Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization

ALECSO Charter on Artificial Intelligence Ethics

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Information and Communication Technology Department

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Speech of His Excellency, the Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

In light of the rapid digital transformations the world is witnessing, artificial intelligence has become a fundamental pillar in the development of various sectors, especially in the fields of education, culture, and science. In accordance with ALECSO's mission and goals, and recognizing the importance and profound impact of these technologies on the future of upcoming generations, the preparation of the "Charter for the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Education, Culture, and Science" aims to serve as a reference framework to guide the ethical and practical policies for these technologies in the Arab world.

This charter is based on three main pillars: education, culture, and science. In the field of education, the charter aims to harness artificial intelligence to improve the quality of education, provide equal learning opportunities, and support teachers and students through innovative educational tools. In the field of culture, it aims to protect and promote Arab cultural identity, support digital creativity, and ensure the use of AI technologies in documenting and globally disseminating cultural heritage. Finally, in the field of science, the charter seeks to encourage responsible scientific research, enhance collaboration among researchers, and ensure the development of AI technologies that contribute to solving scientific, environmental, climatic, and economic challenges.

This charter aims to establish clear principles that ensure the responsible and fair use of AI, within the framework of the values and principles adopted by ALECSO, which emphasize promoting human values, respecting cultural diversity, and achieving sustainable development. It also addresses critical issues such as data and privacy protection, environmental sustainability, support for scientific research, and ensuring equal access to ethical and responsible AI technologies.

At ALECSO, we believe that AI should be a tool to empower societies, not just a neutral technology. From this standpoint, we call on all concerned parties—educational and research institutions, technology developers, and policymakers—to adopt and implement this charter to ensure a sustainable and fair future built on responsible innovation and open knowledge.

We hope this charter will be a step toward enhancing the Arab world's position in the digital transformation journey and contribute to building an advanced educational, cultural, and scientific environment that supports current and future generations in leveraging the potential of AI for the benefit of all humanity.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar

Director General of ALECSO – Tunisia

Speech of Prof. Dr. Mohamed Jemni – Director of the Information and Communication Technology Department

In an era witnessing unprecedented advancements in AI technologies, it has become imperative to direct this digital revolution toward serving humanity and promoting sustainable development. From this perspective, ALECSO's "Charter on AI Ethics" represents a strategic step aimed at establishing an ethical and regulatory framework for the use of these technologies, ensuring their maximum benefit while respecting human values and the cultural privacy of our communities.

The Information and Communication Technology Department of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) has prepared this charter in collaboration with a group of experts and specialists from the Arab world. This charter aims to establish clear principles governing the use of artificial intelligence in education, culture, and scientific research. In education, AI can help develop smart learning environments that enhance personalized learning and support both teachers and students in innovative ways. In culture, these technologies contribute to preserving heritage, enabling digital creativity, and ensuring broader access to Arab culture. As for scientific research, AI opens new horizons for innovation and helps solve scientific and technical challenges with greater efficiency and precision.

Today, we face a collective responsibility to ensure that artificial intelligence is a driving force for progress and prosperity, not a tool that deepens digital divides or threatens human values. We therefore call on all educational, cultural, and research institutions, as well as decision-makers and developers, to adopt this charter and implement it to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of these technologies.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment at ALECSO's ICT Department to continue promoting responsible digital transformation in the Arab world. We hope this charter will serve as a step toward a brighter future based on innovation, cooperation, and sustainable progress.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Jemni

Director of the Information and Communication Technology Department –ALECSO

Members of the Charter Drafting Committee

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Jemni

Director of the Information and Communication Technology Department –ALECSO

Chairman of the Committee

Dr. Maledh Marrakchi

University of Manouba, Tunisia - Committee Member

Professor Dr. Ashraf Darwish

Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt - Committee Member

List of Expert Representatives from Arab Member States

Country	Expert Name	Institution
Jordan	Eng. Luma Arabiyat	Director of AI and Advanced Technologies Directorate, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship
United Arab Emirates	Mr. Marwan Al Sarkal	Office of the Minister of State for AI, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications
Bahrain	Dr. Fatma Mahdi Hassani Hamad Ali	Director of Education Policies and Development, Ministry of Education
Tunisia	Dr. Youssef Ben Halima	Chargé de Mission, Higher Education Minister Office
Saudi Arabia	Dr. Abdulrahman bin Tariq Habib	Director General of Talent Development, Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA)
Sudan	Dr. Yahya Abdullah Mohamed Hamad	Former Minister of Communications and Information Technology
Syria	Dr. Anas Dahbiya	Director of Technical Development, Ministry of Communications and Technology
Syria	Eng. Najib Salq	Director of Informatics, Ministry of Education
Syria	Dr. Abbi Sandouq	Vice Dean, Faculty of IT Engineering, Damascus University – Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Iraq	Dr. Mohamed Emad Abdul Khaliq	Head of AI Division, Education Development Department
Oman	Dr. Abdulrahman bin Khalifa Al Abdulsalam	Assistant Professor, College of Science, Sultan Qaboos University
Palestine	Eng. Nour Nassar	Director General of Informatics, Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy
Qatar	Ms. Khulood Abdulaziz Al-Manaei	Director of E-Learning and Digital Solutions
Libya	Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Mahdi Amjabr	IT Advisor to the Minister of Education
Egypt	Ms. Awatif Mohamed Eid Al-Haggan	Director of Media Information and Documentation Center, National Committee
Morocco	Mr. Khaled Barrada	Director of Higher Education and Pedagogical Development
Mauritania	Dr. Fatma Abdou Fazil	Ministry of Digital Transformation and Administration Modernization
Yemen	Ms. Nahid Omar Salem Mandouq	Director General of E-Learning, Ministry of Education

Introduction

The world today is witnessing unprecedented developments in technology, especially in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has had a profound and thorough impact on all aspects of human life—from economy and education to health and media. In light of this rapid progress, there is an urgent need to establish a clear ethical framework to regulate the use of AI, ensuring it contributes to sustainable development and the respect for human rights in the Arab world, in line with well-established cultural and human values.

AI systems require ethical principles, laws, and regulations to assess their ethical implications. These systems raise new kinds of ethical issues, including their impact on decision-making, employment, social interaction, healthcare, education, access to information, the digital divide, consumer protection and data protection, the environment, rule of law, security, dual-use concerns, and human rights including freedom of expression, privacy, and non-discrimination. Moreover, AI algorithms can reproduce and reinforce existing biases, exacerbating discrimination, prejudice, and stereotypes.

Many countries around the world started developing national AI strategies to capitalize on its advantages, anticipate developments, and support decision-making, while also minimizing potential negative consequences by governing these systems and setting ethical, legal, and operational guidelines for their use.

Within this context, ALECSO – as the regional body responsible for advancing cultural, scientific, and educational efforts in Arab countries – launched the initiative to develop the « ALECSO charter on AI Ethics ». The charter aims to provide comprehensive guidelines and standards that ensure the responsible use of AI, aligned with principles that promote justice, transparency, and mutual respect.

Since its establishment on July 25, 1970, as one of the organizations of the Arab League, ALECSO has pursued a vision of promoting Arab integration in education, culture, and science, in line with the aspirations of Arab people for comprehensive development. ALECSO's values are based on several core principles that guide its efforts in drafting this charter:

1. **Respect for Human Dignity**: ALECSO believes in the necessity of preserving human dignity and protecting it from any potential violations.
2. **Promotion of Social Justice**: The organization seeks to reduce social and economic disparities within Arab societies by encouraging the fair distribution of technology's benefits.

3. **Sustainable Development**: ALECSO is committed to achieving sustainable development that contributes to the well-being of current and future generations, making responsible AI deployment an effective tool toward this goal.
4. **Responsible Innovation**: The organization promotes innovation that aligns with ethical values, ensuring that AI technologies are designed and applied for the public good.

Accordingly, ALECSO has developed this AI Ethics Charter in the fields of education, culture, and science in harmony with its principles and values, aligned with international conventions and standards, and consistent with the initiatives of its member states in the Arab World.

