



THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE *AI FOR SAFER CHILDREN* INITIATIVE

V 1.0 – June 2022

The *AI for Safer Children* initiative upholds the principles and obligations set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, aiming to fulfil the United Nations' purpose to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.¹ Bearing this in mind, the *AI for Safer Children* initiative is guided by the following core principles:

- 1 *Promoting **children's rights** throughout the development and deployment of AI and other emerging technology tools to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse online.*

The *AI for Safer Children* initiative is committed first and foremost to protecting children from online child sexual exploitation and abuse – a pervasive yet largely unreported violation of children's rights. Children's rights need to be fully realized in all instances by all individuals and entities involved in combating child sexual exploitation and abuse online through the power of AI and related technologies. The initiative therefore stresses the importance of all parties involved acting in the best interest of the child and observing the rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure that every child is protected from harm and may develop their full potential.

- 2 *Fostering the **responsible procurement, development and deployment of AI** in law enforcement in line with UN values, including human rights and the rule of law.*

The *AI for Safer Children* initiative promotes the development and deployment of AI in full compliance with human rights and broadly accepted ethical principles. This aspect is crucial to advance universal human rights standards, as negative consequences stemming either from the development of the AI tools or as a result of the manner of their deployment may infringe on people's fundamental freedoms or the rule of law. As the initiative envisages close cooperation with the private sector, particular attention is given to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as an authoritative global framework for State's duties to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms and business responsibilities to respect human rights.

- 3 *Upholding the values of **integrity, impartiality, independence and transparency** in all aspects of the development of the AI for Safer Children initiative.*

As another underlying, fundamental principle for upholding human rights, the *AI for Safer Children* initiative adheres to the highest standards of integrity and impartiality in pursuing its goals, as it is guided by existing norms and values of international law. To that end, the initiative must also be as transparent as possible about its scope and activities, including by publishing its aims and principles, regularly reaching out to independent experts for relevant guidance and publicizing the initiative's development and methodologies wherever possible.

¹ United Nations, Charter of the United Nations (1945), Art. 1.

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*Advancing **gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness** of those at risk of being left behind by technological development, as well as those most likely to be adversely affected by its risks and harms.*

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a global issue. In this regard, special consideration of the risks of the digital divide is required and attention should be afforded to ensuring that the perspectives of those most at risk of being left behind, such as people in the Global South, ethnic and racial minorities, people with disabilities and women and girls, are incorporated. These groups are more vulnerable to being disproportionately affected by the risks of AI because of possible biases of the technology, including on the basis of gender and race. To that end, the initiative places the perspectives of all people, and particularly of the most marginalized and those in situations of vulnerability, at its core. The initiative further seeks to be gender transformative, promoting gender equality throughout its development.

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*Promoting **global inclusion and cooperation** across all Member States of the United Nations.*

The *AI for Safer Children* seeks to benefit all Member States of the United Nations equally. This means being open and available for global engagement at every opportunity, while being particularly mindful of including those countries at risk of being left behind by the growing digital divide. The initiative thus strives to build a community where law enforcement agencies across the world can cooperate towards the common goal of protecting children from child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

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*Gathering **perspectives from diverse sectors and stakeholders** and stimulating the exchange of knowledge and perspectives.*

The *AI for Safer Children* initiative recognizes the value and importance of dialogue between law enforcement authorities, governments, civil society, academia, industry and other stakeholders across the globe. For this reason, the initiative is committed to gathering perspectives and sustaining a balanced representation from diverse sectors and stakeholders, as crucial to catering for the needs of all people and sustaining a credible and trustworthy platform for knowledge-building and information-sharing.

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*Protecting the **privacy and personal data** of any information gathered from the *AI for Safer Children* initiative's stakeholders.*

Any personal data collected in relation to the *AI for Safer Children* initiative will be protected and processed according to the UN Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles. More specifically, such data will be processed in a manner that is fair, limited and adequate to what is necessary for specified purposes of the initiative and consistent with the mandate of the United Nations.