This Charter establishes the formal framework for the **Global Alliance for AI Ethics (GAAIE)**, hereafter referred to as “the Alliance.”

Global Alliance For AI Ethics

CHARTER

1. Purpose

The Global Alliance for AI Ethics is a high-level advisory and action-oriented body, established by Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar Foundation, to bridge the critical divergence between what is technologically doable, ethically desirable, and humanly beneficial. It serves as a necessary global counterbalance to techno-solutionist paradigms by integrating diverse human values and Global South perspectives into the core of AI governance. The alliance functions as a multilateral gateway for polycentric dialogue, ensuring that the AI revolution is aligned with human dignity, equity, and the public interest.

2. Vision, Mission, and Objectives

- *Vision:* To forge a new paradigm for AI ethics where ethics is embraced as a catalyst for beneficial innovation, and to anchor a Global South perspective at the forefront of this movement.
- *Mission:* To build a global framework for AI ethics that reflects the world’s diverse moral perspectives and to serve as a polycentric hub for dialogue, research, and action-oriented initiatives that complement and strengthen key initiatives undertaken by international institutions.
- *Objectives:*
    - To shift the global discourse on AI ethics, currently dominated by a prohibition-focused model, to an innovation-enabling, human-centric one.
    - To foster a polycentric dialogue that enables the alliance to benefit from reflecting on and preventing the adoption of monocultural ethical standards.
    - To address systemic epistemic injustice through the integration of underrepresented knowledge systems.

- To provide independent, evidence-based ethical auditing of global AI systems.

3. Scope

The scope of the alliance's work includes:

- *Strategic Advisory:* Providing high-level guidance and advice to intergovernmental organizations (UN, UNESCO, WHO, ICESCO) and national governments.
- *Ethical Auditing:* Reviewing AI products and applications to assess ethical compliance, value-alignment, and societal impact.
- *Knowledge Preservation:* Large-scale digitization of underrepresented cultural and scholarly archives for equitable AI training.
- *Comparative Analysis:* Researching how diverse moral traditions approach specific AI-driven ethical dilemmas.

Note: The Alliance's scope does not include the development of proprietary commercial software, direct legal enforcement or policing, or partisan political lobbying.

4. Authority

The Alliance operates under the mandate of Hamad Bin Khalifa University's Board of Trustees. It is authorized to:

- Formulate and publish independent ethical "scoring" reports and policy briefs.
- Convene international multi-stakeholder dialogues and strategic councils.
- Propose alternative, value-aligned innovation routes for the technology industry.
- Represent the collective expert judgment of its members in international forums and UN-level engagements.

5. Organizational Structure and Reporting

- *Headquarters:* Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar.

- *Institutional Anchor:* The Alliance is integrated and incubated within the Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE). As its institutional home, CILE provides the foundational academic and administrative framework necessary for the Alliance's growth by providing rigorous academic stewardship to translate Islamic ethical traditions into global discourse and ensuring strategic leadership through the Director of CILE, who serves as the Alliance's Co-Chair. In this capacity, the Alliance is further supported by CILE's global networks and affiliated bodies, most notably the International Islamic Bioethics Association (IIBA), while benefiting from dedicated administrative support to manage the daily operations and coordination of the Alliance.
- *Governance and Reporting:* Ultimate strategic oversight of the Alliance resides with Hamad Bin Khalifa University's president.
    - During the initial founding year, the reporting lines shall be structured to ensure agile decision-making and academic integrity.
    - All operational sub-structures and expert working groups of the Alliance shall report directly to the Alliance co-chairs.
    - The Alliance co-chairs shall report directly to HBKU President on the progress of the strategic roadmap and foundational milestones.
    - Following the foundational phase, and upon the establishment of formal collaboration frameworks with international bodies (such as the UN, UNESCO, and WHO), these reporting lines will be reviewed and modified. This transition aims to reflect the formal character of such global partnerships, redesigning the governance structure to provide international stakeholders with a meaningful role in the strategic steering and oversight of the Alliance.
- *Operational Sub-Structures:* The Alliance executes its mandate and implements its strategic roadmap through specialized expert working groups. These groups are composed of the Alliance members who have been specifically designated as expert working group members within their formal notice of appointment. These members provide the technical depth required for the design, methodology, and delivery of the Alliance's flagship initiatives, which include:
    - *The Global AI Ethics Observatory Project:* Dedicated to the independent auditing, ethical scoring, and comparative analysis of AI systems.
    - *The Global Heritage AI Project:* Dedicated to the large-scale digitization and integration of underrepresented cultural and scholarly archives into the AI ecosystem.

6. Composition and Membership

- *Composition of the Alliance:* The Alliance is composed of globally renowned leaders, senior international officials, and world-class scholars. Co-chaired by the Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) Director, representing HBKU, and an international counterpart designated by HBKU President from among the Alliance's members. The Alliance provides a diverse synthesis of ethicists, policy practitioners, and technical experts, each selected for their seminal contributions to the field of AI ethics.

- *Membership Criteria:* The Alliance is structured to ensure uncompromised representation from the Global South, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, and the Islamic World, alongside leading Western centers of expertise. The Alliance maintains a strategic balance across geography, gender, and disciplinary specialization, ensuring the Alliance remains a truly polycentric global platform.

- *Selection Process:* To ensure the highest caliber of global representation and intellectual integrity, members are selected through a rigorous process:

  - *Extensive Research:* The selection is premised on comprehensive global research led by HBKU's Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) to identify the most impactful and visionary candidates worldwide.

  - *International Consultation:* During the selection phase, CILE consults with various prominent international bodies and established ethical centers of excellence to ensure global alignment.

