



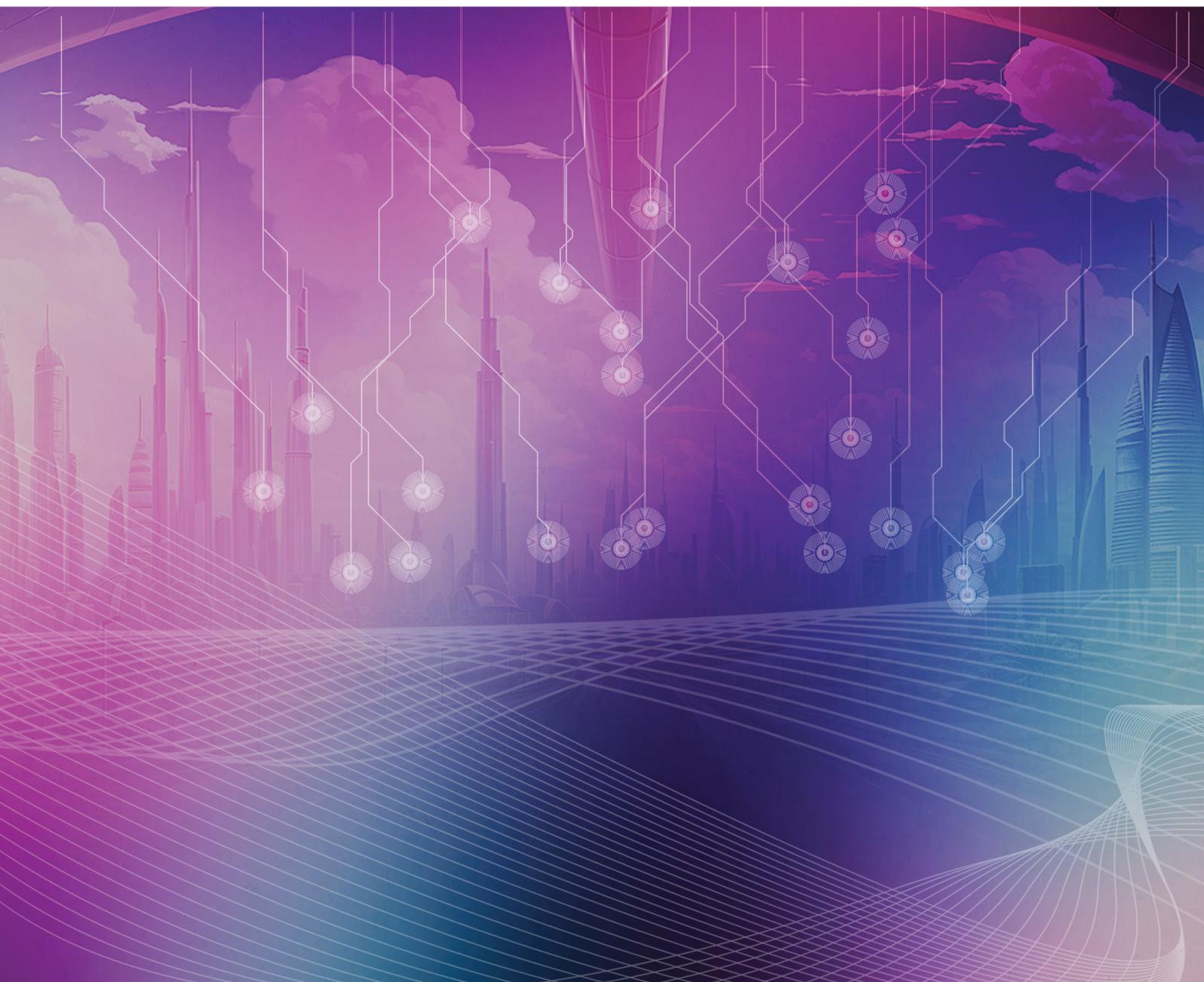
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
DIGITAL ECONOMY & REMOTE WORK APPLICATIONS OFFICE



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UAE Position on AI Policy

September 2024



INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that emerging technologies, most notably Artificial Intelligence, can be an effective tool for providing sustainable solutions to common challenges facing the world. The global landscape of AI is rapidly evolving and the UAE is committed to being at the forefront of this transformation. The UAE solidifies its global leadership to secure its position at the forefront of technological transformation and anticipates the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, which has emerged as an effective tool for providing sustainable solutions to common global challenges. This commitment involves crafting necessary strategies and plans while upholding humanitarian values, tolerance, and rejecting fanatical ideology, hate speech, racism and sectarianism that hinder the progress and development of societies.

