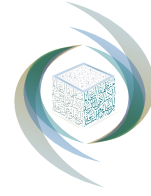




مسقط 2024  
Muscat 2024



إيسيسكو  
ICESCO

# ICESCO Education Ministers Conference

## ICESCO EMC 3

Beyond Transforming  
Education Summit:  
from Commitments to Actions

### 2.5

### Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter

Muscat,  
Sultanate of Oman

2-3  
October

2024



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**H.E. Dr. Salim Al Malik**  
**Director-General of ICESCO**

“ As we navigate the landscape of the future, one thing is abundantly clear: the adoption of artificial intelligence will continue to soar in the years to come.

..... Yet, as we cast our gaze towards the horizon of progress, a sobering reality emerges: By the year 2030, it is anticipated that the Islamic world will only receive 2% of the total global benefits of artificial intelligence, despite projections indicating that this region is poised to become the largest global community by 2070.

In the face of this looming disparity, ICESCO, guided by its vision and strategic orientations, remains steadfast in its commitment to strategically steer its Member States towards the future.

Indeed, ICESCO has embarked upon a comprehensive AI Strategy, positioning itself as a vanguard of AI development within the Islamic world.

.....Acknowledging that the transformative potential of AI extends beyond mere technical considerations, ICESCO has accorded primacy to strategic, governance, and ethical dimensions associated with AI for the collective benefit of our member states.

Crowning these concerted efforts, ICESCO has undertaken the task of elaborating the Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter, a dynamic and Strategic Foresight based tool designed to provide a comprehensive procedural framework governing the ethical use of AI in the Islamic World.

.....Artificial intelligence is the future. This paradigm shift is not a distant prospect but an unfolding reality, demanding of us a forward-looking, proactive, and comprehensive approach to its governance, one that transcends the confines of singular ideologies and embraces the multifaceted nature of our global community.

By championing a pluralistic approach to AI governance— one that transcending geographical and cultural differences to converge upon a singular pursuit: the responsible governance of artificial intelligence for the betterment of humanity, we ensure effective and legitimate efforts while promoting an equitable and inclusive digital future for all.....”

**Excerpts from**  
**H.E. Dr. Salim M. AlMalik's Speech**

## Preface




## ICESCO'S Mandate

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Council in its 43rd session in 2022, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, regarding agenda item 3.1 on the **“General Concept of the AI Charter Project,”** wherein the adoption of the general concept was resolved, and ICESCO was mandated to prepare the AI Charter for the Islamic World. As well as the decision of the Executive Council in its 44th session in 2024, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regarding agenda item 3.1 on the **“Report on the Progress Made in Preparing the AI Charter for the Islamic World,”** wherein the adoption of the report was approved, the initial actions and steps undertaken in the early stages of the Charter’s preparation were commended, and the importance of aligning the Charter with other relevant international and regional reference documents was emphasized to maximize the benefits of AI and minimize the risks of its misuse.

This led to Affirming the call for ICESCO to proceed with the next stages in the Charter’s preparation process and urging Member States to support the Charter following its adoption by the Executive Council and General Conference, with the aim of establishing an operational framework for the Islamic world to ensure the proper utilization of AI applications in the fields of education, science, and culture, in line with its values, principles, and objectives.

D. 3.1



منظمة العالم الإسلامي للتربية والعلوم والثقافة  
 ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
 ORGANISATION DU MONDE ISLAMIQUE POUR L'ÉDUCATION LES SCIENCES ET LA CULTURE

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL / 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION**  
 Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
 (ICESCO)  
 ICESCO headquarters, Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco, 23-24 December 2022

Decision on Item 3.1 of the Agenda:  
**(Outline of the Draft Charter of Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse)**

**The Executive Council,**

- In accordance with Article 21 of its Rules of Procedure,
- Having considered the Outline of the Draft Charter of Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse, as contained in Document 3.1;
- Having listened to the presentation made by the representative of the General Directorate in this connection;
- Considering the deliberations which have taken place,

**Decides as follows:**

- 1. Adopts** the Outline of the Draft Charter of Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse, as contained in Document 3.1, taking into consideration the observations of the Council members;
- 2. Entrusts** ICESCO with preparing the Charter of Artificial Intelligence for the Islamic World, which shall include Metaverse issues and the relevant technological developments, and presenting it to the Executive Council and the General Conference for adoption and approval;
- 3. Calls** on Member States to support ICESCO's Charter of Artificial Intelligence, following its adoption by the Council and the Conference, to set a procedural framework to ensure the use of artificial intelligence applications in the fields of education, science and culture, in light of the specificities, values and orientations of the Islamic world.

