *UAE Government to Employ Biometric Face Recognition to Register Customers under “UAE Pass” App*, UAE Government Launches “Think AI” Initiative, Emirates News Agency (Apr. 7, 2021), <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395302925206>

⁷⁸¹⁵ UAE Government Portal, *Data Protection Laws* (Nov. 27, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/data/data-protection-laws>

⁷⁸¹⁶ Khaleej Times, *Abu Dhabi Airport to Replace Passport Checks with Facial Recognition Technology* (Nov. 2, 2022), <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/abu-dhabi-airport-to-replace-passport-checks-with-facial-recognition-technology>

⁷⁸¹⁷ Emirates News Agency, *Abu Dhabi Airports Gears to Launch Advanced Biometric Technology with Touchless Boarding* (Nov 2, 2022), <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395303097484>

⁷⁸¹⁸ Gulf News, *Abu Dhabi Airport, ICP Launch World's First-of-its-Kind Biometric Smart Travel* (Jul. 21, 2024), <https://gulfnews.com/uae/transport/abu-dhabi-airport-icp-launch-worlds-first-of-its-kind-biometric-smart-travel-1.103566116>

⁷⁸¹⁹ Dubai Media Office, *RTA Uses Emotional AI to Assess Tram Drivers in Real-Time* (Oct. 30, 2022), <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2022/October/30-10/RTA-uses-Emotional-AI-to-assess-Tram-drivers-in-real-time>

⁷⁸²⁰ Dubai Media Office, *RTA Launches Traffic Signal Control System Upgrade Using AI and Digital Twin Technology* (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://www.mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2025/february/24-02/rta-launches-traffic-signal-control-system-upgrade-using-ai-and-digital-twin-technology>

recognition technology. The system includes drones to extend surveillance outreach.⁷⁸²¹ In March 2024, W Motors unveiled three new Ghiath editions at the World Police Summit in Dubai, expanding the program with Smart Patrol, City Patrol, and First Responder variants.⁷⁸²² At GITEX Global 2025, the UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Ports Security (ICP) unveiled AI-powered smart inspection cars capable of scanning streets to detect and identify visa and residency violators in real time.⁷⁸²³

Carrefour, operated by Majid Al Futtaim in the UAE, in partnership with US-based biometric PopID and Network International, launched the Face Pay face-biometric payments platform in select UAE stores in February 2023.⁷⁸²⁴ The Face Pay system is operational in selected Carrefour stores in Dubai (Deira and Al Saf Mall), where customers can enroll via the app and pay by facial recognition. In 2020, the Belgian Data Protection Authority investigated Carrefour Belgium for collecting fingerprint biometric data from customers in a payment without clear, explicit consent, raising GDPR compliance concerns.⁷⁸²⁵

Biometric Identification

The UAE Pass launched in 2018 is the first digital national ID for citizens, residents, and visitors to access government and private-sector services and to sign documents digitally.⁷⁸²⁶ The app was developed by Digital Dubai, the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, and Abu Dhabi Digital Authority. Earlier adoption figures from 2020 recorded around 244,000 verified accounts.⁷⁸²⁷ By June 2025, the platform reported more than 11 million users

⁷⁸²¹ Eric Weiss, *Dubai Police Unveil Biometric Surveillance Cars*, IDTech Wire (Mar. 16, 2022), <https://idtechwire.com/dubai-police-unveil-biometric-surveillance-cars-031604/>

⁷⁸²² W Motors, *W Motors Announce the Launch of the New Ghiath Editions* (Mar. 13, 2024), <https://www.wmotors.ae/w-motors-announce-the-launch-of-the-new-ghiath-editions/>

⁷⁸²³ Gulf News, *UAE Unveils AI-Powered Car to Identify Visa and Residency Violators* (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/uae-unveils-ai-powered-car-to-identify-visa-and-residency-violators-1.500305484>

⁷⁸²⁴ Lu-Hai Liang, *PopID Gets Equity Financing to Build Global Biometric Network Infrastructure*, Biometric Update (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202506/popid-gets-equity-financing-to-build-global-biometric-network-infrastructure>

⁷⁸²⁵ Luana Pascu, *Belgian Data Protection Authority Warns Supermarket Chain Carrefour about Biometric Data Collection*, Biometric Update (Jan. 16, 2020), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202001/belgian-data-protection-authority-warns-supermarket-chain-carrefour-about-biometric-data-collection>

⁷⁸²⁶ UAE Government Portal, *What Is the UAE Pass?* (2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-transformation/platforms-and-apps/the-uae-pass-app>

⁷⁸²⁷ ITU, *UAE Pass: The Digital Identity Solution Unlocking Thousands of Services in the UAE* (Nov. 30, 2021), <https://www.itu.int/hub/2020/11/uae-pass-the-digital-identity-solution-unlocking-thousands-of-services-in-the-united-arab-emirates/>

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across government and private-sector services, with over 322 integrated service providers and 2.6 billion digital transactions completed.⁷⁸²⁸ The system features a Digital Vault powered by blockchain technology, which allows users to securely store official documents and share them digitally with government entities, facilitating more seamless transactions.⁷⁸²⁹

The UAE Pass aligns with the protection of privacy and digital identity provisions outlined in the Federal Decree Law on Combatting Rumors and Cybercrime,⁷⁸³⁰ and the Electronic Transactions and Trust Services Law.⁷⁸³¹

Mass Surveillance

In 2017 the Dubai Police released the 2018-31 strategic plan for artificial intelligence.⁷⁸³² The plan includes the use of AI techniques in criminal forensic investigation and in police operations to predict crimes. AI techniques were set to forecast crime, perform crowd management, enhance traffic safety and road security, and manage crises and disasters.

In 2018, Dubai Police announced the launch of Oyoon, an artificial intelligence surveillance program⁷⁸³³ that had the support of the government, semi-government, and private sector entities. The system intended to “provide a safer living experience.”⁷⁸³⁴ The system operates through tens of thousands of cameras with facial recognition software and microphones to track and analyze the movements of suspected would-be thieves. The system would give verbal warnings

⁷⁸²⁸ Gulf News, *Over 11 Million UAE Residents Are Using This App to Handle Government Services from Their Phone* (Jun. 18, 2025), <https://gulfnews.com/living-in-uae/ask-us/how-to-use-uae-pass-to-access-5000-government-and-private-services-in-the-uae-1.500168233>

⁷⁸²⁹ UAE Government Portal, *The UAE Pass* (Dec. 30, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-transformation/platforms-and-apps/the-uae-pass-app>

⁷⁸³⁰ Emirates News Agency, *Public Prosecution Explains Penalties of Fake E-mails, Websites, Online Accounts* (Mar. 22, 2022), <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395303032222>

⁷⁸³¹ Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, *Electronic Transactions and Trust Services Law (Ara)* (2021), <https://tdra.gov.ae/-/media/About/LEGAL-REFERENCES/LAW/LAW-English/Electronic-Transactions-and-trust-sevices-law-AR.ashx>

⁷⁸³² OPENGOV, *Dubai Police Launches Artificial Intelligence-Based Surveillance Programme* (Jan. 29, 2018), <https://archive.opengovasia.com/2018/01/29/dubai-police-launches-artificial-intelligence-based-surveillance-programme/>

⁷⁸³³ Emirates News Agency, *Dubai Police Launches Surveillance Programme* (Jan. 28, 2018), <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302662970>

⁷⁸³⁴ Arabian Business, *Dubai Police to Launch AI-Powered Surveillance System* (Jan. 28, 2018), <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/business/388558-dubai-police-to-launch-ai-powered-surveillance-system>

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before the commitment of the crime.⁷⁸³⁵ The Oyoon program has expanded to integrate over 300,000 cameras with facial recognition capabilities across Dubai as of 2025, enabling real-time monitoring of residents and visitors.⁷⁸³⁶

Abu Dhabi Monitoring and Control Center (ADMCC) released the Falcon Eye system in 2016. The Falcon Eye system operated with a live feed to thousands of cameras installed in key locations to “observe events and monitor and limit violations.”⁷⁸³⁷

Human Rights Watch reported the use of advanced mass surveillance technologies “to pervasively monitor public spaces, internet activity, and even individuals’ phones and computers, in violation of their right to privacy, freedom of expression, association, and other rights.”⁷⁸³⁸

Environmental Impact of AI

The UAE has undertaken initiatives aimed at leveraging AI for environmental sustainability. The UAE’s official stance on AI policy internationally aims to address environmental challenges such as climate change, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture in AI development efforts. According to this policy, the UAE aims to participate in platforms that contribute to the development of international standards for AI sustainability.⁷⁸³⁹

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is using AI to enhance energy sustainability and efficiency by monitoring demand,⁷⁸⁴⁰ including through the Digital DEWA initiative,⁷⁸⁴¹ which seeks to use autonomous systems for renewable energy, storage, and delivery of water and electricity services. DEWA launched a

⁷⁸³⁵ Human Rights Watch, *UAE: Tolerance Narrative a Sham: Censorship; Surveillance; Prison or Barred Entry for Critics* (Oct. 1, 2021), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/01/uae-tolerance-narrative-sham-0>

⁷⁸³⁶ Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, *The Rise of AI Surveillance in the UAE: Implications for Human Rights* (Apr. 17, 2025), <https://www.adhrb.org/2025/04/the-rise-of-ai-surveillance-in-the-uae-implications-for-human-rights/>

⁷⁸³⁷ Emirates News Agency, *Abu Dhabi Monitoring and Control Centre Launches “Falcon Eye” System in Abu Dhabi* (Jul. 13, 2016), <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395297714914>

⁷⁸³⁸ Human Rights Watch, *UAE: Events of 2022* (2023), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/united-arab-emirates>

⁷⁸³⁹ Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office, *Public Policy Document UAE’s International Stance on Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Sept. 2, 2024), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/policy/details/uae-s-international-stance-on-artificial-intelligence-policy>

⁷⁸⁴⁰ DEWA, *The Role of AI in Growing Demand for Electricity and Water* (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/media-publications/latest-news/2025/10/the-role-of-ai-in-growing-demand>

⁷⁸⁴¹ DEWA, *Digital DEWA* (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/strategic-initiatives/digital-dewa>

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strategic roadmap in March 2025 to integrate AI across all core operations and services. The project aligns with the authority's objective to become the world's first AI-native utility and with the UAE National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031.⁷⁸⁴² DEWA also launched an AI-based Legislation Agent to ensure regulatory compliance with local and international standards and support decision-making related to DEWA's area of work.⁷⁸⁴³ DEWA's AI-powered smart waste bins and waste-to-energy projects are revolutionizing waste management in the UAE.⁷⁸⁴⁴

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The UAE is a High-Contracting Party to the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁷⁸⁴⁵ As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the UAE has supported the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems to ensure that the weapons respect human rights and remain accountable.⁷⁸⁴⁶

In October 2023, the UAE abstained from voting on UN General Assembly First Committee Resolution A/C.1/78/L.56 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, which was subsequently adopted as Resolution 78/241.⁷⁸⁴⁷ The UAE voted in favor of the successor resolutions in 2024 and 2025.⁷⁸⁴⁸

⁷⁸⁴² DEWA, *DEWA Announces Roadmap to Becoming World's First AI-Native Utility* (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/media-publications/latest-news/2025/03/dewa-announces-roadmap>

⁷⁸⁴³ DEWA, *DEWA Launches AI-Based Legislation Agent* (Jun. 14, 2025), <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/media-publications/latest-news/2025/06/dewa-launches-ai-based-legislation-agent>

⁷⁸⁴⁴ Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, *DEWA Employees Recycle over 7.1 Tonnes of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans in 14 Months* (Mar. 3, 2024), <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-us/media-publications/latest-news/2024/03/dewa-employees-recycle>

⁷⁸⁴⁵ United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁷⁸⁴⁶ Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Disarmament Database, *Country Profile: United Arab Emirates*, <http://cns.miis.edu/nam/index.php/site/showProfile/111>

⁷⁸⁴⁷ UN Press, *First Committee Approves Text on Lethal Autonomous Weapons* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gadis3731.doc.htm>

⁷⁸⁴⁸ UN General Assembly, *Draft Resolution L.77 on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* [79.62], A/C.1/79/L.77 (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

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AI Literacy

The Federal government set up the UAE National Program for Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁸⁴⁹ a comprehensive set of resources on advances in AI and Robotics. The program encompasses free courses for UAE residents to raise awareness and understanding of AI technologies.⁷⁸⁵⁰ The government has endeavored to upskill the student population and government employees by providing relevant trainings through the AI Camp.⁷⁸⁵¹ The Minister of State for AI announced a workforce initiative to reskill, retool, or support early retirement for UAE government employees whose roles are being displaced or augmented by AI technologies.⁷⁸⁵²

The UAE AI Office's 2023 Memorandum of Understanding with Code.org for assistance integrating computer science and AI education into UAE schools aimed to foster digital literacy and tech skills to the classroom.⁷⁸⁵³ The UAE Cabinet subsequently approved the introduction of Artificial Intelligence as a mandatory subject across all public schools from kindergarten through Grade 12 beginning in the 2025–2026 academic year.⁷⁸⁵⁴ The curriculum spans seven areas: fundamental AI concepts, data and algorithms, software use, ethical awareness, real-world applications, innovation and project design, and policies and community engagement, with more than 1,000 specialized teachers completing advanced training programs to deliver the subject.

The Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), in collaboration with MIT's Day of AI program, launched an AI Literacy Curriculum in October 2025, offering ready-to-use lesson plans, educator guides, and student activities from kindergarten through Grade 12. The curriculum is designed to foster critical thinking and responsible AI use.⁷⁸⁵⁵

⁷⁸⁴⁹ UAE Government Portal, *Artificial Intelligence in Government Policies* (Jul. 8, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-in-government-policies>

⁷⁸⁵⁰ UAE Government Portal, *Learning Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 5, 2025), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/learning-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁸⁵¹ Emirates News Agency, *Seventh Edition of UAE AI Camp Kicks off to Empower Future Innovators* (Jul. 21, 2025), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bksms9q-seventh-edition-uae-camp-kicks-off-empower-future>

⁷⁸⁵² Emirates News Agency, *UAE Minister of State for AI Announces Workforce Reskilling Initiative* (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/3uo2p7-uae-announces-reskilling-initiative-boost-job>

⁷⁸⁵³ Emirates News Agency, *UAE AI Office Signs MoU with Code.org* (Oct. 22, 2023), <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303222580>

⁷⁸⁵⁴ Gulf News, *UAE Schools to Introduce AI Curriculum in New Academic Year* (Aug. 23, 2025), <https://gulfnews.com/uae/education/uae-schools-to-introduce-ai-curriculum-in-new-academic-year-1.500242831>

⁷⁸⁵⁵ ADEK/Day of AI, *Empowering Students with AI Literacy*, <https://adek.dayofai.org/>

Human Rights

The UAE has agreed to uphold the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).⁷⁸⁵⁶ UAE has not ratified any binding agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)⁷⁸⁵⁷ nor withdrawn existing reservations or declarations. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UAE in 2018, noted the transparent and gradualist approach of the UAE to align legislative and administrative norms with the commitments to human rights protection.⁷⁸⁵⁸ The UAE made voluntary pledges⁷⁸⁵⁹ related to engagement with UN human rights agencies, formulating a national human rights plan, protecting labor rights, pursuing SDGs, and exploring ethically and responsibly the possibilities of artificial intelligence.⁷⁸⁶⁰ At the UAE's fourth UPR in May 2023, the UAE agreed to nearly 200 of more than 300 recommendations but rejected all recommendations to ratify the ICCPR and did not agree to review domestic legislation to align with international standards on freedom of expression.⁷⁸⁶¹

The UAE National Human Rights Committee is committed to keeping pace with technological advancements to further the protection and promotion of human rights in the UAE. In April 2025, the Committee discussed AI ethics from a human rights perspective,⁷⁸⁶² and in May 2025 participated in an International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights in Doha.⁷⁸⁶³

⁷⁸⁵⁶ United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, History of the Declaration*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/udhr/history-of-the-declaration>

⁷⁸⁵⁷ UN Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review Third Cycle: United Arab Emirates, Reference Documents* (2018), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-united-arab-emirates-un-contributions-s29>

⁷⁸⁵⁸ OHCHR, *National Report Submitted in Accordance with Paragraph 15(A) of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1, United Arab Emirates* (Nov. 13, 2017), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/338/81/PDF/G1733881.pdf?OpenElement>

⁷⁸⁵⁹ Permanent Committee for Human Rights, *Statement by National Human Rights Committee from its Fifth Meeting, on UAE Winning Membership on UN Human Rights Council for Third Time in its History* (2022), <https://pchr.gov.ae/en/news-details/statement-by-national-human-rights-committee-from-its-fifth-meeting>

⁷⁸⁶⁰ United Nations United Arab Emirates, *UN in UAE Working Together as One* (Nov. 3, 2022), <https://unitedarabemirates.un.org/en/215053-un-uae-working-together-one>

⁷⁸⁶¹ OHCHR, *United Arab Emirates — Fourth UPR Cycle* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ae-index>

⁷⁸⁶² Emirates News Agency, *National Human Rights Institution Discusses AI Ethics from Human Rights Perspective* (Apr. 22, 2025), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bjb1rzw-national-human-rights-institution-discusses-ethics>

⁷⁸⁶³ Emirates News Agency, *NHRI Participates in International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights in Doha* (May 29, 2025), <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/bjx2tdb-nhri-participates-international-conference>

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In 2025, Freedom House scored UAE 18/100 concerning political rights and civil liberties and rated the country “Not Free.”⁷⁸⁶⁴ Freedom House reports the ban of political parties in UAE and the concentration of all executive, legislative, and judicial authority with the hereditary rulers of the seven emirates. Human Rights Watch raised concerns about the UAE's stark contrast between its carefully crafted progressive image and its actual practices of suppressing dissent, maintaining long-term detention of activists (particularly in the UAE94 case),⁷⁸⁶⁵ and perpetuating systematic abuse of migrant workers who face both labor exploitation and heightened climate risks.⁷⁸⁶⁶

AI Safety Summit

The UAE participated in the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁷⁸⁶⁷ The UAE thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully [realize] their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The UAE also participated in the second AI Safety Summit,⁷⁸⁶⁸ which took place in Seoul, Korea. The UAE signed the Seoul Ministerial Statement⁷⁸⁶⁹ on advancing AI safety, innovation and inclusivity. UAE-based companies G42 and the

⁷⁸⁶⁴ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: United Arab Emirates* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-arab-emirates/freedom-world/2025>

⁷⁸⁶⁵ Amnesty International, *UAE: Nearly a Decade of Unjust Imprisonment for “UAE-94” Dissidents* (Jul. 2, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/07/uae-nearly-a-decade-of-unjust-imprisonment-for-uae-94-dissidents-2/>

⁷⁸⁶⁶ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2024: UAE* (2024), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/united-arab-emirates>

⁷⁸⁶⁷ UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 1–2, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁷⁸⁶⁸ AI Seoul Summit 2024, *Program Details, Participants* (May 21–22, 2024), <https://aiseoulsummit.kr/program/?uid=9&mod=document&pageid=1>

⁷⁸⁶⁹ AI Seoul Summit 2024, *Seoul Ministerial Statement for Advancing AI Safety, Innovation, and Inclusivity* (May 22, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seoul-ministerial-statement-for-advancing-ai-safety-innovation-and-inclusivity-ai-seoul-summit-2024/seoul-ministerial-statement-for-advancing-ai-safety-innovation-and-inclusivity-ai-seoul-summit-2024>

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Technology Innovation Institute signed the Frontier AI Safety Commitments at the Summit.⁷⁸⁷⁰

International AI Governance Collaboration

The UAE Cabinet approved the country's official stance on AI policy internationally,⁷⁸⁷¹ marking a significant step in the UAE's commitment to global AI governance and development. This policy is built on six core principles and includes several key foreign policy initiatives: advancement, cooperation, community, ethics, sustainability, and security. This policy underscores the UAE's commitment to responsible AI development and its ambition to play a leading role in shaping the global AI landscape while balancing technological advancement with societal welfare.

The UAE and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding⁷⁸⁷² in January 2025 to collaborate as part of Malaysia's Madani Artificial Intelligence initiative. The partnership aims to leverage AI and advanced data analytics to enhance community safety, national security, and operational efficiencies, including the development of AI-driven national security systems and high-performance computing data centers.

The UAE released a Framework Statement with the United States forging intergovernmental cooperation on AI governance.⁷⁸⁷³ The statement was issued following a meeting between UAE President H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and former U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The framework statement outlines several key aspects of cooperation. The statement acknowledges the potential of AI to drive economic growth, transform various sectors, and promote sustainability. However, the framework also recognizes the challenges and risks associated with this emerging technology. The framework statement sets the stage

⁷⁸⁷⁰ UK Government, *Frontier AI Safety Commitments, AI Seoul Summit 2024* (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/frontier-ai-safety-commitments-ai-seoul-summit-2024/frontier-ai-safety-commitments-ai-seoul-summit-2024>

⁷⁸⁷¹ Government of United Arab Emirates, *UAE's International Stance on Artificial Intelligence Policy* (Mar. 13, 2026), <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/policy/details/uae-s-international-stance-on-artificial-intelligence-policy>

⁷⁸⁷² Abu Dhabi Media Office, *UAE and Malaysia Sign MoU to Collaborate in Artificial Intelligence as Part of MMAI Initiative* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.mediaoffice.abudhabi/en/crown-prince-news/in-the-presence-of-khaled-bin-mohamed-bin-zayed-prime-minister-of-malaysia-and-tahnoon-bin-zayed-uae-and-malaysia-sign-mou-to-collaborate-in-artificial-intelligence-as-part-of-malaysia-madani-artificial-intelligence-initiative/>

⁷⁸⁷³ Biden White House Archives, *United States and United Arab Emirates Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/09/23/united-states-and-united-arab-emirates-cooperation-on-artificial-intelligence/>

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for deeper cooperation between the two nations in AI governance, with potential implications for global standards and practices.

The UAE co-sponsored the UN General Assembly Resolution on Seizing the Opportunities of Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development,⁷⁸⁷⁴ which addresses the potential of AI in accelerating global development while also recognizing associated risks. The main objectives include bridging the AI and digital divides between and within countries; promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems; and accelerating progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This resolution marks a significant step in global AI governance, aiming to harness the technology's potential for sustainable development while addressing associated challenges and risks.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The UAE is not a member of the OECD or G20 and has not endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁷⁸⁷⁵ The UAE engages with the OECD as member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).⁷⁸⁷⁶ UAE was the first participant of the DAC since July 2014 upon OECD's invitation.⁷⁸⁷⁷ The UAE is not a member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).⁷⁸⁷⁸

The OECD.AI Observatory reports on the efforts of the UAE in governance through the enactment of the UAE National AI Strategy. The strategy addresses the OECD AI principles of (1) inclusive growth, sustainable development, and well-being; (2) investing in AI research and development, and (3) building human capacity and preparing for labor market transformation.⁷⁸⁷⁹ The OECD acknowledges the AI Principles and Ethics for the Emirates of Dubai relevant to transparency and

⁷⁸⁷⁴ UN General Assembly, *Seventy-Eighth Session, Agenda Item 13, Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Field* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/065/92/pdf/n2406592.pdf>

⁷⁸⁷⁵ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁷⁸⁷⁶ OECD, *Development Co-operation Profiles: United Arab Emirates* (Jun. 11, 2025), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-co-operation-profiles_04b376d7-en/united-arab-emirates_f39888ef-en.html

⁷⁸⁷⁷ OECD, Development Co-Operation Directorate, *The United Arab Emirates Accepts Invitation to Become a Participant of the DAC* (Jul. 11, 2014), [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DIR\(2014\)11/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DIR(2014)11/en/pdf)

⁷⁸⁷⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁷⁸⁷⁹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *UAE National Strategy for AI* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/uae-national-strategy-for-ai-8711>

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explainability principles.⁷⁸⁸⁰ The OECD also acknowledges the Federal Data Protection Law as establishing a unified data protection regime in the UAE for data transfers from the European Union and other regulated jurisdictions.⁷⁸⁸¹

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The UAE has not endorsed the COE Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and Rule of Law.⁷⁸⁸² The UAE did not participate in the drafting of the first international legally binding treaty on artificial intelligence.

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

The UAE has been a UNESCO member since 1972, only one year after their foundation as a country.⁷⁸⁸³ The UAE was among the member states that endorsed the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI.⁷⁸⁸⁴ The pact promotes human rights and contributes to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals, encompassing chapters on data governance, education, culture, employment, health, and the economy, addressing issues of transparency, accountability, and privacy.⁷⁸⁸⁵

The 2020 UAE report about the National Strategy for AI shows some alignment with the Recommendations, which came after.⁷⁸⁸⁶ AI oversight falls under two entities. In Dubai, the Digital Dubai Authority (DDA)⁷⁸⁸⁷ ensures the adoption of the Dubai AI Ethics Guidelines and the accompanying Ethical AI Self-Assessment

⁷⁸⁸⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *AI Principles and Ethics for the Emirate of Dubai* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/ai-principles-and-ethics-for-the-emirate-of-dubai-5969>

⁷⁸⁸¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Draft Federal Data Protection Law* (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/draft-federal-data-protection-law-2612>

⁷⁸⁸² Council of Europe, Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty-num=225>

⁷⁸⁸³ UNESCO, *Member States and Country Profiles: United Arab Emirates* (2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ae>

⁷⁸⁸⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁸⁸⁵ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁷⁸⁸⁶ UAE Government Portal, *UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence* (Dec. 30, 2024), <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/government-services-and-digital-transformation/uae-strategy-for-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁸⁸⁷ Digital Dubai, *Digital Regulations* (2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/knowledge-hub/references>

Tool.⁷⁸⁸⁸ At the federal level, the UAE Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Council oversees the implementation of AI technology in society and across government.⁷⁸⁸⁹ The Dubai AI Ethics Guidelines⁷⁸⁹⁰ map to the UNESCO Recommendations, though not explicitly,⁷⁸⁹¹ through the Ethical AI Self-Assessment Tool; accountable, explainable, and transparent principles; and AI Oversight through the AI Ethics Advisory Board.

The UAE has not explicitly addressed implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations through actions such as completing the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁷⁸⁹² However, the Ethical Impact Assessment tool in Dubai aligns with one of the targeted policy actions and the integration of AI and digital literacy in the national curriculum and AI Camp accessible for all in the UAE align with the Education and Research actions.

Evaluation

The UAE stands out as the first country with a Ministry of AI, signaling the country's foresight regarding the impact of artificial intelligence in the lives of its citizens. The release of the National Strategy for AI in 2017 and the establishment of an AI Council are concrete efforts toward AI governance. Likewise, the UAE's International Stance on Artificial Intelligence Policy and the Charter for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, both issued in 2024, signal strengthened AI governance structures. The Dubai AI Ethics Guidelines and the accompanying Ethical AI Self-Assessment Tool are pioneering tools, partially aligned with the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. The UAE has a Personal Data Protection Law that regulates automated decision-making and a Data Protection Office, although the right to algorithmic transparency has not been fully adopted. Calls for reinforcing safeguards for human rights are increasing and so are mass surveillance practices for which there is no proper regulation or oversight.

⁷⁸⁸⁸ Digital Dubai, *AI System Ethics Self-Assessment Tool* (2025), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/self-assessment>

⁷⁸⁸⁹ United Arab Emirates, *Artificial Intelligence in Government Policies*, UAE Council for Artificial Intelligence (Jul. 8, 2025), <https://u.ac/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-technology/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-in-government-policies>

⁷⁸⁹⁰ Smart Dubai, *AI Ethics Principles & Guidelines* (2019), <https://www.digitaldubai.ae/docs/default-source/ai-principles-resources/ai-ethics.pdf>

⁷⁸⁹¹ UNESCO, *Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)* (Oct. 7, 2022), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382931>

⁷⁸⁹² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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United Kingdom

In 2025, the United Kingdom released the AI Playbook for the UK Government to guide the safe and legal means to deploy AI in the public administration and formally adopted the Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability Framework for Automated Decision-Making.

National AI Strategy

The United Kingdom (UK) National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy⁷⁸⁹³ followed roadmaps including the National Data Strategy (2020), a Plan for Digital Regulation (2021), and the UK Innovation Strategy (2021). The UK is ranked third in the world for research and innovation in AI but eleventh for their ability to realize innovation and impact from it. The AI Strategy sets out a ten-year plan with the vision, “to remain an AI and science superpower fit for the next decade.” Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a shift to the national AI strategy intended to cut costs and reduce government investments in industry, moving away from their previous commitments to global safety initiatives and towards more localized, efficient adoption of AI across the public sector. The anticipated plan has not yet been shared publicly.⁷⁸⁹⁴

The UK AI Strategy has three main pillars:⁷⁸⁹⁵ (1) investing and planning for the long-term requirements of the UK’s AI ecosystem; (2) supporting the transition to an AI-enabled economy across all sectors and regions of the UK; and (3) ensuring that the UK gets the national and international governance of AI technologies right to encourage innovation and investment and to protect the public and the country’s fundamental values. Regarding the third pillar, the government proclaimed its intention to develop the most trusted and pro-innovation system for AI governance in the world, aiming to “harness the benefits of AI as we embed our values such as fairness, openness, liberty, security, democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights.”

⁷⁸⁹³ UK Government, *National AI Strategy* (Sept. 2021),

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1020402/National_AI_Strategy_-_PDF_version.pdf

⁷⁸⁹⁴ Reuters, *UK Reshapes Its AI Strategy under Pressure to Cut Costs* (Aug. 2024),

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-reshapes-its-ai-strategy-under-pressure-cut-costs-2024-08-29/>

⁷⁸⁹⁵ UK Government, *National AI Strategy* (Sept. 2021),

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1020402/National_AI_Strategy_-_PDF_version.pdf

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The UK government updated an earlier AI Regulation Policy Paper⁷⁸⁹⁶ and subsequently commissioned a new AI Action Plan aiming to leverage AI for improved public service delivery and economic growth.⁷⁸⁹⁷ The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology published its response to A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation in February 2024.⁷⁸⁹⁸ The updated AI Regulation Policy Paper, like the original, prioritizes the government’s intention to develop regulations true to the core principles of “context-specific,” “pro-innovation and risk-based,” “coherent,” and “proportionate and adaptable.”⁷⁸⁹⁹

These policy updates clarify that UK government departments would share oversight for AI systems and their consequences across the regulatory structures that exist within those departments. For example, healthcare-related AI systems would be regulated by the UK Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC), while broadcasting-related AI systems would be overseen by Ofcom, the UK’s communications regulator.⁷⁹⁰⁰ The policy paper highlights the role of a new regulatory advisory office, the Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum (DRCF), formed in July 2020 as a coordinating body convening regulators from the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Ofcom, to ensure “coherence” across regulations.⁷⁹⁰¹

While strongly endorsing continued AI innovation and investment, the original Policy Paper emphasized, “the success of our AI ecosystem is in part down to the UK’s reputation for the quality of its regulators and its rule of law. This includes the transparency of the UK’s regulatory regime, the detailed scrutiny that proposed regulation receives and comprehensive impact assessments [...] To maintain our leading regulatory approach, we must make sure that the rules that govern the development and use of AI keep pace with the evolving implications of

⁷⁸⁹⁶ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>

⁷⁸⁹⁷ UK Government, *AI Expert to Lead Action Plan to Ensure UK Reaps the Benefits of Artificial Intelligence* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-expert-to-lead-action-plan-to-ensure-uk-reaps-the-benefits-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁸⁹⁸ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation: Government Response* (Feb. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach-policy-proposals/outcome/a-pro-innovation-approach-to-ai-regulation-government-response>

⁷⁸⁹⁹ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>

⁷⁹⁰⁰ UK Government, *National AI Strategy: AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-ai-strategy-ai-action-plan/national-ai-strategy-ai-action-plan>

⁷⁹⁰¹ UK Government, *Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum: Plan of Work for 2021 to 2022* (Mar. 2021), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-regulation-cooperation-forum-workplan-202122/digital-regulation-cooperation-forum-plan-of-work-for-2021-to-2022>

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the technologies.”⁷⁹⁰² The updated AI Regulation White Paper⁷⁹⁰³ and government response⁷⁹⁰⁴ reiterate the importance of “high-quality regulators,” the UK’s “strong approach to the rule of law,” and the critical nature of transparency and impact assessments.

The UK’s cross-sectoral regulatory policies will continue to “be implemented on a non-statutory basis and implemented by existing regulators. This approach makes use of regulators’ domain-specific expertise to tailor the implementation of the principles to the specific context in which AI is used.” They will continue to work with regulators to detect any barriers to the implementation of the principles and monitor whether this “non-statutory framework” has the “desired effect.”⁷⁹⁰⁵ As DCMS stated, “regulators will lead the process of identifying, assessing, prioritizing and contextualizing the specific risks addressed by the [stated] principles... These principles provide clear steers for regulators but will not necessarily translate into mandatory obligations. Indeed, we will encourage regulators to consider lighter touch options in the first instances—for example, through a voluntary or guidance-based approach for uses of AI that fall within their remit.”⁷⁹⁰⁶

The updated policy paper and government response promise to build on “a strong foundation of regulatory coordination, via the DRCF’s published vision for a joint approach to digital regulation and a “multi-agency advice service for digital innovators pilot underway, supported by government’s Regulators’ Pioneer Fund.”⁷⁹⁰⁷ the cross-sectoral, non-statutory governmental oversight of AI. The DCMS acknowledged, “Regulatory coordination will be important for our approach to work and to avoid contradictory or very different approaches across regulators [...] We will look for ways to support collaboration between regulators to ensure a

⁷⁹⁰² UK Government, *Establishing a Pro-Innovation Approach to Regulating AI: AI Regulation Policy Paper* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai-policy-statement>

⁷⁹⁰³ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>

⁷⁹⁰⁴ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation: Government Response* (Feb. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach-policy-proposals/outcome/a-pro-innovation-approach-to-ai-regulation-government-response>

⁷⁹⁰⁵ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>

⁷⁹⁰⁶ UK Government, *Establishing a Pro-Innovation Approach to Regulating AI: AI Regulation Policy Paper* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai-policy-statement>.

⁷⁹⁰⁷ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation: Government Response* (Feb. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach-policy-proposals/outcome/a-pro-innovation-approach-to-ai-regulation-government-response>

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streamlined approach. [...] We also need to ensure that UK regulators have access to the right skills and expertise to effectively regulate AI.”⁷⁹⁰⁸

The UK AI Action Plan updated progress regarding the three pillars of focus mentioned within the original National AI Strategy, including governing AI effectively,⁷⁹⁰⁹ and highlights collaboration with the G7, OECD, Council of Europe, UNESCO, the Future Tech Forum, and the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). The AI Action Plan described a variety of recent regulatory tools and initiatives in keeping with the UK’s policy of cross-sectoral responsibility for AI.

A 2022 Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum (DRCF) report detailed the challenges presented by algorithmic processing tools for regulators across government agencies. The report identified the UK government regulators’ shared objectives to “protect individuals from harm; uphold individual rights; enable participation in online markets; encourage consumer trust and innovation; promote effective competition; promote resilient infrastructure and systems.”⁷⁹¹⁰

The UK Prime Minister’s Office created a dedicated Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to house the Office for Artificial Intelligence (formerly co-housed by DCMS and BEIS).⁷⁹¹¹ This newly created department released a Science and Technology Framework,⁷⁹¹² reiterating the government’s commitment to “a system of regulation and standards that is pro-innovation, easy to navigate and facilitates widespread commercial science and technology applications. [...] Regulation covering critical technologies will be world-leading [...] We will play an active role in the WTO, G7, G20, OECD, NATO, Council of Europe, Commonwealth, and the UN [as an] author of international rules and conventions for

⁷⁹⁰⁸ UK Government, *Establishing a Pro-Innovation Approach to Regulating AI: AI Regulation Policy Paper* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai-policy-statement>.

⁷⁹⁰⁹ UK Government, *National AI Strategy: AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-ai-strategy-ai-action-plan/national-ai-strategy-ai-action-plan>.

⁷⁹¹⁰ UK Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum, *The Benefits and Harms of Algorithms: A Shared Perspective from the Four Digital Regulators* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/findings-from-the-drcf-algorithmic-processing-workstream-spring-2022/the-benefits-and-harms-of-algorithms-a-shared-perspective-from-the-four-digital-regulators#implications-for-regulators>

⁷⁹¹¹ UK PM Office, *Making Government Deliver for the British People* (Feb. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-government-deliver-for-the-british-people>

⁷⁹¹² UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, *Science and Technology Framework* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-science-and-technology-framework>

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critical technologies.” An updated Science and Technology Framework reiterated these goals and commitments.⁷⁹¹³

Following an announcement that the new budget included £3.5 billion “to support the government’s ambitions to make the UK a scientific and technologic superpower,” the Department of Science and Technology reiterated the intention to provide “a new approach to AI regulation, focusing on the applications of AI rather than setting rigid rules for products with an AI component.” The Department also announced plans for the government “to begin working at pace to lead the way in clarifying the application of intellectual property law regarding generative AI.”⁷⁹¹⁴ A later speech by King Charles indicated that his government “will seek to establish the appropriate legislation to place requirements on those working to develop the most powerful artificial intelligence models.”⁷⁹¹⁵

The AI Opportunities Action Plan⁷⁹¹⁶ released in 2025 outlines a decade-long roadmap with 50 long-term and immediate actionable recommendations to foster AI sovereignty through investment and adoption. The AI Opportunities Action Plan aims to enable safe and trusted AI development and adoption through regulation, safety, and assurance. However, the plan does not explicitly reference human rights, democratic values, or the rule of law. The UK Technology Secretary’s AI Playbook for the UK Government⁷⁹¹⁷ features a detailed section outlining the steps required for building AI solutions in a safe and responsible way, taking into account of ethics, legal considerations, data protection and privacy, security and governance. The Playbook aims “to provide departments and public sector organizations with accessible technical guidance on the safe and effective use of AI.”

⁷⁹¹³ UK Government, *The UK Science and Technology Framework* (Feb. 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-science-and-technology-framework/the-uk-science-and-technology-framework>

⁷⁹¹⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, *Government Commits Up to £3.5 Billion to Future of Tech and Science* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-up-to-35-billion-to-future-of-tech-and-science>

⁷⁹¹⁵ UK Government, *Oral Statement to Parliament: The King’s Speech 2024* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-kings-speech-2024>

⁷⁹¹⁶ UK Government, *AI Opportunities Action Plan* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan/ai-opportunities-action-plan>

⁷⁹¹⁷ UK Government, *AI Playbook for the UK Government* (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-playbook-for-the-uk-government/artificial-intelligence-playbook-for-the-uk-government-html>

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AI Legislation

In the backdrop of the UK's priorities centered on business and innovation rather than regulation, the AI Regulation Bill, originally introduced in 2023 by Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE,⁷⁹¹⁸ was relaunched in the House of Lords and passed its first reading in 2025.⁷⁹¹⁹ The Bill sets out five principles of AI regulation: "i. Safety, security, and robustness; ii. Appropriate transparency and explainability; iii. Fairness; iv. Accountability and governance; v. Contestability and redress." If enacted, the Bill would require the Secretary of State to create a central AI Authority that would oversee AI regulation, assess emerging AI risks and support Innovation.

The Crime and Policing Bill under consideration by the House of Lords after passing the House of Commons⁷⁹²⁰ includes new provisions criminalizing the possession, creation, and distribution of AI tools designed to generate child sexual abuse material.⁷⁹²¹ This legal reform seeks to close existing legislative gaps and reflects a rights-based approach to regulating high-risk AI applications. The legislation includes penalties of up to five years for developing or supplying a CSA image generator, and up to three years for possessing manuals instructing on the use of AI for abuse.