The UAE's domestic landscape in AI is marked by robust government support, strategic partnerships, leading academic institutes, and a thriving industry that enables innovation. On the international sphere, the UAE plays a leading role in shaping international AI governance and policy through its proactive engagement on multilateral platforms. It does so by engaging in international AI policy discussions, contributing to the development of global AI standards, and actively participating in AI governance frameworks. The proactive role of the UAE in AI governance and related policies on international platforms is reflected in its membership in the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group, the UN High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, the WEF AI Governance Alliance, and its leadership in meetings at the UN Security Council on the impact of AI on hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation. This is also reflected in the UAE's institutions' membership in emerging global partnerships such as the AI Alliance. Additionally, the UAE supports resolutions that promote seizing opportunities for safe and responsible AI systems that enhance sustainable development. Furthermore, it contributes to the Global Digital Compact, addressing the digital divide and fostering a safe and inclusive digital environment.

In that vein, the purpose of this document is to outline the principles that inform the development, deployment and governance of AI in the UAE and set guidelines for the UAE's policy position on AI in the international sphere. This policy is an extension of the UAE's Charter for the Use and Development of AI, building upon its foundation to strategically establish the nation as a global leader in AI. It aims to position the UAE as a hub for AI innovation through international cooperation, to drive economic diversification, and to enhance the quality of life for its residents and the international community through the ethical and responsible governance and deployment of AI technologies. Grounded in the principles of Advancement, Collaboration, Community, Ethics, Sustainability, and Safety (ACCESS), the policy is designed to cultivate an innovation-friendly ecosystem supported by robust government initiatives, strategic domestic and international partnerships, and substantial investments in research and development.

In line with the UAE's foreign policy on emerging technologies, its alignment with international standards, and its active participation in global AI governance, the UAE is committed to building a sustainable, inclusive, and technologically advanced society, ensuring that the benefits of AI are accessible to all. This forward-looking policy addresses the present technological demands while also positioning the UAE to effectively navigate future challenges and seize opportunities in the continually evolving field of artificial intelligence.

UAE FOREIGN POLICY ON AI

1. Actively engages in international forums related to AI that inform future international standards and guidelines for the development and use of such emerging technologies.
2. Emphasizes the critical importance of transparency and establishment of checkpoints within AI tools, enabling governments to ensure compliance with ethical standards and to place the necessary accountability mechanisms to address any potential violations.
3. Supports establishing international alliances for governing, securing and developing AI systems.
4. Supports the development of international rules that hold nations accountable for the development of AI tools intended to harm or destabilize nations, while ensuring the security and safety of AI applications and protecting personal data and privacy.
5. Leverages AI applications and collaborative R&D projects in AI responsibly to promote peace and stability both regionally and globally.

KEY PRINCIPALS GOVERNING AI DEVELOPMENT: **ACCESS**

The UAE has identified six key guiding principles that reflect the nation's priorities and values, shaping our approach to AI policy.

A – ADVANCEMENT (INNOVATION)

To cultivate a robust AI ecosystem that encourages creativity and technological advancement, the UAE is committed to accelerating the development of indigenous AI tools that drive transformative change in addressing sustainable solutions to regional and global challenges. This effort includes advancing the development of cutting-edge AI algorithms and models, such as deep learning, machine learning, and natural language processing, which are essential for powering next-generation AI applications through establishing AI research centers dedicated to both fundamental and applied research, providing funding for innovative AI projects, and promoting collaboration between academia, industry, and government. Furthermore, the UAE aims to encourage AI adoption across key priority sectors by integrating AI applications in healthcare, finance, transportation, and agriculture through significant investments in high-performance computing clusters and AI-optimized data centers, while also supporting AI startups and SMEs through funding and incubation programs. Key players like AI71 and G42 focus on AI-driven solutions across various industries, including healthcare (M42), energy (AIQ), aerospace, smart mobility, and defense. Other platforms, like MGX and 2PointZero, focus on infrastructure, semiconductors, core AI technologies, and applications in Fintech, Healthtech, and Greentech. Entities like the Technology Innovation Institute (TII), Dubai Future Foundation, and ADIA Labs contribute to the innovation ecosystem in AI.

