

Al Ethics initiative in North Africa





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The African Center for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology is committed to promoting AI policies in Africa, conducting research and empowering women and youth in programming and digital technology. Our commitment to SDG 16+ extends beyond SDG 16 to include broader goals such as promoting access to justice for all, reducing violence, tackling corruption, promoting accountable and transparent institutions, and building peaceful and inclusive societies.

Our aim is to contribute to the achievement of the African dream and support the fostering of peaceful, just and inclusive societies.



We are part of AI Global perspectives, we delivered many academics lectures about : AI and hate speechs in North Africa and Mauritania.

We are keen about AI and climate change : We published report " Potential Opportunities of Using Artificial Intelligence Applications to Achieve Environmental Sustainability in North African Countries "

We are part of Feminist AI and Digital Policy Roundtable organised by FEM AI and GIZ . because we believe that Feminism is a scientific method to avoid reductionism. However, non-inclusive feminist debates have missed the opportunity to address intersectional issues.

We are part of Woman in AI ethics network to enhance the global south effort in rising awarness about responsible use of AI.

Last year we joined, GOOGLE Initiative, Woman Tech makers we delivered lectures on New technology and youth.

We are part of Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network, an international coalition of civil society organizations working to help realize the human rights and development aspirations enshrined in UN Sustainable Development Goal 16+ and the 2030 agenda.

Author and founder the AfricanCenter for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology. Based in Mauritania , She holds a master degree from Tianjin (China) University of Education and Technology, in the field of AI and new technology she Published several research and analytical articles in AI policies and the future of work in Africa in the AI age. Fellow researcher at Center for AI and Digital Policy CAIDP.

Author , Speaker and Analyst, in her any publications and conferences, She highlights the Technology impact on the African economy and how technology can be a leverage for Woman and youth inclusion. She advocates for Free movement of person in Africa and The African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) Through leading campaign and delivering training sessions to African youth . She worked as a media assistant for the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa from 2015 to 2017, in 2018 "Maghreb Voices" named her as Personality of the year after the success of her book "Lover from Ifrikeya".

In 2022 UNESCO and The Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at AUB consider Maha Jouini among top 20 woman change makers pioneers in MENA .

AI Geopolitics

China has three AI policy approaches, the first one is leaded by Cyberspace Administration of China where it focus on Rules for online algorithms, with a focus on public opinion, Second belong to China Academy of Information and Communications Technology and they are mainly working on Tools for testing and certification of "trustworthy AI" systems Third one is leaded by Ministry of Science and Technology they are focusing on Establishing AI ethics principles and creating tech ethics review boards within companies and research institutions.

USA last year launched the "Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights" in order to MAKING AUTOMATED SYSTEMS WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. Which includes five Principles: That people should be protected from systems deemed "unsafe or Ineffective;" that people shouldn't be discriminated against via algorithms and that AI- driven systems should be made and used "in an equitable way;" that people should be kept safe abusive data practices", "where appropriate" and get help from a person instead of a computer.

"AI is rapidly concentrating power among the few, even as we view AI as an open ecosystem with few barriers. The future of AI is being built by two countries, America and China- with competing geopolitical interests, whose economies are closely intertwined, and whose leaders are often at odds with each other. As a result the future of AI is a tool for both explicit and soft power, and it - along with Al's tribes - is being manipulated for economic gain and strategic leverage." Amy Webb 2019



AI Ethics for Africa :

Africa is one of the two regions (along with South America) in the world have produced no report, principle or ethical code guiding the development of artificial intelligence on its territory. Which is regrettable for a continent which is increasingly a market coveted by American and Chinese technological giants. Al exacerbates social prejudices, disadvantaging those who are already the most marginalized in our societies. It increases surveillance capabilities tenfold, thus infringing on privacy by accumulating data which also makes it possible to facilitate and automate vast propaganda and manipulation campaigns. It threatens to automate jobs that represent the livelihood of entire families and communities.

African thinkers and AI policy researcher raised the " Equity and inclusion "value for AI in important for Africa to define and develop an African ethics of artificial intelligence.



Conscious of the promising regional networks of AI experts in Southern Africa, and that AI technologies are being widely used in the region, thus requires policymakers, economic actors, and people to understand how Al technologies can impact their lives, and to collaboratively engage in Al policy dialogues and governance to harness the potential of AI for the common good;

Acknowledging that the use of AI in our countries can impact human lives, especially the youth, who constitute approximately 60% of the Sub-Saharan population. Al must contribute to safeguarding human dignity and human rights, as well as gender equality, social justice, economic development, and environmental and ecosystem protection, thus contributing to building a prosperous future for our young generations;

Observing significant gaps in awareness, knowledge and human resource capabilities in the different domains of Al, including on the ethical implications, within government institutions, independent oversight bodies, human rights institutions, judiciary and law enforcement bodies, as well as the private sector and the general public in Southern Africa:

Recognizing the existence of gender bias in artificial intelligence and its profound impact on the lives of women and girls, linked to the low numbers of women in Al and emerging technologies-related research, development and innovation and gender bias in data, and its impact on the whole of society;

Bearing in mind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other international human rights frameworks, whereby Member States have pledged themselves to achieving, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;





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Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa

Windhoek (Namibia), 9 September 2022

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers in charge of Higher Education, ICTs, Digital Technologies, Communication, Science and Innovation from the Southern Africa countries', gathered at the UNESCO-Southern Africa sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (SARFAI), co-hosted by the Government of Namibia and UNESCO in Windhoek, from 7 to 9 September 2022.

Recognizing that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fast transforming the world and the future of humanity, raising complex guestions and blurring traditional boundaries of the physical, digital and biological worlds, influencing human thinking, interaction and decision-making, and raising socio-economic, ethical and political risks engendered by the use of AI systems mainly produced outside our region, that often rely on low quality and nonrepresentative data, with limited knowledge of local languages and indigenous knowledge;

Guided by the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 41* Session (2021), and addressed to Member States, both as Al actors and as authorities responsible for its effective implementation, and the development of the policy, and legal and regulatory frameworks needed throughout the entire AI system life cycle, to respect human dignity and exploit the full potential presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution;

Botowana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe



we are ethical since 3000 years !

It refers to The constitution of Carthage is the political system of the city (Tunisia now) during the Punic period. In Book II, Aristotle includes the example of Carthage among the best constitutions (he compares it to that of Sparta and Crete). His merit would have been the balance of power. It would have aggregated the best elements of monarchical, aristocratic or oligarchic and democratic constitutions.

Carthage is the Tunisian pride since ages , The name Carthage is a symbol of national sovereignty, and since the revolution, it has become a symbol of democracy and citizen participation .







Publishing Carthage Bill for AI Ethics in the memory of the Arabic Spring .

Debating AI ethics and AI policy at national and regional level starting from the Bill .

Advocay for AI policy roadmap in Tunisia (stopped since the coup d'Etat).

Advocay for Democratization of AI and Internet freedome at regional level .