This charter falls within ALECSO's mandate concerning the ethical aspects of AI use and addresses the issues and challenges within a holistic framework that considers the specificities of Arab-Islamic culture and conforms to international principles, such as those adopted by UNESCO, as well as member states' national initiatives.

The ALECSO Charter on AI Ethics reflects the urgent need for an ethical framework that maximizes the benefits of technology while mitigating its negative effects and preserving Arab identity. The Arab world is characterized by great cultural and social diversity, which requires the formulation of policies that take into account its specificities and needs.

The preparation of this charter represents a pioneering step in promoting the positive and responsible use of technology in the Arab world, based on ALECSO's values and principles. Through this charter, the organization aims to achieve a shared vision that strengthens the Arab world's role as a responsible and active player in the global AI landscape, while safeguarding its identity, culture, and authentic values.

The Global Context of Artificial Intelligence Ethics and International Organization Charters

In recent decades, the world has witnessed a radical transformation in technology, with artificial intelligence (AI) becoming one of the most advanced and influential fields across various sectors. With this rapid progress, concerns have grown about the ethical and legal challenges associated with data-driven AI applications, prompting international organizations to develop charters and standards aimed at ensuring the responsible use of this technology.

The importance of establishing an ethical framework for artificial intelligence stems from the profound impact this technology has on society and the economy. AI holds tremendous potential to improve quality of life, but it poses various challenges that

could have dire consequences for individuals and society. Accordingly, several international organizations have developed charters in this regard, including:

1. **UNESCO**

In November 2021, UNESCO adopted the “Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence”, the first global framework aiming to harness AI systems for the benefit of humanity, individuals, communities, the environment, and ecosystems, while also mitigating harm. The recommendation includes four core values: human rights and fundamental freedoms, environmental prosperity, diversity and inclusion, and peaceful, just, and interconnected societies. It also sets out ten guiding principles such as proportionality, non-maleficence, fairness, safety, privacy, and sustainability.

2. **United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations, through its various institutions, such as the United Nations Group on Artificial Intelligence, has worked to develop strategies aimed at using artificial intelligence to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It has also focused on ensuring that this technology is not used in ways that reinforce discrimination or exacerbate inequality.

3. **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

In May 2019, the OECD issued the “AI Principles”, the first intergovernmental standards guiding AI development. Updated in May 2024, they include five key principles: inclusive growth and well-being, rule of law and human rights, transparency and explainability, robustness and safety, and accountability.

4. **European Union (EU)**

In September 2019, the European Union adopted a document on EU Guidelines on Ethics in Artificial Intelligence: Context and Implementation. This approach is distinguished by its focus on placing humans at the center of AI engagement. The document includes seven core ethical requirements: human agency and oversight; technical robustness and safety; privacy and data protection; transparency; diversity, non-discrimination, and fairness; societal and environmental well-being; and accountability.

The European Union has also taken a strict approach to regulating artificial intelligence, adopting the "Artificial Intelligence Act" in December 2023. This law aims to classify AI applications based on their level of risk and ensure that high-risk applications comply with ethical and legal standards.

5. G20

In its recent meetings, the G20 devoted significant attention to artificial intelligence (AI), emphasizing the importance of developing a common international framework that promotes responsible innovation and ensures the safe and ethical use of technology. Despite the efforts made by international organizations, common challenges remain facing the world in this context, most notably: disparities in technical capabilities, global consensus, and the rapid evolution of technology.

The global framework for AI ethics represents a collective effort to ensure the responsible use of this technology for the benefit of humanity. Cooperation between countries and international organizations is essential to ensure that ethical values remain at the core of technological innovation, promoting justice, sustainability, and global peace.

Concern about the ethics of artificial intelligence is global, but it may not take into account the specificities of certain cultures and civilizations. Therefore, Arab countries and many other countries around the world are attempting to address the ethical and societal implications of AI technologies according to their specificities.

In this context, a number of risks and challenges emerge that could impact the fields of education, science, and culture in the Arab world.

Risks and challenges facing the Arab world in using artificial intelligence applications in education, science, and culture.

In light of the rapid global development in the field of artificial intelligence, Arab countries face numerous challenges that hinder the optimal use of this advanced technology. These challenges range from technical to economic and cultural, making it imperative to address them to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development.

With the continued use of AI applications within the Arab world, particularly high-risk AI systems, their ethical implications have become increasingly important, such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the impact on jobs.

Arab countries, like many countries around the world, face the challenge of striking a balance between promoting innovation and adhering to the ethical principles of AI. Encouraging research and development in AI is essential for economic growth and technological advancement. However, this should not come at the expense of human rights or the cultural identity of Arab countries. Therefore, there must be a balance between the increased use of AI applications and the ethical standards and governance of AI.

1. **Technology and Knowledge Gap**

Many Arab countries suffer from a technology gap due to a lack of digital infrastructure and technical resources. This gap includes weak internet networks, limited cloud computing, and limited access to advanced devices and equipment. The region also faces significant challenges in developing human resources specialized in artificial intelligence, hindering its ability to keep pace with global technological innovations.

2. **Lack of policies and legislation**

Despite the efforts made, many Arab countries lack a clear legal and regulatory framework for the use of artificial intelligence applications. The absence of legislation leads to issues related to privacy, data protection, and accountability when using smart systems. Furthermore, weak national strategic directions in this field limit investment and innovation.

3. **Economic challenges**

Some Arab countries suffer from economic challenges that hinder their investments in technological research and development. This includes a lack of funding allocated to artificial intelligence innovations and weak public-private partnerships, which negatively impact the development of new applications that meet the region's needs.

4. **Social and cultural concerns**

There is social and cultural concern regarding the use of artificial intelligence in Arab societies. Some fear the impact of this technology on values and customs, especially with the spread of generative AI applications produced using data that is not necessarily aligned with Arab cultural characteristics and values. This is in addition to the potential changes they may produce in the labor market and increase unemployment rates. Furthermore, public awareness of AI and its uses remains limited, creating challenges in accepting the technology.

5. **Cybersecurity**

With the increasing use of AI, cybersecurity risks emerge. Smart systems may be exploited, even by novices, to carry out cyberattacks that exploit vulnerabilities in information systems and threaten individuals and institutions. The absence of a robust security infrastructure poses a significant risk to the region's digital space.

6. Unequal Distribution of Technology

Arab countries face challenges related to the disparity between countries with advanced technological resources and those with less developed ones. This disparity leads to significant differences in the ability to adopt AI applications and use them to improve public services such as health and education.

These challenges represent real obstacles for the Arab world in making the most of AI applications. However, confronting them requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening regional cooperation, establishing clear policies and legislation, investing in education and scientific research, and raising community awareness about this technology. By overcoming these obstacles, Arab countries can effectively contribute to the global AI landscape and harness it to serve their development aspirations.

7. Weak Investment in Scientific Research and Development

Arab research in artificial intelligence remains limited compared to that of developed countries, making the Arab world a consumer of technology rather than a contributor to its development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance Arab cooperation in developing unified strategies for the use of artificial intelligence, which will contribute to the exchange of expertise and reduce reliance on external solutions.

Principles and Ethical Considerations of the ALECSO Organization on Artificial Intelligence

The primary objective of establishing the organization is to achieve intellectual unity and raise the level of culture across the Arab world through cultural and scientific education, thereby fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals. Within the framework of these general objectives, the Arab Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization works to develop culture and science, and one of its most prominent tasks is to improve the level of human resources. Arab countries work to promote the development of environmental sciences, cultural education, and communication, as well as the development of the Arabic language and culture. They also work to spread Islam within the Arab world and beyond, and to build bridges of dialogue and cooperation between these cultures and other cultures around the world.

In light of the values and principles espoused by ALECSO, the governing values of artificial intelligence can be outlined in the proposed ethical charter as follows:

1. **Human dignity and respect for human rights**: ALECSO emphasizes that the outputs of artificial intelligence systems must respect human dignity and protect human rights.

Technologies must be applied in a manner that promotes fundamental freedoms, protects privacy, and ensures that the dignity of individuals is not violated in any context.