Public Participation

The UK government has a firmly established practice of making draft policies available to the public for consultation and of providing the public with access to the findings gleaned from consultation.⁷⁹²² The UK Cabinet Office pledged in 2012 to "use more digital methods to consult with a wider group of people at an earlier stage in the policy-forming process. We will make it easier for the public to contribute their views, and we will try harder to use clear language and plain English in consultation documents."⁷⁹²³

⁷⁹¹⁸ UK Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence (Regulation) Bill (HL)* (Nov. 22, 2023), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3519>

⁷⁹¹⁹ UK Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence (Regulation) Bill (HL)* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/59353/documents/6128>

⁷⁹²⁰ Parliamentary Bills, *Crime and Policing Bill* (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3938>

⁷⁹²¹ Ministry of Justice, *Crime and Policing Bill: Child Sexual Abuse Material Factsheet* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-and-policing-bill-2025-factsheets/crime-and-policing-bill-child-sexual-abuse-material-factsheet>

⁷⁹²² UK Government, *Government Activity: Get Involved* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved#engage-with-government>

⁷⁹²³ UK Government Cabinet Office, *Consultation Principles: Guidance* (Jul. 2012), <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldselect/ldsecleg/100/10004.htm>

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Most AI-related bills have undergone consultation through this process after drafting while others have sought the input of experts and community groups earlier. However, the Open Rights Group raised concerns⁷⁹²⁴ over an absence of meaningful consultation with civil society and other critical stakeholders preceding the publication of the new Data (Use and Access) Act.⁷⁹²⁵ “By rushing through legislative proposals [...], the government is taking steps that work against its stated intent of unlocking the use of data” says the organization’s briefing.⁷⁹²⁶

The UK Ministry of Justice oversaw an open call for information about the ways evidence produced by software is handled in criminal proceedings in 2025. They Ministry noted, “We are keen that any changes to the current common law presumption are carefully defined to only include that evidence which is generated by software, including Artificial Intelligence and algorithms.”⁷⁹²⁷ The government also consulted the public on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence,⁷⁹²⁸ seeking to ensure the legal framework for AI and copyright supports the UK creative industries and AI sector together. Critics of the proposed copyright reforms argued that the system weakens the principle of informed consent and may lead to widespread unauthorized use of creators’ work.⁷⁹²⁹

The Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology consulted the public on the AI Opportunities plan “to harness the insights and expertise of the AI industry, academia, and civil society”⁷⁹³⁰ in 2024. The ICO also launched a series of consultations on generative AI and data protection. The consultation informed a chapter series covering the “lawful basis for web scraping to train generative AI models,” how to apply purpose limitation across the lifecycle of generative AI, “accuracy of training data and model outputs,” how to engineer “individual rights

⁷⁹²⁴ Open Rights Group, *Briefing: Data Use and Access Bill* (Nov. 14, 2024), <https://www.openrightsgroup.org/publications/briefing-data-use-and-access-bill-hl/>

⁷⁹²⁵ UK Parliament, *Data (Use and Access) Act [HL]* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3825>

⁷⁹²⁶ Open Rights Group, *Briefing: Data Use and Access Bill* (Nov. 14, 2024), <https://www.openrightsgroup.org/publications/briefing-data-use-and-access-bill-hl/>

⁷⁹²⁷ UK Ministry of Justice, *Closed Call for Evidence: Use of Evidence Generated by Software in Criminal Proceedings: Call for Evidence* (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/use-of-evidence-generated-by-software-in-criminal-proceedings/use-of-evidence-generated-by-software-in-criminal-proceedings-call-for-evidence>

⁷⁹²⁸ UK Government, *Closed Consultation: Copyright and Artificial Intelligence* (Dec.17, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/copyright-and-artificial-intelligence>

⁷⁹²⁹ UK Parliament, *Copyright and Artificial Intelligence: Impact on Creative Industries* (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/copyright-and-artificial-intelligence-impact-on-creative-industries/>

⁷⁹³⁰ UK Parliament, *AI Opportunities Action Plan* (Jul. 2024), <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-26/debates/24072618000012/AIOpportunitiesActionPlan>

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into generative AI models,” and how to allocate “controllership across the generative AI lifecycle.”⁷⁹³¹

The recent consultations followed participation such as the earlier Online Harms White Paper.⁷⁹³² Consultation on the white paper resulted in “2400 responses ranging from companies in the technology industry including large tech giants and small and medium sized enterprises, academics, think tanks, children’s charities, rights groups, publishers, governmental organizations and individuals.” The government provided an overview of consultation responses and enumerated the links between the revised policy proposals and the input obtained during public consultation.⁷⁹³³

A revised Online Safety Bill⁷⁹³⁴ released to the public with key provisions aimed at preventing online exploitation, particularly of children and vulnerable adults, and to bolster responsible journalism. The Bill was granted Royal Assent and became the Online Safety Act.⁷⁹³⁵ Following publication of the AI Regulation Policy Paper in July 2022, DCMS provided a ten-week period for “views and evidence” from stakeholders about “how the UK can best set the rules for regulating AI in a way that drives innovation and growth while also protecting our fundamental values.”⁷⁹³⁶ Responses informed the AI Regulation White Paper a year later.⁷⁹³⁷

The UK government is additionally attempting to engage members of its communities that have traditionally been excluded from participation in building artificial intelligence and playing a role in its governance through the Alan Turing Institute, created in 2015 as a “national institute for data science” and more recently adding “and artificial intelligence.” The Turing Institute announced funding for seven innovative projects to boost public engagement with data science and AI across

⁷⁹³¹ Information Commissioner’s Office, *ICO Consultation Series on Generative AI and Data Protection* (Sept. 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/ico-and-stakeholder-consultations/ico-consultation-series-on-generative-ai-and-data-protection/>

⁷⁹³² UK Government, DCMS, *Online Harms White Paper* (Apr. 2019), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

⁷⁹³³ UK Government, DCMS, *Online Harms White Paper Consultations: Full Government Response* (Dec. 2020), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/outcome/online-harms-white-paper-full-government-response>

⁷⁹³⁴ UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and DCMS, *Online Safety Bill* (Jan. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/online-safety-bill>

⁷⁹³⁵ UK Parliament, *Online Safety Act 2023* (Aug. 19, 2024), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

⁷⁹³⁶ UK Government, *Establishing a Pro-Innovation Approach to Regulating AI: AI Regulation Policy Paper* (Jul. 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai-policy-statement>

⁷⁹³⁷ UK Government, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation* (Aug. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>

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the UK in 2022.⁷⁹³⁸ The initiative aimed to attract members of underrepresented groups to “widen participation by inspiring members of the public who may not usually interact with science to take an interest and have a voice in AI and data science.”⁷⁹³⁹

Data Protection

Data protection in the UK is governed by both the 2018 Data Protection Act (DPA)⁷⁹⁴⁰ and the UK GDPR.⁷⁹⁴¹ The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) was established as an “independent regulator for Data Protection and Freedom of Information” in accordance with the DPA, as it had previously been designated in accordance with the EU GDPR requirements.⁷⁹⁴² The ICO is a non-departmental public body that reports directly to the UK Parliament. It is sponsored by the Department of Science, Innovation, and Technology, emphasizing its role in overseeing data protection laws and promoting transparency in public bodies. The Government passed the Data Use and Access Act 2025 (DUAA). While the new Act does not replace UK GDPR, the DUAA made some significant changes, particularly around automated decision-making.⁷⁹⁴³ The Open Rights Group, an organization campaigning to protect digital rights and privacy, expressed concern about the DUAA’s provisions in relation to the use of Artificial Intelligence, noting before it passed Parliament “The Bill would remove important protections for automated decision-making and AI, reduce the scope of transparency obligations and rights, and lower accountability over how data is shared and accessed for law enforcement and other public security purposes.”⁷⁹⁴⁴

The UK GDPR essentially mirrors the EU GDPR; the DPA updated this regulation with clarification regarding oversight and enforcement powers.⁷⁹⁴⁵ While

⁷⁹³⁸ Alan Turing Institute, *Turing Funds Seven Innovative Projects to Boost Public Engagement with Data Science and AI* (Aug. 26, 2022), <https://www.turing.ac.uk/news/turing-funds-seven-innovative-projects-boost-public-engagement-data-science-and-ai>

⁷⁹³⁹ Ibid

⁷⁹⁴⁰ UK Government, *The Data Protection Act* (Oct. 25, 2018), <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

⁷⁹⁴¹ UK ICO, *The UK GDPR*, <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-the-eu/data-protection-and-the-eu-in-detail/the-uk-gdpr/>

⁷⁹⁴² UK Government, *Data Protection* (May 2018), <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection>

⁷⁹⁴³ UK Government, *Data (Use and Access) Act 2025: Data Protection and Privacy Changes* (Jun. 27, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-use-and-access-act-2025-data-protection-and-privacy-changes>

⁷⁹⁴⁴ Open Rights Group, *Briefing: Data Use and Access Bill* (Nov. 14, 2024), <https://www.openrightsgroup.org/publications/briefing-data-use-and-access-bill-hl/>

⁷⁹⁴⁵ UK ICO, *About the DPA 2018* (Mar. 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/introduction-to-dpa-2018/about-the-dpa-2018/#1>

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the EU GDPR has extraterritorial applicability regardless of the organization's location, the UK GDPR primarily applies to organizations based in the UK or those outside the UK processing data of individuals in the UK. The UK GDPR is enforced by a single entity, the ICO, with no coordination with the European Data Protection Board (EDPB). Importantly, the EU GDPR generally excludes personal data collected for national security and intelligence services from its scope while the UK GDPR allows certain exceptions. Other important differences concern the age of consent for data processing practices and fines. Since Brexit, the UK is considered a "third country" by the EU. However, the country benefits from an adequacy decision that allows free data flows between the EU and the UK.

The UK remains an active member of the Council of Europe⁷⁹⁴⁶ and a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention 108+. Commitments to Convention 108 requires the safeguarding of rights pertaining to the automated processing of personal data including: the right to be informed; the right to not be subject to automated decision-making, the right to object, the right to remedy following violation of rights, and the right to assistance from a supervisory authority in exercising these rights.⁷⁹⁴⁷ However, the UK has not ratified Convention 108+.⁷⁹⁴⁸

The ICO has clarified how to assess the risks to rights and freedoms that AI pose from a data protection perspective and the appropriate measures that can be implemented to reduce these risks.⁷⁹⁴⁹ With respect to data protection, the guidance advises organizations building or integrating AI systems on the conduct of data protection impact assessments (DPIAs)⁷⁹⁵⁰: "You should not see DPIAs as simply a box ticking compliance exercise. They can effectively act as roadmaps for you to identify and control the risks to rights and freedoms that using AI can pose. They are also an ideal opportunity for you to consider and demonstrate your accountability for the decisions you make in the design or procurement of AI systems."

The ICO has also mapped existing data protection principles to those purposed for regulating AI in response to a government request for key regulators to

⁷⁹⁴⁶ Council of Europe, *Our Member States* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/our-member-states>

⁷⁹⁴⁷ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 and Protocols* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/data-protection/convention108-and-protocol>.

⁷⁹⁴⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications for Treaty 223* (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en-GB/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=223>

⁷⁹⁴⁹ UK ICO, *Guidance on AI and Data Protection* (Mar. 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/key-dp-themes/guidance-on-ai-and-data-protection/>

⁷⁹⁵⁰ UK ICO, *Guide to Data Protection: What Are the Accountability and Governance Implications of AI?* (Mar. 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/key-dp-themes/guidance-on-ai-and-data-protection/what-are-the-accountability-and-governance-implications-of-ai/#DPIA>

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define their regulatory strategies in alignment with the UK's AI White Paper.⁷⁹⁵¹ The goal is to demonstrate how “the ICO already has active experience of implementing the aims and objectives of the AI Regulation White Paper principles.”⁷⁹⁵² Given that AI systems often process personal data, the ICO emphasizes that these systems fall under its regulatory remit. The ICO has been actively involved in AI regulation for over a decade, providing guidance on various applications such as biometric recognition technologies. To support innovation while ensuring compliance with data protection laws, it has established resources such as an AI risk toolkit and a regulatory sandbox. The ICO's strategic approach represents a significant step in establishing a coherent framework for regulating AI in the UK.

The ICO has been a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) since 2002 and co-sponsored the 2018 GPA Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence⁷⁹⁵³ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI.⁷⁹⁵⁴ The ICO was one of the authors of both the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI Accountability⁷⁹⁵⁵ and the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology.⁷⁹⁵⁶

⁷⁹⁵¹ UK Government, *Request for Regulators to Publish an Update on Their Strategic Approach to AI: Secretary of State Letter* (Feb. 15, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/request-for-regulators-to-publish-an-update-on-their-strategic-approach-to-ai-secretary-of-state-letters/letter-from-dsit-secretary-of-state-to-the-information-commissioners-office-html>

⁷⁹⁵² UK ICO, *Regulating AI: The ICO's Strategic Approach* (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/media2/migrated/4029424/regulating-ai-the-icos-strategic-approach.pdf>

⁷⁹⁵³ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁷⁹⁵⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁷⁹⁵⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN-1.pdf>

⁷⁹⁵⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

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Algorithmic Transparency

The UK government lays claim to being a global leader in establishing algorithmic transparency standards.⁷⁹⁵⁷ First, the UK is a member of the Council of Europe and endorsed but not yet ratified Convention 108+, which enshrines the right to algorithmic transparency.⁷⁹⁵⁸ The 2020 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on human rights impacts of algorithmic systems⁷⁹⁵⁹ addresses additional human rights impacts of AI technologies with guidance on obligations of states and responsibilities of companies, specifically emphasizing requirements on transparency, accountability, and effective remedies.

Algorithmic transparency is also provided for by the UK GDPR⁷⁹⁶⁰ and DPA. However, the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA) introduces a more permissible regime under the UK GDPR for organizations using solely automated decision-making systems where those decisions have legal or similarly significant effects on individuals. Organizations will be permitted to use automated processes in a broader range of situations but must put specific safeguards in place. This includes enabling affected individuals to “obtain human intervention in respect of such decisions.”⁷⁹⁶¹

The concept of algorithmic transparency is addressed in some detail in the ICO AI Guidance.⁷⁹⁶² However, much of the earlier guidance is being revised to align with the Data (Use and Access) Act. The ICO guidance on Explaining Decisions Made with AI is also being updated.⁷⁹⁶³ The guidance specifies that “the primary aim

⁷⁹⁵⁷ UK Cabinet Office CDDO, *UK Government Publishes Pioneering Standard for Algorithmic Transparency* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-publishes-pioneering-standard-for-algorithmic-transparency>.

⁷⁹⁵⁸ Council of Europe, *Convention 108 +: Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data*, Article 9 c) (Jun. 2018), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/LIBE/DV/2018/09-10/Convention_108_EN.pdf

⁷⁹⁵⁹ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), https://search.coe.int/cm/pages/result_details.aspx?objectid=09000016809e1154

⁷⁹⁶⁰ UK ICO, *The Basics of Explaining AI: Legal Framework* (Mar. 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/artificial-intelligence/explaining-decisions-made-with-artificial-intelligence/part-1-the-basics-of-explaining-ai/legal-framework/>

⁷⁹⁶¹ UK Government, *Data (Use and Access) Act 2025: Data Protection and Privacy Changes* (Jun. 27, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-use-and-access-act-2025-data-protection-and-privacy-changes>

⁷⁹⁶² UK ICO, *How Do We Ensure Transparency in AI?*, <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/artificial-intelligence/guidance-on-ai-and-data-protection/how-do-we-ensure-transparency-in-ai/>

⁷⁹⁶³ UK ICO, *Explaining Decisions Made with AI*, <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/artificial-intelligence/explaining-decisions-made-with-artificial-intelligence/>

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of explaining fully automated or AI-assisted decisions is justifying a particular result to the individual whose interests are affected by it.”⁷⁹⁶⁴ The explanation should allow the individual to challenge the decision or, alternatively, consider how to change their own behavior for a more favorable outcome in the future.

The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI), formerly a government task force and now an arm of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology,⁷⁹⁶⁵ published its review into bias in algorithmic decision-making.⁷⁹⁶⁶ The Center focused on the use of algorithms in significant decisions about individuals in four sectors (policing, local government, financial services and recruitment). Key recommendations include:

Government should place a mandatory transparency obligation on all public sector organizations using algorithms that have an impact on significant decisions affecting individuals.

Organizations should be actively using data to identify and mitigate bias. They should make sure that they understand the capabilities and limitations of algorithmic tools and carefully consider how they will ensure fair treatment of individuals.

Government should issue guidance that clarifies the application of the Equality Act to algorithmic decision-making. This should include guidance on the collection of data to measure bias, as well as the lawfulness of bias mitigation techniques (some of which risk introducing positive discrimination, which is illegal under the Equality Act).

The Office for Artificial Intelligence published the Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability Framework for Automated Decision-Making for public sector organizations on how to use automated or algorithmic decision-making systems in a safe, sustainable and ethical way.⁷⁹⁶⁷ The 2025 Digital Service updated the guidance in 2025,⁷⁹⁶⁸ providing a “7 point framework [to] help government departments with

⁷⁹⁶⁴ UK ICO, *What goes into an Explanation?* <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/artificial-intelligence/explaining-decisions-made-with-artificial-intelligence/part-1-the-basics-of-explaining-ai/what-goes-into-an-explanation/>

⁷⁹⁶⁵ UK Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, *About Us* (Mar. 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/centre-for-data-ethics-and-innovation/about>

⁷⁹⁶⁶ UK Government, *CDEI Publishes Review into Bias in Algorithmic Decision-Making* (Nov. 27, 2020), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cdei-publishes-review-into-bias-in-algorithmic-decision-making>

⁷⁹⁶⁷ Gov.UK, *Ethics, Transparency and Accountability Framework for Automated Decision-Making* (Nov. 29, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethics-transparency-and-accountability-framework-for-automated-decision-making/ethics-transparency-and-accountability-framework-for-automated-decision-making>

⁷⁹⁶⁸ UK Government, *Ethics, Transparency and Accountability Framework for Automated Decision-Making* (Jan. 29, 2025) <https://www.gov.uk/data-ethics-guidance/ethics-transparency-and-accountability-framework-for-automated-decision-making>

the safe, sustainable and ethical use of automated or algorithmic decision-making systems.”⁷⁹⁶⁹

The Cabinet Office’s Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) built on the guidance to create the Algorithmic Transparency Reporting Standard (ATRS), a pioneering standard for algorithmic transparency and public sector bodies.⁷⁹⁷⁰ The CDDO worked with external experts and civil society groups to create the ATRS, which is also informed by a public engagement study run by the Center for Data Ethics and Innovation and Britain Thinks⁷⁹⁷¹ and a pilot. The revised standard⁷⁹⁷² aims to help public sector organizations provide clear information about the algorithmic tools they use and why they are using them, requiring openness on how algorithmic tools support decision-making in a complete, open, understandable, easily accessible, and free format. Since 2025, all central government departments and specific public bodies using algorithmic tools that significantly influence public-facing decisions must complete an ATRS. The ATRS template has 2 tiers: one to inform the general public using clear and simple language, another still accessible to the public but directed to specialists in civil society, journalists, researchers, “and other organizations wishing to learn from their peers.” The register of public sector organizations includes more than 100 algorithmic transparency records.⁷⁹⁷³

Public Authorities (Fraud, Error, and Recovery) Act 2025

The Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) (PAFER) Act introduces Eligibility Verification Measures under which, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) could compel banks and other financial institutions to trawl their customer data to verify benefit eligibility, including flagging accounts that match undisclosed “eligibility indicators.” Civil liberties organizations led by Big Brother Watch, joined by Age UK and disability and poverty-focused groups, campaigned vigorously against these powers, warning that there are no statutory requirements for algorithmic transparency, accountability or meaningful human oversight, and that

⁷⁹⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁹⁷⁰ UK Cabinet Office CDDO, *UK Government Publishes Pioneering Standard for Algorithmic Transparency* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-publishes-pioneering-standard-for-algorithmic-transparency>

⁷⁹⁷¹ UK Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, *Britain Thinks: Complete Transparency, Complete Simplicity* (Jun. 2021), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cdei-publishes-commissioned-research-on-algorithmic-transparency-in-the-public-sector>

⁷⁹⁷² Cabinet Office, *Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard :Guidance for Public Sector Bodies* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-organisations-using-the-algorithmic-transparency-recording-standard/algorithmic-transparency-recording-standard-guidance-for-public-sector-bodies>

⁷⁹⁷³ UK Government, *Find out How Algorithmic Tools are Used in Public Organizations*, <https://www.gov.uk/algorithmic-transparency-records>

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individuals would often have no right to know how they were flagged or to challenge automated flags. Big Brother Watch highlighted that these powers “disproportionately target some of the poorest and most in need of support in our society, expose us to suspicionless surveillance and needless investigations arising from algorithmic error and undermine the presumption of innocence.”⁷⁹⁷⁴ During Parliamentary debates, some MPs opposed Clause 74 arguing that it presented a surveillance regime that threatened privacy, due process, and equal treatment.⁷⁹⁷⁵ While the most controversial aspects remained in the Act, civil society efforts secured an important concession that anyone flagged under the powers cannot be treated as automatically guilty: the DWP must use the information only to assist human decision-making, requiring investigators to review additional evidence before taking action.

AI Grading Controversy

A widely reported controversy over the use of AI in the UK public sector erupted in the Summer of 2020 during the COVID-19 global pandemic.⁷⁹⁷⁶ With students having completed their studies remotely, the UK Office of Qualifications and Examinations (Ofqual) applied an algorithm to estimate the exam results these students might have received given in-person assessments. Nearly 40 percent of students saw their grades reduced after the government reevaluated exams, known as A-levels.⁷⁹⁷⁷ The software model incorporated the school's past results and students' earlier results on mock exams. The calculations favored students from elite backgrounds.⁷⁹⁷⁸ As the BBC explained, the algorithm “locks in all the advantages and disadvantages—and means that the talented outlier, such as the bright child in

⁷⁹⁷⁴ Big Brother Watch, *Big Brother Watch Briefing on the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill for Report Stage in the House of Lords* (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/BBW-Report-Stage-HoL-Briefing-on-the-Public-Authorities-Fraud-Error-and-Recovery-Bill.pdf>

⁷⁹⁷⁵ UK Parliament, *Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill*, Public Bill Committee Debates, Clause 74 (Mar. 6, 2025), [https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-02-03/debates/77054A7F-DE22-4477-9E06-2E33B6125D5C/PublicAuthorities\(FraudErrorAndRecovery\)Bill?highlight=fraud#main-content](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-02-03/debates/77054A7F-DE22-4477-9E06-2E33B6125D5C/PublicAuthorities(FraudErrorAndRecovery)Bill?highlight=fraud#main-content)

⁷⁹⁷⁶ Karen Hao, *UK Exam Algorithm Can't Fix Broken System* (Aug. 2020), <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/08/20/1007502/uk-exam-algorithm-cant-fix-broken-system/>

⁷⁹⁷⁷ Adam Satariano, *British Grading Debacle Shows Pitfalls of Automating Government*, New York Times (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/20/world/europe/uk-england-grading-algorithm.html>

⁷⁹⁷⁸ Karla Adams, *The UK Used an Algorithm to Estimate Exam Results: The Calculations Favored Elites*, The Washington Post (Aug. 17, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/the-uk-used-an-algorithm-to-estimate-exam-results-the-calculations-favored-elites/2020/08/17/2b116d48-e091-11ea-82d8-5e55d47e90ca_story.html

the low-achieving school, or the school that is rapidly improving, could be delivered an injustice.”⁷⁹⁷⁹

As the Open Data Institute pointed out, a student would have received a high grade in math only because historically someone from her school had received a high grade, even if the same student was predicted at B or C.⁷⁹⁸⁰ Wired UK reported that some researchers stated that “[rather than the algorithm getting it wrong, [...] it was simply the wrong algorithm.”⁷⁹⁸¹ However, others thought that the application of Article 22 of the GDPR (prohibition of decisions solely made by automated decision making) was at stake, albeit disputed by the governmental agency that suggested the computer generated score. Ultimately, protests in front of the British Parliament and a pending lawsuit led the government to withdraw the system.⁷⁹⁸²

Karen Hao, a reporter with MIT Technology Review, wrote “The problem began when the exam regulator lost sight of the ultimate goal—and pushed for standardization above all else.”⁷⁹⁸³

Data Scraping

The ICO and 16 of its international data protection and privacy counterparts released a follow-up joint statement laying out expectations for industry related to data scraping and privacy.⁷⁹⁸⁴ The initial statement in August 2023 established that “[social media companies] and other websites are responsible for protecting personal information from unlawful scraping.”⁷⁹⁸⁵ The follow-up, which incorporates feedback from engagement with companies such as Alphabet (YouTube), X Corp (formerly Twitter), and Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp), adds that

⁷⁹⁷⁹ Sean Coughlan, *Why Did the A-level Algorithm Say No?* BBC (Aug. 14, 2020), <https://www.bbc.com/news/education-53787203>

⁷⁹⁸⁰ Open Data Institute, *What Can We Learn from the Qualifications Fiasco?*, The ODI (Aug. 24, 2020), <https://theodi.org/article/what-can-we-learn-from-the-qualifications-fiasco/>

⁷⁹⁸¹ Matt Burgess, *The Lessons We All Must Learn from the A-levels Algorithm Debacle*, WiredUK (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/gcse-results-alevels-algorithm-explained>

⁷⁹⁸² Daan Kolkman, “F**k the algorithm”? *What the World Can Learn from the UK’s A-level Grading Fiasco*, London School of Economic Blog (Aug. 26, 2020), <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/08/26/fk-the-algorithm-what-the-world-can-learn-from-the-uks-a-level-grading-fiasco/>

⁷⁹⁸³ Karen Hao, *The UK Exam Debacle Reminds Us that Algorithms Can’t Fix Broken Systems*, MIT Technology Review (Aug. 20, 2020), <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/08/20/1007502/uk-exam-algorithm-cant-fix-broken-system/>

⁷⁹⁸⁴ UK ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁷⁹⁸⁵ UK ICO, *Joint Statement on Data Scraping and the Protection of Privacy* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/media2/migrated/4026232/joint-statement-data-scraping-202308.pdf>

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organizations must “comply with privacy and data protection laws when using personal information, including from their own platforms, to develop AI large language models”; must regularly review and update privacy protection measures to keep pace with technological advances; and ensure that permissible data scraping, such as that for research, “is done lawfully and following strict contractual terms.”⁷⁹⁸⁶

Part 7 of the Data (Use and Access) Bill⁷⁹⁸⁷ requires the Secretary of State to create regulations for operators of web crawlers and general purpose AI models to provide transparency around their activities online and to comply with UK copyright laws.

Facial Recognition

Police forces and other private and public entities have used facial recognition technology (FRT) in the UK since at least 2015, when Leicestershire Police first trialed live FRT at the Download Festival.⁷⁹⁸⁸ Civil liberties organizations and, increasingly, government agencies have consistently raised concerns over the implications of this technology on human rights. Big Brother Watch have said that, by “indiscriminately subjecting innocent members of the public to mass identity checks” the deployment of live facial recognition as a mass surveillance tool transforms the notion of privacy in the public, reverses the presumption of innocence, and undermines the democratic principle of policing by consent.⁷⁹⁸⁹ Further, Big Brother Watch highlights the implications of this technology on protest rights stating that “the use of LFR against peaceful protesters is a particularly concerning scenario where biometric scans could be used against people exercising their political rights, engaging Articles 10 (freedom of expression) and 11 (freedom of assembly) of the Human Rights Act.”⁷⁹⁹⁰

⁷⁹⁸⁶ UK ICO, *Global Privacy Authorities Issue Follow-Up Joint Statement on Data Scraping after Industry Engagement* (Oct. 28, 2024), <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/10/global-privacy-authorities-issue-follow-up-joint-statement-on-data-scraping-after-industry-engagement/>

⁷⁹⁸⁷ UK Parliament, *Data (Use and Access) Bill [HL]*, p. 169–172 (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3825>

⁷⁹⁸⁸ Leicestershire Police, *Freedom of Information Request Disclosure* (Sept. 2021), https://www.leics.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/leicestershire/disclosure/disclosure_2021/09.september/2535-21-foi-response-relating-to-facial-recognition.pdf

⁷⁹⁸⁹ Big Brother Watch, *Police Use of Live Facial Recognition: Q&A Briefing* (Apr. 2025), https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/BRIEFING_-Facial-recognition-QA-briefing-Police-2025-update.pdf

⁷⁹⁹⁰ Big Brother Watch, *Biometric Britain: The Expansion of Facial Recognition Surveillance* (May 2023), <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Biometric-Britain.pdf>

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Research shows that facial recognition technology suffers from race and gender bias. Evidence obtained by Liberty Investigates found that police overturned a measure addressing bias after a 2023 review by National Physical Laboratory (NPL) revealed that the “system produces false positives for Black women almost 100 times more frequently than white women at certain settings.”⁷⁹⁹¹ A 2025 report by the Metropolitan Police revealed that 80% of the innocent people wrongly flagged by (live) facial recognition were Black.⁷⁹⁹²

Notably, in 2020, the Court of Appeal in *Bridges v South Wales Police* ruled police use of live facial recognition unlawful, citing fundamental legal and policy deficiencies breaching privacy, data protection, and equality laws. The court found insufficient limits on deployment and watchlists, granting excessive discretion, without necessarily assessing the technology’s proportionality.⁷⁹⁹³ Following this ruling, some police forces suspended their use of LFR until further legal clarity was provided. However, many, including the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), continued to use LFR with only slightly revised policies and procedures.⁷⁹⁹⁴

The ICO’s Information Commissioner produced a formal opinion on the use of facial recognition technology in public places in 2021.⁷⁹⁹⁵ The report specifies that any deployment of facial recognition technology “must comply with all relevant parts of the UK GDPR and DPA 2018. [...] Together, these requirements mean that where LFR is used for the automatic, indiscriminate collection of biometric data in public places, there is a high bar for its use to be lawful.” Despite this published opinion, live facial recognition technology continues to be used across police departments throughout the country with no opportunity for members of the public to opt out, nor any meaningful efforts towards data minimization.⁷⁹⁹⁶ The House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee expressed concerns about the lack of a

⁷⁹⁹¹ Liberty Investigates, *Exclusive: System More Likely to Suggest Incorrect Matches for Images of Women and Black People* (Dec. 2025), <https://libertyinvestigates.org.uk/articles/police-forces-biased-facial-recognition-technology/>

⁷⁹⁹² Big Brother Watch, *Big Brother Watch Responds to the Metropolitan Police’s 2025 Live Facial Recognition Report* (Oct. 2025), <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/press-coverage/big-brother-watch-responds-to-the-metropolitan-polices-2025-live-facial-recognition-report/>

⁷⁹⁹³ Court of Appeal (Civil Division), *R (Bridges) v Chief Constable of South Wales Police EWCA Civ 1058* (Aug. 11, 2020), <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Bridges-Court-of-Appeal-judgment.pdf>

⁷⁹⁹⁴ Jane Croft and Siddharth Venkataramakrishnan, *Police Use of Facial Recognition Breaches Human Rights Law, London Court Rules*, Financial Times (Aug. 2020), <https://www.ft.com/content/b79e0bee-d32a-4d8e-b9b4-c8ffd3ac23f4>

⁷⁹⁹⁵ UK ICO, *Opinion: The Use of Live Facial Recognition in Public Places* (Jun. 18, 2021), <https://ico.org.uk/media2/migrated/2619985/ico-opinion-the-use-of-lfr-in-public-places-20210618.pdf>

⁷⁹⁹⁶ Metropolitan Police, *Facial Recognition Technology*, <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fr/facial-recognition>

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clear legal foundation and consistent standards for LFR deployment, recommending the establishment of a legislative framework to regulate its use.⁷⁹⁹⁷

The British Standards Institute (BSI) released a code of practice to guide organizations in the ethical deployment of facial recognition technologies (FRT), emphasizing principles such as governance, accountability, privacy, and data protection in 2024.⁷⁹⁹⁸

In May 2024, Shaun Thompson, who was misidentified by the MPS during an LFR deployment, initiated a judicial review of the force's use of LFR, arguing that its use of the software is unlawful. The challenge is jointly brought by Big Brother Watch director Silkie Carlo. The civil liberties group have stated that this is "the first legal challenge in Europe brought by an individual misidentified by facial recognition technology."⁷⁹⁹⁹ In 2025, the UK's human rights regulator, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), said, "Since the Bridges ruling, LFRT has been deployed more frequently, integrated into CCTV networks, and used with larger watchlists" and stated that "these developments mean the use of the technology poses a threat to human rights."⁸⁰⁰⁰

The UK saw an unprecedented expansion in the use of AI in law enforcement in 2025. Freedom of Information (FOI) requests revealed a surge in retrospective facial recognition searches against the passport and immigration databases. Privacy International's Nuno Guerreiro de Sousa and Big Brother Watch's Silkie Carlo issued pre-action correspondence to the Home Office and Metropolitan Police, calling for "a moratorium on facial recognition searches of the passport and immigration databases."⁸⁰⁰¹

⁷⁹⁹⁷ UK Parliament, *Lords Committee Questions Legality of Live Facial Recognition Technology* (Jan. 27, 2024), <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/519/justice-and-home-affairs-committee/news/199624/lords-committee-questions-legality-of-live-facial-recognition-technology/>

⁷⁹⁹⁸ British Security Industry Association (BSIA), *World First Code of Practice on Ethical Surveillance Launched* (Apr. 9, 2024), <https://www.bsia.co.uk/blogs/442/world-first-code-of-practice-on-ethical->

[practice-on-ethical-](https://www.bsia.co.uk/blogs/442/world-first-code-of-practice-on-ethical-practice-on-ethical-)
⁷⁹⁹⁹ Big Brother Watch, *Landmark Legal Challenges Launched against Facial Recognition after Police and Retailer Misidentifications* (May 24, 2024), <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/press-releases/landmark-legal-challenges-launched-against-facial-recognition-after-police-and-retailer-misidentifications/>

⁸⁰⁰⁰ Equality and Human Rights Commission, *Met Police's Use of Facial Recognition Tech Must Comply with Human Rights Law, Says Regulator* (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/met-polices-use-facial-recognition-tech-must-comply-human-rights-law-says-regulator>

⁸⁰⁰¹ Privacy International, *Revealed: "Skyrocketing" Scale of UK Police's Secret Facial Recognition Searches of Passport and Immigration Databases* (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://privacyinternational.org/news-analysis/5635/revealed-skyrocketing-scale-uk-polices-secret-facial-recognition-searches>

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Despite these challenges, the UK installed the first network of permanent cameras capable of LFR in Croydon, South London in 2025. Previously, such cameras had been deployed via mobile vans on high streets.⁸⁰⁰² From February, South Wales Police began using a network of LFR cameras across Cardiff city center after trailing it at the Six Nations rugby internationals.⁸⁰⁰³ In August, the government announced a new fleet of 10 facial recognition vans, further extending national capacity. Ten police forces in England and Wales now use LFR regularly and others deploy it for trials or major events.⁸⁰⁰⁴ In November, British Transport Police announced LFR trials at selected London railway stations.⁸⁰⁰⁵

Besides police forces, British supermarkets and other retailers also use this technology to identify individuals mainly as a way to tackle shoplifting and to protect shop staff. Large retailers such as Sports Direct and Home Bargains use facial recognition technology provided by Facewatch. These retailers came under fire after a number of innocent people had either been misidentified by facial recognition technology or wrongly added to watchlists.⁸⁰⁰⁶ An ICO investigation into Facewatch in March 2023 found that Facewatch’s “processing of personal data failed to balance the legitimate interest of Facewatch and their subscribers against the rights and freedoms of individuals.” While the ICO concluded that “no further regulatory action is required,”⁸⁰⁰⁷ the Home Affairs Committee published a letter recommending that the Government “brings forward legislation to regulate the safe and ethical use of new technologies, especially by private companies for crime prevention measures.

⁸⁰⁰² Big Brother Watch, *Big Brother Watch Condemns Unregulated and Permanent Use of Live Facial Recognition in Croydon* (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/press-releases/big-brother-watch-condemns-unregulated-and-permanent-use-of-live-facial-recognition-in-croydon/>

⁸⁰⁰³ South Wales Police, *Extra Live Facial Recognition Cameras To Be Deployed in Cardiff City Centre to Keep Visitors Safe* (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.south-wales.police.uk/news/south-wales/news/2025/february/extra-live-facial-recognition-cameras-cardiff-city-centre-keep-visitors-safe/>

⁸⁰⁰⁴ Home Office, *Live Facial Recognition Technology to Catch High-Harm Offenders* (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/live-facial-recognition-technology-to-catch-high-harm-offenders>

⁸⁰⁰⁵ British Transport Police, *British Transport Police to Trial Use of Live Facial Recognition Technology* (Nov. 26, 2025), <https://www.btp.police.uk/news/btp/news/england/british-transport-police-to-trial-use-of-live-facial-recognition-technology/>

⁸⁰⁰⁶ Big Brother Watch, *Private Sector Use of Live Facial Recognition: Q&A Briefing* (Apr. 2025), https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/BRIEFING_-_Facial-recognition-QA-briefing-Private.pdf

⁸⁰⁰⁷ UK ICO, *Letter to Facewatch (Redacted)* (Mar. 28, 2023), <https://ico.org.uk/media2/migrated/4031293/ic-331345-y5n0-facewatch-letter-redacted.pdf>

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Facial recognition technology remains a concern and primary legislation embodying general principles and setting minimum standards is required.”⁸⁰⁰⁸

In December 2025, the Home Office launched its first public consultation “on a new legal framework for law enforcement use of biometrics, facial recognition and similar technologies.”⁸⁰⁰⁹ This consultation is the first of its kind regarding FRT, giving the British public a meaningful opportunity to feed into the policymaking process.

Automated Visa Application

In 2020, migrants’ rights campaigners successfully challenged the automated decision-making system used by the Home Office to process visa applications.⁸⁰¹⁰ The algorithmic “streaming tool” was eliminated by the Home Office ahead of a judicial review by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, which found the tool opaque and discriminatory toward applicants from certain nationalities and race groups. The Home Office committed to a “redesign of the process and the way in which visa applications are allocated for decision-making.”⁸⁰¹¹

The introduction of eVisas, or online records of an individual's immigration status, was a significant development in this direction. This initiative aims to replace physical documents like biometric residence permits (BRPs) and biometric residence cards (BRCs) by 2025. The move to eVisas is intended to enhance security, reduce fraud, and streamline the process of proving immigration status.⁸⁰¹² Concerns have arisen, sometimes “leaving foreign nationals and refugees without any way to prove their immigration status.”⁸⁰¹³ In one case, an e-Visa applicant’s details were merged with another person. Her advisor wrote “This is a major GDPR breach. The third

⁸⁰⁰⁸ House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee, *Tackling Shoplifting, Inquiry, Letter and government Response* (Nov. 2024), <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8463/tackling-shoplifting>

⁸⁰⁰⁹ Home Office, *Consultation on a New Legal Framework for Law Enforcement Use of Biometrics, Facial Recognition and Similar Technologies (Accessible)* (Dec. 4, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/legal-framework-for-using-facial-recognition-in-law-enforcement/consultation-on-a-new-legal-framework-for-law-enforcement-use-of-biometrics-facial-recognition-and-similar-technologies-accessible>

⁸⁰¹⁰ Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, *We Won! Home Office to Stop Using Racist Visa Algorithm*, <https://www.jcwi.org.uk/news/we-won-home-office-to-stop-using-racist-visa-algorithm>

⁸⁰¹¹ Henry McDonald, *Home Office to Scrap Racist Algorithm for UK Visa Applicants* (Aug. 4, 2020), <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/04/home-office-to-scrap-racist-algorithm-for-uk-visa-applicants>

⁸⁰¹² UK Home Office, *eVisa Rollout Begins with Immigration Documents Replaced by 2025* (Nov. 2, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/evisa-rollout-begins-with-immigration-documents-replaced-by-2025>

⁸⁰¹³ Holly Bancroft, *UK Rollout of eVisas Hit by Problems Facing Foreign Nationals and Refugees Just Two Weeks In*, *The Independent* (Jan. 14, 2025), <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/evisa-uk-immigration-status-help-b2678643.html>

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party has access to all our client’s personal information including her passport details, telephone number and email address.” The House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee expressed concerns related to the operational risks connected to greater reliance on technological solutions, especially for vulnerable persons: “We welcome the steps the Government has taken to support vulnerable users. The House may wish to enquire how the Home Office will monitor the adequacy of these once the system is in wider use.”⁸⁰¹⁴

Environmental Impact of AI

While the UK's national AI strategy and regulatory framework focus heavily on innovation, governance, and ethics, significant concerns about the environmental impact of AI emerged in 2025. Members of the Government Digital Sustainability Alliance (GDSA) highlighted a new report detailing the substantial water consumption required by AI systems and data centres. The GDSA authors called for mitigation measures, including locating data centres away from water-stressed areas and mandating biodiversity impact assessments before development.⁸⁰¹⁵ No policies yet address this issue.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The UK's Ministry of Defense issued the following statement in the Defense AI Strategy in 2022: “The UK does not rule out incorporating AI within weapon systems. In practice, however, some concepts and capabilities may prove impossible to deliver in a safe and responsible manner—and we are very clear that there must be context-appropriate human involvement in weapons which identify, select and attack targets. This could mean some form of real-time human supervision, or control exercised through the setting of a system’s operational parameters. We believe that AI can substantially augment the performance of our people and significantly enhance our capabilities. However, given concerns about the ethics and risks of delegating certain decisions to AI, it is also important to state that we do not believe that ‘more autonomous’ necessarily means ‘more capable.’ We believe that Human-Machine Teaming delivers the best outcomes, in terms of overall effectiveness, optimal use of resources, the practicalities of integration and the ease with which we can address issues arising; it is therefore our default approach to AI adoption. The

⁸⁰¹⁴ UK Parliament, *Draft Immigration (Biometric Information etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2025* (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5901/ldselect/ldsecleg/77/7703.htm>

⁸⁰¹⁵ Rich Kenny, Avinash Lunj, and Alexandra Kis, *AI’s Thirst for Water*, UK Government Sustainable ICT (Blog) (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://sustainableict.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/17/ais-thirst-for-water/>

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appropriate degree of system ‘autonomy’ and type of ‘human control’ need to be considered carefully on a case-by-case basis.”⁸⁰¹⁶

In February 2023, the UK participated in the first global Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM 2023). Together with other government representatives, the United Kingdom agreed a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence in the military domain,⁸⁰¹⁷ stressing the importance that AI in the military domain be “employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” The UK endorsed the resulting Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy issued in November 2023.⁸⁰¹⁸ The UK also participated in the second REAIM summit in 2024, hosted by South Korea.⁸⁰¹⁹

The UK has reaffirmed its commitment to international discussions on lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS). In response to a parliamentary question, the UK government confirmed its ongoing participation in United Nations discussions on LAWS through the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁸⁰²⁰

In response to a House of Lords Artificial Intelligence in Weapons System Committee Report, the government committed to ensuring meaningful human control and accountability throughout the lifecycle of AI-enabled military systems. However, the government fell short on the recommendation to adopt a specific operational definition for autonomous weapons systems.⁸⁰²¹

⁸⁰¹⁶ UK Ministry of Defence, *Our Approach to the Delivery of AI-enabled Capability in Defence* (Jun. 2022),

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1082991/20220614-Ambitious_Safe_and_Responsible.pdf

⁸⁰¹⁷ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain* (Feb. 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action>

⁸⁰¹⁸ US Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁸⁰¹⁹ Republic of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Outcome of Responsible AI in Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024*, Press Releases (Sept. 10, 2024), https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=322676

⁸⁰²⁰ UK Defence Journal, *UK Committed to Global Discussion on Autonomous Weapons* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/uk-committed-to-global-discussion-on-autonomous-weapons/>

⁸⁰²¹ House of Lords Library, *AI in Weapon Systems Committee Report: Proceed with Caution* (Apr. 10, 2024), <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/ai-in-weapon-systems-committee-report-proceed-with-caution/>

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AI Literacy

The AI Opportunities Action Plan includes a goal to “ensure its lifelong skills programme is ready for AI” as one of 50 goals but offers few details.⁸⁰²² The government has plans to train all civil servants⁸⁰²³ in the use of AI through the One Big Thing Project, an annual Civil Service initiative promoting large-scale upskilling and cultural change around a shared learning priority. The 2025 theme is “AI for All,” aiming to equip every civil servant with the knowledge and tools to use artificial intelligence effectively in public service.⁸⁰²⁴ The UK government also offers an AI skills tools package available to everyone.⁸⁰²⁵

Human Rights

According to Freedom House, the UK is “Free” with a score of 92/100 for political rights and civil liberties in 2025.⁸⁰²⁶ The country “is a stable democracy that regularly holds free elections and hosts a vibrant media sector.” However, the report also notes that: “While the government generally enforces robust protections for political rights and civil liberties, recent years have featured new restrictions on the right to protest as well as rising Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-immigrant sentiment.”