# Best Practices in the Elaboration of the IWAIC

## International Charters and Regulatory frameworks

Since 2017, the year of the launch of the Asilomar Principles in the realm of AI ethics and the inception of the Montreal Declaration for Responsible AI Development initiative, a plethora of declarations and charters pertaining to AI ethics have been put forth from a multitude of institutions, governments, and organizations. ICESCO's AI charter will draw inspiration from several major international frameworks and declarations that have set the global standard for AI ethics. These include:

- Asilomar AI Principles (2017)
- The Montreal Declaration for Responsible AI Development (University of Montreal, 2018).
- Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI (High-Level Expert Group on AI, European Commission, 2019).
- Ethically Aligned Design (IEEE 2019).
- Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, OECD/LEGAL/0449 (OECD, 2019).
- Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (UNESCO, Adopted on 23 November 2021).
- Jeddah Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Artificial Intelligence Governance and Human Rights Protection, issued by the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (2024);

## Charters and Regulatory frameworks of Member states

Islamic nations have early on recognized the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in scientific and economic advancement. They have also perceived the imperative need to establish ethical principles to accompany the ongoing social transformation and guide technology. Consequently, several nations have embarked on the path of ethical contemplation concerning AI:

- **Malaysia**, under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), introduced the “Malaysia *National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap for 2021-2025*” in the year 2021.
- **Oman**, overseen by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, launched “*the Executive Program for Intelligence and Advanced Technologies*” in February 2022.
- **Saudi Arabia**, through the Saudi Data and AI Authority, unveiled the “*AI Ethics Principles (version 1)*” in August 2022.
- **Jordan** introduced “*The National Artificial Intelligence Code of Ethics*” in September 2022.
- **The United Arab Emirates** issued “*Ethics: Artificial Intelligence Ethics Principles & Guidelines*” in December 2022.
- **Qatar**, guided by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, outlined “*the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Qatar*” in January 2023.
- **Egypt**, under the aegis of the National Council for AI, promulgated “*the Egyptian Charter for Responsible AI (version 1)*” in April 2023.
- **Jordan**, through the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, unveiled “*Jordan’s Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Plan*” in 2023.



These documents do not all share the same nature; some are declarations of AI ethics, while others are national strategies. It is imperative to prioritize the former and bracket the latter, which may contain some guiding ethical principles but are primarily industrial and economic development plans.

The declarations from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the UAE have made significant advancements. In contrast to many charters, the selected ethical principles are embedded within a governance framework that enables their practical application. This often-missing strategy should be embraced by ICESCO to ensure that the charter can tangibly assist organizations in developing AI systems aligned with ethical principles.



## IWAIC's Added Value

In earlier projections, it was estimated that by 2030, the Islamic World's contribution to the global AI market would be a modest 2 percent. These figures, however, were based on the state of technological development several years ago, before the significant strides that the region has made in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Islamic World, once on the fringes of the global AI ecosystem, is now steadily positioning itself as a contributor to this technological revolution, and with the right strategic frameworks in place, its influence can grow exponentially in the coming years.

The transformative power of Artificial Intelligence is undeniable. Across various sectors, it is particularly evident in areas where ICESCO has long held its mandate —education, culture, science, and beyond. Indeed, AI has ushered in a digital revolution, unlocking unprecedented potential. Its ability to transform these fields aligns closely with ICESCO's overarching mission to promote knowledge, innovation, and cultural understanding across its member states. Recognizing this potential, ICESCO has elevated Artificial Intelligence to a position of strategic importance in its action plans and executive programs, aiming to catalyze progress through digital transformation across the Islamic world.

In today's global discourse, Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a technical issue—it is a subject of fundamental importance that transcends sectors, engaging stakeholders from governments, international organizations, universities, businesses, and civil society alike. Whether through policy dialogues, academic research, or societal debates, AI has taken center stage in addressing some of the most complex challenges humanity faces today. Its applications are vast, ranging from enhancing educational systems to driving economic growth, from transforming healthcare to shaping the future of scientific research.

Artificial Intelligence is often presented as the solution to some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today. Yet, if AI is the solution, we must first ask: what is the question? For ICESCO, the central concerns revolve around advancing knowledge and science, building capacities through education, and fostering peace and social resilience through intercultural dialogue. In these domains, AI can be both an enabler and a risk, depending on how it is applied.

As Artificial Intelligence continues to advance at a breakneck pace, it brings forth both immense possibilities and considerable risks. The Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter (IWAIC) is designed to help navigate this complex terrain. More than just a policy document, the Charter is a dynamic and participatory tool, informed by the input of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including academics, policymakers, business leaders, civil society organizations, and the general public. Its value lies in its ability to provide a structured and culturally relevant framework, tailored to address the multifaceted impacts of AI on the Islamic world, while simultaneously engaging in global dialogues on AI ethics and governance.

The Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter is a testament to ICESCO's unwavering commitment to ensuring that AI serves as a force for good, propelling societal progress while upholding the ethical and moral values that define the Islamic world. This Charter marks a significant milestone in the region's history of AI development. It offers a robust, structured framework that enables the Islamic world to fully leverage the benefits of AI technologies while proactively managing the potential risks associated with their deployment. The overarching objective of the Charter is to shape a future where AI acts as a catalyst for societal advancement, economic growth, and intellectual enrichment, all in alignment with the ethical imperatives and humanitarian aspirations of the Islamic world.



The debates on ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) have markedly accelerated and intensified since 2017, notably catalyzed by the Asilomar Conference and the inception of the Montreal Declaration for Responsible AI Development. International organizations, governments of numerous nations, and prominent corporate entities have undertaken the task of formulating their individual ethical charters, with the aim of providing guidance for the industrial advancement and societal implementation of AI systems. Presently, an abundance of declarations pertaining to the ethics of AI utilization exists, the most significant of which have been crafted by intergovernmental international bodies such as the OECD and UNESCO, as well as the European Commission and the Council of Europe. ICESCO, in turn, aspires to proffer a charter delineating the ethical development and utilization of AI.

Must we introduce a new charter on Artificial Intelligence in this particular context? The answer is affirmative. Indeed, the profusion of normative texts in the field of AI ethics conceals several shortcomings that justify the initiative of ICESCO to establish an ethical charter for all member countries. Three principal weaknesses of the existing charters can be enumerated:

- a.** The principles of AI ethics proposed by international organizations are presented as universal but fail to account for the diversity of local social and cultural contexts.
- b.** These principles are designed to adapt to all sectors of activity, thus remaining exceedingly general and abstract.
- c.** These principles do not differentiate between AI systems deployed by public institutions and those used for commercial and private purposes.

The initiative undertaken by ICESCO distinguishes itself from other initiatives in the realm of Artificial Intelligence ethics in the following manner:

- 1.** For ICESCO, the goal is to build a local universal, meaning to develop principles that take into account the cultural, social, and moral context (specificities) of the Islamic world but resonate with all of humanity. By defining an Islamic path to address the challenges of AI, it is possible to engage in dialogue with other cultures and offer reflections that can contribute to those of non-Muslim countries.
- 2.** In contrast to documents from other organizations that go beyond their areas of expertise, the ICESCO charter will cover all four competence sectors of ICESCO: education, sciences and technology, Human and social sciences and culture. These sectors are linked by a common object, knowledge, and this object allows for a rigorous and coherent definition of the scope of the ICESCO AI ethics charter: under what conditions is it ethical to use AI and VR technologies to produce, transmit, and share knowledge?
- 3.** Finally, the ICESCO initiative will distinguish between the public and private uses of AI and VR technologies and will propose guidelines for applying principles based on the space of use and the type of user.

## **IWAIC marks a seminal moment in the narrative of AI development in the Islamic world.**

ICESCO's approach to AI ethics and governance is unique in several respects:

### **1. A Universal Framework Grounded in Islamic Values**

ICESCO's vision is to develop a universal framework for AI ethics and governance that is deeply rooted in the cultural, social, and moral fabric of the Islamic world. This framework seeks to address the specific challenges and opportunities AI presents in the Islamic context, while also contributing to global discussions on AI ethics. By defining a distinctly Islamic approach to navigating the complexities of AI, the Charter creates a platform for constructive engagement with other cultures and regions. This approach not only ensures that AI development in the Islamic world is in harmony with its values but also enriches the global discourse by offering new perspectives grounded in the ethical principles of Islam.

### **2. Focused on ICESCO's Core Competencies: Education, Science, and Culture**

Unlike some AI ethical frameworks that may extend beyond their natural spheres of expertise, ICESCO's Charter is squarely aligned with its three core domains: education, science, and culture. These sectors, interconnected by a shared pursuit of knowledge, serve as the foundation for the Charter's ethical guidelines. This rigorous focus ensures that AI technologies are used in ways that promote the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge, particularly through the lens of AI and virtual reality (VR). The Charter provides a coherent ethical framework that guides the responsible use of AI in these fields, ensuring that technological advancements contribute meaningfully to human development, rather than undermining it.

