

The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: "Opportunities, Risks, Visions for a Better Future"

DOHA DECLARATION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Doha, Qatar

27 - 28 May 2025

Preamble:

Welcoming the convening by Qatar's National Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Qatar Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and the Qatar National Cybersecurity Agency for the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights under the theme "Opportunities, Risks, and Visions for a Better Future";

We, the representatives of governments, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), international organizations, private sector companies, academia, and technical experts gathered in Doha, Qatar on 27-28 May 2025 for the event.

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Reaffirming the 1986 United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development and the recognition that every human being and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development.

Recalling international and regional human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and relevant United Nations Human Rights Council and United Nations General Assembly resolutions and other United Nations frameworks, including the United Nations Global Digital Compact and standards on human rights and emerging technologies.

Recognizing that artificial intelligence (AI) can offer transformative potential to advance economic, social, and environmental progress, and that it can be a powerful tool to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals, improve service delivery, and support innovation and justice.

Recognizing that the data-driven character of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies poses an inherent risk to the right to privacy and data protection.

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Recognizing also that the design, development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence models and systems, including in the context of public-private partnerships, without adequate safeguards or in a manner inconsistent with international law, pose risks that could hinder progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Recognizing that digital self-determination, transparency, and explainability are fundamental to the trustworthiness and legitimacy of AI systems.

Emphasizing also the need for governance frameworks, policies, and practices that ensure AI is developed and deployed with a human rights-centric approach, in a manner that is in line with international law, and that is inclusive and accountable.

Recognizing international, regional, national and multi-stakeholder efforts to advance safe, secure and trustworthy AI systems.

Stressing that States have the duty to protect individuals against human rights abuses stemming from the use of AI by private actors, and that companies have the responsibility to respect human rights in line with internationally recognized standards throughout AI lifecycle, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Recommendations and Action Plan

General recommendations

- Embed human rights at the centre of AI development, deployment, and regulation to ensure that these technologies uphold dignity, agency, autonomy, inclusion, and accountability.
- Call for any global governance of AI to address the potentially wide and profound impacts of AI on human rights.
- Ensure active, free, and meaningful participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized voices, in the design and governance of AI systems at the national, regional and international levels in line with international human rights law.
- Monitor and report on online and AI-driven attacks targeting women candidates, politicians, human rights defenders, and activists, and ensure legal protections and access to effective remedies are in place.
- Facilitate international cooperation, capacity-sharing, and equitable access to AI benefits across regions, particularly in support of developing countries, in line with the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility.
- Calling on the international community to monitor and investigate the use of artificial intelligence

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systems in military operations to ensure their compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

- Ensure that the deployment of AI upholds the right to work as a fundamental pillar of human dignity and a decent livelihood, by enhancing rather than displacing human capabilities. AI systems should be designed and governed to empower individuals across cultural, social, intellectual, and political spheres, contributing to inclusive and sustainable human development

We encourage States to:

- Prior to adopting AI, consider what the intended purpose of the AI system is, and whether other safer and less data-intrusive methods and measures can be used
- Ensure human decision-making in the areas of administration of justice, healthcare, social protection, law enforcement and the military domain, and ensure that in all sectors use of AI is complemented by human oversight.

a. Human Rights Due Diligence:

- Conduct human rights due diligence, including human rights impact assessments throughout the AI lifecycle, for the State’s own use of AI; mandate by law such assessments by the private sector and require that such assessments be made public.
- Prohibit any AI applications and tools that pose serious human rights risks that cannot be mitigated and ban military AI systems that do not operate in compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

b. Data protection:

- Adopt and strengthen data protection legislation based on the principles of legality, data minimization, purpose limitation, integrity, confidentiality, accountability and transparency - which ensures equality and individual agency via effective safeguards against unauthorized access, use and disclosure of personal data, including for AI purposes, and protects encryption.
- Establish independent data protection authorities with the mandate and resources to effectively oversee compliance and enforce accountability, including requirements to AI developers to retain detailed records on personal data used for the training of their models for disclosure in the public interest.

c. Transparency and accountability:

- Ensure comprehensive transparency by committing to radically increased transparency in the development of AI systems. Make information available about the kind of systems they use, for what purposes and the safeguards in place to mitigate potential risks.
- Ensure comprehensive transparency and public oversight by mandating the disclosure of AI use in all domains (including political discourse, public services and military applications), mandating algorithmic explainability, enabling independent audits, publishing human rights impact assess-

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ments, and making information accessible on AI systems' design, use, and safeguards.