All UK AI initiatives must comply with the UK Human Rights Act of 1998. Post-Brexit, the UK remains a part of the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

As a member of the council of Europe, the UK abides by the 2020 Recommendation that states “must ensure that any design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems occur in compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated, with a view to amplifying positive effects and preventing or

⁸⁰²² Department of Science Innovation and Technology, *AI Opportunities Action Plan* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan/ai-opportunities-action-plan>

⁸⁰²³ Rowena Mason, *All Civil Servants in England and Wales To Get AI Training*, Guardian (Jun. 9, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jun/09/all-civil-servants-in-england-and-wales-to-get-ai-training>

⁸⁰²⁴ UK Government, *The Theme for One Big Thing 2025 Is AI for All*, <https://moderncivilservice.campaign.gov.uk/one-big-thing/>

⁸⁰²⁵ UK Government, *AI Skills Tools Package*, Skills England (Nov. 4 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-skills-for-the-uk-workforce/ai-skills-tools-package>

⁸⁰²⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: United Kingdom* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-kingdom/freedom-world/2025>

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[minimizing] possible adverse effects.”⁸⁰²⁷ The Alan Turing Institute also issued guidelines on AI and non-discrimination/human rights.⁸⁰²⁸ Britain’s Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identified the human rights risks posed by digital technologies and artificial intelligence as a top regulatory priority in the Strategic Plan 2025–2028.⁸⁰²⁹ The EHRC committed to assessing risks of discrimination and influencing policy to prevent digital exclusion in public services.

AI Safety Summit

The UK is engaged internationally in the development of AI governance in line with the values of fairness, freedom and democracy. This engagement includes working with partners to shape AI governance under development including the EU AI Act and the Council of Europe legal framework.⁸⁰³⁰

In November 2023, the UK convened the first AI Safety Summit and endorsed the Bletchley Declaration.⁸⁰³¹ The UK thus committed to participate in international cooperation efforts on AI “to promote inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and innovation, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to foster public trust and confidence in AI systems to fully [realize] their potential.” Endorsing parties affirmed that for the good of all, AI should be designed, developed, deployed, and used, in a manner that is safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and responsible.”

The UK government co-hosted the AI Seoul Summit, building on the legacy of the first AI Safety Summit hosted by the UK at Bletchley Park.⁸⁰³² The AI Seoul Summit’s objective was for key global leaders to converge on three critical priorities on AI: safety, innovation and inclusivity.⁸⁰³³ The UK released on commissioned an

⁸⁰²⁷ Council of Europe, *Recommendation CM/Rec (2020)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Human Rights Impacts of Algorithmic Systems* (Apr. 8, 2020), <https://search.coe.int/cm?i=09000016809e1154>

⁸⁰²⁸ The Alan Turing Institute, *AI for Human Rights* (2026), <https://www.turing.ac.uk/ai-human-rights>

⁸⁰²⁹ Equality and Human Rights Commission, *Strategic Plan 2025-2028* (Mar. 26, 2025), <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-strategy/strategic-plan-2025-2028>

⁸⁰³⁰ UK Government, *Establishing a Pro-Innovation Approach to Regulating AI* (Jul. 20, 2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai/establishing-a-pro-innovation-approach-to-regulating-ai-policy-statement>

⁸⁰³¹ UK Government, Prime Minister’s Office, *The Bletchley Declaration by Countries Attending the AI Safety Summit* (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-summit-2023-the-bletchley-declaration/the-bletchley-declaration-by-countries-attending-the-ai-safety-summit-1-2-november-2023>

⁸⁰³² UK Government, *AI Seoul Summit 2024* (May 21–22, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ai-seoul-summit-2024>

⁸⁰³³ AI Seoul Summit, *Program Details* (May 21, 2024), <https://aiseoulsummit.kr/program/?mod=document&uid=11>

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independent scientific report and offered operational support during the Seoul Summit,⁸⁰³⁴ and released the final report ahead of the Paris AI Action Summit in 2025.⁸⁰³⁵ However, the UK government refused to sign the Paris AI Action Summit leaders' declaration committing to inclusive and sustainable deployment of AI.⁸⁰³⁶

The UK established the AI Safety Institute (AISI) in late 2023. The AISI focuses on assessing the safety of advanced AI systems, aligning its evaluations with ethical standards such as those outlined by UNESCO.⁸⁰³⁷ UK Technology Secretary Peter Kyle announced renaming of the AI Safety Institute as the AI Security Institute and collaboration with the Ministry of Defense's Defense Science and Technology laboratory to assess the dual-use scientific capabilities of frontier AI.⁸⁰³⁸ On announcing the renaming, the secretary stated, "They are scientists—scientists who are squarely focused on rigorous research into the most serious emerging risks. They are researching AI's potential to assist with the development of chemical and biological weapons."

The launch of an AI assurance platform designed to help businesses identify and mitigate AI-related risks furthered interest in AI safety. This initiative aims to build greater trust in AI technology and drive demand for the UK's AI assurance sector.⁸⁰³⁹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The UK is a member of the OECD and the G20 and has endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁸⁰⁴⁰ The OECD/G20 AI Principles are not referred to in the National AI Strategy. However, the UK is actively involved in the OECD's AI Governance

⁸⁰³⁴ UK Government, *International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI: Interim Report* (May 17, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-scientific-report-on-the-safety-of-advanced-ai/international-scientific-report-on-the-safety-of-advanced-ai-interim-report>

⁸⁰³⁵ UK Government, *International AI Safety Report* (Jan. 2025), https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/679a0c48a77d250007d313ee/International_AI_Safety_Report_2025_accessible_f.pdf

⁸⁰³⁶ Zoe Kleinman and Liv McMahon, *UK and US Refuse to Sign International AI Declaration*, BBC (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8edn0n58gwo>

⁸⁰³⁷ Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, *Introducing the AI Safety Institute* (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-safety-institute-overview/introducing-the-ai-safety-institute>

⁸⁰³⁸ UK Government, *Remarks Made by Technology Secretary Peter Kyle at the Munich Security Conference* (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/remarks-made-by-technology-secretary-peter-kyle-at-the-munich-security-conference>

⁸⁰³⁹ Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, *Ensuring Trust in AI to Unlock £6.5 Billion Over Next Decade* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ensuring-trust-in-ai-to-unlock-65-billion-over-next-decade>

⁸⁰⁴⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

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Working Party. In this role, the UK promotes the practical application of trustworthy AI guidelines globally by contributing case studies on its AI Assurance Techniques to the OECD's Catalogue of Tools and Metrics.⁸⁰⁴¹

The UK is a founding member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)⁸⁰⁴² and invested in GPAI's data trust research.⁸⁰⁴³ Additionally, UK defense has a strong record of collaborating with international partners and allies, including engagement with NATO supporting the AI Partnership for Defense. On the bilateral front, in September 2020 the UK and the U.S. signed to establish dialogue on their shared vision for driving technological breakthroughs in AI and to explore an AI R&D ecosystem that “promotes the mutual wellbeing, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.” The Declaration mentions, as one objective, to protect “against efforts to adopt and apply these technologies in the service of authoritarianism and repression.”⁸⁰⁴⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The UK contributed as a Council of Europe Member State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. During a conference of Council of Europe Ministers of Justice in Vilnius, Lithuania, the UK, along with other nations, signed the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence. This treaty represents the first legally binding international agreement on AI, providing a comprehensive legal framework covering

⁸⁰⁴¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *UK and OECD AI Come Together to Give AI Actors a Valuable Resource for Trustworthy AI* (Apr. 11, 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/uk-case-studies-resource-for-trustworthy-ai>

⁸⁰⁴² UK Government, *Joint Statement from Founding Members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-statement-from-founding-members-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>.

⁸⁰⁴³ UK Government, *National AI Strategy* (Sept. 2021), https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1020402/National_AI_Strategy_-_PDF_version.pdf

⁸⁰⁴⁴ UK Government, OAI, *Declaration of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Cooperation in AI Research and Development* (Sept. 25, 2020), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-on-cooperation-in-ai-research-and-development>

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the entire lifecycle of AI systems.⁸⁰⁴⁵ The UK has not yet ratified the international AI treaty.⁸⁰⁴⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

The UK endorsed the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.⁸⁰⁴⁷ The UK has integrated UNESCO's ethical guidelines into its national AI policies. During a 2023 parliamentary debate, the government reaffirmed its commitment to the UNESCO framework, emphasizing its role in shaping the UK's approach to AI governance.⁸⁰⁴⁸

The UK has been a proactive participant in UNESCO's efforts to promote ethical AI. The UK contributed to the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence held in Kranj, Slovenia.⁸⁰⁴⁹ This forum brought together international experts and policymakers to discuss the implementation of UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, focusing on ethical governance and responsible AI development.

The UK has not initiated the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), a process designed to facilitate country's implementation of the UNESCO recommendation.⁸⁰⁵⁰

Evaluation

The UK continues to act as a global leader in AI, highlighted by a flourishing policy and legal framework, proactive government initiatives, growing economic investment, and international cooperation. The UK continues to establish robust regulatory frameworks to ensure AI's safe and trustworthy development, driven by the consultation on the white paper detailing the Department for Science, Innovation,

⁸⁰⁴⁵ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Opens First-Ever Global Treaty on AI for Signature* (Sept. 5, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-first-international-treaty-addressing-risks-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁰⁴⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁸⁰⁴⁷ UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 23, 2021), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁸⁰⁴⁸ UK Parliament, *National AI Strategy and UNESCO AI Ethics Framework* (May 22, 2023), <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-05-22/debates/34EFCE0F-79CE-444F-81BA-71AD13AA90BC/NationalAIStrategyAndUNESCOAIEthicsFramework>

⁸⁰⁴⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Launches Artificial Intelligence Global Policy Portal with Partners* (Oct. 26, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-artificial-intelligence-global-policy-portal-partners>

⁸⁰⁵⁰ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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on the approach to AI regulation.”⁸⁰⁵¹ The UK is further advancing regulatory frameworks “to influence on future AI’s values, safety and governance”⁸⁰⁵² as demonstrated by the AI Opportunities Action Plan⁸⁰⁵³ and legislation including the Artificial Intelligence (Regulation) Bill,⁸⁰⁵⁴ Data (Use and Access) Act,⁸⁰⁵⁵ and the Crime and Policing Bill.⁸⁰⁵⁶

The UK is also committed to international collaboration. Prime examples are the Memorandum of Cooperation signed with Singapore⁸⁰⁵⁷ and the US⁸⁰⁵⁸ as well as the endorsement of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁸⁰⁵⁹

Following Brexit, the UK shifted from a legislative approach based on rights and obligations, such as that applied in the data protection field, to a regulatory approach to AI based on ethical standards and cross-ministerial coordination. From this perspective, the UK’s development of a strong algorithmic transparency framework appears to be a corrective tool but not a safeguard against AI-based harm. The widespread use of live facial recognition across multiple UK law enforcement agencies in contradiction with the ICO’s own guidance raises questions about the merits of a purely regulatory approach. In these circumstances, the resilience of the UK AI policy framework will be only as good as the virtues and merits of its oversight mechanisms.

⁸⁰⁵¹ Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, *A Pro-Innovation Approach to AI Regulation: Government Response* (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach-policy-proposals/outcome/a-pro-innovation-approach-to-ai-regulation-government-response>

⁸⁰⁵² UK Government, *AI Opportunities Action Plan* (Jan. 13, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan/ai-opportunities-action-plan>

⁸⁰⁵³ Ibid

⁸⁰⁵⁴ UK Parliament, *Artificial Intelligence (Regulation) Bill (HL)* (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/59353/documents/6128>

⁸⁰⁵⁵ UK Parliament, *Data (Use and Access) Bill [HL]* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3825>

⁸⁰⁵⁶ UK Government, *Crime and Policing Bill: Child Sexual Abuse Material Factsheet* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crime-and-policing-bill-2025-factsheets/crime-and-policing-bill-child-sexual-abuse-material-factsheet>

⁸⁰⁵⁷ UK Government, *Ensuring Trust in AI to Unlock £6.5 Billion Over Next Decade* (Nov. 6, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ensuring-trust-in-ai-to-unlock-65-billion-over-next-decade>

⁸⁰⁵⁸ UK Government, *Collaboration on the Safety of AI: UK-US Memorandum of Understanding* (Apr. 2, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collaboration-on-the-safety-of-ai-uk-us-memorandum-of-understanding/collaboration-on-the-safety-of-ai-uk-us-memorandum-of-understanding>

⁸⁰⁵⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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United States

In 2025, the United States previous AI orders and guidance and began implementing an AI Action Plan that emphasizes deregulation, AI adoption, and private investment, largely through executive orders. The White House opposed state efforts to pass AI laws while many states continued to enact new legislation to promote transparency, fairness, and accountability for AI systems. The United States also announced plans to leave UNESCO and largely withdrew from AI governance.

National AI Strategy

The national vision and high-level strategy for AI governance and development in the United States has tended to come from Executive Orders issued by the president. Since the inauguration of the second Donald Trump administration in 2025, the U.S. AI strategy has focused on establishing America's global dominance in AI development. This approach represents a shift from the Biden Administration's approach to promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development.⁸⁰⁶⁰ In pursuit of global dominance, the administration has removed existing regulations perceived as obstacles to AI development, such as with the Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence order signed soon after the inauguration.⁸⁰⁶¹

The second Trump Administration's AI Action Plan⁸⁰⁶² reflects the current national AI strategy. The Plan identifies over 90 Federal policy actions across three pillars: Accelerating Innovation, Building American AI Infrastructure, and Leading in International Diplomacy and Security. Globally agreed-on principles such as transparency, human-centeredness, sustainability, fundamental rights, and rule of law underly some of the policy actions but are not explicit. Policy actions range across deregulation, speeding up AI adoption in private industry and government operations, expanding AI literacy, fast tracking data centers and semiconductor permits, and developing the workforce to build out AI infrastructure. The 3 Executive Orders accompanying the AI Action Plan—Preventing Woke AI in the Federal

⁸⁰⁶⁰ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14110: Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence*, Federal Register (Oct. 30, 2023), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/01/2023-24283/safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁰⁶¹ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14179: Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*, Federal Register (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02172/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁰⁶² White House, *Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

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Government, Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure,⁸⁰⁶³ Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack⁸⁰⁶⁴—reflect the Plan’s narrow focus: “It is a national security imperative for the United States to achieve and maintain unquestioned and unchallenged global technological dominance.”⁸⁰⁶⁵ America’s AI Action Plan does not define or reference governance principles.

The Executive Order on Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence⁸⁰⁶⁶ attempts to spread the administration’s deregulation agenda to state laws by directing federal agencies to “check the most onerous and excessive laws emerging from the States that threaten to stymie innovation.” The EO tasks the Department of Justice to set up an AI Litigation Taskforce to challenge state AI laws and instructions other agencies with actions that would undermine federal funding to the states. The directions in the order implement the AI Action Plan stance that “the Federal government should not allow AI-related Federal funding to be directed toward states with burdensome AI regulations.”⁸⁰⁶⁷ Federal preemption proposals on state AI laws remains a critical policy discussion throughout the year with significant support from the AI industry.⁸⁰⁶⁸

The AI Risk Management Framework issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)⁸⁰⁶⁹ and follow-up voluntary standards remain influential in guiding private sector practices. The Biden White House National Security Memorandum (NSM) on AI, which provided comprehensive guidance for governing AI use in national security systems, including defense and intelligence

⁸⁰⁶³ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14318: Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure*, Federal Register (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/28/2025-14212/accelerating-federal-permitting-of-data-center-infrastructure>

⁸⁰⁶⁴ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14320: Promoting the Export of the American AI Technology Stack*, Federal Register (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/28/2025-14218/promoting-the-export-of-the-american-ai-technology-stack>

⁸⁰⁶⁵ White House, *Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

⁸⁰⁶⁶ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14365: Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence*, Federal Register (Dec. 11, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/12/16/2025-23092/ensuring-a-national-policy-framework-for-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁰⁶⁷ White House, *Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

⁸⁰⁶⁸ U.S. Chamber of Commerce, *Coalition Letter to the Senate Supporting the Moratorium on AI Regulation Enforcement* (Jun. 9, 2025), <https://www.uschamber.com/technology/coalition-letter-to-the-senate-supporting-the-moratorium-on-ai-regulation-enforcement>

⁸⁰⁶⁹ NIST, *AI Risk Management Framework*, <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

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agencies,⁸⁰⁷⁰ has not been expressly revoked or altered by the second Trump Administration.

Executive Orders related to AI from the first Trump Administration have not been explicitly rescinded. A 2019 Executive Order emphasized the need to maintain U.S. leadership in Artificial Intelligence and set out a range of policies and practices, including funding, research, training, and collaboration.⁸⁰⁷¹ The EO also described the need to protect “civil liberties, privacy, and American values.”⁸⁰⁷² Executive Order 13960 on Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government issued in 2020 reflects the goals set in the 2019 Executive Order and established common guidance to encourage federal agencies to use AI consistent with nine principles.⁸⁰⁷³ Reasoning that “The ongoing adoption and acceptance of AI will depend significantly on public trust,”⁸⁰⁷⁴ the EO emphasized the need to ensure that “the use of AI remains consistent with all applicable laws, including those related to privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.”⁸⁰⁷⁵ The EO characterized Trustworthy AI as being lawful, respectful of our civil rights, accurate, reliable, safe, understandable, responsible, transparent, accountable and regularly monitored.⁸⁰⁷⁶

Previous Administrations’ Executive Orders

The second Trump administration’s AI agenda is a sharp departure from the first Trump administration, which led efforts to establish an international governance framework for AI. The current White House Science Advisor Michael Kratsios said in 2019 “for the first time in history, America and likeminded democracies of the world will commit to common AI principles reflecting our shared values and priorities. These principles send a strong message—that the OECD countries stand

⁸⁰⁷⁰ White House, *Memorandum on Advancing the United States’ Leadership in Artificial Intelligence; Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Fulfill National Security Objectives; and Fostering the Safety, Security, and Trustworthiness of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/24/memorandum-on-advancing-the-united-states-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence-harnessing-artificial-intelligence-to-fulfill-national-security-objectives-and-fostering-the-safety-security/>

⁸⁰⁷¹ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 13859: Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*, 84 FR 3967, Federal Register (Feb. 11, 2019), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/02/14/2019-02544/maintaining-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁰⁷² Ibid, p. 3967

⁸⁰⁷³ Donald J. Trump, *Executive Order 13960, Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government*, 85 FR 78939, Federal Register (Dec. 3, 2020), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-27065/promoting-the-use-of-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence-in-the-federal-government>

⁸⁰⁷⁴ Ibid

⁸⁰⁷⁵ Ibid, p. 78940

⁸⁰⁷⁶ Ibid

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together in unleashing AI innovation, understanding that it is an essential tool to drive economic growth, empower workers, and lift up quality of life for all.”⁸⁰⁷⁷ A 2020 Executive Order from President Trump, echoed the OECD AI Principles in emphasizing “legal compliance, performance justification, technical reliability, safety and security, transparency, and accountability.”⁸⁰⁷⁸

The Biden Administration’s 2023 Executive Order 14110 was rescinded in the first wave of executive orders from the Trump White House. EO 14110 aimed to harness AI for good and realize its myriad benefits by mitigate its substantial risks.⁸⁰⁷⁹ EO 14110 built on prior work to support the development of responsible AI technologies and policies, including the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s (OSTP) Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights⁸⁰⁸⁰ and the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF).⁸⁰⁸¹

Federal AI Legislation

Federal laws have been passed in Congress either as standalone legislation or as AI-focused provisions in broader acts. The Congressional Research Service reported that hundreds of bills relating to artificial intelligence had been introduced since the 115th Congress, but fewer than 30 had been enacted as of May 2025.⁸⁰⁸² Nearly half of those enacted consisted of AI-focused provisions either in appropriations or national defense authorization legislation.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act, which criminalizes the nonconsensual publication of intimate images, including “digital forgeries” (i.e., deepfakes), in certain circumstances, passed in 2025. The law requires certain websites and online or mobile applications, identified as “covered platforms,” to implement a “notice-and-removal” process to remove intimate images at the depicted individual’s request. The

⁸⁰⁷⁷ Academy Health, *Government Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence Science & Technology Taking Shape* (Jun. 20, 2019), <https://academyhealth.org/blog/2019-06/government-policy-framework-artificial-intelligence-science-technology-taking-shape>

⁸⁰⁷⁸ White House, *Executive Order on Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government*, Trump White House Archives (Dec. 3, 2020), <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-promoting-use-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence-federal-government/>

⁸⁰⁷⁹ Executive Order 14110, Section 1, <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-24283/p-2>

⁸⁰⁸⁰ OSTP, *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights: Making Automated Systems Work for the American People*, Biden White House Archives (Oct. 2022), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/>

⁸⁰⁸¹ Congressional Research Service, *Highlights of the 2023 Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence for Congress*, p. 1 (Apr. 3, 2024), <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47843>

⁸⁰⁸² Congressional Research Service, *Regulating Artificial Intelligence: U.S. and International Approaches and Considerations for Congress*, R48555 (Jun. 4, 2025), https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R48555/R48555.4.pdf

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President signed the bill into law on May 19, 2025. The bill's criminal prohibition takes effect immediately, while covered platforms have one year to establish the required notice-and-removal process.⁸⁰⁸³

The Senate rejected⁸⁰⁸⁴ a 10-year prohibition on state AI regulation proposed as part of the 2025 budget reconciliation known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.⁸⁰⁸⁵ The measures passed the House of Representatives and were amended in the Senate to apply to AI systems or automated decision-making “entered into interstate or commerce” and ultimately tied Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) funds to the prohibition.⁸⁰⁸⁶

The House Bipartisan House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence issued its report providing 66 key findings 85 recommendations in December 2024.⁸⁰⁸⁷ The Task Force held multiple hearings and numerous roundtables and engaged with over one hundred experts, including business leaders, government officials, technical experts, academics, legal scholars, and other domain specialists in preparation of the report. The report framed the analysis and recommendations on principles including protecting against AI harms and risks, taking an incremental approach, and keeping the humans designing, using, and subject to AI systems at the center of policymaking.

These efforts followed the Bipartisan Senate AI Working Group convened by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) along with Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD), Todd Young (R-Ind.), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) in 2023.⁸⁰⁸⁸ The working group convened a series of “Insight Forums” to complement the traditional approach of committee hearings.⁸⁰⁸⁹ There were nine forums in the series with representation from tech companies, AI experts, civil society, think tanks, research, and academia. In his opening statement Sen. Schumer announced that the insight forums would

⁸⁰⁸³ Congress, *The TAKE IT DOWN Act: A Federal Law Prohibiting the Nonconsensual Publication of Intimate Images* (May 20, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB11314>

⁸⁰⁸⁴ Tech Policy Press, *US Senate Drops Proposed Moratorium on State AI Laws in Budget Vote* (Jul. 1, 2025), <https://www.techpolicy.press/us-senate-drops-proposed-moratorium-on-state-ai-laws-in-budget-vote/>

⁸⁰⁸⁵ U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 118th Congress, *Full Committee Markup* (May 11, 2025), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF00/20250513/118261/HMKP-119-IF00-20250513-SD003.pdf>

⁸⁰⁸⁶ Tech Policy Press, *(AI Moratorium) Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology Modernization Initiative - H.R. 1*, <https://www.techpolicy.press/tracker/artificial-intelligence-and-information-technology-modernization-initiative-hr-1/>

⁸⁰⁸⁷ U.S. House of Representatives, 118th Congress, *Bipartisan House Task Force Report on Artificial Intelligence*, (Dec. 2024), <https://www.speaker.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AI-Task-Force-Report-FINAL.pdf>

⁸⁰⁸⁸ Axios, *Bipartisan Senate Group Looks to Tackle AI Legislation* (May 18, 2023), <https://www.axios.com/2023/05/18/ai-legislation-bipartisan-senate-group-schumer>

⁸⁰⁸⁹ Tech Policy Press, *U.S. Senate AI “Insight Forum” Tracker* (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.techpolicy.press/us-senate-ai-insight-forum-tracker/>

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build “a foundation for bipartisan AI policy that Congress can pass.”⁸⁰⁹⁰ “More than 300 AI-related proposed bills were introduced in the 118th congressional session [beginning in January 2023]. They range all over the place, from controlling misinformation to how we can stimulate AI innovation and research.”⁸⁰⁹¹ However, no AI legislation was passed in the 118th Congress.

OMB Guidance on AI

The Office of Management and Budget issued Memorandum M-25-21,⁸⁰⁹² Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust, and Memorandum M-25-22,⁸⁰⁹³ Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government, in April 2025. The memoranda rescinded and replaced the memoranda M-24-10⁸⁰⁹⁴ and M-24-18.⁸⁰⁹⁵ The revised memoranda adopt a forward-leaning, pro-innovation approach while maintaining safeguards for civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.

OMB Memo M-25-21 carries forward the key guidance in the 2020 Executive Order 13960 issued under the first Trump administration. The memo states “agencies are directed to provide improved services to the public, while maintaining strong safeguards for civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.”⁸⁰⁹⁶ The Memo directs that “Agencies must ensure their AI use is trustworthy, secure, and accountable, in

⁸⁰⁹⁰ Senate Democrats, *Majority Leader Schumer Opening Remarks for the Senate’s Inaugural AI Insight Forum* (Sept. 13, 2023), <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/majority-leader-schumer-opening-remarks-for-the-senates-inaugural-ai-insight-forum>

⁸⁰⁹¹ Nicola Jones, *The U.S. Congress Is Taking on AI—This Computer Scientist Is Helping*, News Q&A, *Nature* (May 9, 2024), <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01354-4>

⁸⁰⁹² Office of Management and Budget, Russell T. Vought, *Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust*, M-25-21 (Apr. 3, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-21-Accelerating-Federal-Use-of-AI-through-Innovation-Governance-and-Public-Trust.pdf>

⁸⁰⁹³ Office of Management and Budget, Russell T. Vought, *Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government*, M-25-22 (Apr. 3, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-22-Driving-Efficient-Acquisition-of-Artificial-Intelligence-in-Government.pdf>

⁸⁰⁹⁴ Office of Budget and Management, *Memorandum M-24-10 Advancing Governance, Innovation, and Risk Management for Agency Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 28, 2024), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/M-24-10-Advancing-Governance-Innovation-and-Risk-Management-for-Agency-Use-of-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

⁸⁰⁹⁵ Office of Budget and Management, *Memorandum M-24-18 Advancing the Responsible Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government* (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/M-24-18-AI-Acquisition-Memorandum.pdf>

⁸⁰⁹⁶ OMB Memo M-25-21, p. 1

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accordance with Executive Order 13960.”⁸⁰⁹⁷ OMB Memo M-25-21 “redefines AI governance as an enabler of effective and safe innovation”⁸⁰⁹⁸ and sets deadlines for agencies to establish policies around acceptable use, risk management, and oversight. The memo also directs agencies to “implement minimum risk management practices for AI that could have significant impacts when deployed (‘high-impact AI’).”⁸⁰⁹⁹ Risk management practices include pre-deployment testing, impact assessments, ongoing monitoring, human training and assessments, human oversight and accountability, appeals/remedy process, public feedback and consultation processes and plans for actions. The Appendix of Memo M-25-21 itemizes applications that would be within scope of high-impact AI.⁸¹⁰⁰

OMB Memo M-25-22 sets out three core principles for the procurement and acquisition of AI in government:⁸¹⁰¹

- Ensuring the government and the public benefit from a competitive American AI marketplace
- Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars by Tracking AI Performance and Managing Risk
- Promoting Effective AI Acquisition with Cross-Functional Engagement

To implement these core principles the OMB requires agencies to maximize the use of American-made AI, protect privacy, protect IP rights and use of government data, and contribute to a shared repository of best practices.⁸¹⁰²

Joint Statement of Enforcement Agencies

Leaders from four agencies issued a Joint Statement on Enforcement Efforts Against Discrimination and Bias in Automated Systems.⁸¹⁰³ The statement does not create any new rights or liabilities but restates Agencies’ existing enforcement authorities and their application to automated systems that contribute to unlawful discrimination and otherwise violate federal law. The statement uses the term “automated systems” broadly to mean software and algorithmic processes, including AI, that are used to automate workflows and help people complete tasks or make

⁸⁰⁹⁷ OMB Memo M-25-21, p. 13

⁸⁰⁹⁸ OMB Memo M-25-21, p. 2

⁸⁰⁹⁹ OMB Memo M-25-21, p. 3

⁸¹⁰⁰ OMB Memo M-25-21, Appendix, p. 21

⁸¹⁰¹ OMB Memo M-25-22, Section 1

⁸¹⁰² OMB Memo M-25-22, Section 3

⁸¹⁰³ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Justice Department, Civil Rights Division; Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Federal Trade Commission, *Joint Statement on Enforcement Efforts against Discrimination and Bias in Automated Systems*, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1581491/dl?inline>

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decisions.⁸¹⁰⁴ The statement identifies three sources of discrimination in automated systems: Data and Datasets, Modal Opacity and Access, and Design and Use.⁸¹⁰⁵

The Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing, and Urban Development and Department of Labor later joined in the statement.⁸¹⁰⁶

In July 2024, the FTC issued 6(b) orders to eight companies that were offering “surveillance pricing products and services that incorporate data about consumers’ characteristics and behavior.”⁸¹⁰⁷ Through the orders, the FTC sought to better understand how “surveillance pricing is affecting consumers, especially when the pricing is based on surveillance of an individual’s personal characteristics and behavior.” In January 2025, the FTC staff published the 6(b) Study.⁸¹⁰⁸

The FTC changed the enforcement posture on AI in 2025 by setting aside the consent order in Rytr, LLC in relation to company’s AI-based review generation service.⁸¹⁰⁹ In setting the consent order aside, the FTC expressly acted pursuant to the AI Action Plan, which directed the FTC to “review all FTC final orders, consent decrees, and injunctions, and, where appropriate, seek to modify or set-aside any that unduly burden AI innovation.”

The DoJ also reversed prior regulations in 2025, including the “disparate-impact liability” for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1964 and anti-

⁸¹⁰⁴ Ibid, p. 1

⁸¹⁰⁵ Ibid, p. 3

⁸¹⁰⁶ Department of Justice, *Five New Federal Agencies Join Justice Department in Pledge to Enforce Civil Rights Laws in Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 4, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/five-new-federal-agencies-join-justice-department-pledge-enforce-civil-rights-laws>

⁸¹⁰⁷ FTC, *FTC Issues Orders to Eight Companies Seeking Information on Surveillance Pricing* (Jul. 23, 2024), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/07/ftc-issues-orders-eight-companies-seeking-information-surveillance-pricing>

⁸¹⁰⁸ FTC, *FTC Surveillance Pricing 6(b) Study: Research Summaries A Staff Perspective* (Jan. 2025), http://ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/p246202_surveillancepricing6bstudy_researchsummaries_redacted.pdf

⁸¹⁰⁹ FTC, *Order Reopening and Setting Aside Order, In re Rytr LLC*, Docket No. C-4806 (Dec. 22, 2025), https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/Rytr-Order.pdf

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discrimination law.⁸¹¹⁰ The DoJ carried out enforcement against theft and espionage of U.S. AI technology by Chinese nationals⁸¹¹¹ and trafficking in advanced GPUs.⁸¹¹²

NIST Risk Management Framework

NIST released Version One of the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF) in 2023.⁸¹¹³ The AI RMF followed an initial mandate⁸¹¹⁴ by Congress in 2020 for NIST to lead the charge, which subsequently led to a “consensus-driven, open, transparent, and collaborative process that included a Request for Information, several draft versions for public comments, multiple workshops, and other opportunities to provide input.”⁸¹¹⁵ “The Framework is intended to be voluntary, rights-preserving, non-sector-specific, and use-case agnostic, providing flexibility to organizations of all sizes and in all sectors and throughout society to implement the approaches in the Framework.”⁸¹¹⁶ NIST highlights core functions such as governance, risk assessments and management, and documentation ranging from organizational roles and responsibilities to the knowledge limit of the AI system.⁸¹¹⁷

The RMF describes four specific functions—GOVERN, MAP, MEASURE, and MANAGE—broken down further into categories and subcategories to help organizations manage risks arising from AI development and use. The GOVERN function applies to all stages of the AI risk management processes and procedures while “the MAP, MEASURE, and MANAGE functions can be applied in AI system-specific contexts and at specific stages of the AI lifecycle.”⁸¹¹⁸ NIST launched the

⁸¹¹⁰ Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, *Department of Justice Rule Restores Equal Protection for All in Civil Rights Enforcement* (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/depart-ment-justice-rule-restores-equal-protection-all-civil-rights-enforcement>

⁸¹¹¹ Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, *U.S. Citizens and Chinese Nationals Arrested for Exporting Artificial Intelligence Technology to China* (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-citizens-and-chinese-nationals-arrested-exporting-artificial-intelligence-technology>

⁸¹¹² Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, *U.S. Authorities Shut Down Major China-Linked AI Tech Smuggling Network* (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-authorities-shut-down-major-china-linked-ai-tech-smuggling-network>

⁸¹¹³ NIST, *Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0)* (Jan. 2023), <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ai/NIST.AI.100-1.pdf>

⁸¹¹⁴ Congress, *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022*, Public Law, pp. 116–283 (Jan. 1, 2022), <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ283/PLAW-116publ283.pdf>

⁸¹¹⁵ NIST, *AI Risk Management Framework, Overview of the AI RMF*, <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

⁸¹¹⁶ NIST, *Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0)*, NIST AI 100-1, p. 2 (Jan. 2023), <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ai/NIST.AI.100-1.pdf>

⁸¹¹⁷ Tech Policy Press, *Five Takeaways from the NIST AI Risk Management Framework* (Jan. 26, 2023), <https://techpolicy.press/five-takeaways-from-the-nist-ai-risk-management-framework/>

⁸¹¹⁸ *Ibid*, p. 3

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Trustworthy and Responsible AI Resource Center to facilitate implementation of and international alignment with the AI RMF in early 2023.

NIST has also responded to the rise of generative AI by publishing the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework: Generative Artificial Intelligence Profile (GenAI Profile)⁸¹¹⁹ as a companion resource to the AI RMF. Additionally, NIST published A Plan for Global Engagement on AI Standards, designed to drive the worldwide development and implementation of AI-related consensus standards, cooperation and coordination, and information sharing.⁸¹²⁰ Specifically, the publication calls for “context-sensitive, performance-based, human-centered, and responsive to societal considerations.”⁸¹²¹ Despite the significance of the organization’s role in AI research and development, there are reports of NIST facing resource constraints due to budget cuts. Some in the AI community worry that underfunding NIST makes it vulnerable to industry influence.⁸¹²²

NIST continues to play a key role in implementing the actions under the 2025 AI Action Plan,⁸¹²³ which reinforces the importance of pre-deployment evaluation of AI models and the role of NIST, CAISI, and other agencies in establishing AI measurement science, assessing foreign-built frontier AI models, and ensuring the interpretability, transparency, and security of AI systems.

AI Safety Institute

Coinciding with the AI Safety Summit and the Bletchley Park Declaration, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the establishment of the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute (USAISI) to lead the U.S. government’s efforts on AI safety and trust, particularly for evaluating the most advanced AI models.⁸¹²⁴ The announcement states that “USAISI will facilitate the development of standards for

⁸¹¹⁹ NIST, *Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework: Generative Artificial Intelligence Profile* (Jul. 2024), <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ai/NIST.AI.600-1.pdf>

⁸¹²⁰ NIST, *A Plan for Global Engagement on AI Standards* (Jul. 2024), <https://www.nist.gov/publications/plan-global-engagement-ai-standards>

⁸¹²¹ Jesse Dunietz, Elham Tabassi, Mark Latonero, Kamie Roberts, *A Plan for Global Engagement on AI Standards, NIST Trustworthy and Responsible AI* (Jul. 2024), <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.AI.100-5>

⁸¹²² Cat Zakrzewski, *This Agency Is Tasked with Keeping AI Safe. Its Offices Are Crumbling*, Washington Post (Mar. 6, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/03/06/nist-ai-safety-lab-decaying/>

⁸¹²³ White House, *Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

⁸¹²⁴ Department of Commerce, *At the Direction of President Biden, Department of Commerce to Establish U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute to Lead Efforts on AI Safety*, Press Releases (Nov. 1, 2023), <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2023/11/direction-president-biden-department-commerce-establish-us-artificial>

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safety, security, and testing of AI models, develop standards for authenticating AI-generated content, and provide testing environments for researchers to evaluate emerging AI risks and address known impacts.”⁸¹²⁵ The USAISI is housed within NIST and focuses on the priorities assigned to the institution under Executive Order 14110.⁸¹²⁶

The Biden-Harris administration also announced the establishment of the AI Safety Consortium including 200 AI stakeholders to support the work of USAISI. The announcement stated that the consortium will “unite AI creators and users, academics, government and industry researchers, and civil society organizations in support of the development and deployment of safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI).”⁸¹²⁷ The U.S. Secretary of Commerce later announced collaboration with a network of AI Safety Institutes.⁸¹²⁸ This network serves strengthen and expand on USAISI's previously announced collaborations with the AI Safety Institutes of the UK, Japan, Canada, and Singapore, as well as the European AI Office and its scientific components and affiliates, and will catalyze a new phase of international coordination on AI safety science and governance.