C – COLLABORATION

The UAE firmly believes that by strengthening international cooperation and building partnerships, we can effectively leverage AI to address global challenges and build capacity. Through its international partnerships, the UAE is dedicated to building bridges of communication and cooperation, converge different views and perspectives on pressing AI matters with various countries through a mechanism that enhances shared development and ensures the positive application of AI for a sustainable and transformative future. The UAE stands ready to collaborate on multiple fronts, including joint research and development projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices, and the co-creation of AI standards and frameworks that promote ethical and responsible AI use. The collaborative deployment of AI and emerging technologies will be instrumental in shaping the economies of the future. This requires open dialogue and constant consultations between government, private and public/civil organizations. The UAE is committed to fostering these national and international partnerships, fortified by our shared values of cooperation, responsibility and transparency, to advance AI and address global challenges.

C – COMMUNITY (EQUITY)

Equitable access to AI across all segments of society is essential for the development of all nations. The UAE seeks to embed AI within its society by establishing a comprehensive ecosystem that fosters research, collaboration, and commercialization. This ecosystem is supported by the activation of an AI network connecting researchers, industry experts, and policymakers, ensuring that AI is integrated inclusively and equitably to address social challenges. The UAE's mission is centered on inclusive AI applications, reflected in the diversity of its R&D community, both within research centers and its scientific community such as the Mohamed Bin Rashid Academy of Sciences. This ensures that solutions are tailored to the unique needs of the UAE's diverse and intersectional community. This approach includes incubator funds, mentorship programs, and fostering a startup ecosystem specifically tailored to meet the UAE's economic ambitions. The UAE's commitment is further illustrated by the Technology Innovation Institute (TII) making its flagship Falcon LLM open source as a contribution to the global AI community in creating a platform for collaboration and innovation. Nationally and internationally, the UAE is launching targeted programs to address unique local, regional, and global challenges using AI, drawing inspiration from international best practices. These efforts are complemented by extensive upskilling campaigns, which have been preparing residents and professionals in AI. By integrating these strategic initiatives, the UAE aims to position itself as a global hub for AI innovation, harnessing the technology to improve the quality of life.

E – ETHICS (AND TRANSPARENCY)

Demonstrating a strong commitment to ethical standards in AI, the UAE has articulated its framework in the "AI Ethics: Principles and Guidelines" which outlines 8 principles aimed at upholding human values and ensuring fair and safe treatment for all members of society. This forward-looking framework emphasizes eight core principles: fairness, such that AI systems must operate without bias; accountability, such that clear responsibility must be established for the impact of AI; transparency, such that decision-making processes must be understandable; explainability, such that AI-driven decisions must be interpretable to non-experts; robustness, such that AI systems must be resilient and reliable; safety, such that AI systems must prioritize physical and digital safety of individuals and communities; human-centered values, such that the technology must respect the dignity and rights of individuals; sustainability, such that AI development should contribute to environmental sustainability; and privacy preservation, such that AI systems must protect personal data with the latest standards of security. It is designed to ensure that AI systems are both beneficial and equitable for all segments of society, while enhancing transparency and security, and closely aligning with human values and privacy standards. Designed as a 'living document', it encourages continuous dialogue and adaptation to address emerging ethical challenges in AI, aiming to position the UAE as a global leader in ethical AI governance.