- Establish robust accountability and redress mechanisms through clear legal responsibilities for all actors involved in AI development and deployment, accessible remedy options for affected individuals, specially trained oversight bodies, and targeted capacity-building for policymakers, public officials, and the general public on the implications of AI.

d. International cooperation and capacity-building:

- Commit to cooperation and information-sharing with national, regional and global stakeholders - including States, the private sector, technical community and civil society - towards harnessing AI for the effective advancement of human rights-based development.
- Ensure that international cooperation on AI governance is grounded in international human rights law, developed inclusively with diverse stakeholders, and guided by a human right by design approach.
- Encourage South-South and cross-regional cooperation among electoral management bodies (EMBs), national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and digital oversight institutions to build shared approaches to AI risks to democracy.
- Invest in and integrate digital and AI-related human rights literacy into educational systems and policymaker training to support informed decision-making, promote lifelong learning, and ensure understanding of the technical, social, ethical, and legal implications of AI.
- Facilitate capacity-building programs for different professional groups and invest in re-skilling and re-training for professional groups particularly impacted by AI, while creating and strengthening social protection measures to cushion against job displacement.

We encourage National Human Rights Institutions to:

- Conduct regular assessments and collaborate with electoral management bodies and media regulators to monitor and assess the human rights impacts of AI and digital technologies - including on governance, democratic processes and in relation to marginalized and vulnerable communities - with particular attention to the rights impacts of AI on freedom of expression, privacy, and in military and law enforcement contexts and ensure adequate institutional mandates, legal authority and resources for effective access to remedy and redress mechanisms.
- Ensure the data security of their complaint handling systems whilst at the same time harnessing the productivity advantages of A.I. in speeding up NHRI work processes.
- Engage in capacity building and research internally and externally to enhance NHRI knowledge on the evolving human rights implications of AI towards informing decision-makers - including in relation to legislative and regulatory proposals, and use of AI tools in State processes - and undertake public awareness raising and digital literacy initiatives.

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- Collaborate with electoral management bodies and media regulators to monitor, assess, and respond to AI-driven threats to democratic participation and electoral integrity.
- Encourage AI regulation that protects workers’ rights and aligns with international human rights standards, while ensuring the accessibility of AI literacy initiatives, auditing ethical deployment, and advocating for women’s meaningful inclusion in AI-augmenting sectors.

We encourage the United Nations system to:

- Support the development of global AI governance grounded on international human rights law by promoting meaningful participation of low- and middle-income countries, multi-stakeholder engagement, in international AI forums and decision-making processes.
- Facilitate participatory and community-driven approaches to AI implementation, particularly in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, and development, to ensure AI serves the needs of diverse and underrepresented populations.
- Coordinate capacity-building and educational initiatives that integrate ethics, human rights, and technology, with a focus on the Global South, and expand access to open educational resources that enhance AI literacy for all.

We encourage the Private Sector to:

- Ensure human rights principles are integrated throughout the AI lifecycle by conducting ongoing human rights due diligence, establishing effective human oversight, cooperating with internal and external human rights oversight mechanisms, and responsible AI teams.
- Ensure responsible and transparent data practices by adhering to standardized, rights-based consent processes, handling data in line with clearly defined purposes, and maintaining detailed records of trained data to enable accountability and disclosure to regulators, rightsholders, or the public when required.
- Support local innovation ecosystems in underserved regions through investment and partnerships.
- Disclose how AI models are trained and make decision-making processes clear to users and regulators.
- Invest in human moderators to complement AI systems when such systems are used to perform content moderation decisions and ensure that AI used for content moderation does not infringe upon human rights.
- Label AI outputs to allow governments, the public and users to make informed choices about content they consume and the scale and nature of AI outputs.
- Ensure transparency in the development and use of AI systems, including algorithmic transparency by documenting decision-making processes and enabling third-party audits, and make

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information available about the kind of systems they use, for what purposes and the safeguards in place to mitigate potential risks.

- Offer regular human rights and AI training for staff and contribute to open educational tools that promote responsible innovation.
- Promote the design of AI systems that enhance human labor, coupled with comprehensive upskilling and reskilling programs—especially for women—to foster an inclusive and future-ready workforce.
- Support local innovation ecosystems in underserved regions through investment and partnerships.

We encourage Civil Society Organizations to:

- Participate in AI governance processes by contributing insights on human rights implications of AI and offering proposals for solutions to challenges posed by AI.
- Engage in structured dialogue with national institutions to co-develop inclusive AI and industrial policies that prioritize human well-being, uphold rights, and promote socially sustainable and responsible business practices.
- Promote inclusive, participatory approaches to AI deployment in public services, ensuring community engagement and dialogue on the human rights and social dimensions of AI.
- Monitor AI applications, report risks, harms, and rights violations and provide support for individuals and communities seeking redress in cases of AI-related harm.
- Engage in public awareness and AI literacy initiatives about AI risks and human rights.
- Monitor digital exclusion and challenge exclusionary practices. Support reskilling and career transition initiatives for displaced workers.

The End
Doha, 28 May 2025