Pursuant to EO 14179, the Secretary of Commerce recast CAISI as the Center for AI Standards and Innovation.⁸¹²⁹ The AI Action plan requires “secure-by-design” for AI systems in safety-critical and the national security context.⁸¹³⁰ The Plan takes a whole of government approach to AI safety and security and envisions deep coordination between the federal government, private sector, and researchers. It directs investment in AI testbeds for evaluations in secure, real-world settings and encourages the involvement of the research community and multi-stakeholder teams to build an AI evaluations ecosystem.⁸¹³¹

⁸¹²⁵ Ibid

⁸¹²⁶ NIST, *U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute*, <https://www.nist.gov/aisi>

⁸¹²⁷ NIST, *Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever Consortium Dedicated to AI Safety*, News (Feb. 8, 2024), <https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2024/02/biden-harris-administration-announces-first-ever-consortium-dedicated-ai>

⁸¹²⁸ Department of Commerce, *U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo Releases Strategic Vision on AI Safety, Announces Plan for Global Cooperation Among AI Safety Institutes*, Office of Public Affairs (May 21, 2024), <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2024/05/us-secretary-commerce-gina-raimondo-releases-strategic-vision-ai-safety>

⁸¹²⁹ Department of Commerce, *Statement from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Transforming the U.S. AI Safety Institute into the Pro-Innovation, Pro-Science U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation*, Press Release (Jun. 3, 2025), <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2025/06/statement-us-secretary-commerce-howard-lutnick-transforming-us-ai>

⁸¹³⁰ AI Action Plan, p. 18

⁸¹³¹ AI Action Plan, pg. 10

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EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council (TTC)

In June 2021, the U.S. and the European Union established the EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council (TTC) to “strengthen global cooperation on technology, digital issues, and supply chains” and “with the aim of promoting a democratic model of digital governance.”⁸¹³² The TTC outlined areas of U.S.-EU cooperation, including “responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI.” Since 2021, the U.S. has made progress in support of the TTC’s goals at the policy and agency level,⁸¹³³ announced a joint roadmap on “evaluation and measurement tools for trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.”⁸¹³⁴ The TTC continually recommitted to addressing the harms of AI implementation, including on the workforce,⁸¹³⁵ and expanding transatlantic cooperation on artificial intelligence to promote “interoperability in emerging approaches to AI governance.”⁸¹³⁶

⁸¹³² Biden White House Archives, *U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council Inaugural Joint Statement* (Sept. 29, 2021), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/29/u-s-eu-trade-and-technology-council-inaugural-joint-statement/>

⁸¹³³ Biden White House Archives, *Fact Sheet: Announcing the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal* (Dec. 9, 2021), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/09/fact-sheet-announcing-the-presidential-initiative-for-democratic-renewal/>; Biden White House Archives, *US and UK to Partner on Prize Challenges to Advance Privacy-Enhancing Technologies* (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/12/08/us-and-uk-to-partner-on-a-prize-challenges-to-advance-privacy-enhancing-technologies/>; Department of Justice Antitrust Division and Federal Trade Commission, *EU-U.S. Joint Technology Competition Policy Dialogue Inaugural Joint Statement between the European Commission* (Dec. 7, 2021), https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public_statements/1598739/eu-us_joint_dialogue_statement_12721.pdf

⁸¹³⁴ U.S.-EU TTC, *TTC Joint Roadmap on Evaluation and Measurement Tools for Trustworthy AI and Risk Management* (Dec. 1, 2022), https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2022/12/04/Joint_TTC_Roadmap_Dec2022_Final.pdf

⁸¹³⁵ Biden White House Archives, *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Future of Workforces in the European Union and the United States of America* (Dec. 5, 2022), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/TTC-EC-CEA-AI-Report-12052022-1.pdf>

⁸¹³⁶ Department of Commerce, *Readout of U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council Fifth Ministerial Meeting*, Press Releases (Jan. 31, 2024), <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2024/01/readout-us-eu-trade-and-technology-council-fifth-ministerial-meeting>; OECD AI Policy Observatory, *The United States Works with Domestic and International AI Communities to Establish Frameworks that Advance Trustworthy AI for All*, The AI Wonk (Dec. 20, 2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/united-states-ai-for-all-policy>

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The AI Action Plan⁸¹³⁷ and the National Security Strategy⁸¹³⁸ in 2025 revised the U.S. approach to transatlantic relationships. On international diplomacy and security, the AI Action Plan aims to “support likeminded nations working together to encourage the development of AI in line with our shared values” with the goal of countering Chinese influence. The National Security Strategy which views European policies and regulations as a retreat from shared values with America and prioritizes opposing “elite-driven, anti-democratic restrictions on core liberties in Europe, the Anglosphere, and the rest of the democratic world,” especially among U.S. allies. Vice President J.D. Vance at the Munich Security Conference⁸¹³⁹ remarked that “excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off, and we'll make every effort to encourage pro-growth AI policies. And I'd like to see that deregulatory flavor making its way into a lot of the conversations in this conference.”

Public Participation

The United States has a consistent and long-standing approach to receiving public comment through the Federal Register, including for AI Policy. First, the AI Safety Institute (AISI) released for public comment new technical guidelines to help AI developers manage the evaluation of misuse of dual-use foundation models.”⁸¹⁴⁰ The AISI sought insights from the public on current and future practices and methodologies for the responsible development and use of chemical and biological (chem-bio) AI models.⁸¹⁴¹ The Office of Critical and Emerging Technologies also sought public comment to provide a national AI capability for the Department of Energy (DOE).⁸¹⁴²

⁸¹³⁷ White House, *Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025),

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

⁸¹³⁸ White House, *National Security Strategy of the United States of America* (Nov. 2025),

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>

⁸¹³⁹ Munich Security Conference 2025, *Speech by JD Vance and Selected Reactions*, Selected Speeches Hed at the Munich Security Conference, Vol. 2, ed. Benedikt Franke (Feb. 2025),

https://securityconference.org/assets/user_upload/MS_C_Speeches_2025_Vol2_Ansicht.pdf

⁸¹⁴⁰ Department of Commerce, *Department of Commerce Announces New Guidance, Tools 270 Days Following President Biden's Executive Order on AI* (Jul. 26, 2024),

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2024/07/departments-commerce-announces-new-guidance-tools-270-days-following>

⁸¹⁴¹ Federal Register, *Safety Considerations for Chemical and/or Biological AI Models* (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/04/2024-22974/safety-considerations-for-chemical-and-or-biological-ai-models>

⁸¹⁴² Federal Register, *Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Frontiers in AI for Science, Security, and Technology (FASST) Initiative* (Sept. 12, 2024),

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/09/12/2024-20676/notice-of-request-for-information-rfi-on-frontiers-in-ai-for-science-security-and-technology-fasst>

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Finally, the OMB requested public input on issues related to Federal agency collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, and disposition of commercially available information (CAI) containing personally identifiable information (PII).⁸¹⁴³ OMB also incorporated public comment to inform future action on federal procurement of AI to ensure that federal contracts align with OMB's AI guidance and address such issues as the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.⁸¹⁴⁴

The 2024 opportunities followed a surge in request for public comments on AI related issues and rulemaking from 2022 onwards.⁸¹⁴⁵ Civil society organizations in the United States actively participate in discussions and advocacy related to artificial intelligence (AI). The involvement of these organizations is important for promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical considerations in the development and deployment of AI technologies. Some of these organizations focus on specific aspects of AI, such as privacy, bias, accountability, and the impact of AI on various social issues. Examples of civil society organizations involved in AI-related discussions in the United States include the Center for AI and Digital Policy, the Center for Humane Technology, the AI Now Institute, Algorithmic Justice League, Public Citizen, Public Knowledge, the Allen Institute for AI, Data & Society, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Brennan Center for Justice, the Partnership on AI, Encode Justice, and Fidutam.

The United States has considered public comments in the development of AI Policy, strategies, priorities, research and innovation. The National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force launched in 2021 to “develop a roadmap to democratize access to research tools that will promote AI innovation and fuel economic prosperity”⁸¹⁴⁶ is one example, along with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation (NSF)

⁸¹⁴³ Federal Register, *Request for Information: Executive Branch Agency Handling of Commercially Available Information Containing Personally Identifiable Information* (Oct. 16, 2024), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/16/2024-23773/request-for-information-executive-branch-agency-handling-of-commercially-available-information>

⁸¹⁴⁴ Federal Register, *Responsible Procurement of Artificial Intelligence in Government* (Mar. 29, 2024), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/29/2024-06547/request-for-information-responsible-procurement-of-artificial-intelligence-in-government>

⁸¹⁴⁵ Katherine He et al., Technology Policy Center, Yale Policy Institute in collaboration with the Center for AI and Digital Policy, *The Public Voice in AI Policy: Evaluating Agency Engagement with Public Comment* (Apr. 4, 2024), <https://aire.lexxion.eu/article/AIRE/2024/3/10>

⁸¹⁴⁶ Biden White House Archives, *The Biden Administration Launches the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force* (Jun. 10, 2021), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/06/10/the-biden-administration-launches-the-national-artificial-intelligence-research-resource-task-force/>

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implementation plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR).⁸¹⁴⁷

Comments submitted in response to a White House request for input on U.S. national priorities and future actions on AI informed the development of the AI Executive Order and other executive actions.⁸¹⁴⁸

Requests for comments have continued in the second Trump Administration's reorientation of AI governance, too. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released more than 10,000 public comments gathered in response to a Request for Information (RFI) regarding the development of the AI Action Plan.⁸¹⁴⁹ After, the OSTP sought public comment on the development of a National AI R&D Strategic Plan.⁸¹⁵⁰ Pursuant to the deregulatory policy set out in the executive orders of the second Trump Administration, the OSTP also sought public comment about "existing Federal statutes, regulations, agency rules, guidance, forms, and administrative processes that unnecessarily hinder the development, deployment, and adoption of artificial intelligence ('AI') technologies within the United States."⁸¹⁵¹

⁸¹⁴⁷ National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force, *Strengthening and Democratizing the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystem: An Implementation Plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource* (Jan. 2023), <https://www.ai.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/NAIRR-TF-Final-Report-2023.pdf>

⁸¹⁴⁸ NIST, *Comments Received for RFI on NIST's Assignments under Executive Order 14110 on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of AI* (Feb. 2024), <https://www.nist.gov/artificial-intelligence/executive-order-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence/comments>

⁸¹⁴⁹ White House, *American Public Submits Over 10,000 Comments on White House's AI Action Plan* (Apr. 24, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/04/american-public-submits-over-10000-comments-on-white-houses-ai-action-plan/>

⁸¹⁵⁰ OSTP, National Science Foundation (NSF), *Request for Information on the Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan*, 90 FR 17835, 2025-07332 (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/29/2025-07332/request-for-information-on-the-development-of-a-2025-national-artificial-intelligence-ai-research>

⁸¹⁵¹ Office of Science and Technology Policy, *Request for Information: Regulatory Reform on Artificial Intelligence*, 90 FR 46422, 2025-18737 (Sept. 26, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/26/2025-18737/notice-of-request-for-information-regulatory-reform-on-artificial-intelligence>

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Other federal agencies including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sought public comment on AI-driven identity theft and coerced debt.⁸¹⁵² NIST sought public comment on draft standards relating to dataset documentation and TEVV.⁸¹⁵³

Despite opportunities for comment, however, continued deregulation efforts and challenges to agency independence raises doubts the administration meaningfully considers comments in the formulation of policies or approaches to AI governance. For example, Pew Research Center reported in 2025 that most Americans surveyed were more concerned than excited about AI in their daily lives.⁸¹⁵⁴ Fewer than half on average trusted the US government to regulate AI, though the survey did not question whether respondents wanted regulation. A report in early 2026 found that Americans want more control over how they use or are expected to use AI.⁸¹⁵⁵

When the OSTP sought public comment on developing the AI Action Plan, CAIDP organized several roundtable discussions to gather civil society organizations, provide input, and build shared capacity to participate in the policy process.⁸¹⁵⁶ During 2025, there were several coalition actions in response to public comment proceedings⁸¹⁵⁷ and the administration's actions to procure and deploy

⁸¹⁵² Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), *Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking—Fair Credit Reporting Act (Regulation V); Identity Theft and Coerced Debt*, 89 FR 100922 (Dec. 13, 2024), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/13/2024-29292/fair-credit-reporting-act-regulation-v-identity-theft-and-coerced-debt>

⁸¹⁵³ National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), *NIST's AI Standards "Zero Drafts" Pilot Project to Accelerate Standardization, Broaden Input* (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://www.nist.gov/artificial-intelligence/ai-research/nists-ai-standards-zero-drafts-pilot-project-accelerate>

⁸¹⁵⁴ Monica Anderson and William Bishop, *Republicans, Democrats Now Equally Concerned about AI in Daily Life, but Views on Regulation Differ*, Pew Research Center (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/11/06/republicans-democrats-now-equally-concerned-about-ai-in-daily-life-but-views-on-regulation-differ/>

⁸¹⁵⁵ Michelle Faverio and Emma Kikuchi, *Key Findings about How Americans View Artificial Intelligence*, Pew Research Center (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/03/12/key-findings-about-how-americans-view-artificial-intelligence/>

⁸¹⁵⁶ CAIDP, *OSTP AI Action Plan*, <https://www.caidp.org/public-voice/ai-action-plan-ostp-2025/>

⁸¹⁵⁷ National Fair Housing Alliance, *Civil Rights Coalition Urges the Office of Science and Technology Policy to Reaffirm Critical Protections* (Nov. 13, 2025), <https://nationalfairhousing.org/civil-rights-coalition-urges-the-office-of-science-and-technology-policy-to-reaffirm-critical-protections/>

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unsafe AI models in the federal government.⁸¹⁵⁸ There was a big tent of Civil society organizations united in opposition to the proposed moratorium on state AI laws.⁸¹⁵⁹

Civil society has also participated in the development of and advocacy for state legislation. California Senate Bill 1047, the “Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier AI models Act,” provoked a heated debate over the future of AI regulation in the state, with both opposition and support from various stakeholders. Several civil society organizations such as Encode Justice⁸¹⁶⁰ and CAIDP⁸¹⁶¹ voiced support for the bill. Although the bill initially passed Assembly, the Governor vetoed it. SB 53 enacted in 2025 updated SB 1047.

The United States government provides access to all final policy proposals concerning AI. Federal agencies have undertaken public rulemaking and requested public comment. However, the National Security Commission NSCAI initially attempted to keep deliberations secret. A federal court later determined that the AI Commission had violated U.S. open government laws and was required to make both records and meetings open to the public.⁸¹⁶² Oddly, the AI Commission initially made agency documents available on a proprietary platform rather than an agency website.⁸¹⁶³

Data Protection

The United States does not have an overarching privacy law, such as the GDPR, nor is there a privacy agency. Congressional efforts to establish a privacy protection law have failed to progress.⁸¹⁶⁴ However, the United States has two

⁸¹⁵⁸ CAIDP, *NGO Coalition Urge US Government to Suspend Deployment of Grok* (Feb. 2026), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy_coalition-demands-federal-grok-ban-over-nonconsensual-activity-7424201708089634817-FODD/; TechCrunch, *Coalition Demands Federal Grok Ban over Nonconsensual Sexual Content* (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://techcrunch.com/2026/02/02/coalition-demands-federal-grok-ban-over-nonconsensual-sexual-content/>; *Coalition Urges OMB to Block Federal Adoption of xAI's Grok* (Aug. 28, 2025), <https://www.citizen.org/article/coalition-urges-omb-block-grok/>

⁸¹⁵⁹ Encode Justice, *Coalition Letter to House and Senate Leadership* (Jun. 30, 2025), https://encodeai.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Coalition-Letter_-_Oppose-the-Updated-AI-Moratorium.pdf

⁸¹⁶⁰ Encode Justice, *EJ founder Sneha Revanur and Grey's Anatomy Star Jason George: Governor Newsom's Chance to Lead on AI Safety* (Sept. 27, 2024), <https://encodejustice.org/governor-newsom-must-sign-sb-1047/>

⁸¹⁶¹ CAIDP, *Update 6.33* (Aug. 27, 2024), <https://www.caidp.org/caidp-update/volume-6-2024/>

⁸¹⁶² EPIC, *EPIC v. AI Commission, Seeking Public Access to the Records and Meetings of the NSCAI* (Mar. 19, 2021), <https://www.epic.org/foia/epic-v-ai-commission/>

⁸¹⁶³ National Security Commission on AI, *Interim Report and Third Quarter Recommendation* (Oct. 2020), <https://irp.fas.org/offdocs/ai-commission.pdf>

⁸¹⁶⁴ 117th Congress Second Session, *H.R.8152, American Data Privacy and Protection Act* (Dec. 30, 2022), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8152>; Congressional Research

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members in the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), the FTC (since 2010) and the California Privacy Protection Agency (CPPA) (since 2022).⁸¹⁶⁵ Neither voting U.S. member has endorsed the GPA's key resolutions: the Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence,⁸¹⁶⁶ the Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,⁸¹⁶⁷ and the Resolution and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology,⁸¹⁶⁸ or the 2023 Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.⁸¹⁶⁹

Both the FTC and the CPPA have taken several steps to address data protection, along with action from other agencies. For example, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and DOE established a research network⁸¹⁷⁰ dedicated to advancing the development, deployment, and scaling of privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs). Two OMB Requests for Information (RFIs) in 2024 also addressed privacy concerns. The first focused on federal agencies' handling of personally identifiable information (PII) contained within commercially available data. The second aimed to enhance the effectiveness of privacy impact assessments conducted by federal agencies, particularly considering emerging technologies like AI.

The Federal Trade Commission has been issuing business guidance since 2021 to put companies on notice about unlawful data and algorithmic practices.⁸¹⁷¹

Service, *The American Privacy Rights Act*, LSB11161 (May 31, 2024),

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB11161>

⁸¹⁶⁵ Global Privacy Assembly, *List of Accredited Members* (2026),

<https://globalprivacyassembly.org/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

⁸¹⁶⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁸¹⁶⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁸¹⁶⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technolog.pdf>

⁸¹⁶⁹ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), https://www.edps.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/edps-gpa-resolution-on-generative-ai-systems_en.pdf

⁸¹⁷⁰ National Science Foundation, *NSF and DOE Establish Research Coordination Network* (Feb. 26 2024), <https://new.nsf.gov/news/nsf-doe-establish-research-coordination-network>

⁸¹⁷¹ FTC, *Aiming for Truth, Fairness, and Equity in your Company's Use of AI* (Apr. 19, 2021), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/blogs/business-blog/2021/04/aiming-truth-fairness-equity-your-companys-use-ai>; Center for AI & Digital Policy, *U.S. FTC Requires Deletion of AI Models Developed from Data Unfairly Obtained*, CAIDP Update 2.03 (Jan. 17, 2021),

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In February 2023, following the widespread public awareness of GPT-4, the FTC warned, “false or unsubstantiated claims about [an AI] product’s efficacy are our bread and butter [...] You don’t need a machine to predict what the FTC might do when those claims are unsupported.” In the May 2023 business guidance on consumer trust and generative AI tools, the FTC states that, “Design or use of a product can also violate the FTC Act if it is unfair.”⁸¹⁷² The FTC has also issued business guidance that would guide the downstream uses and integrations of LLM products.⁸¹⁷³

Apart from business guidance, since 2019, the FTC has proposed five disgorgement orders including against Cambridge Analytica and Amazon.⁸¹⁷⁴ In the 2023 Privacy and Security Report to Congress, the FTC stated: “The Commission has been leading efforts to ensure that AI and similar technologies are not deployed in harmful ways. In addition to obtaining orders against Rite Aid, Ring, and Amazon to ensure that companies are disincentivized from using data that was wrongfully collected or trained to develop AI, we have initiated a market study of social media and video streaming platforms on the use of AI, announced a public contest to develop new approaches to protect consumers from AI-enabled voice cloning harms, proposed rules to crack down on AI-fueled impersonator and fake review fraud, and issued numerous business guidance alerts.”⁸¹⁷⁵

Regarding risks related to deepfakes scams, the FTC issued a Trade Regulation Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses⁸¹⁷⁶ and also proposed to extend protections against AI impersonation scams and deepfakes in 2024.⁸¹⁷⁷ In 2024, the FTC launched *Operation AI Comply* to an enforcement sweep

<https://dukakis.org/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy/caidp-update-us-ftc-requires-deletion-of-ai-models-developed-from-data-unfairly-obtained/>

⁸¹⁷² FTC, *The Luring Test: AI and the Engineering of Consumer Trust* (May 1, 2023),

https://wp.nyu.edu/compliance_enforcement/2024/04/17/the-luring-test-ai-and-the-engineering-of-consumer-trust/

⁸¹⁷³ FTC, *AI (and Other) Companies: Quietly Changing Your Terms of Service Could Be Unfair or Deceptive* (Feb. 13, 2024), <https://www.ftc.gov/policy/advocacy-research/tech-at-ftc/2024/02/ai-other-companies-quietly-changing-your-terms-service-could-be-unfair-or-deceptive>

⁸¹⁷⁴ William Simpson, *AI Regulatory Enforcement Around the World*, IAPP News (Aug. 2, 2023), <https://iapp.org/news/a/ai-regulatory-enforcement-around-the-world>

⁸¹⁷⁵ FTC, *2023 Privacy and Data Security Update*, p. 1 (2023), <https://www.ftc.gov/reports/federal-trade-commission-2023-privacy-data-security-update>

⁸¹⁷⁶ Federal Trade Commission, *Trade Regulation Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses*, 89 FR 15017 (Mar. 1, 2024),

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/01/2024-04335/trade-regulation-rule-on-impersonation-of-government-and-businesses>

⁸¹⁷⁷ Federal Trade Commission, *FTC Proposes New Protections to Combat AI Impersonation of Individuals* (Feb. 15, 2024), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/02/ftc-proposes-new-protections-combat-ai-impersonation-individuals>

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against businesses that use AI tools to trick, mislead, or defraud people.⁸¹⁷⁸ The FTC continued to carry out enforcement actions against deceptive business practices of AI companies in 2025, offering consumer facing services including claims about efficacy of AI content detection, AI lawyer claims, and AI powered security screening systems.⁸¹⁷⁹ In 2025, the FTC also issued the final rule on COPPA,⁸¹⁸⁰ strengthening protections like inclusion of biometric identifiers within the scope of personal information, enhanced measures for services directed to children, and collection and processing of children's data.

State-Level Data Protection

At the state level, the California Consumer Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) updated the state's privacy law (the CCPA), created a privacy protection agency (the CPPA), and established a right to limit algorithmic profiling.⁸¹⁸¹ The CPRA strengthens accountability measures by requiring companies to conduct privacy risk assessments and cybersecurity audits, and regularly submit them to regulators. In addition, it supplements the individual rights in the CCPA with new notification requirements, clarifies that individuals have the right to opt out of both the 'sale' and 'sharing' of personal information, and adds protections for a new category of 'sensitive data.'"⁸¹⁸² California's Opt Me Out Act⁸¹⁸³ enacted in 2025 made California the first state in the nation to require browsers to offer users a simple, built-in way to tell websites not to sell or share their personal information. When the law takes effect in January 2027, Californians will see new privacy options in web browsers.⁸¹⁸⁴

⁸¹⁷⁸ Federal Trade Commission, *FTC Announces Crackdown on Deceptive AI Claims and Schemes*, Press Release, (Sept. 25, 2024), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/09/ftc-announces-crackdown-deceptive-ai-claims-schemes>

⁸¹⁷⁹ Federal Trade Commission, *Artificial Intelligence*, <https://www.ftc.gov/industry/technology/artificial-intelligence>

⁸¹⁸⁰ Federal Trade Commission, *Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule*, 90 FR 16918, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/22/2025-05904/childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule#citation-74-p16924>

⁸¹⁸¹ California Privacy Protection Agency, *About CPPA* (2025), <https://privacy.ca.gov/about-us/about-the-cppa/>

⁸¹⁸² Cameron F. Kerry and Caitlin Chin, *By Passing Proposition 24, California Voters Up the Ante on*

Federal Privacy Law, Brookings (Nov. 17, 2020), <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2020/11/17/by-passing-proposition-24-california-voters-up-the-ante-on-federal-privacy-law/>

⁸¹⁸³ Assembly Bill No. 566, *California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018: Opt-Out Preference Signal*, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB566

⁸¹⁸⁴ California Privacy Protection Agency, LinkedIn Post (Oct. 8, 2025), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/calprivacy_great-news-today-governor-newsom-signed-activity-7381785813845696512-riPE?

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Virginia and Colorado followed the CPRA in 2021, by passing the Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA) and Colorado Privacy Act (CPA), respectively. The Virginia law took effect on January 1, 2023, and the Colorado law took effect on July 1, 2023. Utah also passed the Utah Consumer Privacy Act (UCPA), which closely follows the Virginia law, and took effect on December 31, 2023. The two states also advanced amendments and regulatory initiatives to strengthen protection for minors in 2025. Virginia expanded child-data protections under VCDPA.⁸¹⁸⁵ In Colorado, amendments to the CPA strengthened protections for minors' online data by requiring controllers to implement age-appropriate privacy safeguards, obtain verifiable parental consent for certain data processing activities, and limit the use of personal data for targeted advertising and profiling of minors.⁸¹⁸⁶

Connecticut became the 5th U.S. State to enact comprehensive data privacy legislation with the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA), which took effect on July 1, 2023. These state laws give consumers more control over their personal information by providing them with certain rights and mandating that businesses be transparent about privacy practices. However, there are notable differences in applicability, consumer rights, and enforcement with other state acts. The Connecticut Attorney General's 2025 report⁸¹⁸⁷ on compliance with the CTDPA highlighted an increased focus on universal opt-out mechanisms, children's data, and profiling practices. The report also recommended aspects of the CTDPA for the state legislature to strengthen or clarify.

Algorithmic Transparency

No federal laws in the United States guarantee a right to algorithmic transparency, though both the FTC and the CPPA have taken several steps to address algorithmic transparency. Guidance and actions from federal agencies such as OMB and FTC provide a measure of transparency and accountability and some access to contest decisions.

Federal and state legislatures previously introduced bills to provide algorithmic transparency and protect against harms from automated decision-making. In 2025, California legislation on Automated Decision Tools, for example,⁸¹⁸⁸ proposed privacy impact assessments to address algorithmic

⁸¹⁸⁵ Legiscan, *Virginia Senate Bill 854* (May 2, 2025), <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB854/2025>

⁸¹⁸⁶ State of Colorado, *SB24-041: Privacy Protections for Children's Online Data* (May 31, 2024), <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-041?>

⁸¹⁸⁷ Attorney General State of Connecticut, *Attorney General Tong Releases Updated Report on Connecticut Data Privacy Act* (Apr. 17, 2025) <https://portal.ct.gov/ag/press-releases/2025-press-releases/attorney-general-tong-releases-updated-report-on-connecticut-data-privacy-act?>

⁸¹⁸⁸ Digital Democracy, CalMatters, *AB 2930: Automated Decision Tools* (Aug. 31, 2024), https://digitaldemocracy.calmatters.org/bills/ca_202320240ab2930

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discrimination in the context of consequential decisions.⁸¹⁸⁹ Likewise, the U.S. Congress first proposed the Algorithmic Accountability Act to conduct impact assessments to mitigate the harmful effects of automated decisions. A renewed version, the Algorithmic Accountability Act (H.R. 5511),⁸¹⁹⁰ introduced in 2025 expands this framework by directing the FTC to establish rules for risk and transparency assessments covering both automated decision systems and augmented critical decision processes. However, the acts did not pass.

More targeted state and local legislation has been more successful. For example, Illinois's Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act requires that employers disclose whenever they use AI to analyze applicant-submitted interview videos.⁸¹⁹¹ The act also requires employers who rely solely on AI analysis of video interviews to make employment decisions to report demographic data annually to a state agency, and for the state agency to report whether the data discloses a racial bias from the use of AI. New York City's Local Law 144 requires bias audits on any automated employment decision tools and notice on the use of such tools to employees and job seekers.⁸¹⁹²

New York's Algorithmic Pricing Disclosure Act⁸¹⁹³ requires businesses to clearly disclose to consumers when prices are set by algorithms using personal data.

State-Level AI Legislation

The National Conference of State Legislatures summarized the state of play on AI legislation in 2025: "In the 2025 legislative session, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C., have introduced legislation on this topic this year. Thirty-eight states adopted or enacted around 100 measures this year."⁸¹⁹⁴ 55 AI-related bills were introduced during 2025 session in California alone. Governor Newsom signed 13 of those AI bills into law, covering safety &

⁸¹⁸⁹ Ibid

⁸¹⁹⁰ 119th Congress (2025–2026), *H.R. 5511—Algorithmic Accountability Act* (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5511/text>

⁸¹⁹¹ State of Illinois, *Artificial Video Interview Act*, 820 Ill. Comp. Stat. 42 (2020), <https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=4015&ChapterID=68>

⁸¹⁹² New York City, *Local Law 2021/144, Automated Employment Decision Tools* (May 6, 2023), <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/about/automated-employment-decision-tools.page>

⁸¹⁹³ New York State Senate, *General Business, Chapter 20, Article 22-A, Section 349-A* (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/GBS/349-A>; Office of Governor Kathy Hochul, *Protecting New Yorkers from Secret Online Price Hikes: Governor Hochul Announces Nation-Leading Surveillance Pricing Law Now in Effect* (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/protecting-new-yorkers-secret-online-price-hikes-governor-hochul-announces-nation-leading>

⁸¹⁹⁴ National Conference of State Legislatures, *Artificial Intelligence 2025 Legislation* (Jul. 10, 2025), <https://www.ncsl.org/technology-and-communication/artificial-intelligence-2025-legislation>

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transparency obligations of AI companies, child safety measures, privacy & data rights, consumer protection, and infrastructure development.⁸¹⁹⁵ Among those laws, SB 53, the Transparency in Frontier Artificial Intelligence Act (TFAIA),⁸¹⁹⁶ is the first comprehensive state law in the United States to establish guardrails for frontier models, the most advanced AI systems.⁸¹⁹⁷ The law establishes four key mechanisms: mandatory safety disclosures by frontier AI developers, whistleblower protections, incident reporting requirements for safety-related events, and public infrastructure to foster AI research and innovation.

Utah became the first state to enact AI-specific consumer protection legislation⁸¹⁹⁸ with the Artificial Intelligence Policy Act. The act establishes liability for AI use that violates consumer protection laws if not properly disclosed. Amendments enacted in 2025 modify the disclosure requirements of the original act. For example, they narrow the scope of required disclosures to “high-risk” generative AI interactions and extend the law’s sunset date.⁸¹⁹⁹

Texas passed the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act (TRAIGA)⁸²⁰⁰ to protect public safety, individual rights, and privacy while encouraging the safe advancement of AI technology in Texas. The Act sets out consumer protections and enforcement mechanisms, a regulatory sandbox program for testing innovative AI systems, and the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Council to support innovation and oversee compliance.

Other examples from state legislatures⁸²⁰¹ include a law in Arkansas clarifying ownership of AI-generated content; Montana’s “Right to Compute” law, which sets requirements for critical infrastructure controlled by an AI system, such as instructing the deployer to develop a risk management policy that considers guidance from a list of specified standards, such as the NIST AI RMF. Montana’s

⁸¹⁹⁵ Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, *Governor Newsom Issues Legislative Update 10.13.25*, News (Oct. 13, 2025), <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/10/13/governor-newsom-issues-legislative-update-10-13-25/>

⁸¹⁹⁶ California Legislative Information, *Senate Bill No. 53, Artificial Intelligence Models: Large Developers* (Sept. 29, 2025), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20250260SB53

⁸¹⁹⁷ *Ibid*, Section 1

⁸¹⁹⁸ Utah State Legislature, *S.B. 149*, 2024 General Session (2024), <https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/static/SB0149.html>

⁸¹⁹⁹ Utah State Legislature, *S.B. 226—Artificial Intelligence Consumer Protection Amendments* (May 7, 2025), <https://le.utah.gov/Session/2025/bills/enrolled/SB0226.pdf>; Utah State Legislature, *S.B. 332—Artificial Intelligence Revisions* (May 7, 2025), <https://le.utah.gov/Session/2025/bills/enrolled/SB0332.pdf>

⁸²⁰⁰ Texas Senate Research Center, *C.S.H.B. 149* (May 20, 2025), <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/analysis/html/HB00149S.htm>

⁸²⁰¹ National Conference of State Legislatures, *Artificial Intelligence 2025 Legislation* (Jul. 10, 2025), <https://www.ncsl.org/technology-and-communication/artificial-intelligence-2025-legislation>

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law also specifies that the government cannot take actions that restrict the ability to privately own or make use of computational resources for lawful purposes, unless deemed necessary to fulfill a compelling government interest.

New Jersey adopted a resolution urging generative AI companies to make voluntary commitments regarding employee whistleblower protections.⁸²⁰² New York enacted a new law that requires state agencies to publish detailed information about their automated decision-making tools on their public websites through an inventory created and maintained by the Office of Information Technology. The new law also amends the civil service law to strengthen worker protections, such as requiring when an AI system is used by the state government that it cannot affect the existing rights of employees pursuant to an existing collective bargaining agreement and requiring that an AI system does not result in displacement or loss of a position. A new law in North Dakota prohibits individuals from using an AI-powered robot to stalk or harass other individuals, expanding current harassment and stalking laws, while an Oregon law specifies that a non-human entity including an agent powered by AI cannot use specific licensed and certified medical professionals' titles, such as a registered nurse and certified medication aide.

CAIDP Complaint and FTC Investigation into OpenAI

In March 2023, CAIDP filed a detailed Complaint with the Federal Trade Commission against OpenAI.⁸²⁰³ CAIDP explained that OpenAI released a product GPT-4 for the consumer market that is biased, deceptive, and a risk to privacy and public safety. The CAIDP Complaint quoted extensively from the GPT-4 Technical Report, highlighted that the outputs of ChatGPT cannot be proven or replicated, and no independent assessment was undertaken prior to deployment.⁸²⁰⁴ CAIDP's complaint was grounded on violations of Section 5 of the FTC Act, FTC's numerous Guidance for AI Products, and Rules for Governance of AI. CAIDP asked the Commission to begin an investigation of OpenAI and to prevent the release of further models until necessary guardrails are established.

In a supplement to the original complaint, CAIDP accused OpenAI of "unfair and deceptive practices." CAIDP outlined the numerous investigations from consumer agencies around the world since the original CAIDP complaint and sheds light on newly surfaced issues not fully captured in the initial complaint.⁸²⁰⁵

⁸²⁰² Ibid

⁸²⁰³ CAIDP, *Cases, In the Matter of OpenAI* (2024), <https://www.caidp.org/cases/openai/>

⁸²⁰⁴ Ibid

⁸²⁰⁵ Ibid

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Both the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* reported in 2023 that the FTC had launched the investigation sought by CAIDP.⁸²⁰⁶ Subsequently, CAIDP filed a second supplement that urged the FTC to move forward the investigation and issue an order to establish safeguards and guardrails for ChatGPT.⁸²⁰⁷ However, no order has yet been issued by the FTC in this investigation.

Subsequently, the FTC issued a staff report on AI partnerships and investments between the largest cloud service providers and two of the most prominent generative AI developers: Anthropic PBC and OpenAI.⁸²⁰⁸ The FTC subsequently opened an investigation into OpenAI and launched a broader inquiry into consumer-facing AI chatbots (including OpenAI among other companies). A new FTC inquiry into AI chatbots acting as companions launched in September 2025 includes OpenAI among the targeted companies.⁸²⁰⁹

Facial Recognition

There is growing opposition to the deployment of facial recognition technology in the United States. Still, as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report “With few exceptions, the U.S. does not currently have authoritative guidance, regulations, or laws to adequately address issues related to facial recognition technology use.”⁸²¹⁰

The Facial Recognition Act of 2023⁸²¹¹ introduced during the 118th Congress proposed limitations on the use of biometric surveillance systems including facial

⁸²⁰⁶ New York Times, *FTC Opens Investigation Into ChatGPT Maker Over Technology’s Potential Harms* (Jul. 13, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/13/technology/chatgpt-investigation-ftc-openai.html>; Wall Street Journal, *ChatGPT Comes Under Investigation by the Federal Trade Commission* (Jul.13, 2023), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/chatgpt-under-investigation-by-ftc-21e4b3ef>

⁸²⁰⁷ CAIDP, *Cases, In the Matter of OpenAI* (2024), <https://www.caidp.org/cases/openai/>

⁸²⁰⁸ FTC, *FTC Issues Staff Report on AI Partnerships & Investments Study*, Press Release (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/01/ftc-issues-staff-report-ai-partnerships-investments-study>

⁸²⁰⁹ FTC, *FTC Launches Inquiry into AI Chatbots Acting as Companions* (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/09/ftc-launches-inquiry-ai-chatbots-acting-companions>

⁸²¹⁰ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Advances in Facial Recognition Technology Have Outpaced Laws, Regulations; New Report Recommends Federal Government Take Action on Privacy, Equity, and Civil Liberties Concerns*, News Release, (Jan. 17, 2024), <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2024/01/advances-in-facial-recognition-technology-have-outpaced-laws-regulations-new-report-recommends-federal-government-take-action-on-privacy-equity-and-civil-liberties-concerns>

⁸²¹¹ Ted Lieu Congressman for California’s 36th District, *Facial Recognition Act of 2023* (Mar. 7, 2023), <https://lieu.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/lieu.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/facial-recognition-act-of-2023.pdf>

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Assembly introduced legislation that would limit law enforcement use of facial recognition technology.⁸²¹⁹ The bill was introduced in passed by both chambers in April 2024. Among other provisions it would require the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, on or before October 1 each year, to report to the General Assembly information reported by law enforcement agencies using facial recognition technology.

After multiple lawsuits alleging that Facebook had violated state and federal privacy laws as well as repeated recommendations to the FTC that the company's business practices, including the collection and use of facial images, violated a 2011 settlement with the Commission, Facebook announced it would shut down its facial recognition system and delete the face scans of more than one billion users it had gathered.⁸²²⁰ In February 2022, and after months of criticism by advocacy groups, the Internal Revenue Service announced that it would halt its program with identity verification company ID.me to use facial recognition technology to verify taxpayers' identities.⁸²²¹

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a press release, "FTC Recommends Best Practices for Companies That Use Facial Recognition Technologies," promoting consumer protection innovation and best practices guidance to companies developing and deploying facial recognition technologies.⁸²²² The statement included the release of a staff report, "Facing Facts: Best Practices for Common Uses of Facial Recognition Technologies," a product of the Commission's December 8, 2011, workshop, "Face Facts: A Forum on Facial Recognition Technology" and the Commission's March 2012 report, "Protecting Consumer Privacy in an Era of Rapid Change."⁸²²³

⁸²¹⁹ Maryland General Assembly, *Criminal Procedure - Facial Recognition Technology - Requirements, Procedures, and Prohibitions*, SB 0182 cross-filed with HB0338, SB0192 (Oct. 1, 2024), <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/SB0182?ys=2024RS>

⁸²²⁰ Kashmir Hill and Ryan Mac, *Facebook, Citng Societal Concerns, Plans to Shut Down Facial Recognition System*, New York Times (Nov. 2, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/technology/facebook-facial-recognition.html>

⁸²²¹ Alan Rappeport and Kashmir Hill, *I.R.S. to End Use of Facial Recognition for Identity Verification: After a Bipartisan Backlash, the Agency Will Transition Away from Using a Service from ID.me*, New York Times (Feb. 7, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/07/us/politics/irs-idme-facial-recognition.html>

⁸²²² FTC, *FTC Recommends Best Practices for Companies That Use Facial Recognition Technologies* (Oct. 22, 2022), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2012/10/ftc-recommends-best-practices-companies-use-facial-recognition-technologies>

⁸²²³ FTC, *Face Facts: Best Practices for Common Uses of Facial Recognition Technologies* (Oct. 2012), <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/facing-facts-best-practices-common-uses-facial-recognition-technologies/121022facialechrpt.pdf>

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In May 2023, the FTC issued its Policy Statement on Biometric Information and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.⁸²²⁴ In its policy statement, the FTC noted “facial recognition technology, may perform differently across different demographic groups in ways that facilitate or produce discriminatory outcomes.”⁸²²⁵ The FTC’s Biometric Policy Statement serves as “warning that the increasing use of consumers’ biometric information and related technologies, including those powered by machine learning, raises significant consumer privacy and data security concerns and the potential for bias and discrimination.”⁸²²⁶

The FTC filed a lawsuit in 2023 against Rite Aid for using “facial recognition technology in its stores without taking reasonable steps to address the risks that its use would likely harm consumers due to false-positive match alerts, especially women consumers and consumers of color.”⁸²²⁷ The FTC filed its proposed stipulations and order in March 2024, requiring “Rite Aid to discontinue using any such technology if it cannot control potential risks to consumers.”⁸²²⁸

In September 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that “Seven law enforcement agencies in the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ) reported using facial recognition services provided by commercial and nonprofit entities. GAO made ten recommendations to DHS and DOJ relating to safeguards for civil rights, training, and privacy related to their use of facial recognition technology to support criminal investigations.”⁸²²⁹

The 2024 report of the National Academies highlights that “FRTs are highly personal, uniquely powerful, and potentially extremely intrusive. Opting out of showing one’s face is not a realistic option in most circumstances”⁸²³⁰ This report

⁸²²⁴ FTC, *Policy Statement of the Federal Trade Commission on Biometric Information and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act* (May 18, 2023),

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/p225402biometricpolicystatement.pdf

⁸²²⁵ *Ibid*, p. 4

⁸²²⁶ FTC, *FTC Warns About Misuses of Biometric Information and Harm to Consumers*, Press Releases (May 18, 2023), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/05/ftc-warns-about-misuses-biometric-information-harm-consumers>

⁸²²⁷ FTC, *Coming Face to Face with Rite Aid’s Allegedly Unfair Use of Facial Recognition Technology*, Business Blog (Dec. 19, 2023), <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/blog/2023/12/coming-face-face-rite-aids-allegedly-unfair-use-facial-recognition-technology>

⁸²²⁸ FTC, *Rite Aid Corporation, FTC v.*, Cases and Proceedings (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://www.ftc.gov/legal-library/browse/cases-proceedings/2023190-rite-aid-corporation-ftc-v>

⁸²²⁹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Facial Recognition Technology: Federal Law Enforcement Agency Efforts Related to Civil Rights and Training* (Mar. 8, 2024), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107372>

⁸²³⁰ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Facial Recognition Technology: Current Capabilities, Future Prospects, and Governance*, p. 25 (2024),

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has revived congressional action to regulate facial recognition technology.⁸²³¹ However, the Facial Recognition Act of 2025⁸²³² introduced in the House of Representatives to regulate law enforcement use did not progress out of committee.