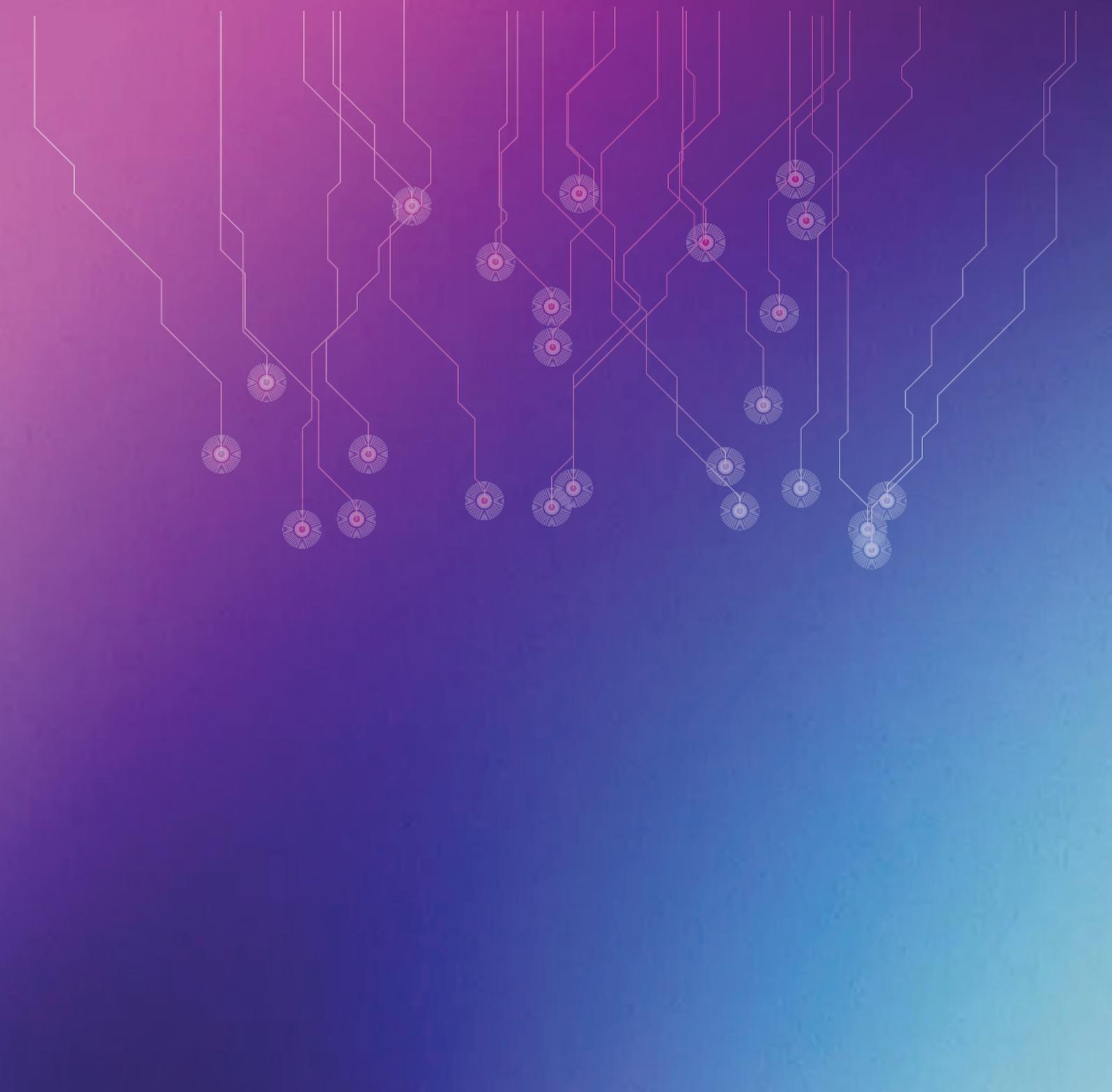
S – SUSTAINABILITY

The UAE is committed to aligning its AI development efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly by promoting AI applications that address environmental challenges, such as climate change, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture. The UAE aims to position itself as a global leader in combining artificial intelligence with sustainable development to effectively address environmental issues. This ambition is reflected through innovative initiatives like the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency's strategic water reservoir and solar-powered desalination center, and BEEAH Recycling Group in Sharjah, which uses AI to enhance waste recycling processes.

Recognizing the increasing energy consumption associated with the rapid expansion of AI, particularly due to the increasing demand for data centers, the UAE aims to play a responsible role in ensuring it is engaging with the relevant platforms that shape international standards for sustainability in AI.

S – SAFETY

The UAE is committed to enhancing artificial intelligence security, exemplified by its participation in the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group. This is further evident in the establishment of the UAE Cybersecurity Council, which plays a crucial role in ensuring a secure and resilient cyber infrastructure across the nation. As a prominent Arab regional representative state, it actively contributes in shaping international standards to ensure AI security and efficacy, addressing both the challenges and opportunities of AI. This commitment is part of the UAE's broader strategy to integrate safety and ethical considerations into the development of AI technologies, thereby safeguarding societal welfare and fostering responsible innovation.



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