Central to this initiative is **Fostering the culture of anticipation and foresight**, as well as the **establishment of a comprehensive regional accord taking into consideration the specificities of the region pertaining to the ethical underpinnings of Artificial Intelligence**. Through this collective agreement, member states in the Islamic World are poised to anchor their AI undertakings within a dynamic and evolving framework of shared values, encompassing tenets of responsible design, transparency, accountability, and the elimination of discriminatory practices. In consonance with these principles, a paramount concern rests on **Ensuring that AI systems are cultivated and deployed with unwavering ethical and responsible intentions**.

The Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter is not a static document but rather a dynamic, framework that evolves in response to the changing landscape of AI. It is participatory by design, ensuring that all relevant voices—ranging from policymakers to the general public—are engaged in shaping its content and application. Furthermore, the Charter includes a foresight dimension that anticipates future AI developments and strategically addresses the long-term impacts these technologies may have on the region.

The initial exploration of the Charter has brought to light the following salient observations:

- The draft Charter falls within the framework of **continuity and integration** with other international and regional reference documents, similar to UNESCO's recommendations on the ethics of artificial intelligence. The objective is to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks, ensuring that technology serves humanity.
- The Artificial Intelligence Charter stands **not as an investigation into technology and innovation**, nor is it an attempt to infringe on academic, industrial, or commercial liberties. Rather, it serves as a testament to the organization's cognizance of the multifaceted advantages inherent in artificial intelligence systems, permeating diverse spheres such as education, science, culture, and their interrelated domains.





## Core Values of IWAIC

As we stand on the threshold of a new technological era, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our Islamic identity remains intact, and that the values and traditions that have shaped our societies are not eroded by the rapid advancements in technology.

ICESCO acknowledges that AI is not merely a collection of algorithms, but a socio-technical system that is deeply embedded in the fabric of our societies. It is therefore essential that we approach AI with a comprehensive ethical framework that addresses the complexities of its development, deployment, and utilization.

At the core of The Charter lies a recognition of the profound guidance that Islam offers in navigating the complexities of the digital age. Islam, a religion of peace, tolerance, and wisdom, provides an ethical and moral compass that is both timeless and universal.

AI is not only compatible with the Islamic culture; it is a continuation of its rich scientific traditions. Thus, the Charter stands as a strategic blueprint for the integration of AI into our societies, ensuring that this integration upholds the cultural and ethical values that define our identity, including the central role of the family.

Ethical guidelines for the development of AI includes ethical preconditions for AI development project, as well as principles of ethical conduct and principles for ethical governance. The ethical principles applying to three different entities involved in the responsible AI development that should not be confused: AI systems, humans and institutions.

## Dynamic Foundation of IWAIC

The Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter (IWAIC) is grounded in a dynamic foundation that ensures the responsible and ethical advancement of artificial intelligence technologies. Central to this foundation are three guiding principles: **participatory**, **forward-thinking**, and **inclusive**. These principles collectively shape the vision and framework of the IWAIC, aligning it with the broader objectives of ethical AI governance and the sustainable development of societies within the Islamic world.

### 1. Participatory:

The IWAIC is committed to fostering a participatory approach, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all relevant stakeholders are actively involved in the decision-making processes regarding AI development and governance. This principle recognizes that the successful integration of AI into various sectors requires the collaboration of a wide array of actors, including government institutions, academia, industry experts, civil society organizations, and, most importantly, the communities affected by AI technologies.

By engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, the participatory framework ensures that AI policies and strategies are not dictated by a select few but are instead the result of broad consultations and inclusive dialogues. This approach enhances transparency, accountability, and trust in AI systems, ensuring that they are aligned with the ethical, social, and cultural values of the Islamic world. The participatory nature of the IWAIC also empowers member states by allowing them to take an active role in shaping how AI technologies are developed and applied within their societies.

### 2. Forward-Thinking:

A forward-thinking approach is essential to the IWAIC's dynamic foundation, as it ensures that the charter not only addresses present challenges but also anticipates future developments and potential ethical dilemmas related to AI. The IWAIC is designed to be proactive, envisioning the transformative effects of AI on education, science, governance, culture, and other critical sectors within the Islamic world.

This forward-looking perspective is rooted in the principle of **foresight**, which aims to equip member states with the necessary tools and strategies to navigate the evolving technological landscape. By continuously assessing emerging trends and innovations, the IWAIC encourages member states to adopt policies that are adaptable and resilient to future changes, ensuring that AI technologies contribute to long-term societal progress rather than perpetuating inequalities or unintended harms. This foresight-driven framework empowers nations to remain at the forefront of AI innovation while maintaining a steadfast commitment to ethical and responsible AI governance.