In response to the federal government's increasing use of facial recognition technology (FRT), the United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) examined the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s use of facial recognition technology and produced the 2024 Statutory Enforcement Report titled on the civil rights implications of facial recognition technology.⁸²³³ The report provides recommendations to federal agencies on AI uses, concerns, and best practices. The Department of Homeland Security announced a final rule to collect biometric data at ports of entry and exit in 2025.⁸²³⁴

In 2025, Clearview AI reached a settlement in multi-district biometric privacy litigation in Illinois.⁸²³⁵ In the settlement, rather than establish a settlement fund, consumers will potentially hold a 23% stake in the startup company—a novel solution in the context of BIPA.⁸²³⁶

Environmental Impact of AI

The U.S. Global Change Research Program has released the Fifth National Climate Assessment, outlining the country's dire climate status. The report discusses climate justice and emphasizes the critical need to proactively mitigate the environmental harms associated with rapid technological shifts.⁸²³⁷ However, U.S. efforts on environmental issues related to AI tend to focus on the AI's alleged potential to support the growth of America's clean energy economy, as a report in

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27397/facial-recognition-technology-current-capabilities-future-prospects-and-governance>

⁸²³¹ Politico, *Washington Takes Aim at Facial Recognition* (Jan. 19, 2024),

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/01/19/washington-takes-aim-at-facial-recognition-00136498>

⁸²³² 119th Congress (2025-2026), H.R.4695: *Facial Recognition Act of 2025* (Jul. 23, 2025),

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4695/text>

⁸²³³ United States Commission on Civil Rights, *Civil Rights Implications of Facial Recognition Technologies* (Sept. 2024), https://www.usccr.gov/files/2024-09/civil-rights-implications-of-frt_0.pdf

⁸²³⁴ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *DHS Announces Final Rule to advance the Biometric Entry/Exit Program* (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/dhs-announces-final-rule-advance-biometric-entry/exit-program>

⁸²³⁵ In re Clearview AI, Inc., Consumer Privacy Litigation, Case: 1:21-cv-00135 (Mar. 20, 2025), [https://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/byprxqwkqpe/2025-03-20-Memorandum-Opinion - Clearview AI.pdf](https://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/byprxqwkqpe/2025-03-20-Memorandum-Opinion-Clearview-AI.pdf)

⁸²³⁶ Ibid, p. 26

⁸²³⁷ U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Fifth National Climate Assessment* (2023), <https://www.globalchange.gov/our-work/fifth-national-climate-assessment>

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2024.⁸²³⁸ The DOE launched the Frontiers in AI for Science, Security, and Technology (FASST) initiative⁸²³⁹ to harness AI for scientific discovery, national security, and energy and electric grid resilience.⁸²⁴⁰ The Senate moved on legislation to regulate the environmental impact of AI systems with the Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act in 2024,⁸²⁴¹ but the bill did not progress in the last congressional session and no new mandates have arisen.

Instead, the White House took several AI policy actions under the AI Action Plan to ease environmental regulations in support of American AI dominance, such as Executive Order 14318 to ease federal permitting of data centres.⁸²⁴² The AI Action Plan directs federal agencies to make public lands available for data centre construction. The administration also directed the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Energy to “identify regions where coal-powered infrastructure is available and suitable for supporting AI data centres; assess the market, legal, and technological potential for expanding coal-based infrastructure to power data centres to meet the electricity needs of AI and high-performance computing operations.”⁸²⁴³

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

The United States is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)⁸²⁴⁴ but maintains reservations about legally binding

⁸²³⁸ White House, *Fact Sheet: Key AI Accomplishments in the Year Since the Biden-Harris Administration's Landmark Executive Order* (Oct. 30, 2024),

<https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/30/fact-sheet-key-ai-accomplishments-in-the-year-since-the-biden-harris-administrations-landmark-executive-order/>

⁸²³⁹ U.S. Office of Critical and Emerging Technologies, *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence for Science, Security and Technology (FASST)* (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.energy.gov/fasst>

⁸²⁴⁰ Department of Energy (DOE), *DOE Announces New Actions to Enhance America's Global Leadership in Artificial Intelligence* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-new-actions-enhance-americas-global-leadership-artificial-intelligence>

⁸²⁴¹ Congress, *Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act of 2024* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3732/text>

⁸²⁴² Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14318: Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure*, Federal Register (Jul. 23, 2025),

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/28/2025-14212/accelerating-federal-permitting-of-data-center-infrastructure>

⁸²⁴³ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14261: Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241* (Apr. 14, 2025),

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/14/2025-06380/reinvigorating-americas-beautiful-clean-coal-industry-and-amending-executive-order-14241>

⁸²⁴⁴ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

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international bans, preferring the development of best practices and risk mitigation strategies for LAWS in cooperation with allies.

The United States was among the 161 countries that approved a draft resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) at the 79th UN General Assembly.⁸²⁴⁵ The resolution expressed concern over LAWS exacerbating existing conflicts and humanitarian crises and approved including discussions of LAWS in the next session.⁸²⁴⁶ 70 countries that endorsed a joint statement on autonomous weapons systems at the UN General Assembly meeting. In this joint statement, States urge “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁸²⁴⁷ The United States also supported a later UN General Assembly Resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems.⁸²⁴⁸

The United States participated in the first global Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM 2023) hosted by the government of The Netherlands. Government representatives, including the United States, have agreed a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain.⁸²⁴⁹ In this joint call, States “stress the paramount importance of the responsible use of AI in the military domain, employed in full accordance with international legal obligations and in a way that does not undermine international security, stability and accountability.” States also “stress the importance of a holistic, inclusive and comprehensive approach in addressing the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of the use

⁸²⁴⁵ United Nations, *In Nearly 50 Separate Recorded Votes, First Committee Approves 15 Drafts on Conventional Weapons, Divergent Approaches to Outer Space Security*, Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, GA/DIS/3756 (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gadis3756.doc.htm>

⁸²⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, Seventy-Ninth Session, First Committee, *A/C.1/79/L.77, General and Complete Disarmament: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (Oct. 18, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/305/45/pdf/n2430545.pdf>

⁸²⁴⁷ United Nations (UN) General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁸²⁴⁸ United Nations, *General Assembly Adopts \$3.59 Billion Budget for 2024, Establishes Funding for Peacebuilding, Concluding Main Part of Seventy-eighth Session*, Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (Dec.22, 2023), <https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12578.doc.htm>

⁸²⁴⁹ Government of Netherlands, *Call to Action on Responsible Use of AI in the Military Domain*, Press Release (Feb.16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

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of AI in the military domain and the need for all stakeholders, including states, private sector, civil society and academia, to collaborate and exchange information on responsible AI in the military domain.”⁸²⁵⁰

At REAIM, the United States issued the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy.⁸²⁵¹ The declaration sets out 10 guiding principles in the development, deployment, or use of military AI capabilities, including those enabling autonomous functions and systems.⁸²⁵² The declaration seeks to provide a normative framework addressing the use of these capabilities in the military domain.⁸²⁵³ The Department of State, in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), convened the inaugural plenary meeting of States endorsing the Political Declaration to operationalize and implement this initiative in March 2024.⁸²⁵⁴ 49 states have endorsed the political declaration led by the United States.⁸²⁵⁵

The DoD’s update to a 2023 policy directive on Autonomy in Weapons Systems remains in place.⁸²⁵⁶ The Directive is valid for 10 years and supports existing documents such as the DoD AI Ethical Principles, which were instituted in 2020,⁸²⁵⁷ the DoD Responsible AI Strategy and Implementation Pathway,⁸²⁵⁸ and the DoD 2023 Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy.⁸²⁵⁹ The directive also supported the DoD Responsible AI Toolkit,⁸²⁶⁰ which is publicly

⁸²⁵⁰ Responsible AI in the Military Domain Summit, *REAIM Call to Action* (Feb. 16, 2023), <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/ream-2023-call-to-action>

⁸²⁵¹ Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Nov. 9, 2023), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy-2/>

⁸²⁵² Ibid

⁸²⁵³ Department of State, *Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy* (Mar. 19–20, 2024), <https://www.state.gov/political-declaration-on-responsible-military-use-of-artificial-intelligence-and-autonomy/>

⁸²⁵⁴ Ibid

⁸²⁵⁵ Ibid

⁸²⁵⁶ Congress, *DoD Directive 3000.09, Defense Primer: U.S. Policy on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems* (Feb. 1, 2024), <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11150>

⁸²⁵⁷ U.S Department of Defense, *DoD Adopts AI Ethical Principles for Artificial Intelligence* (Feb. 24, 2020), <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/release/article/2091996/dod-adopts-ethical-principles-for-artificial-intelligence/>

⁸²⁵⁸ Department of Defense, *Department of Defense Responsible Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Pathway* (Jun. 22, 2022), <https://media.defense.gov/2022/Jun/22/2003022604/-1/-1/0/Department-of-Defense-Responsible-Artificial-Intelligence-Strategy-and-Implementation-Pathway.PDF>

⁸²⁵⁹ Department of Defense, *DoD 2023 Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy* (Nov. 2, 2023), https://media.defense.gov/2023/Nov/02/2003333300/-1/-1/1/DOD_DATA_ANALYTICS_AI_ADOPTION_STRATEGY.PDF

⁸²⁶⁰ Department of Defense, *Responsible AI Toolkit* (2024), <https://rai.tradewindai.com/>

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available to demonstrate this commitment and to encourage transparency internationally.

In 2025, the Congress passed measures relating to the responsible development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) as part of broader national security modernization under the National Defense Authorization Act FY25.⁸²⁶¹ The Act mandates pilot programs and feasibility studies for AI-enabled weapon systems and requires strategic reviews of AI's integration into DoD operations. The DoD is now taking a commercial-first approach to accelerating adoption of AI.⁸²⁶²

AI Literacy

In 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order to promote AI literacy and proficiency in American youth.⁸²⁶³ The EO established an AI education taskforce and the Presidential AI challenge. The EO directed multiple federal agencies to collaborate with the private sector and educational institutions to provide K–12 AI education, enhance AI training, and develop registered apprenticeship programs. The EO directs the Secretary of Labor, in collaboration with the Director of NSF, to work with State and local workforce organizations and training providers to identify and promote high-quality AI-skills coursework and certifications across the country.⁸²⁶⁴ 60 organizations also signed onto the White House pledge to invest in AI education to help make AI education accessible to K–12 students across the country, spark curiosity in the technology, and prepare the next-generation for an AI-enabled economy.⁸²⁶⁵ Major organizations and technology leaders committed resources

⁸²⁶¹ Congress, *Summary of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act* (Jul. 2025), https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy25_ndaa_conference_executive_summary.pdf

⁸²⁶² Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO), *CDAO Announces Partnerships with Frontier AI Companies to Address National Security Mission Areas*, (Jul. 14, 2025), <https://www.ai.mil/latest/news-press/pr-view/article/4242822/cdao-announces-partnerships-with-frontier-ai-companies-to-address-national-secu/>

⁸²⁶³ Executive Office of the President, *Executive Order 14277: Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth*, Federal Register (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/28/2025-07368/advancing-artificial-intelligence-education-for-american-youth>

⁸²⁶⁴ White House, *Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Advances AI Education for American Youth* (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-advances-ai-education-for-american-youth/>

⁸²⁶⁵ White House, *60+ Organizations Sign White House Pledge to Support America's Youth and Invest in AI Education*, Press Release (Jun. 30, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2025/06/60-organizations-sign-white-house-pledge-to-support-americas-youth-and-invest-in-ai-education/>

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toward integrating AI education into K–12 curricula, supporting teacher training, and expanding public access to trustworthy AI information.⁸²⁶⁶

Human Rights

The United States endorsed the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, published a detailed annual report on human rights, and has historically ranked high for the protection of human rights. However, the U.S. withdrew from the UN Human Rights Council in 2025.⁸²⁶⁷ Freedom House suggested a number of factors behind this withdrawal from support for international rights bodies as the 2026 report noted a shift: “In recent years, a number of factors—including political polarization, the growing role of money in politics, and discrimination, among others—have contributed to new infringements on fundamental rights and significantly hampered the ability of federal institutions to fulfill their core responsibilities with respect to budgeting, oversight, and governance.”⁸²⁶⁸ Freedom House scored the United States “Free” with a score of 81/100 in 2026, down 3 from the 2025 report.⁸²⁶⁹

The decline in the Freedom House ranking reflects the change in course related to AI policies and protections as well as the centralization of power under the Executive.⁸²⁷⁰ Executive orders and actions under earlier administrations, were rescinded or abandoned.⁸²⁷¹ The 2025 AI Action Plan sets out individual liberties and civil rights policy actions only in the context of “creation of the world’s largest and highest quality AI-ready scientific datasets.”⁸²⁷² In issuing EO 14179, the second Trump Administration aimed to “revoke existing AI policies and directives that act

⁸²⁶⁶ The White House, *Major Organizations Commit to Supporting AI Education*, (Sep. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/09/major-organizations-commit-to-supporting-ai-education/>

⁸²⁶⁷ White House, *Withdrawing the United States from and Ending Funding To Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to all International Organizations*, Executive Order 14199

(Feb. 4, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/10/2025-02504/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-and-ending-funding-to-certain-united-nations-organizations-and>

⁸²⁶⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2026: United States* (2026), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-states/freedom-world/2026>

⁸²⁶⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: United States* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-states/freedom-world/2025>

⁸²⁷⁰ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2026: United States, Key Developments in 2025* (2026), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-states/freedom-world/2026>

⁸²⁷¹ White House, *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*, Executive Order 14148, (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/28/2025-01901/initial-rescissions-of-harmful-executive-orders-and-actions>

⁸²⁷² White House, *Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan*, p. 8 (Jul. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

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as barriers to American AI innovation, clearing a path for the United States to act decisively to retain global leadership in artificial intelligence.⁸²⁷³

The Executive Order on Preventing Woke AI in Federal Government⁸²⁷⁴ exemplifies the erosion of rights and civil liberties by framing the “incorporation of concepts like critical race theory, transgenderism, unconscious bias, intersectionality, and systemic racism” in AI as “an existential threat to reliable AI.” The EO requires all AI procured by the federal government to conform to the principles of “truth-seeking” and “ideological neutrality.” OMB Memorandum M-25-21⁸²⁷⁵ directs federal agencies to accelerate the responsible use of AI while maintaining safeguards for civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy. However, the other executive actions leave open the question of which, and whose, rights and liberties are to be protected.

OECD / G20 AI Principles

The United States fully supported the OECD AI policy process, endorsed the OECD AI Principles, and is a founding member of the Global Partnership on AI.⁸²⁷⁶ The OECD notes that the United States has taken several steps to implement the AI Principles. The United States continued its commitment to the OECD AI Principles with endorsement of the updated Principles in May 2024.⁸²⁷⁷

Representatives of the Department of Commerce have stated that the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights was largely inspired by the OECD AI Principles.⁸²⁷⁸ Three agencies within the Department of Commerce—the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the International Trade Administration

⁸²⁷³ White House, *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*, Executive Order 14179, (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02172/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>

⁸²⁷⁴ White House, *Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government*, Executive Order 14319 (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/28/2025-14217/preventing-woke-ai-in-the-federal-government>

⁸²⁷⁵ Office of Management and Budget, Russell T. Vought, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, *Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust*, M-25-21 (Apr. 3, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-21-Accelerating-Federal-Use-of-AI-through-Innovation-Governance-and-Public-Trust.pdf>

⁸²⁷⁶ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁸²⁷⁷ OECD, *OECD Updates AI Principles to Stay Abreast of Rapid Technological Developments* (May 3, 2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2024/05/oecd-updates-ai-principles-to-stay-abreast-of-rapid-technological-developments.html>

⁸²⁷⁸ OECD.AI, Elham Tabassi, Isabel Gates, Sam Schofield, *The United States Works with Domestic and International AI Communities to Establish Frameworks that Advance Trustworthy AI for All* (Dec. 20, 2023), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/united-states-ai-for-all-policy>

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(ITA)—participate in the OECD Working Party on AI Governance.⁸²⁷⁹ The U.S. continues its representation on the OECD Council.⁸²⁸⁰ and there have been no changes to the endorsements to OECD’s AI Principles.⁸²⁸¹

The U.S. has consistently supported the G7 processes on artificial intelligence. It joined the leaders’ statement on the Hiroshima AI Process which committed to “foster an open and enabling environment where safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems are designed, developed, deployed, and used to maximize the benefits of the technology while mitigating its risks, for the common good worldwide, including in developing and emerging economies with a view to closing digital divides and achieving digital inclusion.”⁸²⁸² Subsequently the U.S.-Japan consultative committee issued a joint statement which states: “We welcome progress under the Hiroshima AI Process, particularly the Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems and the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems and affirm our determination to further advance the Hiroshima AI Process together with other G7 members.”⁸²⁸³

The United States joined other G7 nations in emphasizing the importance of a human-centric approach to artificial intelligence (AI) to foster prosperity and address global challenges and committing to enhance innovation and adoption of secure, trustworthy AI while promoting national security in the 2025 Leaders’ Statement.⁸²⁸⁴ The G7 leaders aim to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in adopting AI technologies to drive economic growth and improve public services, alongside launching initiatives like the G7 GovAI Grand Challenge to overcome barriers in public sector AI adoption. Additionally, the leaders recognize the need to address energy challenges posed by AI, cooperate with developing

⁸²⁷⁹ OECD.AI and GPAI, *About the OECD Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance (AIGO)*, <https://oecd.ai/en/about/network-of-experts>

⁸²⁸⁰ OECD, *Permanent Representatives to the OECD*, <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/ambassadors.html>

⁸²⁸¹ Congressional Research Service, *Regulating Artificial Intelligence: U.S. and International Approaches and Considerations for Congress*, R48555, p. 2 (Jun.4, 2025), https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R48555/R48555.4.pdf

⁸²⁸² Biden White House Archives, *G7 Leaders’ Statement on the Hiroshima AI Process*, Statements and Releases (Oct. 30, 2023), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/30/g7-leaders-statement-on-the-hiroshima-ai-process/>

⁸²⁸³ Department of State, *Joint Statement of the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee* (Nov. 14, 2023), <https://2021-2025.state.gov/joint-statement-of-the-japan-u-s-economic-policy-consultative-committee/>

⁸²⁸⁴ European Commission, *G7 Leaders’ Statements* (Jun. 2025), https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1552

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countries to bridge digital divides, and promote inclusive STEM education to ensure a diverse AI workforce.

The 2025 AI Action Plan expressed support for “like-minded nations [and international organizations such as OECD] working together to encourage the development of AI in line with our shared values” but also argued that “too many of these efforts have advocated for burdensome regulations, vague ‘codes of conduct’ that promote cultural agendas that do not align with American values or have been influenced by Chinese companies attempting to shape standards for facial recognition and surveillance.”⁸²⁸⁵

Council of Europe AI Treaty

The U.S. is not a member of the Council of Europe but signed and ratified the COE Convention on Cybercrime,⁸²⁸⁶ as COE conventions are open for ratification by non-members states.

The U.S. was one of the non-member states of the COE intergovernmental drafting body on the Framework Convention on AI.⁸²⁸⁷ During the diplomatic negotiations in Strasbourg to finalize the text of the Convention, there was considerable concern about the U.S. role in watering down the treaty.⁸²⁸⁸ The Center for AI and Digital Policy led a coalition of civil society organizations and AI experts urging negotiators not to “Abdicate Our Rights.”⁸²⁸⁹

The U.S. signed⁸²⁹⁰ the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. Signing signals positive prospects for the United States as the country could become a ratifying party to the first multilateral treaty focused on artificial intelligence. The second Trump Administration has taken no action on the treaty.

⁸²⁸⁵ The White House, *Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan* (Jul. 2025),

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

⁸²⁸⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 185, Convention on Cybercrime* (Jul. 1, 2004), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/185/signatures>

⁸²⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁸²⁸⁸ Politico, *International AI Rights Treaty Hangs by a Thread* (Mar. 11, 2024), <https://www.politico.eu/article/council-europe-make-mockery-international-ai-rights-treaty/>

⁸²⁸⁹ Center for AI and Digital Policy, *Open Letter to the Council of Europe* (Jan. 24, 2024), <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7155714415227465728/>

⁸²⁹⁰ Department of State, *The Council of Europe’s Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law* (Sept. 2024), <https://www.state.gov/the-council-of-europes-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights-democracy-and-the-rule-of-law>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

The United States rejoined UNESCO as a full member in 2023,⁸²⁹¹ after the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI were adopted. The Recommendation is applicable to all 194 member states of UNESCO.

While several countries are implementing the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to determine whether they are prepared to implement the Recommendation, the U.S. has not completed the RAM.⁸²⁹²

The Department of State⁸²⁹³ and UNESCO⁸²⁹⁴ confirmed that the United States formally notified its intention to withdraw from UNESCO, effective December 2026. This decision introduces uncertainty about future U.S. participation in the implementation and reporting of the AI Ethics Recommendation.

Evaluation

U.S. AI policy has undergone a profound transformation, pivoting from a risk-management and rights-protection framework to one centered on deregulation, economic competitiveness, and national security. While innovation and infrastructure investments have accelerated, the rollback of safeguards for civil rights, algorithmic accountability, environmental protection, and international engagement raises significant concerns. Legislation such as the TAKE IT DOWN Act and the acceleration of state-level activity has countered some of the second Trump Administration's backsliding on democratic AI governance to instead center industry interests in AI policy.⁸²⁹⁵ However, shifts in enforcement as federal agencies carry out White House directives and the ongoing, ill-conceived attempts at federal

⁸²⁹¹ UNESCO, *The United States Becomes the 194th Member State of UNESCO*, Press Release (Jul. 11, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/united-states-becomes-194th-member-state-unesco>

⁸²⁹² UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

⁸²⁹³ Department of State, *The United States Withdraws from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*, Press Statement (Jul. 22, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/2025/07/the-united-states-withdraws-from-the-united-nations-educational-scientific-and-cultural-organization-unesco>

⁸²⁹⁴ UNESCO, *Withdrawal of the United States of America from UNESCO: Statement by Audrey Azoulay, Director-General*, Press Statement (Jul. 22, 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/withdrawal-united-states-america-unesco-statement-audrey-azoulay-director-general>

⁸²⁹⁵ The White House, *President Trump, Tech Leaders Unite to Power American AI Dominance*, Press Release, (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2025/09/president-trump-tech-leaders-unite-american-ai-dominance/>; Christabel Randolph, Ankit Khosla, Alice Fisher, *OSTP's Misguided Effort To Deregulate AI*, Tech Policy Press (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://www.techpolicy.press/ostps-misguided-effort-to-deregulate-ai/>

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preemption of state laws⁸²⁹⁶ make the need for AI regulations more pressing. Attempts at federal preemption over state AI laws could remain a challenge.

The United States continues to endorse the OECD/G20 AI Principles and participated in the G7 Leaders' Statement on AI for Prosperity in June 2025. However, the Administration has signaled skepticism toward multilateral AI governance frameworks, characterizing some international efforts as promoting “burdensome regulations” and “cultural agendas” that do not align with American values. The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Council, and other international organizations, particularly when combined with characterizations of concepts like inclusion as an “existential threat to AI,” raises questions about the country’s commitment—or outright hostility—to multilateral engagement on AI ethics and human rights.

⁸²⁹⁶ Marc Rotenberg, Merve Hickok, Christabel Randolph, *Proposed Moratorium on US State AI Laws is Short-Sighted and Ill-Conceived*, Tech Policy Press (May 21, 2025), <https://www.techpolicy.press/proposed-moratorium-on-us-state-ai-laws-is-shortsighted-and-illconceived/>

Uruguay

In 2025, Uruguay passed a law with measures such as algorithmic transparency, equality, and nondiscrimination to protect workers on digital tasking platforms and, after Senate concerns, withdrew a project using facial recognition to track high-school attendance. Uruguay became the first Latin American country to sign the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.

National AI Strategy

Uruguay's revised AI Strategy, 2024–2030, aims to “promote the ethical, responsible, safe, critical, creative, and innovative development and use of artificial intelligence for the benefit of people and all sectors of society.”⁸²⁹⁷ The strategy was built on ten core principles: 1) AI for the good of people and sustainable development; 2) Strengthening democracy; 3) Respect for dignity and human rights; 4) Equity and non-discrimination; 5) Protection and privacy of personal data; 6) Transparency and explainability; 7) Responsibility and accountability; 8) Trustworthiness and security; 9) Responsible and safe innovation; and 10) Multiple stakeholders.

The 2024–2030 AI Strategy also identifies various considerations across Governance, AI Capacity, and Sustainable Development.⁸²⁹⁸ Regulatory frameworks and international articulation under the Governance pillar and AI and society and Impacts of AI on employment under Sustainable Development relate most closely to human rights and democratic values. The Strategy explicitly aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, OECD AI Principles, and the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, as well as national frameworks and plans, such as those for digital citizenship.⁸²⁹⁹

The updated strategy extends the application of earlier strategies, which focused on AI in the public sector, to include the private sector. The new strategy also

⁸²⁹⁷ AGESIC, *Uruguay National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024–2030 [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial del Uruguay]* (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-inteligencia-artificial-uruguay-2024-2030/estrategia>

⁸²⁹⁸ Ibid, Thematic Pillars [*Ejes temáticos*], <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-inteligencia-artificial-uruguay-2024-2030-9>

⁸²⁹⁹ Ibid, Purpose and Scope [*Propósito y alcance*], <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-inteligencia-artificial-uruguay-2024-2030/principios>

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represents the first comprehensive AI strategy. The previous version, called the Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Digital Government (AISDG) 2020,⁸³⁰⁰ focused on AI development for the digital government. The Agency for Electronic Government and Information and Knowledge Society (*Agencia de Gobierno Electrónico y Sociedad de la Información y del Conocimiento*, AGESIC) led the preparation of the AISDG and the revised AI strategy. A budget and funding law⁸³⁰¹ formally assigned AGESIC with designing and developing an updated data and AI strategy covering the private as well as public sector and based on international standards after an OECD analysis found the strategy overly focused on the public sector and lacking measurable outcomes.⁸³⁰² The law, which includes provisions for controlled AI testing environments (sandboxes) to promote innovation, followed collaboration with UNESCO and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) to review the AI strategy and create a data strategy.⁸³⁰³

Uruguay's AI strategies are part of the country's broader Digital Agendas. Uruguay has published five digital government agendas (in 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2021). Issues associated with AI were considered in the 2020 Digital Government Plan,⁸³⁰⁴ Digital Agenda 2020,⁸³⁰⁵ and Digital Agenda 2021–2025.⁸³⁰⁶

⁸³⁰⁰ AGESIC, *Artificial Intelligence Strategy for the Digital Government* (Jan. 1, 2020), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-para-gobierno-digital/estrategia>

⁸³⁰¹ Uruguay Government, *Law 20.212: Approval of Accountability and Budget Execution Balance Sheet, Fiscal Year 2022*, Article 74 (Nov. 17, 2023), <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/20212-2023>

⁸³⁰² OECD Public Governance Reviews, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, chapter 1, subchapter “Public Sector Components of National Strategies” (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

⁸³⁰³ AGESIC, *Process of Revision of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy and of Elaboration of National Data Strategy* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/politicas-y-gestion/proceso-revision-estrategia-inteligencia-artificial-elaboracion-estrategia>

⁸³⁰⁴ AGESIC, *Digital Government Strategy 2020* (2020), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/politicas-y-gestion/plan-gobierno-digital-2020>

⁸³⁰⁵ AGESIC, *Agenda Uruguay Digital 2020* (May 2019), <https://www.gub.uy/uruguay-digital/comunicacion/publicaciones/agenda-digital-2020-actualizacion-medio-termino>

⁸³⁰⁶ Uruguay Digital, *Uruguay Digital Agenda 2025, 2023 Update* (Jun. 6, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/uruguay-digital/comunicacion/publicaciones/agenda-uruguay-digital-2025-actualizacion-medio-termino>

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Uruguay established the Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State in 2024,⁸³⁰⁷ realizing plans to promote transparency around the AI Strategy and to enhance trust and mitigate risks around the use of AI technologies.⁸³⁰⁸ The Observatory allows citizens to monitor and follow-up on action plans for the new AI and Data Strategies.⁸³⁰⁹ As part of this effort, the AGESIC joined with the Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit (URCDP) to publish Recommendations on Algorithmic Transparency.⁸³¹⁰

Public Participation

Uruguay created both the Draft Data Strategy 2024–2030 and current Artificial intelligence Strategy through a participatory process and public consultations.⁸³¹¹

The Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Digital Government (AISDG) also resulted from a public consultation on a draft prepared by AGESIC.⁸³¹² The revised AI Strategy, Uruguay Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024–2030, was created after an extensive participatory process that gathered input from more than 300 individuals from various disciplines and fields and representing many organizations, including over 40 government institutions, 11 civil society organizations, 45 private sector organizations, academia, and other interest groups. CAF and UNESCO supported the consultation process.⁸³¹³

⁸³⁰⁷ AGESIC, *Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State* [Observatorio de Inteligencia Artificial en Estado] (Jul. 7, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³⁰⁸ AGESIC, *Observatory of the Use of AI in the State* (Jun. 1, 2022), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-uso-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³⁰⁹ AGESIC, *Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State* (Jul. 7, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³¹⁰ AGESIC, *Recommendations on Algorithmic Transparency* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/recomendaciones-sobre-transparencia-algoritmica>

⁸³¹¹ Uruguay Digital Citizen Participation Platform, *Public Consultation on the National Data Strategy* (Nov. 4, 2024), <https://plataformaparticipacionciudadana.gub.uy/processes/consulta-publica-estrategia-datos>

⁸³¹² Uruguay Digital Citizen Participation Platform, *Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Nov. 4, 2024), <https://plataformaparticipacionciudadana.gub.uy/processes/consulta-publica-estrategia-ia>

⁸³¹³ AGESIC, *National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024–2030* (Nov. 22, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-inteligencia-artificial-2024-2030>

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As AGESIC explained when it announced the public consultation, “This new National Strategy is the cornerstone for the deployment of a national AI policy that involves the public sector, the private sector and all stakeholders, and that enhances the sustainable development of Uruguay in all its dimensions, contributing to economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability of the country and the strengthening of its sovereignty.”⁸³¹⁴ The 29 proposals AGESIC received during the consultation,⁸³¹⁵ including CAIDP’s comments,⁸³¹⁶ are available on the public consultation site, along with a report on the consultation. Of CAIDP’s recommendations, Uruguay adopted a strong human rights-based approach, improved the monitoring and review frameworks, and expanded access for multi-stakeholder participation.⁸³¹⁷

Data Protection

The National Data Strategy 2030 is the cornerstone for national data policy across the private and public sectors.⁸³¹⁸ International commitments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, American Convention on Human Rights or Pact of San José de Costa Rica, and Council of Europe Convention 108+ for the protection of individuals with regards to the Processing of Personal Data inform the legal framework for data protection in Uruguay. Article 72 of the Constitution and a law on Personal Data Protection and Habeas Data Action (LPDP)⁸³¹⁹ provide legal protections.

Uruguay’s data-protection system follows EU data-protection rules and has regulations that adapt to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The

⁸³¹⁴ Digital Citizen Participation Platform, *Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy* (Nov. 4, 2024),

<https://plataformaparticipacionciudadana.gub.uy/processes/consulta-publica-estrategia-ia>

⁸³¹⁵ AGESIC, *Report about the Public Consultation on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, Digital Citizen Participation Platform (2024),

<https://plataformaparticipacionciudadana.gub.uy/processes/consulta-publica-estrategia-ia>

⁸³¹⁶ AGESIC, *Submission of the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP) to the Agency for Development of Electronic Government and Information Society (AGESIC)* (Oct. 21, 2024),

<https://plataformaparticipacionciudadana.gub.uy/processes/consulta-publica-estrategia-ia/f/418/proposals/684>

⁸³¹⁷ CAIDP, *CAIDP Update 6.48—AI Policy News* (Dec. 16, 2024),

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/center-for-ai-and-digital-policy_caidp-update-648-ai-policy-news-dec-activity-7274415679728975873-fl4o?utm_source

⁸³¹⁸ AGESIC, *National Data Strategy 2030 [Estrategia Nacional de Datos 2030]* (Dec. 26, 2024),

<https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-datos-del-uruguay-2030/estrategia-nacional-datos-del>

⁸³¹⁹ Uruguay Acts Register, *Law No. 18331, Law of Personal Data Protection [Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]* (Aug. 18, 2008), <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18331-2008>

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European Commission formally approved Uruguay's status as a country providing "adequate protection" for personal data within the meaning of the European Data Protection Directive.⁸³²⁰

Continuing with the process of full GDPR adaptation, Uruguay passed provisions relating to data protection that address, among others, the proactive responsibility principle (which supposes the implementation of appropriate technical and organizational measures such as privacy by design and privacy by default); the obligation to designate a data-protection officer, and data-breach notification rules. A follow-up decree⁸³²¹ regulates the implementation and enforcement of the provisions.

The Personal Data Protection and Habeas Data law established the Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit (*Unidad Reguladora y de Control de Datos Personales*, URCDP)⁸³²² as the country's supervisory data-protection authority. The URCDP is an autonomous entity of the AGESIC.

As a member of the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), which comprises 16 data protection authorities of 12 countries, the URCDP endorsed the General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence⁸³²³ and the accompanying Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects.⁸³²⁴

The RIPD data protection authorities initiated a coordinated action regarding ChatGPT in May 2023 on the basis that the service may entail risks for the rights and freedoms of users in relation to the risk for misinformation. The action stated: "ChatGPT does not have knowledge and/or experience in a specific domain, so the

⁸³²⁰ European Commission, *Commission Implementing Decision [...] on the Adequate Protection of Personal Data by the Eastern Republic of Uruguay with Regard to Automated Processing of Personal Data*, 2012/484/EU (notified under document C(2012) 5704), (Aug. 21, 2012), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32012D0484>

⁸³²¹ Uruguay Acts Register, *Decree 64/020* (Feb. 21, 2020),

<https://www.impco.com.uy/bases/decretos/64-2020>

⁸³²² Uruguay Acts Register, *Law No. 18331: Law of Personal Data Protection [Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]*, Art. 31, (Aug. 18, 2008), <https://www.impco.com.uy/bases/leyes/18331-2008>

⁸³²³ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *General Recommendations for the Processing of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-general-recommendations-processing-personal-data-ai-en.pdf>

⁸³²⁴ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Specific Guidelines for Compliance with the Principles and Rights that Govern the Protection of Personal Data in Artificial Intelligence Projects* (Jun. 2019), <https://www.redipd.org/en/document/guide-specific-guidelines-ai-projects-en.pdf>

precision and depth of the response may vary in each case, and/or [the machine may] generate responses with cultural, racial, or gender biases, as well as false ones.”⁸³²⁵

Uruguay has been an accredited member of the Global Privacy Assembly since 2009 and is represented by the Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit (URCDP). The 34th International Conference was hosted in Canelones, Uruguay in 2012.⁸³²⁶ The URCDP was among the co-sponsors of the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology⁸³²⁷ and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative AI Systems⁸³²⁸ but did not sponsor the 2018 Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in AI⁸³²⁹ or 2020 Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.⁸³³⁰

Algorithmic Transparency

Uruguay’s Personal Data Protection Law (LPDP) establishes a right to not be subject to an automated decisions with significant effect and the right to obtain information about the data and factors used in a decision to contest the decision.⁸³³¹

⁸³²⁵ Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data (RIPD), *Authorities from the Ibero-American Network for the Protection of Personal Data Initiate a Coordinated Action in Relation to the ChatGPT Service [Las autoridades de la Red Iberoamericana de Protección de Datos personales inician una acción coordinada en relación con el servicio ChatGPT]* (May 8, 2023), <https://www.redipd.org/noticias/autoridades-red-iberoamericana-de-proteccion-de-datos-personales-inician-accion-chatgpt>

⁸³²⁶ Global Privacy Assembly, *History of the Assembly* (2021), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/the-assembly-and-executive-committee/history-of-the-assembly/>

⁸³²⁷ Global Privacy Assembly, , *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁸³²⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems* (Oct. 2023), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/5.-Resolution-on-Generative-AI-Systems-101023.pdf>

⁸³²⁹ International Conference of Data Protection & Privacy Commissioners, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 23, 2018), https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁸³³⁰ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

⁸³³¹ Centro de Información Oficial (IMPO), *Law N° 18.331 on the Protection of Personal Data [Ley de Protección de Datos Personales]*, Article 16 (Aug. 11, 2008), <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18331-2008>

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Uruguay's ratification of Council of Europe Convention 108+ also provides for algorithmic transparency.⁸³³²

AGESIC's Recommendations on Algorithmic Transparency,⁸³³³ published with the Unit of Access to Public Information (*Unidad de Acceso a la Información Pública*, UAPI) as part of the State Observatory on AI, instruct public bodies to proactively disclose rules for algorithms, publish information about AI systems, and handle algorithm-focused information requests. The Recommendations adapt the UNESCO Recommendations and OECD AI Principles to Uruguay and apply the Law on the Right to Access Public Information⁸³³⁴ to the use of algorithms by public entities. The Recommendations, combined with ratification of Convention 108+, progress toward providing Uruguayans the right to know when algorithms are used, the logic and/or factors underlying decisions, and a meaningful opportunity to contest automated decisions.

AGESIC published guidance for the preparation of Algorithmic Impact Assessment (*Estudio de Impacto Algorítmico*, EIA) as part of an earlier AI Strategy on Digital Government.⁸³³⁵

Uruguay's president signed a law proposed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (*Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social*) to establish minimum levels of protection for workers who perform tasks through digital platforms, specifically around transparency of algorithms and automated decision-making systems that make or support decisions affecting working conditions.⁸³³⁶

⁸³³² Centro de Información Oficial (IMPO), *Law No. 19948 Approval of the Protocol for Entering into the Convention for the Protection of People with Respect to the Treatment of Personal Data, signed in Strasbourg [Aprobación del Protocolo de Enmienda del Convenio para la Protección de las Personas con Respecto al Tratamiento de Datos Personales, suscrito en Estrasburgo* (Apr. 27, 2021), <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/19948-2021>

⁸³³³ AGESIC and UAIP, *Recommendations on Algorithmic Transparency* (Jul. 17, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/recomendaciones-sobre-transparencia-algoritmica>

⁸³³⁴ IMPO, *Law No. 18381 on the Right to Access to Public Information [Ley sobre el derecho de acceso a la información pública]* (Nov. 7, 2008), <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/18381-2008>

⁸³³⁵ AGESIC, *Algorithmic Impact Assessment (EIA) Guide [Guía para la evaluación del Estudio de Impacto Algorítmico (EIA)]* (Nov. 18, 2020), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/guia-para-evaluacion-del-estudio-impacto-algoritmico-eia/guia-para>

⁸³³⁶ Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, *Presidential Decree for Law N° 20.396* (Jul. 8, 2025), https://medios.presidencia.gub.uy/legal/2025/decretos/07/mtss_31.pdf

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Observatory of AI in the State

The Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State⁸³³⁷ was established in 2024 to promote transparency around the AI Strategy and to enhance trust and mitigate risks around the use of AI technologies.⁸³³⁸ The Observatory lists key information about models used in the public sector, allowing citizens to monitor and follow-up on action plans for the new AI and Data Strategies.

The Uruguayan government currently has projects for AI solutions in sectors including public education and public health in different stages of testing and implementation.⁸³³⁹ These models include a predictive model to detect disengagement among high-school students, prepared jointly with the Public Education National Administration (ANEP).⁸³⁴⁰ The model for educational purposes was initially tested on a small scale to identify possible errors, and the teachers will be taught how to interpret the underlying information.⁸³⁴¹ The Observatory also provides accountability and oversight: ANEP withdrew a related facial recognition pilot to track high school attendance after a senator and members of an education union expressed concerns about possible privacy rights violations.⁸³⁴² Similarly, an AGESIC official has acknowledged that a predictive model for cardiovascular disease, which is currently undergoing tests, involves the use of sensitive personal data and raises ethical challenges.