Human dignity and human rights must be respected, protected, and promoted in accordance with international law, including international human rights law and the rights of children and adolescents, throughout the life cycle of AI systems. Human dignity is linked to the recognition of the inherent worth of every human being, with all people being equal regardless of race, color, descent, sex, age, language, religion, political opinions, national, ethnic, or social origin, economic or social status related to birth, disability, or any other form of discrimination.

No human being or group of people, including children and adolescents, should be subjected to any form of harm, damage, or humiliation, whether physical, economic, social, political, cultural, educational, academic, or psychological, at any stage of the life cycle of AI systems.

Interaction with an AI system should never lead to the objectification of persons, to any other violation of their dignity, or to the commission of a violation or assault of human rights, children's rights, and fundamental freedoms.

2. **Justice, Inclusiveness, Equity, and Non-Discrimination**: ALECSO is committed to promoting justice and equality through AI, ensuring equal access to technologies and opportunities for all members of society, regardless of gender, religion, or socioeconomic background. Technological systems should not reinforce social or economic inequalities.

AI stakeholders should strive to promote social justice and make AI technologies available to all on an equal footing, in a manner consistent with ethical principles, and in a simple and affordable manner, including for marginalized and disadvantaged groups and persons with disabilities, ensuring equal access to the benefits and fruits of AI technologies.

Efforts should also be made to ensure fairness among all members of society, regardless of their differences and special needs, and to prevent any form of discrimination or bias, in favor of or against the interests of an individual or group of individuals, especially in a manner deemed unfair.

AI stakeholders should also make all reasonable efforts to minimize, and avoid reinforcing or perpetuating, discriminatory or biased applications and outcomes throughout the lifecycle of any AI system, in order to ensure fairness and equity in these systems. There should be an effective means of seeking redress for discrimination and biased algorithmic decisions.

Cultural diversity and social inclusion in the use of AI should also be supported, emphasizing that technologies should take into account the cultural and social diversity of the Arab world, promote cultural dialogue and mutual respect between cultures, and ensure inclusiveness in the opportunities offered by these technologies.

3. **Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection**: The development and use of artificial intelligence must be consistent with environmental and sustainable development goals. ALECSO focuses on supporting technological solutions that protect ecosystems and promote environmental sustainability to ensure a secure future for future generations.

4. **Cultural Diversity and Inclusion**: ALECSO supports cultural diversity and social inclusion in the use of artificial intelligence, emphasizing that technologies must take into account the cultural and social diversity of the Arab world. Artificial intelligence must promote cultural dialogue and mutual respect between cultures, ensuring inclusiveness of technological opportunities for all.

5. **Responsible Scientific and Technological Innovation**: ALECSO emphasizes the importance of responsible scientific and technological innovation in the development of artificial intelligence. Technological innovations must contribute to enhancing the well-being of societies and achieving economic and social development, while adhering to high ethical standards.

6. **Respect for Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values**: When developing, distributing, or using an AI system, care must be taken to respect Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values, and not to violate, distort, or abuse them, particularly by violating Islamic sanctities. This must be observed throughout the lifecycle of AI systems, including generative AI systems.

Care must also be taken to prevent young students and pupils from being exposed to any form of cultural, civilizational, religious, or value-based orientation that conflicts with Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values.

7. **Arab and International Cooperation**: ALECSO emphasizes the importance of cooperation among Member States in developing AI in the fields of education, culture, and science in a manner that enhances regional and international partnerships. ALECSO also encourages the exchange of knowledge and expertise to support comprehensive and sustainable technological development.

The Importance of Preparing the ALECSO Charter on Artificial Intelligence Ethics

Artificial intelligence is one of the most prominent technologies witnessing tremendous development in the modern era, having a direct impact on various sectors, such as education, culture, health, economy, and security. Artificial intelligence systems raise new types of ethical challenges that have been addressed by many international bodies and institutions, such as the consequences of decision-making by these systems, as well as the consequences related to employment, work, social interaction, access to information, the digital divide, ensuring security and maintaining order.

These systems also raise other challenges related to the privacy of Arab citizens, such as preserving cultural and ethical values and Arab cultural, scientific, and civilizational heritage, in addition to maintaining data privacy, preventing existing biases from being reproduced and reinforced by the algorithms used, and preventing the exacerbation of discrimination, prejudices, and stereotypes.

We must also prepare for the new scientific capabilities and research methods that artificial intelligence provides, which will impact our perceptions of all sciences, whether natural, medical, social, or human. The challenge for Arab countries, like all countries worldwide, is to strike a balance between enhancing the foundations and climate for innovation and adhering to the ethical principles of AI. Encouraging AI research and development is essential for economic growth and technological progress.

Arab culture and identity, along with cultural diversity within Arab countries, are areas that may be affected by AI in a dual way. On the one hand, it can contribute to developing the methods and content of cultural and creative industries, enhancing the spread of Arab culture. On the other hand, it may pose a challenge if the ability to keep pace with these transformations and participate effectively is not available, which could affect the presence and balance of Arab culture on the global scene.

From this perspective, it has become imperative to pay special attention to education, culture, and learning, with the aim of empowering young people with the basic competencies and skills that enable them to keep pace with these transformations. This includes promoting ethical and critical thinking, encouraging responsible practices in the design and use of AI, and the ability to adapt to the changing demands of the labor market as these technologies develop and spread. With the increasing reliance on artificial intelligence, there is a need to establish an ethical framework that takes into account the cultural and social specificities of Arab countries and provides clear guidelines to ensure the responsible and effective use of this technology, such as:

First: Promoting Identity, Cultural and Religious Values

Arab countries represent a rich and diverse cultural environment. Ethical, humanitarian, and religious values are an essential part of their identity. By developing the Arab Charter for the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the development and application of this technology can be guided in a manner that respects local traditions and values, while maintaining a balance between modernity and cultural identity.

Second: Ensuring Justice and Equality

The Charter aims to address the ethical challenges that may arise from the use of AI, such as discrimination or inequality. By establishing clear principles, the benefits of technology can be ensured fairly among all members of society, with a focus on reducing social and economic gaps within Arab countries.

Third: Promoting Responsible Innovation

The Charter encourages the adoption of innovative practices that consider ethical and legal dimensions, enhancing communities' confidence in AI. It also provides a framework that supports research and development in this field, while adhering to rules that protect human rights and privacy.

Fourth: Regional and International Cooperation

The Arab Charter can serve as a starting point for enhancing cooperation between Arab countries in the field of AI, enabling the exchange of expertise and knowledge, and enhancing technical capabilities in the region. It also contributes to promoting dialogue with the international community on technology ethics, positioning Arab countries at the forefront of the global arena.

Fifth: Protecting Future Generations

Artificial intelligence represents a powerful tool that can be used to achieve sustainable development. By developing an ethical charter, we can ensure that this technology will be a means of improving the quality of life and protecting the rights of future generations, rather than a source of harm or challenges.

The development of the ALECSO Charter on Ethics for Artificial Intelligence is an important strategic step to guide the path of technology in Arab countries, enhancing its benefits and reducing its risks. This charter reflects a unified vision for sustainable development and responsible innovation, and constitutes a solid foundation for building a technological future that enhances the well-being of Arab societies and preserves their values and cultural and historical identity.

General Objectives of the ALECSO Charter on Artificial Intelligence Ethics

The general objectives of the charter include the following:

1. **Ensuring the ethical use of artificial intelligence technologies**: Establishing ethical frameworks and standards for the use of artificial intelligence in Arab countries, in line with ALECSO's values of promoting education, culture, and science, while protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. **Protecting Privacy and Human Dignity**: Emphasizing respect for privacy and the protection of individuals' personal data, and ensuring that artificial intelligence is not used in a manner that conflicts with human dignity, in line with ALECSO's objectives of promoting human rights.

3. **Encouraging Responsible Innovation and Scientific Research**: Supporting innovation in the field of artificial intelligence to contribute to the development of science, technology, and disaster management in relevant sectors, while emphasizing the need for technological research and applications in this field to be consistent with ethical principles.