### 3. Inclusive:

The inclusivity principle is at the heart of the IWAIC, ensuring that AI development is equitable and accessible to all sectors of society. Inclusivity, in this context, means that the benefits and opportunities of AI are extended to all individuals, communities, and regions within the Islamic world, regardless of socio-economic status, geographical location, or cultural background.

The IWAIC recognizes that AI has the potential to either bridge or exacerbate existing social and economic divides. Therefore, it places a strong emphasis on ensuring that AI technologies are not concentrated in the hands of a privileged few but are instead designed and implemented in a way that promotes fairness and equal access. By championing an inclusive approach, the IWAIC seeks to ensure that marginalized and underrepresented groups are not left behind in the AI revolution, but rather empowered to contribute to and benefit from its advancements. This inclusivity extends to considerations of gender, age, ethnicity, and other factors, ensuring that AI serves as a tool for fostering greater social cohesion and mutual understanding across diverse communities.



# Different stages of the elaboration of the IWAIC

## 1. Normative Phase: Research and Scoping

ICESCO, since its mandate by the Executive Council, has undertaken the task of elaborating this charter. The charter's inception was preceded by a thorough initial phase involving research, scoping, and the identification of best practices both internationally and regionally. These efforts culminated in the creation of an initial report titled "**Towards the Elaboration of the Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter**," serving as a foundational document for subsequent developments and implementations of the charter's provisions.

The initial exploration of the Charter has brought to light the following salient observations:

- The draft of the Artificial Intelligence Charter falls within the framework of **continuity and integration** with other international and regional reference documents. The objective is to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks, ensuring that technology serves humanity.
- The Artificial Intelligence Charter stands **not as an investigation into technology and innovation**, nor is it an attempt to infringe on academic, industrial, or commercial liberties. Rather, it serves as a testament to the organization's cognizance of the multifaceted advantages inherent in artificial intelligence systems, permeating diverse spheres such as education, science, culture, and their interrelated domains.
- By the year 2030, it is anticipated that the Islamic world will only receive 2% of the total global benefits of artificial intelligence.
- The global AI market, currently estimated at \$328.34 billion, foresees an impressive growth trajectory, projected to reach **\$1,811.8 billion by 2030**.
- There are several **disparities in the integration of artificial intelligence technology within the countries of the Islamic world**, and these disparities are linked to development and growth rates in these nations.
- Various regional and international documents on the ethics of artificial intelligence **share a set of ethical principles**, including safety, security, independence, privacy, transparency, human rights, equality, and responsibility.
- There exist **other non-shared principles** embedded in certain international and regional documents, akin to principles such as sustainable development, solidarity, non-discrimination, justice, fairness, and mutual assistance.
- The Islamic world's need for **harmony, consistency, and alignment** concerning the ethics of artificial intelligence is paramount.
- The significance of the **positioning** of Islamic world countries within the international arena in the realm of artificial intelligence ethics cannot be overstated.
- It is imperative for individuals in Islamic world countries **to enjoy sufficient and equal protection** compared to individuals residing in other geographical spaces. This is due to the fact that the legislations and internal laws of some member states suffer from shortcomings in providing adequate protection for individuals in the face of the rapid changes experienced by artificial intelligence.
- The challenge posed by artificial intelligence lies in **awareness and perception of risks and challenges**, serving as a fundamental impetus for the formulation of an ethical charter with a pedagogical and awareness-raising nature.
- Special attention must be given to the ethics of artificial intelligence at the level of **scientific research and technological development in Islamic world countries**. Furthermore, concerted efforts from all sectors, including the public sector, private sector, civil society, and researchers, are essential in delineating the features and boundaries of this technology.

## 2. Exploratory Phase: IWAIC's Regional Workshops

The next step in the elaboration of the charter involves a crucial consultation phase, underscoring **the dynamic, proactive, and participatory nature of the charter**. This phase is designed to incorporate the region's specificities into the charter's framework, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

### 1. Preliminary Workshops (September 14–15, 2023)



As part of the groundwork for the IWAIC, ICESCO organized two pivotal workshops on September 14 and 15, 2023, with the participation of leading experts in the fields of artificial intelligence, foresight, and policy development. These workshops were not merely preliminary meetings but a critical juncture in defining the core tenets and principles that would shape the charter.

During these sessions, ICESCO applied an anticipatory foresight methodology rooted in scenario analysis. This approach allowed participants to evaluate the multifaceted risks and opportunities that AI presents, particularly in the sectors of education, culture, and science, where ICESCO has a longstanding mandate. The proactive exploration of potential future scenarios ensured that the charter would not only address present challenges but also anticipate and mitigate emerging risks, thereby strengthening its relevance for future generations.