⁸³³⁷ AGESIC, *Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State [Observatorio de Inteligencia Artificial en Estado]* (Jul. 7, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³³⁸ AGESIC, *Observatory of the Use of AI in the State* (Jun. 1, 2022), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-uso-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³³⁹ AGESIC, *Observatory of Artificial Intelligence in the State* (Jul. 7, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/observatorio-inteligencia-artificial-estado>

⁸³⁴⁰ AGESIC, *Observatory of Artificial Intelligence, File 25: Model Predicting Unenrollment in Education* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/ficha-25-modelo-predictivo-desvinculacion-educativa>

⁸³⁴¹ El País, *Artificial Intelligence: With Algorithms They Can Predict Which High School Students May Leave or Repeat and They Will Make Lists* (Aug. 20, 2022), <https://www.elpais.com.uy/que-pasa/inteligencia-artificial-con-algoritmos-predicen-que-liceales-pueden-abandonar-o-repetir-y-haran-listas>

⁸³⁴² Montevideo Portal, *ANEP Terminated Pilot Plan to Control Attendance through Facial Recognition* (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://www.montevideo.com.uy/Noticias/ANEP-dejo-sin-efecto-plan-piloto-de-control-de-asistencia-por-reconocimiento-facial-uc934530>

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Use of AI in Public Administration

Uruguay has acted on its objective to “promote and support the ethical, responsible, safe, and trustworthy use” of artificial intelligence technology through various national and international frameworks, institutions, and tools. Uruguay’s first AI Strategy (2020) focused on the use of AI in public administration. This strategy for digital government emerged from a two-decade-long tradition of digital government agendas (referred to as Digital Uruguay). Uruguay has published five digital government agendas with periodic revisions and subject to public consultations. The latest revision of the current digital government agenda was (Digital Agenda 2025).⁸³⁴³

AGESIC also created the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data⁸³⁴⁴ to collaborate in the process of creating and implementing the corresponding strategies. The Committee is chaired by AGESIC and composed of representatives from different Ministries. The Strategic Committee initiated efforts toward a roadmap for the AI and Data strategies, bringing together eleven public sector bodies. The event showed coordination led by AGESIC, with the involvement of personal data oversight, economic and labor areas, official statistics, and education/innovation.⁸³⁴⁵ The Committee also published the Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government 2025–2029, which encompasses 41 commitments from 24 public institutions and civil society.⁸³⁴⁶

Finally, as a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD),⁸³⁴⁷ Uruguay approved the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service. The Charter aims to provide a roadmap and common framework for CLAD member states to adapt their AI policy strategies and laws for the challenges and opportunities involved in the implementation of AI in

⁸³⁴³ AGESIC, *Agenda Uruguay Digital 2025, Mid-Term Update [Actualización medio término]* (Jun. 6, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/uruguay-digital/comunicacion/publicaciones/agenda-uruguay-digital-2025-actualizacion-medio-termino>

⁸³⁴⁴ AGESIC, *Act No. 1/ 2024 of the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data* (May 16, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/institucional/informacion-gestion/actas/acta-n-12024-0#>

⁸³⁴⁵ AGESIC, *Strategic Committee Begins Work on the Roadmap for the AI and Data Strategies* (May 9, 2025), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/noticias/comite-estrategico-comienza-trabajar-hoja-ruta-sobre-estrategias-ia-datos>

⁸³⁴⁶ AGESIC, *Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government 2025–2029* (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/sexta-plan-accion-nacional-gobierno-abierto-2025-2029/sexta-plan-0>

⁸³⁴⁷ CLAD, *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (2024), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/cia-en-03-2024.pdf>

public administration. In addition to common principles, the Charter recommends specific tools for monitoring AI impact as well as a risk classification mechanism that outlines prohibited AI uses as well as guidelines for the guardrails in high-risk uses.

Facial Recognition

Uruguay's Data Protection Authority was among the co-sponsors of the 2022 GPA Resolution on Facial Recognition Technology, which set forth "principles and expectations for the appropriate use of personal information in facial recognition technology," including the need for lawful basis; reasonableness, necessity, and proportionality; protection of human rights; transparency; and accountability.⁸³⁴⁸

Uruguay's Ministry of the Interior announced in 2024⁸³⁴⁹ that it will apply an AI-based analytical system to video surveillance camera networks.⁸³⁵⁰ The initiative consists of two thousand new cameras with software based on algorithms developed to recognize specific images and movements. By these means, the behavior and movements of people will be studied with the aim to detect and anticipate criminal patterns.

Even if the systems recently acquired by the Ministry of the Interior for surveillance purposes reportedly allow for a rapid response to criminal acts and even prevent them, there is no available information or assessment on Uruguay has no regulation related to the police use of AI.

Uruguay began developing a facial-identification database for public-safety purposes under the Ministry of the Interior in 2020.⁸³⁵¹ The system was approved as an "omnibus law" through the National Budget Act, meaning tight deadlines

⁸³⁴⁸ Global Privacy Assembly, 44th Closed Session of the Global Privacy Assembly, *Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology* (Oct. 2022), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/15.1.c.Resolution-on-Principles-and-Expectations-for-the-Appropriate-Use-of-Personal-Information-in-Facial-Recognition-Technology.pdf>

⁸³⁴⁹ Uruguay Presidency, *Interior Presents Video Surveillance Project Based on Artificial Intelligence* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/presidencia/comunicacion/noticias/interior-presento-proyecto-videovigilancia-basado-inteligencia-artificial>

⁸³⁵⁰ Ministry of the Interior, *The Ministry of the Interior Presented an Analytical and Artificial Intelligence Project for Video Surveillance Cameras* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-interior/comunicacion/noticias/ministerio-del-interior-presento-proyecto-analitica-inteligencia-artificial>

⁸³⁵¹ DATYSOC, *Civil Society and Academic Organizations Express their Concern over Facial Recognition in Uruguay's Budget Bill* (Nov. 17, 2020), <https://datysoc.org/2020/11/17/organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-y-academicas-expresan-su-preocupacion-por-reconocimiento-facial-en-el-proyecto-de-ley-de-presupuesto-de-uruguay/>

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prevented proper discussion.⁸³⁵² The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for developing the database based on the database for issuing identification cards currently under the control of the National Directorate of Civil Identification. The database will include facial images of adults, first and last names, sex, date of birth, nationality, and identification card number, as well as issue and expiration dates. The Ministry of the Interior has already purchased automated facial recognition software and currently has a system of 8,433 cameras distributed in the country in the 19 departments, in addition to private surveillance systems. The national government has admitted that the intended use of this facial-identification database is automated surveillance using facial-recognition algorithms.⁸³⁵³

Environmental Impact of AI

Uruguay is a recognized regional leader in renewable energy usage. The International Energy Agency found that 91.1% of the country's electricity in 2022 came from renewable sources.⁸³⁵⁴ According to the Ministry of Industry, Energy, and Mining (*Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería*, MIEM) Uruguay has the largest share of electricity generated from biomass in the world and generated 99% of its electricity from renewable sources in 2024.⁸³⁵⁵

Although Uruguay has no specific policy to address the environmental impact of AI, the General Environmental Protection Law includes environmental impact assessments among the tools for protecting the environment.⁸³⁵⁶ These have been applied to AI-related projects. For example, after an environmental impact assessment on a Google data center project in Canelones representing more than \$850 million in investment,⁸³⁵⁷ the Ministry of Environment required provisions to

⁸³⁵² Government of Uruguay, *Law No. 19.924*, Article 192 (Dec. 18, 2020),

<https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/19924-2020>

⁸³⁵³ DATYSOC, *Uruguay: Toward a Population under Surveillance with Facial Recognition* (Jan. 11, 2021), <https://indela.fund/uruguay-hacia-una-poblacion-bajo-vigilancia-con-reconocimiento-facial/>; <https://datysoc.org/2020/11/17/organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-y-academicas-expresan-su-preocupacion-por-reconocimiento-facial-en-el-proyecto-de-ley-de-presupuesto-de-uruguay/>

⁸³⁵⁴ International Energy Agency, *Energy System of Uruguay* (Nov. 5, 2024),

<https://www.iea.org/countries/uruguay>

⁸³⁵⁵ Administración Nacional de Usinas y Trasmisiones Eléctricas (UTE), *Uruguay Marked the 60th Anniversary of Its National Energy Balance [Uruguay conmemoró los 60 años del Balance Energético Nacional]* (Aug. 21, 2025), <https://www.ute.com.uy/noticias/uruguay-conmemoro-los-60-anos-del-balance-energetico-nacional>

⁸³⁵⁶ Uruguay Acts Register, *Law 17.283 on Environmental Protection* (Dec. 12, 2000),

<https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/17283-2000>

⁸³⁵⁷ Reuters, *Google to Open Second Data Center in Latin America, to Invest Over \$850 Million* (Aug. 30, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/technology/google-open-second-data-center-latin-america-invest-over-850-mln-2024-08-30/>

reduce water usage and integrate renewable energy. Implementation measures now include transitioning to air-based cooling systems to minimize water consumption, committing to 100% renewable energy supply through UTE contracts (Uruguay's state-owned electric utility company), and capping annual energy use at 560 GWh.⁸³⁵⁸ The National AI Strategy mentions environmental protection related to regulatory frameworks and public administration,⁸³⁵⁹ suggesting this approach of aligning infrastructure with existing sustainability laws will persist, even in the absence of AI-specific regulations.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Uruguay co-authored several documents submitted during the 7th Meeting of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in 2022. These included a Working Paper on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems,⁸³⁶⁰ setting considerations for the future work of the GGE, including the acknowledgment of the “centrality of the human element in the use of force” and the “urgent need for adequate rules and limits on the development, deployment, and use of autonomous weapon systems to ensure sufficient human involvement and oversight.”

Uruguay contributed to a joint commentary to the UN calling for a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapon systems⁸³⁶¹ and a proposal for a roadmap towards new protocol on autonomous weapons systems.⁸³⁶² The group submitted a revised draft version of a protocol VI to the Convention on Certain Convention

⁸³⁵⁸ Observatorio Ambiental Nacional, *Proyecto Google Datacenter*,

<https://www.ambiente.gub.uy/oan/proyectos/proyecto-google-datacenter/>

⁸³⁵⁹ AGESIC, *Uruguay National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2030 [Estrategia Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial]*, pp. 38, 50, <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/publicaciones/estrategia-nacional-inteligencia-artificial-del-uruguay-2024-2030>

⁸³⁶⁰ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Switzerland, and Uruguay, *Working Paper Submitted to the 2022 Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)* (May 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-GGE-LAWS-joint-submission-working-paper-G-23.pdf>

⁸³⁶¹ UN, *Written Commentary by the Delegations of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine, Uruguay, Calling for a Legally Binding Instrument on Autonomous Weapon Systems* (2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220309-G13-Written-Submission.docx>

⁸³⁶² Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone, State of Palestine, Uruguay, *Proposal: Roadmap Towards New Protocol on Autonomous Weapons Systems* (May 2022), <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220311-G10-proposal-legally-binding-instrument.docx>

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Weapons containing updates and revisions based on ongoing discussions and proposals.⁸³⁶³ A proposed ban includes autonomous weapon systems that violate international humanitarian law. The treaty would require countries to regulate other autonomous weapon systems to ensure “meaningful human control is retained” throughout their entire life cycle. Uruguay reiterated the need to require human control in any instrument on LAWS during the country’s statement during the first session of the group of the 2025 GGE.⁸³⁶⁴ Uruguay was listed among the 39 High Contracting Parties supporting the September 2025 joint statement reaffirming the principle of ‘meaningful human control’ and calling for further progress before the 2026 CCW Review Conference.⁸³⁶⁵

AI Literacy

Uruguay has taken concrete steps to strengthen AI literacy and build public capacity for digital governance. The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy includes a focus on “Citizens and AI,” highlighting the importance of public understanding, ethical awareness, and workforce preparedness.⁸³⁶⁶ The government, through the Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society (AGESIC), has advanced training and awareness programs for public officials, emphasizing responsible and transparent AI use. Plan Ceibal, Uruguay’s long-standing digital inclusion initiative, continues to integrate computational thinking and emerging technology content into education, positioning the country to expand AI education within its broader digital skills framework.⁸³⁶⁷ The National Digital Citizenship

⁸³⁶³ UN General Assembly, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems Report*, A/79/88, p.22 (Jul. 1, 2024), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_\(2024\)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/General_Assembly_First_Committee_-Seventy-Ninth_session_(2024)/A-79-88-LAWS.pdf)

⁸³⁶⁴ UN Office at Geneva, *2025 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), First Session CCW, Intervention of Uruguay*, 12:21:55 (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/en/clients/61.0500/meetings/5A654DCE-4B95-4676-9685-CFF7439A8DE4/10h06>

⁸³⁶⁵ UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, *Joint Statement to the September 2025 Session of the CCW GGE LAWS* (Sept. 5, 2025), [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_\(2025\)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Convention_on_Certain_Conventional_Weapons_-_Group_of_Governmental_Experts_on_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_Systems_(2025)/Joint_statement_to_the_September_2025_session_of_the_CCW_GGE_LAWS_-_As_delivered.pdf)

⁸³⁶⁶ Oxford Insights, *Spotlight Series: Driving AI Adoption in the Public Sector: Uruguay’s Efforts on Capacity-Building, Trust, and AI Ethics* (May 30, 2023), <https://oxfordinsights.com/insights/spotlight-series-uruguay/>

⁸³⁶⁷ Plan Ceibal, *Annual Report 2024 – Educational Technology and Digital Inclusion in Uruguay* (Dec. 2024), https://documentos.ceibal.edu.uy/portal/2025/08/Annual-Report_2024.pdf

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Strategy 2024–2030⁸³⁶⁸ includes “Development of skills to analyze algorithms, understand AI and other emerging technologies, and recognize the power dynamics and interests online” as one of 3 fundamental dimensions.

Human Rights

Freedom House ranked Uruguay as “Free” with a score of 96/100 points in the 2025 Freedom in the World report.⁸³⁶⁹ Freedom House acknowledges that Uruguay has “a historically strong democratic governance structure and a record of upholding political rights and civil liberties. There are some persistent issues with pressure on journalists, delays in the court system, conditions in the country’s prisons, and political representation of marginalized groups” such as women, transgender people, Uruguayans of African descent, and the Indigenous population.

Uruguay is among the countries with a very high level of formal adherence to the international human rights protection system, as it has ratified practically all existing international instruments. However, according to some reports, Uruguay has serious shortcomings when it comes to effective compliance with such standards.⁸³⁷⁰ Likewise, a 2013 report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights mentions the debts that the country maintains related to certain human-rights categories contained in the treaties ratified by Uruguay.⁸³⁷¹

Impunity for crimes against humanity committed during the military dictatorship (1973-1985) persists and is still an open issue. Uruguayan NGO Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ) reported in 2023 that,⁸³⁷² nearly four decades after the democratic transition, the country continues to face persistent challenges in ensuring truth, justice, and reparations for victims of dictatorship-era human rights violations. The report highlights the lack of progress in judicial investigations, ongoing impunity, and insufficient state commitment to memory and reparation policies.

⁸³⁶⁸ AGESIC, *Estrategia Nacional de Ciudadanía Digital para una Sociedad de la Información y el Conocimiento (2024–2028)* (Apr. 11, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/politicas-y-gestion/estrategia-nacional-ciudadania-digital-para-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento>

⁸³⁶⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Uruguay* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/uruguay/freedom-world/2025>

⁸³⁷⁰ Institute of Legal and Social Studies of Uruguay (IELSUR) and United Nations Development Program in Uruguay (PNUD), *Study on the Legislative Harmonization of the Human Rights Treaties Ratified by Uruguay or Other Legal Norms with Binding Norms* 35 (2006), <https://archivo.presidencia.gub.uy/web/noticias/2006/09/ARMONIZACION.pdf>

⁸³⁷¹ UN Human Rights Council, *National Report Submitted in Accordance with Paragraph 5 of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 16/21, Uruguay*, A/HRC/WG.6/18/URY/2 (2018), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3877948>

⁸³⁷² Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ), *Human Rights in Uruguay 2023* (Dec. 2023), <https://sitiosdememoria.uy/prensa/>

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OECD's 2022 report assessing the use of AI in the public sector across Latin America and the Caribbean notes that at the end of 2013 the Uruguayan government acquired Predpol, an "AI-enabled policing software to predict the potential for crimes in different areas of the country."⁸³⁷³ While the system "offered predictions based on data collected by the Ministry of the Interior," concerns remain over the possibility that historical biases in the criminal justice system could lead to decisions that disproportionately harm people from marginalized groups. Knowledge about the model design was not made public, undermining efforts to explain its decisions, although, according to public information, the machine learning algorithm relied on four variables: type of crime, location, date and time."⁸³⁷⁴

Uruguay's deployment of Predpol raised human rights concerns. A study on the deployment of algorithms and AI solutions in Latin America, including Predpol, suggested that "these models generate a feedback loop: a greater police presence in a given area makes it more likely for crime to be detected. The more crimes recorded in an area, the more likely that police forces will be deployed. According to HRDAG, this means officers will be repeatedly sent to the same areas of the city, usually those where minorities are concentrated, regardless of the true crime rate in that area."⁸³⁷⁵

The study reported that Human Rights organization SERPAJ expressed similar concerns about PredPol in 2017, warning of a vicious cycle, "Basically legitimizing arbitrary police behavior, which translates into police abuse, and is often the product of racism or classism."⁸³⁷⁶ The project was discontinued after an evaluation by the Uruguayan Ministry of Interior concluded it did not perform better than "a more traditional annual retrospective reporting system based on statistical tools created by the Police's Tactical Information Directorate."⁸³⁷⁷ As of 2025, Uruguay reports that the PredPol license has not been renewed and the Ministry of the Interior is reviewing governance frameworks for the algorithmic use of public-

⁸³⁷³ OECD Public Governance Reviews, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean*, chapter 3 (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_1f334543-en

⁸³⁷⁴ Ibid

⁸³⁷⁵ Juan Ortiz Freuler and Carlos Iglesias, *Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence in Latin America: A Study of Implementation by Governments of Argentina and Uruguay* (Sept. 2018), http://webfoundation.org/docs/2018/09/WF_AI-in-LA_Report_Screen_AW.pdf

⁸³⁷⁶ Ibid. See also: SERPAJ, *Derechos Humanos en Uruguay: Informe 2017* (2017), pp. 176–177, <https://sitiosdememoria.uy/prensa/1828>

⁸³⁷⁷ Juan Ortiz Freuler and Carlos Iglesias, *Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence in Latin America: A Study of Implementation by Governments of Argentina and Uruguay*, p. 4 (Sept. 2018), http://webfoundation.org/docs/2018/09/WF_AI-in-LA_Report_Screen_AW.pdf

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safety technologies, including facial-recognition systems under regulatory consideration.⁸³⁷⁸

An AI-enabled facial recognition surveillance system proposed by the Ministry of Interior raises similar human rights concerns.⁸³⁷⁹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Uruguay is a non-member adherent to the OECD AI Principles.⁸³⁸⁰

OECD's 2022 report assessing the AI use in the public sector across Latin America and the Caribbean analyzed the consistency of the Uruguayan AI strategy for the public sector (AISDG) with the OECD AI principles. OECD found that "Uruguay's 'General Interest' principle aligns with OECD principles 1 and 2. The first part of the principle sets a social goal, namely, protecting the general interest, and guaranteeing inclusion and equity. The second part states that 'work must be carried out specifically to reduce the possibility of unwanted biases in the data and models used that may negatively impact people or favor discriminatory practices.'"⁸³⁸¹ OECD also noted that the Algorithmic Impact Study (EIA) and other tools allow for interpretations that provide for transparency and explainability and the fact that "Uruguay's AI principles include a requirement that technological solutions based on AI must have a clearly identifiable person responsible for the actions derived from the solutions."

Uruguay is not a member of the Global Partnership on AI. However, it is a member of Digital Nations,⁸³⁸² the Open Government Partnership,⁸³⁸³ and the Electronic Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean.⁸³⁸⁴ Uruguay

⁸³⁷⁸ Al Sur LatAm and Datysoc, *Facial Recognition and Surveillance Technologies in Latin America, Uruguay Country Chapter* (Aug. 2025), <https://www.alsur.lat/sites/default/files/2025-08/Facial%20recognition%20and%20surveillance.pdf>

⁸³⁷⁹ Presidencia, *Ministry of Interior Presents AI-Based Video Surveillance Project* (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/presidencia/comunicacion/noticias/interior-presento-proyecto-videovigilancia-basado-inteligencia-artificial>

⁸³⁸⁰ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, Adherents* (May 3, 2024), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449#adherents>

⁸³⁸¹ OECD/CAF Public Governance Reviews, *The Strategic and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mar. 22, 2022), https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2022/03/the-strategic-and-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector-of-latin-america-and-the-caribbean_17c90e5e.html

⁸³⁸² AGESIC, *Uruguay in Digital Nations* (Nov. 15, 2021), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/politicas-y-gestion/uruguay-digital-nations>

⁸³⁸³ Open Government Partnership, *Members* (2024), <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/our-members/>

⁸³⁸⁴ Red de Gobierno Electrónico de América Latina y el Caribe (REDGEALC), *Countries: Uruguay* (2024), <https://www.redgealc.org/>

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also has endorsed the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean⁸³⁸⁵ in the context of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁸³⁸⁶ OECD assesses these memberships favorably in terms of international cooperation.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Uruguay contributed as an Observer State in the negotiations of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁸³⁸⁷ Uruguay signed the treaty in 2025, becoming the first Latin American country to do so.⁸³⁸⁸

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Uruguay has endorsed the UNESCO AI Recommendation⁸³⁸⁹ and completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁸³⁹⁰ The RAM supports effective implementation of the Recommendation by helping countries and UNESCO identify and address any institutional and regulatory gaps.⁸³⁹¹ UNESCO's 2025 consolidated implementation report includes Uruguay among countries reporting progress on implementing the 2021 Recommendation.⁸³⁹²

⁸³⁸⁵ Presidency of Uruguay, *Agenda Uruguay Digital 2025 and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022* (eLAC2022) (Nov. 18, 2022), <https://www.gub.uy/uruguay-digital/politicas-y-gestion/agenda-uruguay-digital-2025-agenda-digital-para-america-latina-caribe-2024>

⁸³⁸⁶ Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean* (eLAC2022) (Nov. 26, 2020), <https://hdl.handle.net/11362/46440>

⁸³⁸⁷ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁸³⁸⁸ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

⁸³⁸⁹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁸³⁹⁰ UNESCO, *Uruguay: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2024), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000391491>

⁸³⁹¹ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Readiness Assessment Methodology* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

⁸³⁹² UNESCO, *Consolidated Report on the Implementation by Member States of the 2021 Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396134>

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Uruguay signed the Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence as part of a Regional Council in Latin America and Caribbean focused on ethical AI implementation.⁸³⁹³ The Santiago Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.⁸³⁹⁴ The High Authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean who established the Santiago Declaration committed to collaborating with CAF and UNESCO to implement the Recommendations for AI Ethics across the region as part of a regional council.⁸³⁹⁵

Uruguay presented the RAM report at the Second Ministerial Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the realization of the regional council.⁸³⁹⁶ The RAM report found that Uruguay has a solid enabling regulatory framework that establishes the bases for the development of AI in the country. In addition, the RAM identified an integrated vision of AI and data, which facilitates a more cohesive implementation of strategies in this area. The connectivity and coverage indicators are very good, highlighting 100% coverage in educational institutions, which is a key factor for the deployment and development of the Ceibal Plan, a Uruguayan initiative to provide each child with a laptop.⁸³⁹⁷ In terms of areas to be improved, the RAM report points to the lack of indicators and impact measurement tools, which makes it difficult to effectively evaluate the initiatives implemented.

⁸³⁹³ Forum of Ministerial and High Authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Santiago Declaration “To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean”* (Oct. 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

⁸³⁹⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile Host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>

⁸³⁹⁵ UNESCO, *CAF and UNESCO Will Create a Council to Review Ethical Criteria for Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Jun. 23, 2022), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/caf-and-unesco-will-create-council-review-ethical-criteria-artificial-intelligence-latin-america-and>

⁸³⁹⁶ AGESIC, *Presentation of the Report of the RAM in Uruguay* (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/noticias/presentacion-del-informe-metodologia-ram-uruguay>

⁸³⁹⁷ Uruguay XXI, *Uruguay’s Technological Leadership: Global Leaders Visit Ceibal as a Model for Innovation* (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/news/article/uruguay-s-technological-leadership-global-leaders-visit-ceibal-as-a-model-for-innovation>

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Leaders at the Ministerial Summit also agreed to the Montevideo Declaration⁸³⁹⁸ and approved a Roadmap for Ethical Artificial Intelligence for Latin America and the Caribbean 2024–2025.⁸³⁹⁹ The Roadmap defines five lines of action: Governance and Regulation, Skills and the future of work, Protection of vulnerable groups, Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change, and Infrastructure.

Evaluation

Uruguay initially focused policies on digital government, and the country has done well extending this focus to artificial intelligence. The OECD also acknowledged the soundness of Uruguay's AI strategy for the public sector.

Uruguay's data protection legal regime is largely aligned with the GDPR, as confirmed by the European Commission's adequacy decisions.⁸⁴⁰⁰ Data protection presents a promising view for the future for the country's AI regulation. Uruguay also has mechanisms in place to promote algorithmic transparency, especially in the public sector. Uruguay has moved from its initial approach on AI in the public sector to a more comprehensive one. Uruguay revised the AI strategy and elaborated on the data strategy with support by UNESCO and the CAF. Both strategies were created through an open, participatory process. The AI Strategy has been approved and published.

As stated in the RAM report, "Uruguay is committed to the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI [...] and aims to align the country with international ethical principles, a human rights framework, technical standards, and technological developments, as well as address its growing challenges and opportunities." As part of the alignment with international standards, Uruguay committed to the OECD Recommendations in July 2024 and the international treaty on AI and Human Rights in 2025.⁸⁴⁰¹

⁸³⁹⁸ AGESIC, *Approval of the Declaration of Montevideo* (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/comunicacion/noticias/aprobacion-declaracion-montevideo>

⁸³⁹⁹ Latin American and Caribbean Summit for Ethical Artificial Intelligence, *Roadmap for Ethical Artificial Intelligence for Latin America and the Caribbean 2024–2025* (Oct. 2, 2024), https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/sites/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/files/documentos/noticias/ENG_IA%20Roadmap%20approved.pdf

⁸⁴⁰⁰ OECD Legal Instruments, *Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence* (May 22, 2019), <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0449>

⁸⁴⁰¹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

Venezuela

In 2025, Venezuela developed the Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence. Human rights abuses and repression of freedom expression online continued, with AI-enabled tools facilitating surveillance of dissenters.

National AI Strategy

The Venezuelan presidency announced implementation of an AI Plan in early 2025⁸⁴⁰² and the Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology (*Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología*, Mincyt) met with leaders from the National Autonomous Telephone Company (CANTV) and Movilnet to discuss a roadmap to advance the AI Plan in early February 2026.⁸⁴⁰³ According to the Mincyt, the Plan envisions AI as a strategic tool for the “human and productive development of the nation” and stresses that this technology “must be aligned with the principles of human development.”⁸⁴⁰⁴ The minister stressed that governing and regulating AI requires innovative approaches, including “ethical, global, and national principles and specific sectorial landings.” The Mincyt has focused on developing an AI ecosystem by building physical, legal, and educational infrastructure with ethics and morals at the center.⁸⁴⁰⁵

Aligned with this vision, the Directorate of Artificial Intelligence Development and Application (*Dirección General de Desarrollo y Aplicación de Inteligencia Artificial*, DGDAIA) under the Mincyt developed the Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence.⁸⁴⁰⁶ The

⁸⁴⁰² Prensa Presidencial, *Venezuela Presents the Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Plan [Venezuela presenta el Plan de Inteligencia Artificial para el Desarrollo Sostenible]* (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://prensapresidencialvenezuela.gob.ve/index.php/2025/02/24/venezuela-presenta-el-plan-de-inteligencia-artificial-para-el-desarrollo-sostenible/>

⁸⁴⁰³ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *National Government Advances on AI Plan for the Productive Development of the Country* (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://mincyt.gob.ve/gobierno-nacional-avanza-en-plan-de-ia-para-el-desarrollo-productivo-del-pais/>

⁸⁴⁰⁴ Ibid

⁸⁴⁰⁵ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Venezuela Develops AI Policy with Ethics and Morals as Principles [Venezuela desarrolla política en IA con ética y moral como principios]* (Sept. 27, 2025), <https://mincyt.gob.ve/venezuela-desarrolla-politica-en-ia-con-etica-y-moral-como-principios/>

⁸⁴⁰⁶ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence [Código de Ética para el Desarrollo y Aplicación Responsable de la Inteligencia Artificial]* (Feb. 2025), https://mincyt.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Codigo_de_Etica_de_Inteligencia_Artificial_de_la_Republica_Bolivarian_a-1.pdf

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Code's explicitly adapts the OECD and UNESCO AI principles and national frameworks⁸⁴⁰⁷ in developing 9 principles for trustworthy AI: 1) Humanist AI; 2) Equity, Equality, and Non-Discrimination; 3) Environmental Responsibility; 4) Security of data and the model; 5) Privacy; 6) Transparency; 7) Accountability (*Rendición de cuentas*) of humans; 8) Open Science; and 9) Human Excellence in intellect, science, and technology. The Code of Ethics aims to “promote artificial intelligence that is humanist, that serves the common good, and that contributes to the construction of a more just and sustainable future.”⁸⁴⁰⁸ On releasing the document the Mincyt reiterated that “it is of vital importance that the advance of technology is always subordinated to life, respecting deeply our human rights and caring for nature.”⁸⁴⁰⁹

Venezuela's National Assembly (*Asemblea Nacional*) approved an AI bill on the first reading in late 2024.⁸⁴¹⁰ The bill aims to “regulate, promote, evaluate, and push the development, use, and application of artificial intelligence.”⁸⁴¹¹ As part of the framework for AI oversight, the bill would establish a National AI Agency as a regulatory body in a risk-based approach with 4 categories of risk: unacceptable (with exceptions for national security), high, medium, and low. The bill includes measures for “fostering education” of the technology to ensure Venezuelans develop and use AI according to ethical principles.⁸⁴¹²

Public Participation

Venezuela has experienced continued and wide-ranging restrictions to civic and democratic spaces, hindering public participation. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) observed cases of stigmatization,

⁸⁴⁰⁷ Ibid, p. 7

⁸⁴⁰⁸ Ibid, p. 11

⁸⁴⁰⁹ Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, *Venezuela Presents the Code for Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of AI [Venezuela presenta el Código de Ética para el Desarrollo y Aplicación Responsable de la IA]* (Feb. 19, 2026), <https://mincyt.gob.ve/venezuela-presenta-el-codigo-de-etica-para-el-desarrollo-y-aplicacion-responsable-de-la-ia/>

⁸⁴¹⁰ Luis Villalta, *AN Approves Artificial Intelligence Bill on First Reading [AN aprueba en primera discusión Proyecto de Ley de Inteligencia Artificial]*, Asamblea Nacional (Nov. 19, 2024), <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ve/noticias/an-aprueba-en-primera-discusion-proyecto-de-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁸⁴¹¹ Luis G. Correia M., *Introductory Notes on the Artificial Intelligence Bill [Notas introductorias al Anteproyecto de Ley de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Nov. 21, 2024), <https://lega.law/en/notas-introductorias-al-anteproyecto-de-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial/>; [pdf], <https://lega.law/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/PL0011-Comentarios-sobre-el-proyecto-de-Ley-de-Inteligencia-artificial.pdf>

⁸⁴¹² Enrique Cheang, *Venezuela's AI Bill: A Step toward Ethical and Transparent Technological Development*, Marca Sur (Jan. 6, 2025), <https://marcasur.com/en/noticia/venezuelas-ai-bill-a-step-toward-ethical-and-transparent-technological-development?f=01-2025>

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criminalization, and threats against dissenting voices, civil society, media, and trade unionists that affect their capacity to effectively carry out their legitimate duties.⁸⁴¹³ While the report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights observed some willingness by the government to open dialogue with civil society organizations following two high level meetings between the government and Foro Civico (a group of civil society organizations) in April 2022, the above challenges persist.

The National Assembly announced plans for a public consultation on the Artificial Intelligence Law in May 2025.⁸⁴¹⁴ However, the National Assembly website provides no information about the outcome of the consultation. The AI Law is not accessible online, at least from outside the country.

Data Protection

Venezuela has no specific regulation regarding data privacy. However, Article 28 of the Constitution defines the Habeas Data as a ground for individual complaints before the Constitutional Court: “Anyone has the right of access to the information and data concerning him or her or his or her goods which are contained in official or private records, with such exceptions as may be established by law, as well as what use is being made of the same and the purpose thereof, and to petition the relevant court for the updating, correction or destruction of any records that are erroneous or unlawfully affect the petitioner's right. He or she may, as well, access documents of any nature containing information of interest to communities or groups of persons.”⁸⁴¹⁵ Article 60 establishes a right to the “protection of their honor, private life, intimacy, own image (*propia imagen*), confidentiality, and reputation” and extends legal protections to electronic information.⁸⁴¹⁶

⁸⁴¹³ Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Situation of Human Rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (2022), <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/situation-human-rights-bolivarian-republic-venezuela-report-united-nations-high-commissioner-human-rights-ahrc5059-advance-unedited-version>

⁸⁴¹⁴ Luis Villalta, *Science Commission Plans Public Consultation on Artificial Intelligence Law [Comisión de Ciencia planifica consulta pública sobre ley de inteligencia artificial]* Asamblea Nacional, (May 12, 2025) <https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ve/noticias/comision-de-ciencia-planifica-consulta-publica-sobre-ley-de-inteligencia-artificial>

⁸⁴¹⁵ Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, Ministry of Communication and Information, *Fundamental Laws, Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*, p. 165 (Feb. 19, 2009), <https://conatel.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Constitucion-de-la-Republica-Bolivariana-de-Venezuela.pdf>

⁸⁴¹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 181–182

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The e-Government law (*ley de Infogobierno*) also provides in Article 75 for the right to information about automated data collection.⁸⁴¹⁷ Also of relevance are the 1991 Law on the Protection of the Privacy of Communications,⁸⁴¹⁸ the 2001 Special Law Against Computer Related Crimes,⁸⁴¹⁹ and the 2018 Regulation for the Protection of the Rights of Users in the Provision of Telecommunications Services.⁸⁴²⁰

Supreme Court decisions establish arguments for data principles such as informed consent, legal collection, data quality, use limitation, security, and confidentiality.⁸⁴²¹

Despite the fact that these laws exist, there are reports of challenges in implementation due to the lack of an independent data protection oversight authority.⁸⁴²² Further, there are concerns of government surveillance and counterintelligence activities through the introduction of public digital ID programs such as Carnet de la Patria as well as the mobile app VeQR-Somos that requires vast amounts of personal data that can be used to track both personal data and location.⁸⁴²³

Use of AI in Public Administration

As a member of the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), Venezuela approved the principles in the Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service in late 2023.⁸⁴²⁴ The guiding principles include: human autonomy; transparency, traceability and explainability; accountability, liability and auditability; security and technical robustness; reliability, accuracy, and reproducibility; confidence, proportionality, and prevention of

⁸⁴¹⁷ Ministry of Communication and Information, Relevant Laws, *e-Government Law* (Oct. 10, 2013), <https://conatel.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PDF-Ley-de-Infogobierno.pdf>

⁸⁴¹⁸ Ministry of Communication and Information, Relevant Laws, *Law on the Protection of the Privacy of Communications* (Dec. 16, 1991), <https://conatel.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/ley-sobre-proteccion-a-la-privacidad-de-las-comunicaciones.pdf>

⁸⁴¹⁹ Ministry of Communication and Information, Relevant Laws, *Special Law Against Computer Related Crimes* (Sept. 4, 2001), <https://conatel.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/PDF-Ley-Especial-contra-los-Delitos-Informaticos.pdf>

⁸⁴²⁰ Ministry of Communication and Information, Relevant Laws, *Regulation for the Protection of the Rights of Users in the Provisions of Telecommunications Services* (2018), <https://conatel.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Reglamento-Prest-Serv.pdf>

⁸⁴²¹ Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court, *Case No. 1318* (Aug. 4, 2011), <https://vlexvenezuela.com/vid/german-jose-mundarain-herandez-311569838>

⁸⁴²² Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2022: Venezuela* (2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/venezuela/freedom-net/2022>

⁸⁴²³ Ibid

⁸⁴²⁴ Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Mar. 2024), <https://web-api-backend.clad.org/uploads/ciia-en-03-2024.pdf>

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damage; privacy and protection of personal data; data quality and safety; fairness, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination; human-centering, public value, and social responsibility; and sustainability and environmental protection. The Charter recommends that member states require assessment of the impact of AI systems on human rights and freedoms and registration algorithms to “anticipate risks, prevent undesirable effects and ensure its proper implementation”⁸⁴²⁵ and proposes a risk classification mechanism that would require guardrails for middle-risk uses and prohibitions against high-risk applications.

On beginning a new term in 2025, President Nicolás Maduro announced the activation of a Popular Self-Government Chamber powered by new AI technologies called the 1x10 of Good Government System to ensure timely and effective public service.⁸⁴²⁶ Government agencies had 90 days to implement the system, which include physical technology to be installed in Communal Circuits, part of system for popular government,⁸⁴²⁷ across the country. While framed as a tool for efficiency, concerns exist about its potential misuse for computational propaganda and information control.

Deepfakes and Computational Propaganda

According to experts, deepfakes are the latest tool used in disinformation campaigns promoting Venezuela. In 2023, short YouTube videos circulated with fake hosts of a seemingly Western news broadcast to spread propaganda. The purported journalists on screen are artificial intelligence avatars created by a company called Synthesia that for just \$30 a month will say whatever the buyer wants.⁸⁴²⁸ President Maduro disregarded criticism of the AI-generated propaganda, calling it “popular intelligence” and “revolutionary intelligence.”⁸⁴²⁹

⁸⁴²⁵ Ibid, p. 10

⁸⁴²⁶ Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Comunicación e Información, *1x10 of Good Government Will Use Artificial Intelligence to Attend to the Public [1x10 del Buen Gobierno utilizará la Inteligencia Artificial para atender al pueblo]* (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://conatel.gob.ve/?p=4990>

⁸⁴²⁷ Ministerio del Poder Popular para las Comunas, *Renovation of Spokespeople of Communal Councils [Renovación de Vocerías de Consejos Comunales]*, <https://www.comunas.gob.ve/consejos-comunales-vocerias/>

⁸⁴²⁸ Maria Luisa Paul, ‘Noah’ and ‘Daren’ Report Good News about Venezuela: They’re Deepfakes, Washington Post (Mar. 2, 2023), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2023/03/02/deepfake-videos-venezuela-disinformation/>

⁸⁴²⁹ Osmar Hernandez, “Yo soy un robot,” ironizó Maduro al responder a las denuncias de uso de la inteligencia artificial para desinformar en Venezuela [“I Am a Robot,” Said Maduro Ironically when Responding to Complaints about the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Spread Misinformation in Venezuela], CNN (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2023/02/24/soy-robot-maduro-denuncias-uso-inteligencia-artificial-desinformar-venezuela-orix/#0>

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According to the 2023 Freedom on the Net Report, “progovernment propaganda generated by AI was viewed widely on social networks.”⁸⁴³⁰ Journalists in Venezuela also started employing AI as a tool for circumventing government repression and censorship in 2024.⁸⁴³¹ This effort, named Operación Retuit, has been used anonymously by Venezuelan journalists to spread content that the AI generated journalistic personas refer to as “real, verified, high-quality and created by journalists.”⁸⁴³² According to the Latin American Journalistic Review (LJR), “Operación Retuit is [verified] information from independent media, except we have to use avatars to protect the identity and integrity of journalists/activists.”⁸⁴³³

Environmental Impact of AI

Venezuela’s Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence includes Environmental Responsibility as a key principle.⁸⁴³⁴ The Code hails the potential to apply AI to help preserve resources while recognizing the demand water and energy resources. The Code of Ethics asserts that “all actors within the lifecycle of AI systems should contribute to a development that meets current needs without compromising the capacity of future generations.” However, specific laws to hold developers and user accountable for this principle are not available.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Venezuela is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).⁸⁴³⁵ Venezuela’s contributions to the CCW and UN, through the Non-Aligned

⁸⁴³⁰ Carl Miller, *Venezuelan Deepfakes and Propaganda*, BBC News (May 20, 2023), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5d92>

⁸⁴³¹ Katherine Pennacchio, *Journalists in Venezuela Protect Themselves with AI Avatars That Present the News*, Latin American Journalism Review (Aug. 26, 2024), <https://latamjournalismreview.org/articles/journalists-in-venezuela-facing-persecution-are-protecting-themselves-by-having-ai-avatars-present-the-news/>

⁸⁴³² Ibid

⁸⁴³³ Ibid

⁸⁴³⁴ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence [Código de Ética para el Desarrollo y Aplicación Responsable de la Inteligencia Artificial]*, p. 18 (Feb. 2025), [https://mincyt.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Codigo de Etica de Inteligencia Artificial de la Republica Bolivarian a-1.pdf](https://mincyt.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Codigo-de-Etica-de-Inteligencia-Artificial-de-la-Republica-Bolivariana-1.pdf)

⁸⁴³⁵ United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories to the CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

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Movement, and other groups consistently support the negotiation of a legally binding treaty to regulate and prohibit lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).