4. **Promoting Justice and Social Equality**: Contributing to achieving justice and equality among all economic and social groups and ensuring equal opportunities in science. Emphasizing that artificial intelligence should benefit all members of society by reducing gaps in access to technology, education, and research.

5. **Promoting Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection**: Directing artificial intelligence toward promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment and ecosystems, in line with ALECSO's efforts to support comprehensive and sustainable development in Arab countries.

6. **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion**: Encouraging the use of artificial intelligence in a manner that ensures respect for cultural and social diversity in the Arab world, with a focus on inclusive access to technology and innovation for all segments of the population, thus enhancing integration and cooperation among Member States.

7. **Preserving the Arab Cultural Identity and Promoting Arab Heritage**: Encouraging the use of AI technologies to document, protect, and disseminate Arab cultural heritage in a manner consistent with Arab values and traditions, while avoiding any violations or distortions of this heritage.

8. **Positive Interaction with Other Cultures**: Encouraging the use of AI to promote positive cultural interaction with the world by developing technologies that contribute to cultural dialogue and knowledge exchange, while preserving Arab cultural identity.

9. **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability**: Emphasizing the need for full transparency in the use and development of AI technologies, while establishing accountability mechanisms that ensure the ethical and responsible use of these technologies.

10. **Commitment to International Human Rights Standards**: Ensuring that all AI applications in Arab countries are consistent with international human rights standards, thus enhancing global cooperation and ensuring the ethical use of technology.

Methodology for Developing the Charter

1. **Defining Objectives and Areas of Application**: The objectives and goals of the AI Ethics Charter were defined, taking into account the overall objectives of ALECSO and the principles for the responsible use of AI adopted by international organizations. The types of AI applications covered by this Charter were also identified.

2. **Identifying stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners**: Key stakeholders were identified and engaged, including AI developers, ethicists, experts in various fields, legal professionals, government representatives, industry leaders, and civil society representatives in Arab countries.

3. **Holding roundtables for the Charter's founding committee at the Arab level**: Regular meetings were held at ALECSO headquarters, as well as virtual meetings, to conduct a comprehensive review of current AI ethics rules, guidelines, and principles in light of ALECSO's principles and recommendations. All laws and Regulations issued by government agencies in Arab countries, in addition to reviewing international standards and discussing their compatibility with Arab customs, traditions, culture, and identity.

4. **Holding meetings and consultations with experts from Arab countries**: Meetings and consultations were held at ALECSO headquarters and online with experts from various fields relevant to this charter.

5. **Analytical study of Arab and international charters**: The committee reviewed, studied, and analyzed existing Arab and international charters related to artificial intelligence, with the aim of ensuring that the ALECSO charter is consistent with the

ethics proposed by Arab countries, particularly in the fields of education, culture, and science.

6. **Drafting the charter**: The charter's founding committee and experts from Arab countries prepared a draft, which was presented to a wide range of stakeholders at a general conference.

7. **Reviewing the charter**: The charter was reviewed by ethics experts from Arab countries to ensure the accuracy of the wording and its compatibility with the values and cultural norms of Arab countries. This is critical for widespread acceptance and adoption.

Definitions and Concepts

The definitions and concepts provided in this document are used to define the framework and basic concepts within which the topic of artificial intelligence and its ethics will be addressed. These definitions aim to ensure clarity of meaning and a unified common understanding among all stakeholders, thus contributing to the accurate and effective achievement of the document's objectives.	
Term/Concept	Definition and Interpretation
Artificial Intelligence	Artificial Intelligence has several definitions. For the purposes of this charter, AI is defined as any system based on digital technologies and algorithms capable of processing data and information in a manner similar to intelligent human behavior. It typically involves features such as reasoning, learning, perception, prediction, planning, control, and command.
Generative Artificial Intelligence	An AI system based on algorithms and models that automatically generate content in response to requests written in conversational interfaces in natural language. Instead of simply formatting existing web pages, generative AI generates new content by relying on existing content. Content can appear in forms that include all symbolic representations of human thought: text written in natural language, images (including photographs,

	digital paintings, and animations), videos, music, and software code.
Artificial Intelligence Ethics	A framework of principles ensuring fairness, transparency, respect, accountability, and non-discrimination in AI development and deployment.
ALECSO Charter of Ethics	A guiding framework developed by the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to regulate and guide the ethical and responsible use of AI technologies in Arab countries. The charter focuses on achieving a balance between technological innovation and the preservation of human and cultural values in the Arab region.
Artificial Intelligence Governance	Artificial Intelligence governance refers to the set of policies, regulations, and procedures aimed at regulating the development, deployment, and use of AI technologies in a responsible and transparent manner, taking into account ethical, social, and legal considerations.
Ethical Governance in Artificial Intelligence	Refers to a set of policies and procedures designed to ensure that AI is used in a responsible, sustainable manner that is consistent with human values.
Transparency in AI Systems	The ability of AI systems to provide clear and understandable information about how decisions are made, ensuring accountability of the systems used.
Accountability in Artificial Intelligence Systems	It means holding individuals or institutions accountable for the decisions of AI systems and their social, economic, or ethical consequences.
Privacy	It is the right of individuals to protect their personal data and to ensure that it is not used or shared in ways that violate their rights, without their consent, or that impact their personal lives.
Biased	Refers to systematic errors or unfair prejudices in AI systems that lead to discriminatory or inaccurate outcomes for certain groups of people. Bias can arise

	in various ways and can have serious ethical, social, and legal consequences.
Discrimination	Refers to the unfair or biased treatment of individuals or groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, disability, or social or economic status.
Fairness in Artificial Intelligence Systems	AI systems must make fair and unbiased decisions, ensuring that no individual or group is subjected to systematic abuse.
Sustainable Development	The use of artificial intelligence in a way that contributes to meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Algorithmic Bias	Refers to errors or biases resulting from designing or training AI systems with biased algorithms, leading to unfair or discriminatory outcomes.
Responsible Innovation	The development of AI technologies and products with ethical, social, and environmental considerations in mind.
Data Governance	A set of policies and rules that regulate how data is collected, processed, and used in AI systems in a responsible and safe manner.
Cultural Diversity	Respecting different cultural and social identities and ensuring that AI technologies are inclusive of all without marginalizing any culture or group.
High-Risk Artificial Intelligence Systems	The application of AI that may directly impact people's lives, such as healthcare, education, and the judiciary, and requires strict standards of ethical governance.
Human Rights & Artificial Intelligence	The fundamental principles that AI systems must adhere to in order to ensure the protection of human dignity, equality, and justice.
Cybersecurity	The protection of AI systems from cyber threats and attacks that could lead to privacy breaches, service

	disruptions, or alter the way the systems operate by changing outputs.
Explainable Artificial Intelligence	The design of AI systems whose operation can be understood and whose results can be clearly explained to users.
Environmental Sustainability	The use of artificial intelligence to support global efforts to combat climate change and conserve natural resources.
Laws in the Context of Artificial Intelligence	A set of legal rules established by legislative bodies to regulate the development and use of artificial intelligence technologies. These laws aim to ensure the safe and responsible use of these technologies, while protecting the rights of individuals and communities, including data privacy, combating algorithmic bias, and ensuring transparency. Accountability in AI systems.
Legislations in the Context of Artificial Intelligence	Refers to the legal framework that is formulated and adopted to define the principles and standards governing the development and application of AI systems. These legislations include rules related to data governance, algorithmic transparency, privacy protection, cybersecurity, and regulating the use of AI in high-risk sectors such as health, education, and the judiciary.
National Artificial Intelligence Strategies	In the context of AI, national strategies refer to the comprehensive plans and policies developed by governments to regulate and guide the development and use of AI technologies to serve national priorities. These strategies aim to promote innovation, support the economy, and achieve sustainable development while ensuring the ethical and responsible use of technology.
Developers of Artificial Intelligence Systems	A person who determines the purpose, designs, builds, performs technical maintenance, adjusts, or modifies an AI system.