Furthermore, these workshops had a dual purpose. In addition to refining the fundamental components of the charter, they also served to enhance the capabilities of ICESCO's project team. Participants from ICESCO were trained in foresight methodologies and scenario planning, enabling them to effectively facilitate upcoming regional consultations. This capacity-building initiative ensured that ICESCO's team was equipped with the necessary expertise to lead and shape discussions at future workshops, solidifying their role as facilitators of AI governance in the Islamic world.



## 2. Presentation of the project of the charter at the GAIN Assembly ( May 15th , 2024, Riyadh KSA)



On May 15, 2024, GAIN Assembly, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marked a pivotal moment in AI governance within the Islamic world. Organized in collaboration with the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA) and the United Nations High Level Advisory Body, this event brought together world leaders, AI experts, and stakeholders to explore global AI advancements and their ethical, legal, and societal implications. The assembly underscored the importance of building a future where AI is leveraged responsibly to drive innovation, sustainable development, and global collaboration.

Within this significant international forum, ICESCO's Director-General, H.E Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, presented initially the Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter (IWAIC), alongside Dr. Kais Hammami, Director of the Center of Foresight and AI, and Mr. Mohamed Hedi Shili, Director of the Department of Legal Affairs and International Standards, who also presented the methodological and strategic framework of the IWAIC. This Charter represents a forward-looking and culturally grounded framework that seeks to harmonize AI governance in the Islamic world with global ethical standards.

The presentation at the GAIN Assembly marked a major milestone in the Charter's development, offering a glimpse into the rigorous consultative process that involved regional workshops and multi-stakeholder engagements. The assembly served as an ideal platform to showcase the collaborative efforts of ICESCO member states in defining a shared vision for AI governance. His Excellency also announced that the initial findings would be further refined and presented in greater depth at the World AI Summit in Riyadh later in 2024, thereby reinforcing ICESCO's commitment to ensuring that AI is developed and deployed in a manner that upholds human dignity, fosters innovation, and addresses the diverse challenges of the Islamic world.

This step in the elaboration of the IWAIC sets the stage for deeper international engagement, where the Islamic world can contribute to and benefit from global best practices in AI governance, ensuring that the future of AI remains equitable, ethical, and inclusive.

### 3. Regional Workshop for Asia and the Middle East (July 2–3, 2024, Muscat, Oman)



The first major regional consultation for the Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter took place in Muscat, Oman, on July 2 and 3, 2024. This workshop, organized by ICESCO in strategic partnership with the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS), the Omani Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, and in collaboration with the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science, marked a significant milestone in the development of the IWAIC.

The workshop was inaugurated under the high patronage of His Excellency Dr. Khamis bin Saif bin Hamoud Al-Jabri, Head of the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit. His Excellency's presence signified Oman's strong commitment to harnessing AI and advanced technologies to realize the ambitious goals of Oman Vision 2040, a national strategy aimed at fostering technological, educational, and economic growth.



The workshop attracted a distinguished array of participants, including high-ranking officials, academics, policymakers, and AI experts from 23 ICESCO member states across the Asia and Middle East regions. The diversity of the participants enriched the discussions, ensuring that the perspectives of both emerging and advanced economies were reflected in the charter's development. The two-day event featured keynote addresses, expert panels, and collaborative working groups, all aimed at exploring the ethical implications of AI, the necessity for culturally sensitive AI frameworks, and the role of AI in driving innovation while preserving Islamic societal values.

A key highlight of the workshop was its integration into the ICESCO Chair on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, established at UTAS in Oman. This connection positioned the workshop as not only a consultation but also a foundational component of ICESCO's broader strategic initiatives to promote ethical AI governance. Discussions during the event emphasized the need for international collaboration among Islamic nations to ensure that AI is developed and deployed in ways that are responsible, ethical, and aligned with the cultural values of the Islamic world. The workshop also underscored the importance of developing robust legal and regulatory frameworks that can safeguard societal interests while promoting innovation.

#### 4. Regional Workshop for Africa and Latin America (August 29–30, 2024, Rabat, Morocco)



The second regional workshop, focused on Africa and Latin America, was held from August 29 to 30, 2024, at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) Rabat Campus in the Kingdom of Morocco. This workshop built on the success of the Muscat event, further broadening the geographic scope of the consultation process.

The opening ceremony witnessed the key participation of Dr. Abdulrahman Habib, Deputy Chief Strategy Officer at the Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA) and Director of the International Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE), whose insights highlighted the crucial role of AI ethics and research in building governance models that resonate with both Islamic values and global standards.