  - *Appointment Authority:* Final candidates are formally appointed by the President of HBKU, acting upon the recommendation of the Alliance's leadership.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Alliance's main roles and responsibilities include the following:

- *Review* the strategic roadmap and core foundational documents of the Alliance to ensure global relevance.

- *Ensure* that digital and epistemic equity remains a central pillar of the Alliance's initiatives.

- *Provide* expert oversight and methodology guidance for the Global AI Ethics Observatory's auditing processes.
- *Facilitate* high-level diplomatic and institutional introductions to enable the Alliance to benefit from, build upon, and critically engage with the technology governance agendas of international bodies, including the UN, UNESCO, and ICESCO.
- *Advise* on the cultural appropriation risks for companies, helping align AI products with the values of diverse target societies.

8. Expected Outcomes and Impact

- *Global Recognition:* Establishing the Alliance as the primary Global South hub for AI ethics within the UN system and other important international bodies focusing on AI governance.
- *Actionable Data:* The creation of high-quality, diverse datasets via relevant and impactful projects and initiatives such as the Global Heritage AI Project.
- *Ethical Accountability:* Regular, independent reports that influence industry standards and public policy.
- *Polycentric Consensus:* The emergence of an inclusive global AI ethics discourse that moves beyond Western-centric standards.

9. Meetings

- *Frequency:* The Alliance shall meet at least **twice (2) annually**.
- *Format:* At least one meeting yearly shall be an in-person convening in Doha, Qatar, to foster high-level synergy. Supplementary meetings may be held online or on the sidelines of major global summits.
- *Special Sessions:* Expert working groups shall meet more frequently as dictated by project-specific requirements.

10. Term of Appointment

- *Appointment Phases:* To ensure a stable but flexible evolution of the Alliance, membership terms are divided as follows:
    - *Foundational Term:* Members are initially appointed for a **one-year term** dedicated to the design and launch of the Alliance's core initiatives.

- *Ordinary Term:* Following the foundational phase, appointments shall be for a **three-year term**, renewable by mutual agreement and a formal letter from HBKU's President.

- *Resignation:* Members may resign at any time during their term by providing thirty (30) days' written notice to HBKU's President.

- *Termination and Due Process:* To safeguard the independence and objectivity of the Alliance (as defined in Section 15), the dismissal of a member before the end of their term is subject to the following:

  - *Criteria:* During the founding period, the President of HBKU may terminate an appointment if a member's actions constitute professional misconduct or are proven to be in direct, documented conflict with the mission, vision, or ethical standards of the Alliance.

  - *Consultation:* Prior to termination, the President (or an assigned delegate) shall consult with the Alliance co-chairs to review the situation.

  - *Communication:* The affected member shall be provided with a written rationale for the proposed termination and granted an opportunity to respond.

  - *Formal Notice:* A final decision shall be communicated in writing, taking effect thirty (30) days from the date of the formal notice, unless immediate safety or legal risks necessitate otherwise.

11. Remuneration

The levels of remuneration provided to members of the Alliance should be sufficient to be able to attract and retain the services of highly qualified and competent members. HBKU shall establish formal and transparent procedures and guidelines for the remuneration or determination of remuneration levels of members depending on the particular needs of the Alliance.

12. Confidentiality

All information that is provided or disclosed to or otherwise received by a member of the Alliance through his/her involvement in any of the Alliance's work or activities is regarded as confidential to be maintained in strict confidence unless: (a) Disclosure is expressly authorized in writing by the relevant HBKU authority;

(b) Already in the public domain other than as a result of disclosure by a member in breach of its obligations under this Charter; or

(c) Required by law.

13. Conflict of Interest

Actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with HBKU's Conflicts of Interest policy and procedures. All members of the Alliance are responsible for recognizing, disclosing, and appropriately addressing conflicts of interest that may affect, or appear to affect, their professional judgment, objectivity, or decision-making.

14. Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) created, acquired, or used is to be protected, disclosed, and managed in accordance with HBKU's Intellectual Property policy and procedures, contractual obligations, and applicable laws and regulations of the State of Qatar.

15. Independence and Objectivity

The Alliance shall provide independent, objective, and expert advice and recommendations on matters within its mandate. It shall act independently from the University or external party influence and shall not be subject to direction or influence from the University, external organizations, governments, commercial entities, or other stakeholders.

The Alliance shall not advocate, promote, or endorse specific university, government, or commercial interests. Members shall not act as lobbyists or advocates for specific policies or initiatives on behalf of the University or other external parties. Advice and other deliverables produced by the Alliance shall reflect the independent professional judgment and collective expertise of its members.

16. Amendments to the Charter

This charter serves as the foundational governance framework for the Alliance. Amendments may be proposed to reflect the evolving landscape of AI technology and global governance under the following conditions:

- *Substantive amendments:* changes to the Alliance's purpose, mission, vision, scope, or independence (sections 1, 2, 3, and 15) require a mutual concurrence model. Such amendments must be:
    - Proposed by either HBKU's President or by a two-thirds majority of the Alliance members**.**
    - Formally recommended for approval by the Alliance following

a collective review.

- Ratified through the final written approval of HBKU's President.

- *Administrative Amendments:* Minor procedural or clerical changes (e.g., meeting logistics, reporting formats) may be initiated and approved by HBKU President. In such cases, the Alliance shall be notified in writing within thirty (30) days of the change.

- *Conflict Resolution:* Should a deadlock occur between the Alliance's recommendation and the President regarding a substantive amendment, a special mediation session shall be convened to ensure the Alliance's international standing and ethical integrity are preserved.