Providers of Artificial Intelligence Systems	A natural or legal person who makes an AI system available to a user, either directly or through digital networks or digital platforms, free of charge or for a fee.
Users of Artificial Intelligence Systems	A natural or legal person who benefits directly or indirectly from the outputs of an AI system.
Artificial Intelligence System Lifecycle	The cyclical process adopted in the stages of designing, building, producing, operating, and evaluating an AI system, leading up to its final disposal.
Data	A collection of facts in their raw or unorganized form, such as numbers, letters, pictures, video, audio recordings, or emojis.
Personal Data	Any data, regardless of its source or form, that could lead to the specific identification of an individual, or make it possible to identify him/her directly or indirectly.
Sensitive Data	Any personal data that includes a reference to an individual's racial, ethnic, religious, innate, or political origin, as well as security and criminal data, biometric data that identifies an individual, genetic and hereditary data, health data, and data indicating that one or both parents are unknown.

Principles and Ethical Considerations of the ALECSO Charter on Artificial Intelligence

The primary objective of establishing the organization is to achieve intellectual unity and raise the level of culture among the Arab world regions through cultural and scientific education, to carry out its mission and achieve its goals. Within the framework of these general objectives, the Arab Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization works to develop culture and science, and one of its most prominent tasks is to improve the level of human resources. Arab countries work to promote the development of environmental sciences, cultural education, and communication, as well as the development of the Arabic language and culture. They also work to spread Islam in the Arab world and

beyond, and to build bridges of dialogue and cooperation between these cultures. and other cultures around the world.

In light of the values and principles adopted by ALECSO, the recommendations and implementation methods for AI in the proposed ethical charter can be reviewed as follows:

1. Human dignity and respect for human rights

The use of AI technologies in education, culture, and scientific research must respect human dignity and protect human rights. Technologies must be applied in a manner that promotes fundamental freedoms, protects privacy, and ensures that the dignity of individuals is not violated in any context. Human dignity and rights must be respected, protected, and promoted in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, throughout the life cycle of AI systems. Human dignity is linked to the recognition of human values.

The inherent intrinsic value of every human being, in which all people are equal regardless of race, color, descent, sex, age, language, religion, political opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, economic or social status related to birth, disability, or any other form of discrimination.

No human being or group of people, including children and adolescents, should be subjected to any form of harm, damage, or humiliation, whether physical, economic, social, political, cultural, educational, academic, or psychological, during any stage of the life cycle of an AI system.

Interaction with an AI system should never lead to the objectification of persons, to their dignity being otherwise compromised, or to a violation or assault of human and children's rights and fundamental freedoms.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Education in the Arab world that relies on AI technologies must respect human dignity and human rights. This is achieved by providing a fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory learning environment that ensures equal educational opportunities for all individuals and promotes the principles of intellectual freedom, equality, and respect for cultural and social diversity. Educational institutions must also adhere to policies that prohibit all forms of violence, bullying, and exclusion, while providing mechanisms to protect the rights of students and teachers and ensure their safety within the educational environment.
Culture	Arab culture based on AI technologies must adhere to the principles of human dignity and respect for human rights, by promoting cultural production that reflects the values of justice, tolerance, and freedom of expression, while preserving Arab cultural identity, respecting cultural and social diversity, and ensuring everyone's access to knowledge and cultural resources without discrimination.
Scientific Research	Scientific research in the Arab world should contribute to promoting human dignity and respect of human rights through the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI). This should ensure that research technologies are fair, transparent, and free from bias, while protecting data, ensuring access to knowledge for all, and promoting freedom of scientific research that contributes to serving society.

2. Justice, Equity, and Non-Discrimination

ALECSO is committed to promoting justice and equality through AI, ensuring equal access to technologies and opportunities for all members of society, regardless of gender, religion, or socioeconomic background. AI should not reinforce social or economic inequalities. It should also work to ensure fairness among all members of society, regardless of their differences and special needs, and to prevent any form of discrimination or bias, whether for or against the interests of an individual or group of people, especially in a manner deemed unfair.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems in education should promote justice, equity, and non-discrimination, ensuring equal learning opportunities and fair treatment for all students, without bias against marginalized groups, including those with special needs. Therefore, algorithms must be designed to be non-discriminatory, trained on diverse and representative data. Educational tools must also be flexible to meet the needs of all students.
Culture	AI applications in cultural fields must adhere to the principles of justice and equity, ensuring equal access to cultural resources without discrimination based on race, gender, religion, social, or economic status.
Scientific Research	AI-powered scientific research must adhere to the principles of justice and equity, providing equal opportunities for all researchers and communities, without bias or discrimination based on race, gender, religion, social, or economic background. AI-based scientific research must also take into account equity among members of society.

3. Inclusivity and Impartiality

AI actors should strive to promote social justice and make AI technologies available to everyone on an equal footing, in a manner consistent with ethical principles, and in a simple and affordable manner, including the guarantee that marginalized and disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities will have equal access to the benefits and outcomes of AI technologies. AI actors should also make all reasonable efforts to minimize, and avoid reinforcing or perpetuating, discriminatory or biased applications and outcomes throughout the lifecycle of any AI system, in order to ensure fairness and equity in these systems. There should be an effective way to seek redress when faced with discrimination and biased algorithmic decisions.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems in education should be designed to be free of bias, ensuring fair decisions for all students regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, or learning ability. Therefore, models should be trained on diverse and balanced data, with rigorous testing to detect and correct any biases. Educators and institutions should also have an oversight role in reviewing AI decisions, emphasizing that AI is an aid to human decision-making, not a replacement, to ensure equitable education for all.
Culture	AI systems must be designed to be free of biases that could reflect an inaccurate or biased image of different cultures. This requires training models on diverse and balanced data that fairly represents all cultures, with algorithms periodically reviewed to detect and correct any bias. Experts in cultural studies should also be involved to ensure accurate representation and promote inclusivity, contributing to the development of AI systems that fairly and objectively reflect cultural diversity.
Scientific Research	Scientific research, especially when using artificial intelligence, must be supported by principles of impartiality, ensuring that its outcomes are accurate, fair, and representative of all groups without exclusion or leading to subjective or discriminatory results.

4. Sustainability and Environmental and Climate Protection

The development and use of artificial intelligence must be consistent with environmental and sustainable development goals to ensure a secure future for future generations. AI systems in education must also be subject to continuous assessment of their humanitarian, social, cultural, economic, and environmental consequences to ensure their contribution to sustainability in accordance with international and national sustainable development goals. This requires full awareness of the impact of AI on resource consumption, carbon emissions, and social impact, while developing sustainable solutions in education, culture, and scientific research that reduce environmental impact and promote the responsible use of technology, in line with national policies and the global sustainable development goals.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Education should be a leading field in achieving sustainability and environmental protection by ensuring the use of environmentally friendly AI systems and by incorporating educational content that teaches students how to conserve the environment through AI-based technical solutions. AI systems should be developed and deployed with a commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and climate protection. This includes prioritizing energy-efficient AI models, reducing carbon footprints, and supporting applications that promote environmental conservation. Furthermore, AI ethics should emphasize the role of education in sustainability by raising awareness among developers, companies, and users about the responsible use of AI and its impact on the environment and climate.
Culture	Environmental and sustainability aspects should be considered when producing cultural content and using AI systems. AI should also promote cultural sustainability by respecting environmental traditions and local knowledge related to ecosystems. Traditional cultures and indigenous communities play a crucial role in environmental conservation and managing natural resources in sustainable ways, and it is essential that AI technologies support these practices rather than undermine them. Artificial intelligence should be employed to protect biodiversity, promote environmental solutions that are consistent with cultural values, and encourage sustainable development that balances technological progress with ecosystem conservation.

Scientific Research	Encourage scientific research in the field of environmentally friendly artificial intelligence by developing or focusing on algorithms that consume less energy or to better control their impact on the environment and climate. Scientific research in the field of artificial intelligence must adhere to the highest ethical standards to ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability at all stages of research and development. Research should be directed toward responsible innovation, with a focus on societal benefits and environmental sustainability, while avoiding any uses that may harm humans or ecosystems as a result of the use of artificial intelligence technologies.