Building on these profound contributions, the discussion also included the parliamentary experience in the domain of artificial intelligence, with a focus on Morocco as a model of governance. Mr. Anouar Sabri, Chair of the thematic Working Group of Artificial Intelligence at the Parliament of the Kingdom





of Morocco, shared his esteemed perspectives on the critical role of parliamentary governance in shaping the AI landscape. His insights offered timely reflections on how legislative bodies can drive the ethical deployment of AI technologies while ensuring alignment with national development goals and cultural values, further enriching the deliberations on AI governance across the Islamic world.

In addition to that during the panel senior officials and experts from across the Region. These experts brought with them a wealth of knowledge and regional insights, ensuring that the principles of the charter would be adaptable to the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by African and Latin American nations.

The workshop featured an inclusive and participatory approach, designed to engage stakeholders from a wide range of sectors including academia, industry, civil society, and government. This inclusive framework enriched the discussions, allowing for a holistic exploration of AI's ethical implications, particularly within the cultural and social contexts of the Islamic world. One of the central themes was the use of strategic foresight methodologies to anticipate future AI developments, ensuring that the Islamic world is well-prepared to navigate both the challenges and opportunities that AI presents.

In addition to the collaborative discussions, the workshop also facilitated the sharing of best practices from across the region. Participants explored case studies, examined national AI strategies, and discussed the critical role of AI in advancing sustainable development. The workshop concluded with a set of actionable recommendations, emphasizing the importance of capacity-building initiatives, the need for ethical AI governance, and the creation of regional platforms for AI knowledge exchange.

## 5. The declaration of the Riyadh Charter of Artificial Intelligence for the Islamic World at the Global AI Summit (GAIN) (September 2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)



The culmination of the exploratory phase was marked by the declaration of **the Riyadh Charter of Artificial Intelligence for the Islamic World at the Global AI, Now, Next, Never Summit (GAIN)** in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September 2024. Following the invaluable contribution of the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA) in order to ensure the process of the finalization of the charter..

This prestigious event served as a global platform to unveil the outcomes of the regional workshops and the progress made in shaping a unified AI governance framework for the Islamic world. During the presentation, ICESCO revealed key findings, insights, and recommendations that emerged from an extensive consultation process, positioning the charter as a pioneering initiative in AI governance.

The presentation underscored the collaborative efforts of ICESCO member states in developing an AI governance model that not only addresses the specific cultural and societal contexts of the Islamic world but also aligns with global standards for responsible AI development. By leveraging regional expertise and promoting a future-oriented, ethical AI framework, the charter has been lauded as a landmark achievement in bridging regional needs with international best practices.

The GAIN Summit further provided an invaluable opportunity for engagement with international stakeholders, including governments, industry leaders, and AI experts. The event facilitated deeper cooperation between Islamic nations and the global AI community, fostering a shared vision for the ethical and responsible use of AI to drive sustainable development, promote social equity, and fuel innovation.

In summary, the exploratory phase of the IWAIC has been meticulously planned and strategically executed, ensuring that the charter is comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and forward-looking. Through the active involvement of diverse stakeholders and the integration of foresight methodologies, ICESCO has laid a strong foundation for a robust AI governance framework that will benefit the Islamic world for years to come.



## Key Components and Elements of the Charter:

In response to these challenges, the Islamic World Artificial Intelligence Charter introduces a set of ethical principles with practical applications. One of its cornerstone proposals is the introduction of a new ethical standard in AI: the principle of truth and authenticity. This principle goes beyond the commonly discussed concepts of transparency and explainability, calling for a higher ethical standard that ensures AI technologies contribute meaningfully to human knowledge and progress while safeguarding the integrity of intellectual pursuits.

### 1. Preface:

The preface sets the tone for the Charter by highlighting the urgent need for the Islamic world to capitalize on AI development. It acknowledges the growing disparity between countries in AI capabilities and stresses the importance of addressing this gap by 2030. The preface emphasizes that while AI offers tremendous potential for societal transformation, it must be harnessed in a way that aligns with the core values of Islamic societies, ensuring that progress is equitable and inclusive.

### 2. Preamble:

The preamble establishes the foundational principles of the Charter, emphasizing the alignment with Islamic values and ethics. It calls for a strategic approach to AI governance, one that recognizes AI's potential for revolutionizing education, healthcare, and cultural preservation. By positioning AI as a tool for the common good, the preamble insists that societal well-being should be at the forefront of AI development, ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared equitably across society.