In the UN General Assembly, Venezuela endorsed a joint statement urging “the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints. We are committed to upholding and strengthening compliance with International Law, in particular International Humanitarian Law, including through maintaining human responsibility and accountability in the use of force.”⁸⁴³⁶ Venezuela joined the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government contribution to the Secretary-General report on LAWS in 2024, reinforcing the call for treaty “containing prohibitions and regulations on autonomy in weapons systems, in order to ensure compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and ethical perspectives, as well as the prevention of the social and humanitarian impact that autonomy in weapons systems entails.”⁸⁴³⁷

Venezuela endorsed, along with more than 30 other Latin American and Caribbean states, the Belén Communiqué,⁸⁴³⁸ which calls for “urgent negotiation” of a binding international treaty to regulate and prohibit the use of autonomous weapons to address the grave concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

AI Literacy

Venezuela does not yet have a comprehensive AI literacy strategy or policy though the Ministry of Science and Technology (Mincyt) has emphasized human development as a component of the AI Plan. For example, Mincyt noted eight technological nodes established at the national level, spaces that function as development pilots in sovereign and secure software with a clear orientation toward AI.⁸⁴³⁹ At a visit to a school marking the start of the 2025–2026 year, President

⁸⁴³⁶ UN General Assembly, First Committee, *Joint Statement on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems First Committee, 77th United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons* (Oct. 21, 2022), https://estatemements.unmeetings.org/estatemements/11.0010/20221021/A1jJ8bNfWGIL/KLw9WYcSnnAm_en.pdf

⁸⁴³⁷ United Nation’s Digital Library, *Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems: Report of the Secretary-General*, p. 20 (May 2024), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4059475?v=pdf&ln=en>

⁸⁴³⁸ Latin American and the Caribbean Conference of Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, *Communiqué* (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=2261&tipo=documentos>

⁸⁴³⁹ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Bolivarian Government Promotes More Than 60 Projects Focused on AI [Gobierno Boliviano impulsa más de 60 proyectos enfocados en*

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Nicolás Maduro mentioned AI would be taught in schools starting in 2025 so students could learn what AI is and how it should be used responsibly. Nonetheless, no timelines or details of these two projects were provided.⁸⁴⁴⁰

Human Rights

Freedom House rated Venezuela as “Not Free” with a score of 13/100 in the 2025 Freedom in the World Report.⁸⁴⁴¹ The report cites increasing government repression and flawed elections for the decrease by 2 points in the score since 2024. The 2025 Freedom on the Net Report also noted a significant decline in internet freedom, rating Venezuela as “Not Free” and decreasing the score from 30 in 2024 to 26.⁸⁴⁴² Repression of human rights and internet freedom declined following the 2024 election in which Nicolás Maduro “claimed victory despite credible evidence” that the opposition candidate won. To repress opposition, the government blocked news sites; detained leaders and protesters, including for online actions; implemented influence campaigns to influence online discussion; and created a digital complaint mechanism for informers to report others’ dissent.

Venezuela continued to face severe international scrutiny for restrictions on digital and civil rights, as well as intensifying digital authoritarian practices. The UN Human Rights Council’s Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) confirmed in September 2025⁸⁴⁴³ that Venezuela’s policy of repression, including arbitrary detention, digital surveillance, and closure of civic space, remained systematic and constitutes ongoing crimes against humanity. Human Rights Watch likewise documented continued internet censorship, expanded AI-assisted monitoring, and severe restrictions on NGOs. Independent investigations describe the use of state-controlled biometric IDs, AI-powered surveillance, and throttling of connectivity to preempt dissent. Venezuela’s Carnet de la Patria now merges social-subsidy management with

IA] (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://mincyt.gob.ve/gobierno-bolivariano-impulsa-mas-de-60-proyectos-enfocados-en-ia>

⁸⁴⁴⁰ Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Comunicación e Información de Venezuela, *Schools and Centers in the Country Will Incorporate Classes on Artificial Intelligence [Incorporarán clases de Inteligencia Artificial a escuelas y liceos del país]*, Venezolana de Televisión (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.vtv.gob.ve/incorporaran-clases-inteligencia-artificial-escuelas-liceos/>

⁸⁴⁴¹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Venezuela* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/venezuela/freedom-world/2025>

⁸⁴⁴² Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2025: Venezuela* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/venezuela/freedom-net/2025>

⁸⁴⁴³ United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (Sept. 2025), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/ffmv/a-hrc-60-61-unofficialtranslation.pdf>

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predictive analytics and digital tracking.⁸⁴⁴⁴ Amnesty International also reports on the government use of repression and intimidation to silence dissenters, including using the judicial system to criminalize human-rights defenders.⁸⁴⁴⁵

Strategic Association with China

Venezuela established a Strategic Association with China in 2023. As part of the partnership, which “projects Venezuela as a vanguard in technological development, with its own capacities oriented toward the well-being of the population” a delegation from the Mincyt visited China in 2025 for a workshop on AI capacity-building.⁸⁴⁴⁶ The visit aligned with Venezuela’s efforts to “strengthen cooperation with strategic allies like the People’s Republic of China, for the construction of an independent, scientific, and sovereign Nation (*Patria*).”

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Venezuela is not a member of the OECD⁸⁴⁴⁷ or the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)⁸⁴⁴⁸ and has not endorsed the OECD AI principles.

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Venezuela has not endorsed the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law.⁸⁴⁴⁹

⁸⁴⁴⁴ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025: Venezuela* (Jan. 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/venezuela>

⁸⁴⁴⁵ Amnesty International Report 2023/24, *The State of the World’s Human Rights* (Apr. 2024), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/7200/2024/en/>

⁸⁴⁴⁶ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Venezuela Consolidates Technological Cooperation with the People’s Republic of China in the Area of Artificial Intelligence [Venezuela consolida cooperación tecnológica con la República Popular China en el área de Inteligencia Artificial]* (Oct. 2025), <https://mincyt.gob.ve/venezuela-consolida-cooperacion-tecnologica-con-la-republica-popular-china-en-el-area-de-inteligencia-artificial/>

⁸⁴⁴⁷ OECD AI Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁸⁴⁴⁸ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁸⁴⁴⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treaty=225>

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UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Venezuela is a member state of UNESCO having joined on September 25, 1946.⁸⁴⁵⁰ Venezuela endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in November 2021.⁸⁴⁵¹

Venezuela has participated in regional initiatives to implement the UNESCO Recommendation, including as part of the Regional Council established by the UNESCO partnership with CAF, the Latin American development bank.⁸⁴⁵² Venezuela signed the 2023 Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence, which emerged from the first Regional Forum on AI Ethics.⁸⁴⁵³ The Declaration aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation and establishes fundamental principles that should guide public policy on AI. These include proportionality, security, fairness, non-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility, sustainability, privacy and data protection.⁸⁴⁵⁴

Venezuela's AI Code of Ethics aligns with international examples, including the UNESCO recommendation on AI Ethics.⁸⁴⁵⁵ Venezuela is not among the countries that have implemented or are in the process of implementing the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM).⁸⁴⁵⁶

⁸⁴⁵⁰ UNESCO, *Member States List*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

⁸⁴⁵¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Member States Adopt the First Ever Global Agreement on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (Nov. 25, 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-member-states-adopt-first-ever-global-agreement-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁴⁵² Ángel Melguizo and Gabriela Ramos, *Ethical and Responsible Artificial Intelligence: From Words to Actions and Rights*, Somos Ibero-America (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://somosiberoamerica.org/tribunas/inteligencia-artificial-etica-y-responsable-de-las-palabras-a-los-hechos-y-derechos/>

⁸⁴⁵³ Ministerial Forum of High Authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean, *Declaration of Santiago "To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean"* (Oct. 24, 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

⁸⁴⁵⁴ UNESCO, *UNESCO and Leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile Host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI* (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-leading-ministry-santiago-de-chile-host-milestone-regional-lac-forum-ethics-ai?hub=387>

⁸⁴⁵⁵ Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia y Tecnología, *Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence [Código de Ética para el Desarrollo y Aplicación Responsable de la Inteligencia Artificial]*, pp. 7–9 (Feb. 2025), https://mincyt.gob.ve/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Codigo_de_Etica_de_Inteligencia_Artificial_de_la_Republica_Bolivarian_a-1.pdf

⁸⁴⁵⁶ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Global Hub* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/global-hub>

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Evaluation

Venezuela has an AI strategy and Code of Ethics for the Responsible Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence, demonstrating efforts to seize opportunities brought by AI while mitigating risks. While the AI Law calls for an oversight body, such a body has not yet been established. Given the current government structure and efforts to repress dissent, doubts remain that such a body would be independent. Venezuela's endorsement of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the Ibero-American Charter on AI in the Civil Service,⁸⁴⁵⁷ and the Santiago Declaration to Promote Ethical AI,⁸⁴⁵⁸ along with efforts and promises by the Ministry of Science and Technology, suggest a commitment to international alignment. However, the use of AI to maintain the power in place and reinforce authoritarian practices is a major concern.

⁸⁴⁵⁷ Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), *Ibero American Charter on Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service* (Mar. 2024), <https://clad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CIIA-EN-03-2024.pdf>

⁸⁴⁵⁸ Ministerial Forum of High Authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean, *Declaration of Santiago "To Promote Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean"* (Oct. 24, 2023), https://minciencia.gob.cl/uploads/filer_public/40/2a/402a35a0-1222-4dab-b090-5c81bbf34237/declaracion_de_santiago.pdf

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Vietnam

In 2025, Vietnam built a governance structure for AI and Digital Policy by passing the Law on Artificial Intelligence, Law on Digital Technology Industry, and Personal Data Protection Law. The country also completed the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM), launching the report with the Vietnam International Digital Week.

National AI Strategy

The Prime Minister's Office for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam published the government's National Strategy on R&D and Application of Artificial Intelligence in 2021. The Strategy outlines Vietnam's AI ambitions projected through 2030, with specific, measurable, and incremental targets by 2025 and 2030.⁸⁴⁵⁹ The bulk of the Strategy focuses on planned investments in education, innovation, and infrastructure, aimed at helping Vietnam become a leading hub for AI technologies within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Strategy proclaims AI as "the background technology for the Fourth Industrial Revolution," pledging to align the nation's AI development and applications with socio-economic development and to "strengthen national defense and security, develop science and technology; unlock the potential of the entrepreneurs, effectively mobilize all resources; gradually receive, master and then upgrade technology transfer."⁸⁴⁶⁰

Vietnam's AI strategy outlines the government's commitment to creating a legal framework and policies for AI aimed at "developing and applying AI with people and entrepreneurs at the center, avoiding technology abuse and infringement upon legitimate rights and interests of organizations and individuals."⁸⁴⁶¹ The strategy does not mention creating AI aligned with the principles of fairness and accountability. However, the Strategy commits to applying AI toward elevating public services, pledging to "improve the operational efficiency of the public administrative management system in social resources allocation and mobilization, social management and urban planning, especially in big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang."⁸⁴⁶²

⁸⁴⁵⁹ Prime Minister, *National Strategy on R&D and Application of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 17, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Vietnam_National_Strategy_on_RD_and_Application_of_AI_2021-2030.pdf

⁸⁴⁶⁰ Ibid, I

⁸⁴⁶¹ Ibid, III(1)

⁸⁴⁶² Ibid, II(1)(c)

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AI Legislation

Vietnam legalized the National AI Strategy with a draft law in October 2025,⁸⁴⁶³ which passed the National Assembly in December 2025.⁸⁴⁶⁴ The Law on Artificial Intelligence implements a risk-based approach that includes tiers for prohibited AI uses as part of the aim to “ensure a balance between risk control and the promotion of innovation, in line with international practices and support.” The law requires human oversight over AI decisions and notes “AI must serve humans not replace them” to foster AI aligned with national values and ethical standards. Article 4 defines fairness, transparency, non-bias, and accountability as foundational principles and prioritizes safeguards for fundamental rights and privacy.⁸⁴⁶⁵ Observers call the foundational principles and risk-based approach a “clear manifestation of the Brussels effect” while pointing out differences in implementation, such as Vietnam’s focus on harmful practices rather than detailing categories for prohibition.

Providers self-classify risk levels and notify the Ministry of Science and Technology when medium- and high-risk systems are released.⁸⁴⁶⁶ Providers and deployers must submit reports and sample audits and, for high-risk systems, demonstrate human oversight, risk assessments, and registration. A draft document for implementing the AI law included a list of high-risk AI systems during public consultation.⁸⁴⁶⁷

The Law on Artificial Intelligence builds on and supersedes the risk-based framework in the Law on Digital Technology Industry passed in June 2025,⁸⁴⁶⁸ which

⁸⁴⁶³ Ministry of Science and Technology, *National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence: Institutional Steps in Governing New Technologies* [Chiến lược quốc gia về trí tuệ nhân tạo: Bước tiến thể chế trong quản trị công nghệ mới], Media Center (Oct 27, 2025), <https://mst.gov.vn/chien-luoc-quoc-gia-ve-tri-tue-nhan-tao-buoc-tien-the-che-trong-quan-tri-cong-nghe-moi-19725102619582822.htm>

⁸⁴⁶⁴ Ministry of Science and Technology, *First-Ever Law on Artificial Intelligence Approved* (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://beta-en.mic.gov.vn/first-ever-law-on-artificial-intelligence-approved-197251215231241888.htm>

⁸⁴⁶⁵ Thu Minh Le and Alex Do, *Vietnam’s First Standalone AI Law: An Overview of Key Provisions, Future Implications*, IAPP (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://iapp.org/news/a/vietnam-s-first-standalone-ai-law-an-overview-of-key-provisions-future-implications>

⁸⁴⁶⁶ Ibid

⁸⁴⁶⁷ Ministry of Science and Technology, *Draft Document Detailing the Implementation of the Law on Artificial Intelligence* [Dự thảo văn bản quy định chi tiết thi hành Luật Trí tuệ nhân tạo] (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2381.htm>

⁸⁴⁶⁸ Ministry of Finance, *Law on Digital Technology Industry: Legal Foundations and Strategic Incentives to Accelerate National Digital Transformation* (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://mof.gov.vn/ebtc/financial-sectors-modernization/law-on-digital-technology-industry-legal-foundations-and-strategic-incentives-to-accelerate-national-digital-transformation>

applied to artificial intelligence as a digital technology product.⁸⁴⁶⁹ The digital technology industry law grounds Vietnam's development of digital products in principles of transparency, safety, and non-discrimination and mandates that all AI systems remain under human oversight.⁸⁴⁷⁰

Public Participation

Vietnam's AI strategy does not mention any structured process for public participation in the development of AI policy. AI policies and updates are accessible to the public on the Ministry of Science and Technology's Legal Documents (*Văn bản QPPL*) page, including a section on draft legal documents open for consultation.⁸⁴⁷¹ Drafts of a Circular Guiding the National Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework⁸⁴⁷² and a draft detailing the implementation of the Law on Artificial Intelligence⁸⁴⁷³ were open for consultation in the first week of February 2026. However, the consultation period lasted 5–7 days, in contrast to other documents with one-month periods.

The Ministry of Science and Technology published the Draft Law on Digital Technology Industry⁸⁴⁷⁴ and the Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence⁸⁴⁷⁵ for consultations of two months and three weeks (respectively). The listings invite stakeholders to submit feedback on the draft legal text and associated implementation rules through the portal. The page includes summaries of some of the opinions and comments received in consultations, though a summary does not appear for the Law on Artificial Intelligence.

⁸⁴⁶⁹ Congress, *The Law on Digital Technology Industry* [draft], Chapter 1, Điều 2, https://dpo-india.com/Resources/Privacy_Regulations_in_Vietnam/Vietnam-Draft-Law-on-Digital-Technology-Industry.pdf

⁸⁴⁷⁰ Ministry of Finance, *Law on Digital Technology Industry: Legal Foundations and Strategic Incentives to Accelerate National Digital Transformation* (Jun. 14, 2025), <https://en.baohinhphu.vn/law-on-digital-technology-industry-approved-111250614143640329.htm>

⁸⁴⁷¹ Ministry of Science and Technology, *Legal Documents, Seeking Public Opinion on Draft Legal Documents* [*Văn bản pháp luật, Lấy ý kiến người dân về dự thảo văn bản quy phạm pháp luật*] <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/y-kiem-nguoi-dan.htm>

⁸⁴⁷² Ministry of Science and Technology, *Draft Circular Guiding the National Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework* [*Dự thảo Thông tư Hướng dẫn Khung đạo đức trí tuệ nhân tạo quốc gia*] (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2382.htm>

⁸⁴⁷³ Ministry of Science and Technology, *Draft Document Detailing the Implementation of the Law on Artificial Intelligence* [*Dự thảo văn bản quy định chi tiết thi hành Luật Trí tuệ nhân tạo*] (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2381.htm>

⁸⁴⁷⁴ Ministry of Science & Technology, *Draft Law on Digital Technology Industry* [*Hồ sơ dự thảo Luật Công nghiệp công nghệ số*] (Jul. 2, 2024), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2199.htm>

⁸⁴⁷⁵ Ministry of Science & Technology, *Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence* [*Dự thảo Luật Trí tuệ nhân tạo*] (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://mst.gov.vn/van-ban-phap-luat/du-thao/2294.htm>

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Public consultation opportunities have been more visible in data protection laws. A draft Personal Data Protection Bill was issued for public consultation on February 9, 2021.⁸⁴⁷⁶ The ratified data protection law, Decree No. 53, which aimed to boost cybersecurity in Vietnam, went into effect on October 1, 2022; yet no evidence was available regarding whether or how public participation meaningfully contributed to the recent data privacy legislation.⁸⁴⁷⁷ The first draft of a new Law on Personal Data Protection and was open for public consultation for nearly three months in 2024.⁸⁴⁷⁸

Data Protection

While Vietnam has not yet enacted a comprehensive data protection law, the country's constitution includes provisions identifying rights pertaining to personal data. As per article 21 of the Constitution of Vietnam, "everyone is entitled to the inviolability of personal privacy, personal secrecy, and familial secrecy and has the right to protect his or her honor and prestige."⁸⁴⁷⁹ Several related laws and regulations also exist.

The Vietnamese government ratified a Law on Cybersecurity, Decree No. 53 in August 2022, which became fully effective in October 2022.⁸⁴⁸⁰ In keeping with OECD Principle 1.4 on "robustness, security, and safety," the law prescribes measures aimed at shoring up data security and restricting illegal activities, in part via a "data localization" requirement mandating that foreign entities store certain categories of data pertaining to users in Vietnam within the country's borders. However, there is insufficient infrastructure to prevent cybersecurity and digital

⁸⁴⁷⁶ Yen Vu and Eunjung Han, *Vietnam's Personal Data Protection Decree: Recent Developments & What to Expect* (Mar. 10, 2022), <https://rouse.com/insights/news/2022/vietnam-s-personal-data-protection-decree-recent-developments-and-what-to-expect>

⁸⁴⁷⁷ Government of Vietnam, *Decree No. 53/2022/ND-CP: Elaborating a Number of Articles of the Law on Cybersecurity in Viet Nam* (Aug. 15, 2022), <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/Cong-nghe-thong-tin/Decree-53-2022-ND-CP-elaborating-the-Law-on-cybersecurity-of-Vietnam/527750/tieng-anh.aspx>

⁸⁴⁷⁸ Government Electronic Information Portal, *Draft Law on Personal Data Protection [Dự thảo Luật Bảo vệ dữ liệu cá nhân]* (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://chinhphu.vn/du-thao-vbqppl/du-thao-luat-bao-ve-du-lieu-ca-nhan-6957>

⁸⁴⁷⁹ International IDEA, *The Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam* (2013), https://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/tranlation_of_vietnams_new_constitution_enuk_2.pdf

⁸⁴⁸⁰ Government of Vietnam, *Decree No. 53/2022/ND-CP: Elaborating a Number of Articles on the Law on Cybersecurity of Vietnam* (Nov. 7, 2022), <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/Cong-nghe-thong-tin/Decree-53-2022-ND-CP-elaborating-the-Law-on-cybersecurity-of-Vietnam/527750/tieng-anh.aspx>

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rights violations of Vietnamese citizens.⁸⁴⁸¹ Also, as indicated in this report, there is State-sponsored espionage and surveillance that infiltrates the digital real estate of Vietnamese citizens.⁸⁴⁸² Citizens of Vietnam remain both a source and victim of cyberattacks. In 2019, Kaspersky, a leading cybersecurity firm declared Vietnam the “second most cyber-attacked country in the world.”⁸⁴⁸³ In 2018, over 992,952 cyberattacks originated in Vietnam.⁸⁴⁸⁴

Data protection norms have additionally been developed through other laws, notably the 2016 Law on Network Information Security (LNIS).⁸⁴⁸⁵ This law assigns organizations the responsibility of protecting the personal data to which they are given access and identifies legal consequences for individuals and organizations that violate these provisions. Section 2 of the law stipulates a requirement of consent from individuals when organizations collect personal information (Article 17) and explicitly requires the deletion of personal data upon accomplishment of the purpose (Article 18). Sanctions punishing violations of personal data use can also be found in other regulations. For example, Vietnam’s 2020 Decree No.15/2020/ND-CP assigns fines for infringements of personal information and privacy including email, postal and telephonic spam.⁸⁴⁸⁶

None of these data protection rules apply to the state itself. While the new law requiring data localization may indeed strengthen cybersecurity, it also provides the Vietnamese government with additional authoritarian leverage, cementing restrictions on residents’ access to international media, social media, and other applications.⁸⁴⁸⁷

Vietnam’s first comprehensive Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) took effect Jan 1, 2026,⁸⁴⁸⁸ integrating a data governance regime that was a collage of

⁸⁴⁸¹ Elina Noor and Mark Bryan Manantan, *Raising Standards: Data and Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia*, Asia Society Policy Institute (Jul. 2022), https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ASPI_RaisingStandards_report_fin_web_0.pdf

⁸⁴⁸² Ibid

⁸⁴⁸³ Anh, *Vietnam Both Victim and Source of Massive Cyberattacks*, VN Express International (Jan. 23, 2019), <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-both-victim-and-source-of-massive-cyber-attacks-3872863.html>

⁸⁴⁸⁴ Ibid

⁸⁴⁸⁵ International IDEA, *The Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam* (2013), https://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/tranlation_of_vietnams_new_constitution_enuk_2.pdf

⁸⁴⁸⁶ Tran Luu, *Vietnam to Impose Heavy Sanctions to Protect Personal Data* (Feb. 21, 2022), https://www.sggpnews.org.vn/science_technology/vietnam-to-impose-heavy-sanctions-to-protect-personal-data-97448.html

⁸⁴⁸⁷ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2022: The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule* (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-world/2022>

⁸⁴⁸⁸ National Assembly of Vietnam, *Law No. 91/2025/QH15, Personal Data Protection Law [Luật Bảo vệ dữ liệu cá nhân]* (Jun. 26, 2025),

legal instruments reflected in the country's constitution, criminal code, civil code, and a raft of sectoral and procedural regulations under a single framework. The new law establishes strict mechanisms for data subject rights, defines penalties for violations, and unifies regulations for cross-border data transfer. Notably, to reduce the compliance burden, SMEs and startups are exempt from certain impact assessment requirements for the first five years. The law specifies provisions for the treatment of data in artificial intelligence and machine learning as well as areas such as healthcare, employment, and for children or people with limited cognitive capacity.⁸⁴⁸⁹ as well as specifications for treating children's data. The PDPL aligns with many GDPR principles, including Lawfulness, Purpose limitation, Accuracy and storage limitation, Security, Violation prevention and management, and Harmony between national interests and individual rights.⁸⁴⁹⁰

Vietnam does not have a dedicated data protection agency, though the PDPL places some responsibility for oversight and reporting on the Ministry of Public Security as well as local committees. Although the law is in effect, a guiding decree and sanction decree to empower local regulators to handle noncompliance are pending.⁸⁴⁹¹ The first of these decrees was issued in December 2025.⁸⁴⁹²

Vietnam is not a member of the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)⁸⁴⁹³ and endorsed no GPA resolutions.

Algorithmic Transparency

Vietnam's AI law requires human oversight in AI decisions and requires AI systems be developed and operated in a safe, reliable, secure, and impartial manner,

<https://chinhphu.vn/?pageid=27160&docid=214590&classid=1&typegroupid=3> [complete text, in Vietnamese] <https://datafiles.chinhphu.vn/cpp/files/vbpq/2025/7/91qh.signed.pdf>

⁸⁴⁸⁹ National Assembly, *Law No. 91/2025/QH15, Personal Data Protection Law, Section 2:*

Personal Data Protection in Certain Activities, THỦ VIỆN PHÁP LUẬT (Jun. 26, 2025), <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/Bo-may-hanh-chinh/Law-91-2025-QH15-Personal-Data-Protection/665440/tieng-anh.aspx>

⁸⁴⁹⁰ Huyen-Minh Nguyen and Alex Do, *Vietnam's PDPL in Focus: What to Know and What to Watch for* (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://iapp.org/news/a/vietnams-pdpl-in-focus-what-to-know-and-watch-for>

⁸⁴⁹¹ Ibid

⁸⁴⁹² National Assembly, *No. 356/2025/ND-CP Decree Elaborating on Certain Articles and Implementation Measures of Law on Personal Data Protection*, THỦ VIỆN PHÁP LUẬT (Dec. 31, 2025), <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/Cong-nghe-thong-tin/Decree-356-2025-ND-CP-elaborating-on-certain-articles-of-Law-on-personal-data-protection/689146/tieng-anh.aspx>

⁸⁴⁹³ Global Privacy Assembly (GPA), *List of Accredited Members* (2026), <https://globalprivacyassembly.com/participation-in-the-assembly/list-of-accredited-members/>

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without discrimination.⁸⁴⁹⁴ Providers and deployers must be accountable and must clearly define legal responsibility for damages caused. The law requires providers and deployers to ensure those interacting with AI systems know they are interacting with machines and requires machine-readable labeling of AI-generated content.⁸⁴⁹⁵

Based on the Freedom House Country Report on Vietnam,⁸⁴⁹⁶ the government uses a variety of legislative machinery to acquire citizens' personal data and engineer sophisticated forms of mass surveillance. These include the Cybersecurity Law 2019, the Publishing Law, the Penal Code, the Law on Protection of State Secrets 2018, the Law on Information Security 2016, and a number of decrees. One notable example is Bluezone, a tracking application ostensibly introduced to control COVID-19. Freedom House reports that the application "shared user data with the government without disclosing that fact to users. The source code was not made available for external auditing. In late May 2021, the Ministry of Health issued an instruction to local governments that recommended sanctioning people who did not install Bluezone and other COVID apps before entering certain public places and facilities; local authorities were tasked with determining the specific sanction. As of May 2021, Bluezone had reached 31.88 million downloads." The report also cites examples of State-supported phishing attacks to acquire the personal data of citizens, especially dissidents and activists. No right to algorithmic transparency exists to allow citizens to obtain judicial redress, should it be a possibility.

Rice ATMs

In the early months of the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, a business leader in Vietnam partnered with community organizations to deploy "rice ATMs" (automatic rice-dispensing machines) enabled with AI-facial recognition technology to ration food to people in need.⁸⁴⁹⁷ This program was widely publicized internationally, credited as an instance of applying advanced technology towards resolving basic

⁸⁴⁹⁴ Ministry of Science and Technology, *First-Ever Law on Artificial Intelligence Approved* (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://beta-en.mic.gov.vn/first-ever-law-on-artificial-intelligence-approved-197251215231241888.htm>

⁸⁴⁹⁵ Thu Minh Le and Alex Do, *Vietnam's First Standalone AI Law: An Overview of Key Provisions, Future Implications*, IAPP (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://iapp.org/news/a/vietnam-s-first-standalone-ai-law-an-overview-of-key-provisions-future-implications>

⁸⁴⁹⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2024: Vietnam* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-net/2024>

⁸⁴⁹⁷ Elina Noor and Mark Bryan Manantan, *Raising Standards: Data and Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia*, Asia Society Policy Institute (Jul. 2022), https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ASPI_RaisingStandards_report_fin_web_0.pdf

human needs during this public health crisis.⁸⁴⁹⁸ This popular program reportedly helped cement a benign view of AI and facial recognition technology within the country's population.⁸⁴⁹⁹

Smart City Initiatives

Vietnam's "smart city" initiative began as a directive from the prime minister in 2018 to promote sustainable cities.⁸⁵⁰⁰ The country's 2021 national AI strategy elaborated on this plan, promising substantial AI investments to upgrade and target resources in the country's most populous cities—namely Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Da Nang, and Can Tho—to benefit the quality of life and improve services ranging from energy distribution to traffic control to water supply to education. Vietnam's Ministry of Information and Communication released codified principles regarding the smart cities project, committing to "a people-centered approach [to] encourage the neutrality of technology [to] pilot new services with improvements based on the experience of users; [to] use open standards or open sources."⁸⁵⁰¹ The OECD AI Policy Observatory has identified the smart cities initiative as addressing its core principle 2.2, "Fostering a digital ecosystem for AI." Vietnam's smart city policies additionally echo OECD's core principle 1.1 pertaining to "inclusive growth, sustainable development, and wellbeing." Alongside these potentially vast benefits, however, there are credible reasons for concern that the smart cities project will include surveillance technologies that will further the government's capacity for authoritarian control.⁸⁵⁰²

⁸⁴⁹⁸ Tuyet-Ang Le, Kelly Vodden, Jianghua Wu, and Ghada Atiweh, *Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Vietnam*, Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health, p. 559 (Jan. 11, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18020559>

⁸⁴⁹⁹ Klingler-Vidra, *Inclusive Innovation Policy for the Next Development Stage in Viet Nam*, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Jul. 23, 2020), <https://www.undp.org/vietnam/publications/inclusive-innovation-policy-next-development-stage-viet-nam>

⁸⁵⁰⁰ Van Cuong, Nguyen, *The Emerging Legal Framework for Smart Cities in Vietnam*, Smart Cities in Asia. Springer, Singapore, pp. 79-90 (Nov. 11, 2022), https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-19-1701-1_7

⁸⁵⁰¹ Ministry of Information and Communications, *Decision No. 829 Issuing the ICT Reference Framework for Smart Urban Development (Version 1.0)* (May 31, 2019), <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Xay-dung-Do-thi/Quyet-dinh-829-QD-BTTTT-2019-Khung-tham-chieu-ICT-phat-trien-do-thi-thong-minh-phien-ban-1-0-422873.aspx>

⁸⁵⁰² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2022: The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule* (Nov. 10, 2022), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-world/2022>

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Aus4Innovation: Innovation Policy Exchange with Australia

In 2017, Australia and Vietnam announced an “innovation partnership” named “Aus4Innovation”, aimed at building prosperity within Vietnam and furthering a strategic and economic partnership between the two countries. Currently overseen by CSIRO, the Australian Government agency responsible for scientific research, Aus4Innovation includes a notable “policy exchange”, aimed at helping Vietnam “bring up the living standards of all of [its] citizens over the coming decades”, while setting the stage for Australia to be a source of policy influence in establishing “an international best practice review based on expert input from Australia.”⁸⁵⁰³ The OECD AI Policy Observatory has identified Aus4Innovation as representing an instance of its core principle 2.5, “International cooperation for trustworthy AI.”⁸⁵⁰⁴ The Aus4Innovation Program also supported 2022 Vietnam Artificial Intelligence Day, (AIV4N), a conference that brings together government representatives, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss the latest development in Vietnam’s AI landscape.⁸⁵⁰⁵

The Australian Government’s Aus4Innovation program was reported to have awarded A\$1.45 million to strengthen Vietnam’s agriculture sector through advanced technologies in August 2024. Managed by CSIRO, the initiative funds three projects focusing on sustainable farming and climate resilience. The projects integrate artificial intelligence, geospatial tools, and digital traceability systems to boost agricultural productivity and market development. For example, the Griffith University and Hanoi University of Science & Technology are creating an AI-driven platform for carbon farming. Additionally, AI-powered certification systems by Griffith University and Vietnam’s Commission of Standards aim to enhance sustainability and product traceability.⁸⁵⁰⁶

Public Security and Identity Verification

Since April 2021, the Inspection Commissions of Party organizations at all levels in the People’s Public Security Forces have been required to build action plans to realize the Party resolutions regarding digital technology, artificial intelligence,

⁸⁵⁰³ Aus4Innovation, *Policy Exchange*, <https://research.csiro.au/aus4innovation-phase1/activities/policy-exchange-program/>

⁸⁵⁰⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Aus4Innovation (Australia and Vietnam)* (Jul. 4, 2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/http:%2F%2Faipo.oecd.org%2F2021-data-policyInitiatives-26842>

⁸⁵⁰⁵ Darmaraj, *Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology Unveils AI4VN* (Sept. 26, 2022), <https://opengovasia.com/vietnam-ministry-of-science-and-technology-unveils-ai4vn/>

⁸⁵⁰⁶ CSIRO, *Australian-Vietnamese Collaborations Secure \$1.45 Million to Advance Agricultural Innovation* (Aug. 8, 2024), <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/news/2024/august/australian-vietnamese-collaborations-secure-grant-to-advance-agricultural-innovation>

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and the 4th Industrial Revolution, contributing to building elite and modern public security forces by 2030.⁸⁵⁰⁷

In December 2022, Deputy Minister Luong Tam Quang asked the Immigration Department to deploy 37 level-4 public services related to entry and exit, perfect the issuance of electronic passports, and promote research and application of science and technology, artificial intelligence, and biometric identification to the management of entry and exit.⁸⁵⁰⁸

Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security expanded biometric data collection for the national ID system, including iris scans, voice samples, and DNA, under the Amended Law on Citizen Identification (2023) to enhance national security.⁸⁵⁰⁹ Vietnam has also trialed facial recognition for immigration, aiming to streamline identity verification for travelers, mandated by a 2024 directive on tourism and immigration. Additionally, facial recognition is used for digital payment verification as part of Vietnam's digital transformation efforts. However, limited privacy protections raise concerns about potential misuse or overreach in state surveillance.⁸⁵¹⁰

Predictive Policing

In its July 2022 report on inclusive development and artificial intelligence in Southeast Asia, the Asia Society Policy Institute notes, if AI adoption is “nascent” in Vietnam, “the topic of ethics in relation to AI has barely begun to percolate in the country.”⁸⁵¹¹ The institute highlights with particular concern Vietnam's stated plans to use AI applications in policing and immigration, “to proactively prevent crimes,” with the implication that Vietnam intends to apply surveillance technologies in developing predictive policing. The Asia Society Policy Institute report summarizes, “While there is some degree of recognition in Vietnam of the importance of AI ethics, their formulation and application remain underexplored.”

⁸⁵⁰⁷ Public Security News, *Deputy Minister Luong Tam Quang Attends Year-End Conference of the Immigration Department* (Dec. 29, 2022), <https://en.cand.com.vn/public-security-forces/deputy-minister-luong-tam-quang-attends-year-end-conference-of-the-immigration-department-i593601/>

⁸⁵⁰⁸ Ibid

⁸⁵⁰⁹ Abigail Opiah, *Vietnam's New Digital ID Law Mandating Biometrics Use Goes Live July 1*, Biometric Update (Jun. 26, 2024), <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202406/vietnams-new-digital-id-law-mandating-biometrics-use-goes-live-july-1>

⁸⁵¹⁰ Lien Hoang, *Vietnam Requires Facial Recognition for Digital Payments*, Nikkei Asia (Jul. 12, 2024), <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Vietnam-requires-facial-recognition-for-digital-payments>

⁸⁵¹¹ Elina Noor and Mark Bryan Manantan, *Raising Standards: Data and Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia*, Asia Society Policy Institute (Jul. 2022), https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ASPI_RaisingStandards_report_fin_web_0.pdf

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Environmental Impact of AI

Vietnam's AI law considers energy efficiency and environmental protection as part of green, inclusive, and sustainable AI development.⁸⁵¹² The National AI Strategy includes the management of environmental and natural resources among potential applications for AI systems but does not acknowledge the environmental impact of developing and deploying such systems.⁸⁵¹³

Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Vietnam is not a High-Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) but is a State Signatory.⁸⁵¹⁴ Vietnam has not officially announced a clear and independent national policy on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS). However, the country is participating in the international discussions, such as by supporting UN General Assembly Resolution 78/241.⁸⁵¹⁵ This resolution highlights the urgent need to address the humanitarian, legal, security, technological, and ethical challenges posed by LAWS.

AI Literacy

Vietnam's AI law frames human resources and “disseminating AI knowledge through society” as “crucial factors, enabling Vietnam not only to utilize the technology but also to master, innovate, and develop it in its own unique direction.”⁸⁵¹⁶ UNESCO highlighted Vietnam's progress addressing AI literacy and the challenges of AI in education through the AI in Education Strategy, National Digital Competency Framework for Learners, and AI competency frameworks for

⁸⁵¹² Thu Minh Le and Alex Do, *Vietnam's First Standalone AI Law: An Overview of Key Provisions, Future Implications*, IAPP (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://iapp.org/news/a/vietnam-s-first-standalone-ai-law-an-overview-of-key-provisions-future-implications>

⁸⁵¹³ Prime Minister, *National Strategy on R&D and Application of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 17, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Vietnam_National_Strategy_on_RD_and_Application_of_AI_2021-2030.pdf

⁸⁵¹⁴ UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, *High Contracting Parties and Signatories CCW* (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/convention-certain-conventional-weapons/high-contracting-parties-and-signatories-ccw>

⁸⁵¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Resolution 78/241: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (A/RES/78/241) (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/431/11/pdf/n2343111.pdf>

⁸⁵¹⁶ Ministry of Science and Technology, *National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence: Institutional Steps in Governing New Technologies* [*Chiến lược quốc gia về trí tuệ nhân tạo: Bước tiến thể chế trong quản trị công nghệ mới*], Media Center (Oct 27, 2025), <https://mst.gov.vn/chien-luoc-quoc-gia-ve-tri-tue-nhan-tao-buoc-tien-the-che-trong-quan-tri-cong-nghe-moi-19725102619582822.htm>

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teachers and education managers.⁸⁵¹⁷ The RAM report recommends “continued efforts to strengthen teachers’ capacity in AI skills, digital pedagogy, and AI ethics, coupled with improved infrastructure and access to high quality digital learning resources” to “ensure equitable benefits from digital transformation.”

Human Rights

Vietnam has been designated as “Not Free” by Freedom House, scoring 20/100 Freedom in the World metrics, with particularly low marks (4/40) for political rights, and a low score (16/60) for metrics pertaining to “civil liberties.”⁸⁵¹⁸ The report elaborates, “freedom of expression, religious freedom, and civil society activism are tightly restricted” in Vietnam, and “particularly in 2024, the authorities have engaged in one of the widest-ranging crackdowns on dissent in decades,” including on citizens’ use of social media and the internet to voice dissent and share uncensored information. Vietnam’s data protection laws, requiring “data localization” within the country’s borders for a range of applications, additionally restricts residents’ ability to access information and media from abroad. These State restrictions over content access and its escalation of digital surveillance and harassment of digital activists correlate to the “Not Free” ranking in the Freedom on the Net report.⁸⁵¹⁹

OECD / G20 AI Principles

Vietnam is not a member of the OECD, G20, or Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)⁸⁵²⁰ and has endorsed the OECD AI Principles.⁸⁵²¹ Still, However, as a member of ASEAN, Vietnam indirectly aligns with these standards. For example, ASEAN’s Guide on AI Governance and Ethics adapts global best practices, including the OECD AI Principles, for the Southeast Asia region.⁸⁵²²

Several elements of Vietnam’s national strategy echo some of the OECD AI principles. For example, the Vietnam AI Strategy and AI Law center humans in

⁸⁵¹⁷ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Viet Nam* (2026), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/vietnam>

⁸⁵¹⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025: Vietnam* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-world/2025>

⁸⁵¹⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom on the Net 2025: Vietnam* (2025), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-net/2025>

⁸⁵²⁰ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/about/about-gpai>

⁸⁵²¹ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles Overview, Countries Adhering to the AI Principles* (2026), <https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles>

⁸⁵²² Lee Wan Sie and Denise Wong, *Strengthening Global AI Safety: A Perspective on the Singapore Consensus* (Jun. 5, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/strengthening-global-ai-safety-a-perspective-on-the-singapore-consensus>

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developing and deploying AI, avoiding technology abuse, and are early steps in developing a legal framework to uphold these principles, aligning with OECD principles to design systems “in a way that respects the rule of law, human rights, democratic values, and diversity and should include appropriate safeguards to ensure a fair and just society.”⁸⁵²³

Additionally, the OECD AI Policy Observatory has identified Vietnam’s partnership with Australia, which includes a significant policy exchange component, as an instance of its core principle 2.5 pertaining to “international cooperation for trustworthy AI.”⁸⁵²⁴

Council of Europe AI Treaty

Vietnam did not participate in negotiations for the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law in the Council of Europe.⁸⁵²⁵ Vietnam has not endorsed this first legally binding AI Treaty.⁸⁵²⁶

UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics

Vietnam endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, together with other UNESCO member states.⁸⁵²⁷ UNESCO launched Vietnam’s Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) report⁸⁵²⁸ as part of the country’s International Digital Week in 2025.⁸⁵²⁹ Vietnam’s legislative efforts in passing the Personal Data Protection Law, AI Law, and Digital Industry Law in the last quarter

⁸⁵²³ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *OECD AI Principles* (2024), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/ai-principles/P6>

⁸⁵²⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory, *Aus4Innovation* (Dec. 224, 2025), <https://oecd.ai/en/dashboards/policy-initiatives/aus4innovation-8702>

⁸⁵²⁵ Council of Europe, *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence* (2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/the-framework-convention-on-artificial-intelligence>

⁸⁵²⁶ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/Conventions/full-list/?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=225>

⁸⁵²⁷ UNESCO, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Recommendation* (2026) <https://en.unesco.org/artificial-intelligence/ethics>

⁸⁵²⁸ UNESCO Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory, *Vietnam* (Oct. 2025), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/vietnam>

⁸⁵²⁹ UNESCO, *Viet Nam Launches First Comprehensive National Report on AI Ethics under UNESCO Framework* (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/viet-nam-launches-first-comprehensive-national-report-ai-ethics-under-unesco-framework>

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of 2025 reflect a commitment to building a legal framework to make principles binding rather than advisory.⁸⁵³⁰

Evaluation

In the 2021 National AI Strategy, the government of Vietnam pledged that the nation would become an innovation leader in AI technology within the ASEAN nations, promising to apply AI towards the betterment of its citizens and to devise a system of laws and regulations that would prevent “abuse and infringement upon legitimate rights and interests of organizations and individuals,” as well as pledging to develop “legal documents on privacy protection, human rights [...] for AI-related activities.”⁸⁵³¹ Since then, Vietnam has continued to invest in programs within the country, including international partnerships aimed at improving its technological leadership and promoting the industry both domestically and abroad. In 2025, the country turned attention to building a robust legal framework to direct these investments to truly benefit humans, passing a personal data protection law, AI law, and digital technology industry law as well as the initial decrees necessary to implement them. Completion of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology reflects this commitment and provides clear recommendations to align the country’s AI and data governance with international ethical standards.