5. Respect for Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values

When developing, distributing, or using an artificial intelligence system, special care must be taken to respect Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values, and not to violate, distort, or offend them, particularly by violating Islamic sanctities. This must also be ensured throughout the lifecycle of AI systems, including generative AI systems.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Care must be taken to prevent young students and pupils from being exposed to any aspect of cultural, civilizational, religious, or ethical values that conflict with the Arab cultural heritage and Islamic beliefs and values through AI systems.

Culture	AI technologies used to document heritage must ensure that they preserve its authenticity and Arab identity, accurately reflecting it without distortion or alteration. This requires developing models based on reliable sources that accurately represent culture, while avoiding bias or manipulation of information. Researchers and institutions must also ensure that AI enhances understanding of heritage and preserves its identity, without compromising or distorting cultural values, thus contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations. They must also ensure that Arab cultural heritage resources are made available to all in a fair manner, by presenting these resources in multiple languages and providing accessibility tools that enable various groups to benefit from them. AI systems in the Arab world must also commit to supporting and promoting the Arabic language by developing AI models that accurately process the language, preserve its authenticity, and ensure its use in ethical and responsible ways. This requires providing Arabic natural language processing techniques that respect linguistic rules and cultural heritage, while avoiding linguistic biases and distortions in translation or analysis.
Scientific Research	Scientific research must be designed to align with the ethical, social, and cultural values of Arab societies, without negatively impacting the scientific and cultural heritage or cultural identity. Researchers must also adhere to ethical standards that respect religious beliefs and societal values, while ensuring that studies and research are free of any content that offends or distorts Arab culture. Universities and research institutions must also play an active role in publishing research that respects Arab culture and encourages Arab dialogue between modern science and cultural heritage.

6. Safety and Reliability

Unintended harm to human safety, society, the environment, and ecosystems must be prevented and avoided throughout the lifecycle of AI systems.

It is also necessary to ensure the reliability of AI systems by measuring the operational reliability and dependability of the system, its specific functions, and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. It is also necessary to ensure comprehensive documentation of the various development stages and an internal automated system for monitoring and alerting in the event of a defect in the efficiency and output of AI systems.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Content must be accurately and scientifically verified. Information generated using artificial intelligence technologies must be accurate, non-misleading, and consistent with approved educational curricula.
Culture	Applications of artificial intelligence in cultural fields must ensure safety and reliability. These technologies must be used in a manner that preserves the accuracy and authenticity of cultural content and prevents the spread of misleading information or information that could harm cultural and societal heritage. Cultural information produced or processed using artificial intelligence must also be subject to strict scientific standards, ensuring the authenticity of sources and avoiding errors or biases that could distort historical or cultural facts.
Scientific Research	AI systems used in scientific research must adhere to strict security and safety standards to ensure data protection, prevent misuse of results, and maintain the credibility of scientific research. This requires developing protocols that include data encryption, access control, and secure storage of sensitive information. The reliability and accuracy of AI models must also be tested to prevent the spread of misleading results. Furthermore, ethical guidelines should be developed to prevent the harmful use of AI, while researchers should receive training on cybersecurity practices and the responsible use of these technologies.

7. Privacy and Personal Data

Privacy is an essential right to preserve human dignity, defend autonomy, and protect human rights. Privacy must be respected, preserved, and promoted throughout the life cycle of AI systems. The collection, use, sharing, storage, correction, deletion, processing,

management, and any other handling of data related to AI systems must be consistent with the values and principles outlined herein and with national legal frameworks related to personal data. AI outputs must not be exploited to defame, blackmail, or harm individuals in any way, other than as authorized by the data subjects through their prior, explicit, and informed consent. Data governance principles must be followed to ensure the protection and security of personal data, as well as the ability to correct and erase it in accordance with applicable national laws.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems in education must protect the privacy of students and teachers by securely collecting data, adhering to transparent policies, and preventing unauthorized access or misuse of personal information. This requires the application of encryption and anonymization techniques, and the establishment of clear policies regarding data storage and sharing. Users must also be given control over their information, including the right to delete or revoke their data when needed, to ensure a safe learning environment that respects privacy.
Culture	AI applications in the cultural field must respect individual privacy, while ensuring the protection of personal data in accordance with Arab societal values and principles, so that it is used in responsible ways that preserve cultural identity and protect personal rights. Cultural institutions and digital platforms using AI must also adhere to strict policies to protect individuals' personal data, preventing any unauthorized use of this information.

Scientific Research	Prior consent must be obtained for the use of individual data, and research findings or applications must not be misused in a way that violates individuals' privacy or deprives them of their fundamental rights. This requires adherence to ethical and legal standards that protect personal data, while imposing restrictions on its collection and use. Researchers and institutions must also ensure that AI applications respect human rights and prevent any practices that could lead to discrimination or infringe upon individual freedoms, thus promoting the fair and responsible use of technology.

8. Cybersecurity and Data Protection

Cybersecurity and data protection are essential pillars of the ethical development and deployment of AI. As AI systems increasingly rely on vast amounts of sensitive and personal data, ensuring robust security measures is essential to prevent breaches, unauthorized access, and misuse of data. Lack of cybersecurity can lead to identity theft, financial fraud, and the erosion of public trust in AI technologies. Ethical AI must include strong encryption, access controls, and continuous monitoring to protect user data while complying with privacy regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other global frameworks. Furthermore, AI systems must be designed to minimize data collection, promote transparency in data handling, and empower users to control their personal information. Prioritizing cybersecurity not only protects individuals but also supports the integrity and accountability of AI-driven decision-making.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Educational institutions and AI developers must adopt robust measures to protect the data of students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders from cyber breaches and threats, while ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of data. This requires the use of encryption technologies, multi-factor authentication, and regular security audits to detect and address vulnerabilities. Compliance must also be adhered to. Local, Arab, and international data protection regulations should be implemented, while reducing the retention period for sensitive information. Additionally, teachers and students should be trained in digital security to protect them from cyber threats, ensuring a safe and reliable learning environment.
Culture	Cultural institutions in the Arab world must adhere to cybersecurity and data protection principles to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage and digital content, protect the privacy of users and creators, and prevent the illegal exploitation of cultural and heritage information. Cultural institutions must also implement advanced technologies to protect digital archives, manuscripts, artwork, and heritage information from hacking, alteration, or unauthorized use.
Scientific Research	Scientific research in the Arab world must adhere to the highest standards of cybersecurity and data protection to ensure the confidentiality and security of research information, protect the rights of researchers, and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive scientific data, thus enhancing confidence in research and ensuring its integrity. Arab countries should also cooperate in developing unified cybersecurity policies for scientific research and exchange expertise and technologies to ensure the protection of scientific data at the regional level.

9. Transparency, Explainability, and Auditability

The principles of transparency, explainability, and auditability are essential for building trust in AI systems and technologies throughout their lifecycle. Therefore, it is essential to have the ability to track the stages of automated decision-making, particularly those that may lead to harm or adverse effects. AI systems must also be traceable, auditable, contextually relevant, and impactful. Furthermore, the overall and actual accuracy, error rates, and other metrics that demonstrate the accuracy and comprehensiveness of AI technology outputs must be disclosed, taking into account the limitations resulting from data protection laws. It may be necessary to strike a balance between the principles of transparency and explainability and other principles, such as the right to privacy and the principles of safety and security.

People should also be fully informed of any decision made based on information derived from AI systems or AI algorithms, including any decision that affects their safety or human rights and children's rights. In such cases, they should be able to request clarification from the relevant AI actors. Individuals should also be able to understand the reasons for any decision that affects their rights and freedoms, as well as submit requests for review and correction of the decision.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems used in education should be transparent, allowing students, teachers, and stakeholders to understand how decisions are made, the use of data, and any potential limitations or biases. Transparency is essential to building trust, accountability, and fairness, especially when AI is used for grading, personalized learning, or education management. This includes providing clear explanations of the decisions made by these systems to ensure their fair and reliable use.