### 3. Principles:

outlines the rules applicable to three entities in the development of responsible AI, which should not be confused with each other: AI systems, humans, and institutions. Some of the Charter's principles apply to only one type of entity, while others apply to multiple types. These principles are divided into several components :

**Overarching Principles:** These include relevance, resilience, and precautionary prudence, which ensure that AI aligns with societal needs, adapts to changing conditions, and is implemented cautiously to avoid unintended harm.

**Principles for Ethical Design:** These focus on human dignity, fairness, well-being, and solidarity, ensuring that AI technologies are designed to respect and enhance these values. For example, AI systems should promote inclusion and social justice, ensuring that marginalized groups are not excluded from the benefits of AI.

**Principles for Ethical Conduct:** These principles emphasize the virtues that developers and users of AI systems should possess, including wisdom, responsibility, competence, and reliability. They ensure that those involved in AI development act ethically and in the best interests of society.

**Principles for Ethical Governance:** These principles focus on ensuring human control over AI systems, accountability for AI's impacts, and the establishment of mechanisms for redress and compensation for any harm caused by AI technologies. This governance framework ensures that AI remains accountable to human needs and objectives.

#### 4. Recommendations:

The Charter concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening AI governance and ensuring responsible innovation. These include Establishing AI training programs to develop key skills, Designing and implementing digital literacy programs, coordinating network of research and development centers, strengthening strategic foresight capabilities (Strategic Foresight toolbox), Establishing an annual inter-ministerial conference and leading a consortium of public, private and non-governmental organizations. By implementing these recommendations, the Islamic world can position itself as a leader in ethical AI development, contributing to global discussions on AI governance while preserving its cultural heritage.



## Linking the Charter to Educational Issues

The evolving landscape of education in the 21st century necessitates a transformative approach that embraces technological advancements while preserving core ethical and cultural values. The ICESCO Charter on Artificial Intelligence presents a forward-thinking framework that seeks to integrate AI into educational systems, ensuring that its deployment not only enhances learning outcomes but also aligns with the moral and cultural fabric of the Islamic world. By addressing both the opportunities and challenges posed by AI, the Charter underscores the importance of fostering innovation in educational curricula, equipping educators and students with essential technical competencies, and maintaining rigorous ethical standards. Furthermore, it advocates for the preservation and promotion of Islamic cultural heritage, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots while navigating the complexities of a digitally-driven world. This comprehensive approach positions the Charter as a vital tool for shaping the future of education in a way that is both technologically progressive and culturally grounded.

- **Innovating Educational Curricula:** The Charter actively promotes the integration of artificial intelligence into educational curricula, fostering the development of intelligent learning tools that enable personalized educational experiences tailored to the individual needs of learners. By utilizing adaptive learning systems, AI can offer customized learning pathways, which respond dynamically to the progress of each student, enhancing the overall learning process. Moreover, the Charter advocates for the creation of lifelong learning frameworks, enabling individuals to continuously update and expand their knowledge and skills throughout their lives. This flexibility ensures that education remains accessible and adaptable to the evolving demands of society, allowing individuals to thrive in a rapidly changing world.
- **Enhancing Teachers' and Students' Technical Competencies:** In alignment with its forward-looking approach, the Charter underscores the importance of equipping both educators and students with advanced technical skills, particularly in AI-related fields. By fostering a culture of continuous upskilling, the Charter ensures that teachers and learners alike are prepared for the future workforce, where expertise in data analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation will be indispensable. This forward-thinking initiative aims to bridge the skills gap, ensuring that students are not only consumers of technology but also creators, capable of leveraging AI to drive innovation and societal progress.
- **Strengthening Ethical Standards in AI Usage:** A core tenet of the Charter is its unwavering commitment to ethical responsibility in the use of AI within educational environments. The Charter emphasizes that AI must be employed in a manner that upholds the highest standards of fairness, respect, and inclusivity, ensuring that its implementation does not perpetuate biases or marginalize vulnerable populations. Instead, AI technologies should be utilized to promote equity and empowerment across diverse communities. The Charter places particular emphasis on inclusivity, linking this objective to the empowerment of women and girls across the Islamic world, thus fostering a more balanced and just educational ecosystem.
- **Preserving and Promoting Islamic Cultural Heritage:** In its dedication to preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Islamic world, the Charter advocates for the use of AI in developing educational content that highlights and promotes Islamic history, values, and linguistic diversity. AI technologies can be harnessed to create interactive educational tools that teach the vast contributions of Islamic civilization, the scientific achievements of Muslim scholars, and the literary richness of classical Arabic texts. This ensures that younger generations not only gain a deeper understanding of their heritage but also appreciate the enduring relevance of Islamic culture in the modern world, while simultaneously embracing the benefits of technological advancements.

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