Perhaps the most salient risk is that AI may be used to further authoritarian rule. As Freedom House reported recently in the designation of Vietnam as “Not Free,” “authorities have increasingly cracked down on citizens’ use of social media and the internet to voice dissent and share uncensored information.”⁸⁵³² The Asia Society Policy Institute notes, Vietnam’s commitment to applying AI to “proactively prevent crimes” begs further discussion about the implications of surveillance technologies, algorithmic processes, and quality of datasets for predictive policing purposes.”⁸⁵³³

⁸⁵³⁰ UNESCO, *Viet Nam: Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report* (2025), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396518?posInSet=1&queryId=5324c51f-50ec-447b-88b0-4b0361a7e565>

⁸⁵³¹ Prime Minister, *National Strategy on R&D and Application of Artificial Intelligence* (Mar. 17, 2021), https://wp.oecd.ai/app/uploads/2021/12/Vietnam_National_Strategy_on_RD_and_Application_of_AI_2021-2030.pdf

⁸⁵³² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Vietnam* (2024), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-world/2024>

⁸⁵³³ Elina Noor and Mark Bryan Manantan, *Raising Standards: Data and Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia* (July 2022), https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ASPI_RaisingStandards_report_fin_web_0.pdf

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COUNTRY EVALUATIONSEVALUATION GRID

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Score	Tier
Argentina	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	N	P	Y	9	II
Australia	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	P	P	9	II
Austria	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	9.5	II
Azerbaijan	N	P	Y	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	N	N	2	V
Bahrain	N	P	Y	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	P	N	4	V
Bangladesh	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	Y	N	N	P	N	5	IV
Belgium	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	9.5	II
Benin	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	P	N	P	N	5.5	IV
Brazil	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	P	N	Y	N	8	III
Canada	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	Y	11	I
Chile	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	Y	N	8	III
China	Y	P	Y	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	N	N	6	IV
Colombia	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	N	P	P	8.5	III
Costa Rica	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	Y	P	N	P	N	7.5	III
Czechia	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	9	II
Denmark	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	9.5	II
DR	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	Y	N	N	P	N	5	IV
Ecuador	N	N	Y	P	Y	Y	N	P	N	N	P	N	4.5	V
Egypt	Y	P	Y	N	P	Y	N	Y	N	N	P	N	5.5	IV
Estonia	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	N	8.5	III
Ethiopia	N	P	Y	N	P	P	P	P	P	N	P	N	4.5	V
Finland	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	N	9	II
France	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	P	10	II
Germany	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	9.5	II
Ghana	N	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	P	N	P	N	6	IV
Greece	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	N	N	8	III
Hong Kong	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	Y	Y	P	N	P	P	7	III
Hungary	Y	P	Y	P	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	8.5	III
India	Y	P	Y	P	Y	P	P	P	P	N	P	N	6.5	IV
Indonesia	Y	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	Y	P	N	P	N	6.5	IV
Iran	N	N	Y	N	N	P	N	P	N	N	P	N	2.5	V
Ireland	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	P	9	II
Israel	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	Y	N	P	9	II
Italy	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	P	10	II
Jamaica	N	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	N	P	N	7.5	III
Japan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	Y	11	I
Jordan	N	P	Y	P	Y	P	P	Y	P	N	P	N	6	IV
Kazakhstan	N	P	Y	N	N	P	P	Y	P	N	P	N	4.5	V
Kenya	N	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	N	P	N	6	IV
Kuwait	N	P	Y	N	N	P	N	P	N	N	P	N	3	V
Lithuania	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	9	II
Luxembourg	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	P	N	8.5	III
Malaysia	N	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	N	N	P	N	6	IV
Malta	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	P	9	II
Mauritius	N	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	N	P	N	7	IV
Mexico	Y	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	Y	P	N	P	P	7	III
Morocco	N	P	Y	P	P	P	P	N	Y	N	P	P	5.5	IV
Mozambique	N	N	Y	P	P	Y	N	N	N	N	P	N	3.5	V
Myanmar	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	V
Namibia	N	N	Y	Y	P	P	N	N	N	N	P	N	3.5	V
Netherlands	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	P	10.5	I
New Zealand	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	N	P	P	9	II
Nigeria	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	P	N	6	IV
Norway	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	10.5	I
Oman	N	P	Y	N	Y	Y	P	Y	P	N	P	N	6	IV

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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Score	Tier
Pakistan	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	N	N	P	N	5	IV
Peru	Y	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	N	Y	N	8	III
Philippines	N	P	Y	P	P	P	P	Y	Y	N	P	P	6.5	IV
Poland	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	P	9	II
Portugal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	9.5	II
Puerto Rico	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	P	N	6.5	IV
Qatar	N	P	Y	N	N	Y	N	P	P	N	P	N	4	V
Romania	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	N	9	II
Russia	Y	P	Y	N	N	Y	P	P	P	N	N	N	5	IV
Rwanda	N	P	Y	N	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	P	N	5.5	IV
Saudi Arabia	Y	P	N	N	P	Y	Y	P	P	N	Y	N	6	IV
Senegal	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	Y	N	P	N	7.5	III
Serbia	Y	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	N	P	N	7	III
Singapore	Y	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	N	P	N	7.5	III
Slovakia	Y	P	Y	Y	N	Y	P	P	Y	P	P	N	7.5	III
Slovenia	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	9.5	II
South Africa	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	N	P	N	8.5	III
South Korea	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	P	P	10	II
Spain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	N	10	II
Sweden	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	P	P	N	8.5	III
Switzerland	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	P	10.5	I
Taiwan	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	N	P	N	7.5	III
Tanzania	N	N	Y	N	P	Y	N	P	P	N	P	N	4	V
Thailand	N	P	Y	P	P	P	N	P	N	N	P	N	4	V
T&T	N	P	Y	Y	P	P	N	P	N	N	P	N	4.5	V
Tunisia	N	P	Y	N	P	P	P	P	P	N	P	N	4.5	V
Türkiye	Y	P	Y	N	P	Y	Y	Y	P	N	P	N	7	III
Uganda	N	P	Y	N	P	Y	N	P	P	N	P	N	4.5	V
Ukraine	Y	P	Y	P	Y	Y	P	P	P	Y	P	N	8	III
UAE	N	P	Y	N	P	Y	P	Y	P	N	P	N	5.5	IV
UK	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	10.5	I
USA	Y	P	Y	Y	P	Y	P	P	N	Y	N	N	7	III
Uruguay	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	P	P	10	II
Venezuela	N	N	Y	N	P	P	N	P	N	N	P	N	3	V
Vietnam	N	P	Y	N	P	Y	N	P	P	N	P	N	4.5	V

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Country Rankings

<i>Tier I (High)</i>	<i>Tier II</i>	<i>Tier III (Middle)</i>	<i>Tier IV</i>	<i>Tier V</i>
Canada (11)	France (10)	Colombia (8.5)	India (6.5)	Ecuador (4.5)
Japan (11)	Italy (10)	Estonia (8.5)	Indonesia (6.5)	Ethiopia (4.5)
Netherlands (10.5)	South Korea (10)	Hungary (8.5)	Philippines (6.5)	Kazakhstan (4.5)
Norway (10.5)	Spain (10)	Luxembourg (8.5)	Puerto Rico (6.5)	Trinidad and Tobago (4.5)
Switzerland (10.5)	Uruguay (10)	South Africa (8.5)	China (6)	Tunisia (4.5)
United Kingdom (10.5)	Austria (9.5)	Sweden (8.5)	Ghana (6)	Uganda (4.5)
	Belgium (9.5)	Brazil (8)	Jordan (6)	Vietnam (4.5)
	Denmark (9.5)	Chile (8)	Kenya (6)	Bahrain (4)
	Germany (9.5)	Greece (8)	Malaysia (6)	Qatar (4)
	Portugal (9.5)	Peru (8)	Nigeria (6)	Tanzania (4)
	Slovenia (9.5)	Ukraine (8)	Oman (6)	Thailand (4)

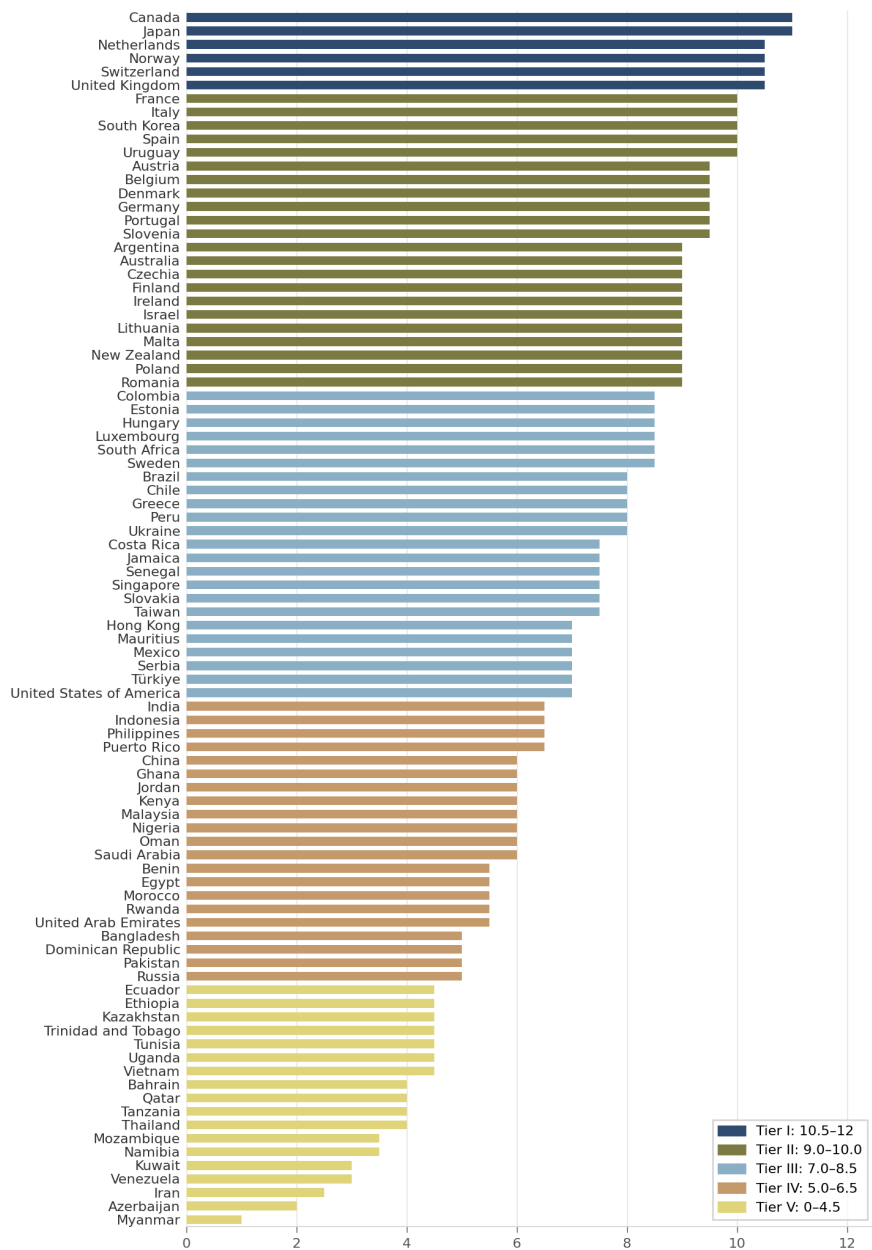
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	Argentina (9)	Costa Rica (7.5)	Saudi Arabia (6)	Mozambique (3.5)
	Australia (9)	Jamaica (7.5)	Benin (5.5)	Namibia (3.5)
	Czechia (9)	Senegal (7.5)	Egypt (5.5)	Kuwait (3)
	Finland (9)	Singapore (7.5)	Morocco (5.5)	Venezuela (3)
	Ireland (9)	Slovakia (7.5)	Rwanda (5.5)	Iran (2.5)
	Israel (9)	Taiwan (7.5)	United Arab Emirate (5.5)	Azerbaijan (2)
	Lithuania (9)	Hong Kong (7)	Bangladesh (5)	Myanmar (1)
	Malta (9)	Mexico (7)	Dominican Republic (5)	
	New Zealand (9)	Serbia (7)	Pakistan (5)	
	Poland (9)	Türkiye (7)	Russia (5)	
	Romania (9)	United States (7)		
		Mauritius (7)		

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Country Rankings by Score & Tier
CAIDP Index, 2026



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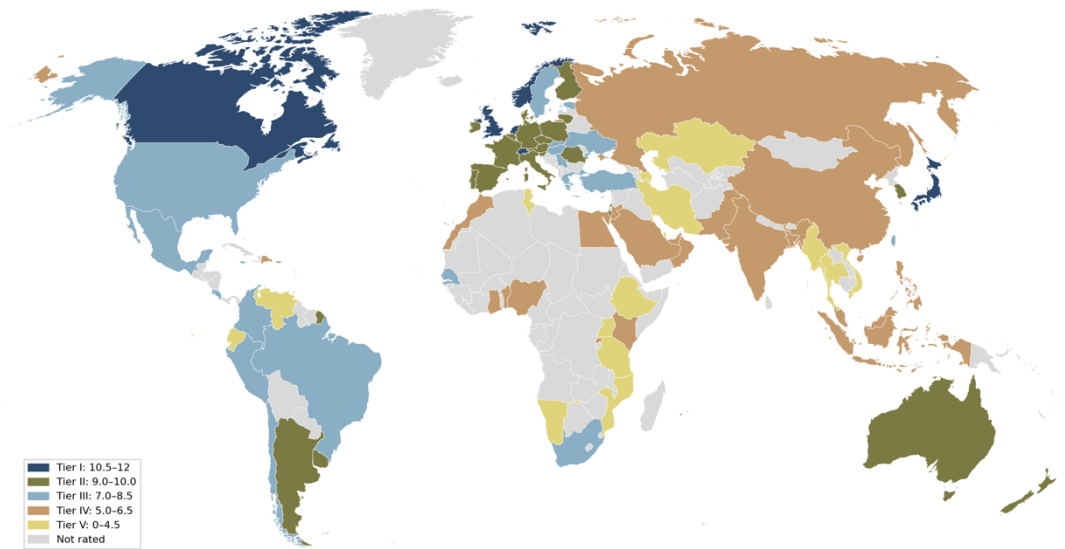
Variations in Metrics Scores, 2025-2026
CAIDP Index 2026

Rank	Country	Tier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	2026	2025	Var.	2025-2026
1	Canada	Tier I													11	11.5	-0.5	
2	Japan	Tier I													11	11.5	-0.5	
3	Netherlands	Tier I													10.5	10.5	0	
4	Norway	Tier I													10.5	9.5	+1	
5	Switzerland	Tier I													10.5	9	+1.5	
6	United Kingdom	Tier I													10.5	10.5	0	
7	France	Tier II													10	9.5	+0.5	
8	Italy	Tier II													10	10	0	
9	South Korea	Tier II													10	10.5	-0.5	
10	Spain	Tier II													10	10	0	
11	Uruguay	Tier II													10	8.5	+1.5	
12	Austria	Tier II													9.5	9	+0.5	
13	Belgium	Tier II													9.5	9.5	0	
14	Denmark	Tier II													9.5	9	+0.5	
15	Germany	Tier II													9.5	10	-0.5	
16	Portugal	Tier II													9.5	9.5	0	
17	Slovenia	Tier II													9.5	9	+0.5	
18	Argentina	Tier II													9	9	0	
19	Australia	Tier II													9	8.5	+0.5	
20	Czechia	Tier II													9	8.5	+0.5	
21	Finland	Tier II													9	8.5	+0.5	
22	Ireland	Tier II													9	9	0	
23	Israel	Tier II													9	9	0	
24	Lithuania	Tier II													9	9	0	
25	Malta	Tier II													9	8.5	+0.5	
26	New Zealand	Tier II													9	7.5	+1.5	
27	Poland	Tier II													9	8.5	+0.5	
28	Romania	Tier II													9	—	—	
29	Colombia	Tier III													8.5	9	-0.5	
30	Estonia	Tier III													8.5	9	-0.5	
31	Hungary	Tier III													8.5	8	+0.5	
32	Luxembourg	Tier III													8.5	8.5	0	
33	South Africa	Tier III													8.5	8.5	0	
34	Sweden	Tier III													8.5	8.5	0	
35	Brazil	Tier III													8	8	0	
36	Chile	Tier III													8	7.5	+0.5	
37	Greece	Tier III													8	—	—	
38	Peru	Tier III													8	7	+1	
39	Ukraine	Tier III													8	6	+2	
40	Costa Rica	Tier III													7.5	7.5	0	
41	Jamaica	Tier III													7.5	6	+1.5	
42	Senegal	Tier III													7.5	5.5	+2	
43	Singapore	Tier III													7.5	6.5	+1	
44	Slovakia	Tier III													7.5	—	—	
45	Taiwan	Tier III													7.5	5.5	+2	
46	Hong Kong	Tier III													7	7	0	
47	Mauritius	Tier III													7	6.5	+0.5	
48	Mexico	Tier III													7	8	-1	
49	Serbia	Tier III													7	7	0	
50	Türkiye	Tier III													7	7	0	
51	United States of America	Tier III													7	8.5	-1.5	
52	India	Tier IV													6.5	6.5	0	
53	Indonesia	Tier IV													6.5	5.5	+1	
54	Philippines	Tier IV													6.5	8	-1.5	
55	Puerto Rico	Tier IV													6.5	6	+0.5	
56	China	Tier IV													6	6	0	
57	Ghana	Tier IV													6	4.5	+1.5	
58	Jordan	Tier IV													6	—	—	
59	Kenya	Tier IV													6	6	0	
60	Malaysia	Tier IV													6	5	+1	
61	Nigeria	Tier IV													6	6	0	
62	Oman	Tier IV													6	—	—	
63	Saudi Arabia	Tier IV													6	7	-1	
64	Benin	Tier IV													5.5	—	—	
65	Egypt	Tier IV													5.5	5.5	0	
66	Morocco	Tier IV													5.5	5.5	0	
67	Rwanda	Tier IV													5.5	6	-0.5	
68	United Arab Emirates	Tier IV													5.5	5	+0.5	
69	Bangladesh	Tier IV													5	4	+1	
70	Dominican Republic	Tier IV													5	4.5	+0.5	
71	Pakistan	Tier IV													5	3.5	+1.5	
72	Russia	Tier IV													5	4	+1	
73	Ecuador	Tier V													4.5	—	—	
74	Ethiopia	Tier V													4.5	5	-0.5	
75	Kazakhstan	Tier V													4.5	2	+2.5	
76	Trinidad and Tobago	Tier V													4.5	3.5	+1	
77	Tunisia	Tier V													4.5	4.5	0	
78	Uganda	Tier V													4.5	4	+0.5	
79	Vietnam	Tier V													4.5	4.5	0	
80	Bahrain	Tier V													4	3	+1	
81	Qatar	Tier V													4	5	-1	
82	Tanzania	Tier V													4	—	—	
83	Thailand	Tier V													4	3.5	+0.5	
84	Mozambique	Tier V													3.5	—	—	
85	Namibia	Tier V													3.5	—	—	
86	Kuwait	Tier V													3	2.5	+0.5	
87	Venezuela	Tier V													3	1	+2	
88	Iran	Tier V													2.5	2	+0.5	
89	Azerbaijan	Tier V													2	1	+1	
90	Myanmar	Tier V													1	1	0	

Yes Partial No

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Map of Tiers
CAIDP Index, 2026



METHODOLOGY

Scope

We began our assessment by examining the AI policies and practices of the top 40 countries by GDP. We next looked at 40 additional countries we considered “high-impact” to make the Index representative of both the diversity and commonalities among countries worldwide in AI policies, issues encountered, and best practices. Our aim is to examine those countries likely to have the greatest policy impact in the AI field. We also considered influential intergovernmental organizations such as the European Union, Council of Europe, OECD, UNESCO, and G20. However, we did not attempt to evaluate these institutional AI policies.

We expanded to 90 countries for the 2026 Index. We considered factors such as GDP, participation in AI policymaking in international organizations, and domestic AI policies as well as others to ensure broad regional and experiential representation.

Time Period

The research for the 2020 edition of the report was undertaken in late 2020 for publication in mid-December 2020. As the report has expanded, we have pushed publication later into year of release. For the 2021 edition of the report, published in mid-February 2022, we continued to gather information throughout 2021 and into early 2022. For the 2023 edition, information was gathered throughout 2022 and into early 2023. For the 2025 Index, we shifted the naming convention to reflect the year of publication. To the 2023 edition, we added information through 2023 and 2024, and activities in early 2025 that relate directly to metrics, such as endorsement of the Council of Europe AI Treaty. For the 2026 edition, we followed a similar process, including updates through 2025 and the most relevant for early 2026.

Factors

We identified 12 factors to assess national AI policies and practices. The factors reflect well-known frameworks for AI policy (the OECD/G20 AI Principles, UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI), human rights (the Universal Declaration for Human Rights), and democratic decision-making (transparency, public participation, and access to policy documents). We also highlighted key themes for AI policy, including algorithmic transparency and accountability.

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On certain factors, we deferred to well-established legal frameworks and well-known international organizations. For example, countries within the European Union are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive, which provide certain rights to those who are subject to automated decision-making, including access to the underlying logic of an algorithm. The Council of Europe Modernized Convention 108 (Convention 108+) provides similar legal rights regarding AI. On general human rights assessments, we deferred to the reports of Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International. We also recognized those countries that endorsed the resolution on AI and Ethics, the resolution on AI and Accountability, the resolution on facial recognition, and resolution on Generative AI adopted by the Global Privacy Assembly, the global association of leading privacy experts and officials.

On the issue of implementation, we recognize that it is difficult to assess progress toward AI policy goals empirically, particularly when the underlying objective is not measured in quantitative terms, as would be the case for research investment, papers published, or patents obtained. Nonetheless, we believe this must be a key component of the evaluation. Reports from the OECD and UNESCO tracking implementation of their respective principles and frameworks provide one source for assessment. The OECD published substantial reports on the state of implement of the OECD AI Principles in 2020, 2021,⁸⁵³⁴ and 2023.⁸⁵³⁵ The OECD has also encouraged member states to provide overviews on national AI strategies to the OECD AI Group of Experts, many of which are accessible on the OECD AI Policy Observatory. UNESCO created the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and Ethical Impact Assessment process as tools for implementation of the Recommendation on AI Ethics. We consider countries' engagement with these tools as well national policy action in assessing implementation.

We looked next at national developments, both favorable and controversial, concerning the implementation of AI policy. We consulted official sources but also reviewed independent sources such as news sources, agencies, and think tanks not directly aligned with national governments for these assessments.

Finally, because AI policy is in the early days, there is far more information about what governments intend to do than what they have done. We encourage governments to establish independent agencies with annual public reporting requirements to provide information about progress toward national goals and

⁸⁵³⁴ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles* (Jun. 18, 2021),

<https://www.oecd.org/digital/state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-1cd40c44-en.htm>;

⁸⁵³⁵ OECD, *State of Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Four Years On* (Oct. 27, 2023),

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-state-of-implementation-of-the-oecd-ai-principles-four-years-on_835641c9-en.html

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compliances with international policy frameworks. Such reports could provide the basis for future comparative evaluations.

The Metrics

Q1. Has the country endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles?

The OECD/G20 AI Principles are the first global framework for AI policy. Endorsement of these principles provides a baseline to determine a country's compliance with international AI policy norms. Countries that have endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles fall into four categories: 1) OECD Member Countries, 2) Non-member OECD Countries that endorsed the OECD AI Principles, 3) G20 Member countries that subsequently endorsed the G20 AI Principles, which follow closely the original OECD AI Principles,⁸⁵³⁶ and 4) Members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI),⁸⁵³⁷ which requires a commitment to the OECD AI Principles.⁸⁵³⁸

Determinations in this category are essentially binary: a country has either endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles or not.

Q2. Is the country implementing the OECD AI Principles?

Endorsement alone of the AI Principles is not sufficient to determine a country's AI practices. The OECD itself has begun a process to track implementation of the AI Principles, but the reporting to date is mostly anecdotal and inconclusive. We begin our analysis of implementation with the OECD reporting and then look to other sources, including government documents, news articles, and NGO reports to assess implementation.

Determinations in this category are more nuanced: some countries have called attention to their efforts to implement the OECD/G20 AI principles. Others have done so in practice without explicit references to the AI Principles. We have made reasonable efforts to identify national projects that implement the OECD/G20 AI Principles, based on reporting from the OECD, but information is often difficult to find. In some instances, we were able to acknowledge partial implementation (P). In 2020, we concluded that no country has fully implemented the OECD/G20 AI Principles and therefore no country received a Y determination.

⁸⁵³⁶ The G20 AI Principles directly restate the value-based principles in Part I of the OECD AI Principles

⁸⁵³⁷ GPAI, *Community* (2024), <https://gpai.ai/community/>

⁸⁵³⁸ OECD, *Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)* (2024), <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence.html>

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Q3. Has the country endorsed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

In the human rights field, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the most well-known and widely adopted legal framework for the protection of fundamental rights. Although the UDHR preceded the rise of Artificial Intelligence, we anticipated that many of the significant policy debates ahead will be grounded in principles set out in the Universal Declaration. For this reason, we propose endorsement of the UDHR as a second baseline to assess country AI policies and practices.

Determinations in this category are essentially binary: a country has either endorsed the UDHR or it has not. The one notable exception is Saudi Arabia, which did not endorse the UDHR but is a member of the United Nations and has recognized, according to human rights organizations, certain human rights obligations.

Q4. Is the country implementing the Universal Declaration for Human Rights?

Like the question regarding implementation of the OECD AI Principles, measuring implementation of the UDHR is not a simple task. Several well-established international organizations, such as Freedom House and Human Rights Watch, have developed formal metrics to evaluate compliance with human rights norms. We defer to these organizations for the evaluation of general human rights practices, while also noting that several of these factors may be useful in future evaluation of AI practices.

Determinations in this category typically fell into two categories: Y, a country widely recognized for its defense of human rights as generally understood by reference to the UDHR, and P, a country in partial compliance with human rights obligations. In 2021, we made this determination more precise. Countries that Freedom House designated as “Free” received Y. A country designated “Partly Free” was received P and countries designated “Not Free” were designated N.

We continue to defer to the Freedom House ratings while noting concerns with their methodology. For example, Freedom House evaluates human rights conditions in Israel separately from those in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Q5. Has the country established a process for meaningful public participation in the development of a national AI Policy?

Almost every country in our report has set out a national AI strategy or action plan. We have attempted to fairly summarize and present these initiatives. But we are also interested in the development of these policies. Was there an opportunity for public participation? Was there a formal consultation process? Do the national AI policies reflect the views of those who may be impacted by the deployment of AI

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techniques? And is there an ongoing mechanism for public participation as national AI policies evolve?

Determinations in this category were based on our ability to identify opportunities for meaningful public participation. The distinction between a Y and P in this category reflected the quality of the opportunity for public participation and evidence that governments engaged that participation meaningfully.

Q6. Are materials about the country's AI policies and practices readily available to the public?

Effective public participation requires public access to relevant documents. Has the national government taken steps to ensure that documents concerning AI policy are readily available, complete, and accurate? Are the materials available on the website of a public agency or are they maintained by a private company? Are there opportunities for future comment?

The determinations in this category often aligned with the determinations about public participation. We respect the practice of countries to publish reports and to seek public reports in the national language. We note, however, that the absence of an English translation may make independent evaluation of a country's AI policies and practices more difficult. We discuss the issue of Language in more detail below.

Q7. Does the country have an independent (agency/mechanism) for AI oversight?

All governments understandably seek to advance national AI priorities. And most governments have directed a science or industry ministry to lead national efforts. But the deployment of AI techniques also raises concerns about accountability, privacy and data protection, fairness, transparency, and equity. For these reasons, we look to determine whether countries have independent agencies, such as a data protection agency, a human rights commission, or an AI ethics commission, to protect fundamental rights.

Determinations in this category were based on the actual establishment of mechanisms to oversee or guide AI practices. Again, the difference between a Y and a P determination reflected the quality and breadth of the oversight mechanisms.

Q8. Do the following goals appear in the national AI policy: "Fairness," "Accountability," "Transparency," "Rule of Law," "Fundamental Rights"?

There are many themes in the AI policy realm. We identified these five goals as the most significant. They appear frequently in AI policy frameworks, and they are grounded in law. We recognize that countries that have endorsed the OECD/G20 AI Principles have, by implication, endorsed these goals. But this question asks whether countries have explicitly identified these goals in their national AI strategies.

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Determinations in this category attempt to evaluate the extent to which a country has prioritized these AI policy goals. Full endorsement of all goals received a Y, partial endorsement a P.

Q9. Has the country by law established a right to Algorithmic Transparency?

One of the most significant AI policy issues today is Algorithmic Transparency. We take the position that individuals should have the right to access the logic, factors, and data that contributed to a decision concerning them and the ability to meaningfully contest adverse decisions. This right is currently established in two legal frameworks: The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (Article 22) and the Council of Europe Convention 108+, the modernized Privacy Convention (Article 9). Countries that are within the EU and/or signatories to COE 108+ have therefore established this right. We have also considered whether countries, by national law, have established the right to algorithmic transparency.

For determinations in this category, we assigned a Y to those countries that are subject to the GDPR and/or the Council of Europe Convention or national legislation that explicitly grants these rights. In a subsequent review, we will investigate whether countries have *implemented* a right to algorithmic transparency. This will provide a more detailed assessment of this key metric.

Q10. Has the country endorsed the Council of Europe AI Treaty?

The Council of Europe Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law is the first legally binding international treaty on AI. We consider the AI Treaty, open for signature by all CoE member and non-member states a watershed moment in the development of AI policies. We substituted the CoE Treaty for the UNESCO Recommendation because 1) almost all countries have now endorsed the UNESCO Recommendation and 2) support for the AI Treaty will demonstrate a commitment to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. For AIDV 2025, we wanted to highlight countries that made this commitment. We designated countries that signed as Y⁸⁵³⁹ and EU member states that are party to the Convention through EU signature with P.⁸⁵⁴⁰ In future editions, we may designate countries that have ratified the AI Treaty as Y and those that have signed as P.

⁸⁵³⁹ Council of Europe Treaty Office, *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 225* (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatyenum=225>

⁸⁵⁴⁰ Center for AI and Digital Policy, *Council of Europe AI Treaty* (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.caidp.org/resources/coe-ai-treaty/>

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[Note on Methodology: in AIDV 2020, we asked in Q11 whether countries supported the Social Contract for AI and in AIDV 2021, we asked in Q10 whether countries had endorsed the Universal Guidelines on AI. We described both as “aspirational goals for the Age of AI that go beyond the OECD/G20 AI Principles.” In AIDV 2022 and AIDV 2023, our assessment asked whether countries supported the UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics. We recognize this change disrupts our year-over-year comparisons but reflects our efforts to adapt to the rapid evolution of AI policy.]

Q11: Is the country implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI?

Endorsement alone of the UNESCO Recommendation is not sufficient to determine a country’s AI practices. UNESCO itself has begun a process to track implementation of the Recommendation, but the reporting to date is limited to a few countries. We begin our analysis of implementation with UNESCO documents pertaining to planned partnerships and the 2022 UNESCO AI Needs Assessment Survey in Africa.⁸⁵⁴¹ However, we deepened the analysis by searching for statements made by countries pledging their commitment to implement the UNESCO Recommendation. We tracked preliminary announcements and monitoring mechanisms to be put into place. We then looked to other sources, including regional organizations’ documents, news articles, and NGO reports, to assess implementation.

Determinations in this category show that some countries have called attention to their efforts to implement the UNESCO Recommendation and help other countries to implement it. We also started to identify other countries that have done so in practice without explicit references to the Recommendation. We will proceed in the future with identifying national projects that implement the UNESCO Recommendation.

Completion of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) is one such project. The report produced through the RAM provides a source for assessing countries’ capacity for implementing the UNESCO Recommendation and represents an important action toward implementation.⁸⁵⁴² Given the critical mass of countries that have completed the RAM as of 2025, we consider RAM completion a

⁸⁵⁴¹ UNESCO, *UNESCO Launches the Findings of the Artificial Intelligence Needs Assessment Survey in Africa* (Sept. 28, 2022), https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-findings-artificial-intelligence-needs-assessment-survey-africa?TSPD_101_R0=080713870fab2000b997f8502bad446dd247c280241aa27fd7822794303d84c6660f286b5a18426908ddf3745b1430007a6bae5f69251a9f6e076c992f212add23ade97d15b9e6e1e4b6982ed494862afe0aec119ec0669b25f164dab4a02b42

⁸⁵⁴² UNESCO, *Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM): A Tool of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (2023), <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/ram>

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necessary action for implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation in the ***CAIDP Index 2026***. Countries recognized with Y have completed the RAM and taken significant additional policy actions to implement the UNESCO Recommendation. We acknowledge partial implementation (P) for countries that have completed the RAM or taken policy actions aligned with implementation.

Q12: Has the country's Data Protection Agency endorsed the 2018 GPA Resolution on AI and Ethics, the 2020 GPA Resolution on AI and Accountability, the 2022 GPA Resolution on AI and Facial Recognition, and the 2023 GPA Resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems?

In the fall of 2018, the Global Privacy Assembly (then known as the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners), adopted a foundational Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence.⁸⁵⁴³ The 2018 Declaration emphasized fairness, vigilance, transparency and intelligibility, and measures to reduce unlawful bias and discrimination. In 2020, the GPA adopted a resolution on AI and Accountability.⁸⁵⁴⁴ That resolution sets out a dozen steps for AI accountability, including the preparation of human rights impact assessments. This Declaration was followed by three other key AI-related resolutions: the 2020 resolution on AI and Accountability, the 2022 resolution on AI and Facial Recognition, and the 2023 resolution on Generative Artificial Intelligence Systems.

We believe that support for these resolutions is an important indicator of a country's commitment to AI and data protection and effective implementation of AI policy goals. We checked to see which countries explicitly sponsored the resolutions. We will also consider other notable initiatives in future global surveys of AI policies and practices.

For determinations in this category, we assigned a Y to countries that sponsored the four resolutions, an N to countries that sponsored none of them (or are not represented at the GPA), and P to the countries that sponsored one, two, or three of the resolutions.

As an aside to the Global Privacy Assembly, we would recommend new mechanisms that would allow members to endorse resolutions concerning AI in subsequent years. We will update country ratings accordingly.

⁸⁵⁴³ ICPDPC, *Declaration on Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence* (including list of authors and co-sponsors) (Oct. 23, 2018), http://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20180922_ICDPPC-40th_AI-Declaration_ADOPTED.pdf

⁸⁵⁴⁴ Global Privacy Assembly, *Adopted Resolution on Accountability in the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence* (including list of main sponsors and co-sponsors) (Oct. 2020), <https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GPA-Resolution-on-Accountability-in-the-Development-and-Use-of-AI-EN.pdf>

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Hong Kong

Hong Kong constitutes a special case in our review of national AI policies and practices. Although Hong Kong, an Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR) is not a country, it ranks number 37 in the world for GDP, placing it within the top 40 countries we reviewed for the 2021 index. Hong Kong also has an active data protection agency that has contributed to the formulation of the AI policies endorsed by the Global Privacy Assembly. As Hong Kong is not a country it could not enter into international agreements, such as the OECD AI Principles. So, we treated commitments made by China to these policies as if they were made by Hong Kong. At the same time, we recognized variances in AI practices in the Region as well as the different ratings for compliance with the human rights norms, as determined by Freedom House.

Exemplars

In developing the methodology, we also created a list of exemplar countries for several metrics. For example, on Question 5, concerning meaningful public participation, we were struck by the high level of public engagement in Switzerland. On Question 6, concerning the availability of a countries AI policies and practices, Germany's *Plattform Lernende Systeme* offers a map that shows, by region, AI developments across the country. And the multiple agencies in France, the CNIL and the Defender of Rights, provide a very good example of independent oversight for AI, highlighted by Question 7.

Scoring

We assigned a numeric value of 1.0 to each Y answer, 0.5 to each P answer, and 0.0 to each N answer. We then tallied the numbers, weighing each metric equally, and produced a total score. A top score would be 12, a bottom score is 0. We grouped countries by color gradation and then into tiers based on total scores.

Search Strategy

To locate relevant policy materials, we conducted extensive online searches. Key search terms, often used in combination with AI or Artificial Intelligence, included: Accountability, Algorithmic Transparency, Data Protection, Digital, Ethical, Ethics, Fairness, Governance, Law, Legislation, Policy, Privacy, Regulation, Strategy, and Technology.

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Descriptive Summary

Each country report includes a descriptive summary labelled “Evaluation.” The evaluation does not precisely track the metrics. It is intended to highlight the key findings in the country report and provide a general overview for the reader. For AIDV 2025, we included a brief introduction to highlight the most important developments in the country in 2024.

Language

Our research team has rapidly expanded and diversified, with language expertise in various languages such as English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Uyghur, or Vietnamese. We rely on this language diversity in conducting our analysis of sources in the original language. However, we prefer to use official English translations when they are available because of our international audience and research group. In instances where a country designated an official English translation or original English-language source, we cited the title in English only. When an official translation was not available and the research team translated or relied on machine translators, we refer to the document by the translated English title in the text. In the footnote, we aim to use the title in the English translation, followed by the original language in square brackets.

Citation Format

We have continued the simplified citation format adopted for the ***CAIDP Index 2022*** in subsequent editions. Each citation includes the author and title of the publication. Where there are multiple authors, we provided the name of the institution if available. We include also a date where there was a final publication date. By way of contrast, some citations to websites do not include dates. We included transparent, detailed URLs so the reader can quickly assess the source. In a paragraph where there may be multiple references to the same source, we cited to the source in the first instance, but not in subsequent instances unless there was an intervening reference to a different source.

Gender Balance and Diversity

In the development of the ***CAIDP Index***, the selection of team members and reviewers, we strived to maintain gender balance. We have also tried to promote diversity and regional representation.

Bias

We did not explicitly examine the issue of bias in AI, although this is a widely discussed topic and the focus of extensive research, including bias in datasets. Our view is that the most effective policy response to the problem of bias is the *explicit recognition of Fairness, Accuracy, and Transparency* in AI policy and the implementation of these principles in AI practices. Several questions in the **CAIDP Index** (Q1, Q2, Q7, Q9, Q10, Q11, Q12) make these factors key metrics for the evaluation of a nation's AI policies.

We also recognize the inherent bias in the construction of all surveys, including in the survey focus, framing of questions, and research methodology.⁸⁵⁴⁵

Private Sector Practices

We did not attempt to review or evaluate the practices of private firms or organizations. The **CAIDP Index** attempts only to evaluate the policies and practices of national governments. We do believe that private firms must act in compliance with law and through democratic institutions, and that the evaluation of government policies must ultimately be the measure of private sector practices.⁸⁵⁴⁶

⁸⁵⁴⁵ Max Weber, *Objectivity of Social Science and Science Policy* (1904)

⁸⁵⁴⁶ Further discussion of the methodology underlying the *AI Index* is presented in Marc Rotenberg, *Time to Assess National AI Policies*, Blog@CACM (Nov. 24, 2020), <https://cacm.acm.org/blogs/blog-cacm/248921-time-to-assess-national-ai-policies/fulltext>



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