Culture	Cultural activities, especially those powered by AI technologies, must adhere to the principles of transparency, interpretability, and scrutiny to ensure the clarity of knowledge sources, the authenticity of cultural content, and the ability to review and analyze cultural production and dissemination processes in a manner that preserves authenticity and credibility. Support research and technologies that enhance the understanding and interpretation of Arab cultural content in a scientifically accurate manner, such as explainable AI and big data analysis to more accurately understand cultural patterns.
Scientific Research	Clear details should be published on how AI systems are trained, the databases and algorithms used, and the carbon footprint calculations used to train these models. This requires accurate documentation of development processes, including disclosure of data sources, testing criteria, and potential model limitations. Researchers and the scientific community should also be able to review and analyze these models to ensure integrity, reduce bias, and enhance transparency in AI-powered scientific research.

10. Responsibility and Accountability

Authorities involved in AI systems should bear the moral and legal responsibility they owe under national and international law, particularly those relating to state duties, for AI actors physically present within their territory and under their effective control, throughout the lifecycle of an AI system. Ethical responsibility for decisions and actions based in any form on an AI system should always be ultimately attributed to AI actors, based on their respective roles in the AI system's lifecycle. Appropriate oversight, consequences assessment, and review mechanisms, including whistleblower protection, should be in place to ensure accountability for AI systems and their consequences throughout their lifecycle.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Institutions and developers must bear full responsibility for the ethical design and implementation of AI systems, while ensuring human oversight and preventing harmful biases. Responsibility also includes protecting privacy, collecting data responsibly, and addressing any negative impacts to ensure equitable and safe education.
Culture	Institutions and individuals working in the Arab cultural field must adhere to the principles of responsibility and accountability to ensure the preservation of cultural identity, the protection of heritage, and the promotion of societal values. They must also bear the consequences of publishing or producing any cultural content that may impact society. Clear oversight and accountability systems must be developed for media and cultural institutions to assess their adherence to ethical and professional principles, with corrective measures implemented in the event of violations. Cultural entities must also be responsible for verifying information sources before publishing them.
Scientific Research	Artificial intelligence research should focus on developing technologies that benefit society, while avoiding applications that may cause environmental, social, economic, health, or engineering harm. This requires directing innovation toward sustainable solutions that enhance individual well-being and respect ethical values, taking into account the potential impacts of AI on societies and the environment. Researchers and institutions must also adhere to responsible research practices and ensure the safe and equitable use of smart technologies, contributing to sustainable development without harming resources or social balance.

11. Integrity and Non-Falsification

The vulnerability of individuals, groups, or countries, whether this vulnerability is material, cognitive, political, or psychological, should not be exploited to gain

competitive advantages at the expense of these parties or exploit their resources during the design, distribution, or use of AI systems. AI systems must not be used in any way that exploits ambiguity or imposes ambiguity on their outputs, nor must they be used to indirectly influence people's cognitive or psychological states, to make decisions or adopt approaches that serve the developer or operator of the AI system or its beneficiaries, particularly to increase profits or garner support. Furthermore, all stakeholders throughout the life of an AI system must refrain from distorting, falsifying, or exaggerating the capabilities or benefits of the system, or claiming them for the purpose of profit or reputation.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Education in the Arab world must adhere to the principles of academic integrity, transparency, and combating counterfeiting to ensure the quality of education and protect students from unethical practices that harm the credibility of educational institutions. Curricula must also include specialized courses in the ethics of academic integrity, while educating students about the importance of adhering to sound research practices and avoiding plagiarism.
Culture	Cultural institutions and creators in the Arab world must adhere to the principles of scientific research, integrity, and transparency, avoiding any form of falsification or distortion of cultural content. This is to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage and the accuracy of circulated information, and to enhance trust in Arab cultural production. Media outlets and cultural platforms must commit to transmitting historical, literary, and artistic information from reliable sources, while providing scientific evidence to support its authenticity, to prevent the dissemination of false or fabricated information.

Scientific Research	Artificial intelligence systems in scientific research must maintain academic integrity by ensuring transparency in data processing, preventing plagiarism, and promoting ethical research practices to ensure the credibility of scientific knowledge. This requires the responsible use of AI, citing sources, verifying the authenticity of content, and disclosing its role in the research. Furthermore, the use of generative AI in writing refereed scientific research, university dissertations, research projects, and other publications must be avoided, to ensure academic integrity, scientific accuracy, and adherence to established research standards.

12. Awareness and Knowledge

Efforts should be made to enhance public awareness and knowledge of AI technology, as well as the value of data, through open and accessible education and training, civic engagement, digital skills, and AI ethics training, so that all members of society can make informed decisions about their use of AI systems and enjoy protection from undue influence. Educational efforts aimed at raising awareness of the consequences of AI systems should be based on the implications of these systems for human rights and the enjoyment of human rights, the rights of the child, Arab culture and civilization, Islamic values, the environment, and ecosystems.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Awareness and knowledge of AI technology and the value of data should be enhanced through open education, digital skills training, and AI ethics, to ensure informed decision-making and protect individuals from undue influence. This requires making training programs available to all, promoting civic engagement, and developing educational curricula that demonstrate how to use AI safely and ethically, contributing to building a society capable of benefiting from technology while fully aware of its challenges and ethics.

Culture	Educational and awareness-raising programs should be launched to educate Arab communities on how to use artificial intelligence to preserve heritage, analyze cultural data, and produce artistic and literary content in a manner that respects cultural values.
Scientific Research	Graduate programs and scientific research at Arab universities should include specialized courses in artificial intelligence, with a focus on how it can be used in data analysis, modeling, and scientific predictions. Research and development in natural language processing for Arabic should also be supported to ensure that AI applications are capable of understanding nuanced dialects and cultural expressions without distortion or marginalization.

13. Humans are responsible for supervision and decision-making.

The sovereignty of the human mind, cognitive power, and human autonomy must remain in all applications that rely on artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence systems may not be used to negatively influence or manipulate cognitive biases, nor to influence, imitate, falsify, or inaccurately convey feelings, emotions, beliefs, and minds. Care should be taken to ensure that moral and legal responsibility for any stage of the lifecycle of an AI system can always be attributed to natural persons or legal entities, particularly in cases of redress related to AI systems. While humans may sometimes choose to rely on AI systems for reasons of effectiveness, the power to relinquish control in limited contexts remains with humans. Humans can use AI systems to make decisions and perform actions, but no AI system can ever replace humans with regard to ultimate responsibility and accountability. In general, decisions regarding individuals' educational, academic, or professional paths should not be left solely to AI systems.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems in education must operate under human oversight to ensure ethical decision-making, prevent errors, and maintain accountability, with teachers and administrators remaining in ultimate control. Therefore, AI should not operate autonomously, as it may make mistakes or misinterpret student needs. Teachers and administrators should be involved in monitoring recommendations and intervening when needed. Personalized learning should not be solely AI-based; teachers should be an integral part of the guidance process to ensure balanced educational outcomes.
Culture	Human oversight must remain a fundamental element of the use of AI in Arab cultural fields, to ensure that decisions related to cultural production, heritage preservation, and knowledge dissemination are consistent with cultural values, societal traditions, and ethical and religious standards. Decisions related to the preservation and documentation of cultural heritage, the development of digital content, and the production of arts and literature must also be supervised by experts and intellectuals to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of the content.
Scientific Research	Scientific Research: Human oversight and decision-making must remain a fundamental element of scientific research in the Arab world, to ensure the responsible use of AI and modern technologies, such that their role complements, rather than replaces, the critical thinking and scientific expertise of researchers. Scientific decision-making processes, such as study design, data analysis, and interpretation of results, should remain under the supervision of qualified researchers to ensure the accuracy and integrity of scientific research. All results obtained using AI must be verified by human experts to ensure their reliability and avoid complete reliance on algorithms in scientific decision-making.

14. Technological Sovereignty and Open Source

Technological sovereignty in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) represents the ability of countries to develop, control, and deploy AI technologies independently of foreign countries, free from external dependencies or influences. Achieving AI sovereignty is not limited to technological skills alone; it also relates to protecting Arab interests, preserving civilizational, cultural, and social values, and ensuring ethical management in the deployment of AI. In the context of the global competition to harness the potential of AI technologies, not only to achieve developmental and economic gains, but also to achieve strategic and geopolitical gains, it has become imperative to establish Arab countries' technological sovereignty in AI when designing, distributing, and using AI systems, as well as through increased attention to Arab scientific research in the field. The move toward using open-source AI models is one of the most important trends available to shorten the process of mastering AI technology, enhance capabilities in the continuous development and improvement of these tools, and ensure greater transparency and reliability of these systems. AI researchers should also be encouraged to evaluate and study the positive outcomes of their research on Arab life and its support for Arab civilization, culture, and Islamic values, and to provide a future vision to limit the misuse of their research in the long term before publishing and expanding its development.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	The education sector in the Arab world must work to achieve technological sovereignty by adopting local technologies and promoting reliance on open sources to ensure the independence of the education system, reduce technological dependency, and promote equitable access to knowledge and innovation. Arab universities and educational institutions should also cooperate in developing joint projects based on open sources, contributing to building a unified and independent Arab educational technology system.

Culture	Any Arab cooperation in the field of AI must respect the national sovereignty of member states, while unifying efforts to achieve common interests without compromising cultural sovereignty. This requires establishing clear legal and regulatory frameworks that guarantee the independence of each country in making its decisions regarding AI technologies, while enhancing cooperation in developing joint solutions that serve all. Emphasis should also be placed on building technical partnerships that respect national specificities and contribute to the exchange of knowledge and expertise while preserving each country's identity and sovereignty.
Scientific Research	Scientific research in the Arab world must work to achieve technological sovereignty by developing and adopting independent technologies and promoting the use of open sources. This ensures the independence of scientific research, fosters innovation, and reduces dependence on external parties, contributing to sustainable development based on local knowledge. Universities and research centers should also rely on open source software for data analysis, simulation, and modeling, reducing reliance on expensive commercial software and enhancing freedom of research and development.

15. Intellectual Property Rights Protection

An optimal legal framework must be provided and updated in line with technological developments in the field of artificial intelligence, particularly those related to generative artificial intelligence, to protect the intellectual property rights of data used to train these systems. Legal protection is also required for innovations resulting from scientific research in artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on ensuring that these innovations are consistent with ethical values and do not cause social or environmental harm. Best principles and practices must also be followed in data handling, management, encryption mechanisms, and the testing, evaluation, and training of artificial intelligence technologies, ensuring privacy and confidentiality are maintained while respecting data ownership and intellectual property rights.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	AI systems in education must respect intellectual property rights by ensuring that educational content and the work of students and researchers are properly attributed and protected from unauthorized use or exploitation. Therefore, educational institution administrators must develop clear guidelines that protect authors' rights and prevent plagiarism or unauthorized reuse of materials. AI must also be trained on legal and ethical data to ensure compliance with intellectual property laws and foster an educational environment that respects creativity and intellectual property rights.
Culture	The rights of Arab communities regarding their cultural heritage must be preserved, while preventing its exploitation for commercial purposes without their consent. This requires establishing clear policies that protect cultural property and ensuring that the use of AI in heritage documentation is done with the consent of the communities concerned. Cooperation with these communities must also be strengthened to ensure that their heritage is accurately and respectfully represented, while avoiding any practices that lead to its exploitation or distortion. Mechanisms must also be put in place to respect the rights of creators when using AI to develop artistic and literary content, ensuring that ideas are not stolen or cultural creativity is distorted.
Scientific Research	AI systems in scientific research must ensure respect for intellectual property rights by correctly attributing ideas, protecting original research, and preventing the unauthorized use of data, methodologies, and results. To achieve this, clear policies must be established that define the role of AI in research, enforce the correct attribution of AI-generated content, and ensure the legal and ethical use of data. Research institutions and researchers must also adhere to academic standards to protect scientific authenticity and prevent academic plagiarism or misuse.

16. Cooperation and Fair Competition

Artificial intelligence technology can bring significant benefits to Arab citizens and can be utilized by all Arab countries. However, it requires advanced capabilities, technologies, and competencies, as well as large amounts of high-quality data. It also raises fundamental ethical concerns. This highlights the importance and inevitability of cooperation between Arab countries in the development, distribution, and use of artificial intelligence in a way that enhances regional partnerships, alongside partnerships with international parties. This also requires ensuring the exchange of knowledge and expertise among all stakeholders in the field in Arab countries to support an active Arab presence and achieve comprehensive and sustainable technological development.

Scope	Implementation Guidelines
Education	Education in the Arab world must be based on the principles of academic cooperation and fair competition when using artificial intelligence systems. This fosters an educational environment that encourages innovation and active participation between students and institutions, while ensuring fair educational opportunities, fostering a culture of teamwork, and avoiding unethical practices such as cheating or cognitive monopoly. Arab universities and schools should also cooperate in exchanging knowledge, curricula, and educational programs through electronic platforms and joint academic initiatives. This will contribute to raising the quality of education and unifying efforts to achieve educational goals.
Culture	Arab culture must leverage artificial intelligence to enhance cooperation between institutions and creators, ensuring fair competition in cultural production, while preserving Arab cultural identity, supporting creativity, and protecting intellectual property rights in the digital environment. Machine learning technologies can also be leveraged to objectively evaluate literary and artistic works, ensuring neutrality in cultural competitions and promoting the principle of fair competition in artistic and literary production.

Scientific Research	Arab universities and research centers should support joint research projects between Arab countries, providing grants and funding to encourage researchers to collaborate in finding innovative scientific solutions that benefit Arab societies. Artificial intelligence tools must also be developed to detect plagiarism, academic fraud, and manipulation of research data, ensuring a research environment based on academic ethics and fair competition. Efforts must also be made to de-monopolize artificial intelligence technologies, avoid data dominance, and enable and encourage creativity, competition, and innovation.

Scope of Application

This Charter aims to present a number of values, principles, and recommendations that can guide Arab institutions in the fields of education, culture, and science on how to address the known and emerging consequences of artificial intelligence systems on individuals and society in Arab countries. This Charter is based on the need to protect the dignity of Arab people, ensure their physical, moral, psychological, and ethical safety, achieve their well-being, and prevent harm, as well as preserve the environment and ensure ecological sustainability.

The application of the principles contained in this Charter is directed to all ALECSO Member States, including governments responsible for establishing legal and regulatory frameworks for AI systems throughout their lifecycle, and active institutions in the field, whether they are developers, distributors, or users of these technologies. It covers all uses of AI in the Organization's main areas of competence, namely education, culture, science, and scientific research.

Expected Outcomes and Results

1. Develop an ALECSO Charter of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence (Charter of Ethics) to provide ethical guidance to stakeholders, policymakers, and decision-makers in Arab countries to ensure the safe and fair use of AI, while ensuring the protection of human rights.
2. Engage public opinion and raise awareness of the importance of the ethical risks and issues associated with the use of AI technologies, and how they can be addressed and avoided.

3. Contributing to ALECSO's efforts to encourage dialogue to discuss the ethical challenges associated with artificial intelligence technology at the Arab, regional, and international levels.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuity

1. Establish ongoing monitoring mechanisms within Arab countries to assess progress in implementing the Charter.
2. Develop indicators to measure compliance with ethical frameworks through independent studies and research.
3. Encourage governments to adopt the policies outlined in the Charter and amend local laws to ensure their implementation, while emphasizing the adoption of legal measures to address any violations or infringements of the values and boundaries addressed by the Charter.
4. Providing technical and advisory support to member states to facilitate the implementation of the Charter and assisting in developing an implementation action plan tailored to the specific needs and requirements of each country.
5. Establishing a mechanism to monitor changes in the field of artificial intelligence that may require updating this Charter and ensuring its alignment with these developments.

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