



# GAIGI TRANSPARENCY & INDEPENDENCE POLICY

## Transparency and Independence Policy

Geneva AI Governance Institute

---

### Preamble

GAIGI publishes this transparency and independence policy to inform all stakeholders of the principles that guide our decisions regarding governance, funding, and partnerships.

This policy reflects our voluntary commitment to neutrality and transparency. It serves as a reference framework for the evaluation of all our international partnerships and collaborations.

GAIGI, anchored in Geneva while serving an international mission, establishes a new transparency standard for AI governance organizations.

### 1. Our Mission

GAIGI serves as a neutral platform to advance responsible AI governance globally.

Our certifications and standards are designed to **complement, not replace**, national regulatory frameworks, with a particular focus on facilitating trust in cross-border AI applications.

This policy applies to all institutions, governments, companies, and individuals collaborating with GAIGI.

#### 1.3 Principle of Non-Interference and Respect for National Sovereignty

GAIGI subscribes to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, in accordance with international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

**Our commitments:**

- GAIGI's frameworks, standards, and certifications are **voluntary** tools to facilitate cross-border trust
- They are not intended to replace, contradict, or weaken national regulatory frameworks
- GAIGI does not interfere in national public policy choices concerning domestic AI

**Fundamental distinction:**

- **Domestic AI:** Falls exclusively under national sovereignty. GAIGI does not comment on national policies in this domain.
- **Cross-border AI:** Our area of action to facilitate international trust, always on a voluntary basis

**Preservation of our research activities:**

GAIGI preserves the right to:

- Conduct factual academic research on different national regulatory approaches
  - Document international practices for comparative analysis purposes, without issuing prescriptive recommendations to States
  - Revoke a GAIGI certification if a certified system is used in a cross-border context contrary to our standards
- 

## **2. Fundamental Governance Principles**

### **2.1 Independence of Strategic Decisions**

GAIGI applies the following principles in its governance bodies:

- No country, institution, or company outside the anchor jurisdiction may hold more than **10% of voting rights** in our international advisory bodies
- **No permanent seat** reserved for a national or international corporate entity
- All international mandates subject to **regular rotation** (maximum two consecutive terms of two years each)
- International strategic decisions validated by representatives from at least **three different geographic regions**
- **Transparent**, documented, and published nomination processes

## 2.2 Composition of the Foundation Board

The Foundation Board prioritizes anchoring in the International Geneva ecosystem, guaranteeing institutional stability and alignment with the neutrality tradition that characterizes this center of global governance.

To ensure an international perspective in strategic decisions:

- At least **30% of Foundation Board members** are non-Swiss nationals or residents outside Switzerland
- Foundation Board members with direct links to funders representing more than 10% of the budget systematically apply the "**Chinese Wall**" clause (see section 4.4)

GAIGI also establishes an **International Advisory Council** composed of experts from all regions of the world, ensuring a diversity of perspectives in strategic orientation without statutory decision-making power.

---

## 3. Principles of Financial Independence

### 3.1 International Contributors

To guarantee a diversity of funding sources and avoid excessive dependence:

- No single international contributor may represent more than **15% of the annual budget**
- Combined contributions from entities of the same country (outside the anchor jurisdiction) cannot exceed **25% of the annual budget**
- **Total transparency:** Any international funding source exceeding **10,000 CHF** is published in real-time on our public platform
- Funding grants **no influence** over our standards, publications, strategic orientations, or personnel decisions
- GAIGI reserves the **right to refuse any funding** likely to compromise — or appear to compromise — its independence
- Multi-year commitments create **no right** to participate in governance or strategic influence

### 3.2 Institutional Anchor Funding Policy

GAIGI recognizes the importance of stable institutional anchoring to guarantee its sustainability during its startup phase.

Funders meeting the **following criteria** may collectively represent up to **40% of the budget** during the first five years, then **30% thereafter**:

- Entities established in a **jurisdiction internationally recognized** for its neutrality and tradition of supporting international organizations
- **Demonstrable historical commitment** to supporting multilateral international governance
- **Acceptance of enhanced compensatory transparency mechanisms** described below (section 4)

These criteria are designed to balance institutional stability and international credibility. In practice, public and philanthropic entities established in the Canton of Geneva and Switzerland meet these criteria due to their historical anchoring in International Geneva.

**Justification:** This financial anchoring reflects the tradition of supporting International Geneva and guarantees GAIGI's operational stability during its critical development phase. The associated radical transparency transforms this funding into a demonstration of our commitment to integrity.

---

## 4. Compensatory Transparency Mechanisms

The greater the funding from an actor, the stricter the transparency and control mechanisms. These provisions apply particularly to funders exceeding 15% of the annual budget.

### 4.1 Real-Time Publication

**Interactive public platform accessible 24/7:**

- **Online database** displaying all funding exceeding **10,000 CHF**
- **Mandatory information:** Funder name, exact amount, date, precise objective, engagement duration
- **Full contracts published** for any funding exceeding **100,000 CHF annually**
- **Explicit non-interference clauses** made public
- **Interactive transparency portal** showing geographic and sectoral distribution in real-time, with visualization of evolution over 5 years

## 4.2 Enhanced Independent Audit

### Mandatory annual external audit:

- Conducted by an **accredited international audit firm** having **no consulting or audit mandate** with GAIGI's institutional anchor funders (guarantee of absence of conflict of interest)
- **Verification of absence of undue influence** on strategic decisions, certifications, and publications
- **Thorough examination** of governance processes and compliance with independence principles
- **Audit report published in full** on GAIGI's website within **30 days** following its finalization
- **Annual certification** confirming that GAIGI operates in accordance with this transparency policy

## 4.3 Ethics and Independence Committee

### Composition:

- **5 internationally recognized personalities** in AI governance, ethics, and organizational transparency
- **Maximum 1 member out of 5** may be Swiss or reside in Switzerland (guaranteeing an international majority of 4/5)
- **3-year term not consecutively renewable**
- **Nomination through open process** with validation by at least **4 different geographic regions** (Europe excluding Switzerland, Americas, Asia, Africa/Middle East)

### Mission:

The Ethics Committee issues **public assessments and recommendations** on:

- Potential influence of funders on GAIGI decisions
- Effective application of non-interference clauses
- Internationally perceived credibility of GAIGI's independence
- Reports received via the whistleblower protection mechanism

### Foundation Board commitment:

The Foundation Board commits to:

- **Follow the Committee's recommendations** or **publish detailed justification** of any contrary decision within 30 days
- **Inform the cantonal supervisory authority** in case of substantial divergence
- **Publish annually** the Committee's full report with Foundation Board responses

#### 4.4 "Ethical Wall" Clause

##### **Systematic mandatory abstention:**

If representatives of institutional anchor funders (Geneva- or Switzerland-based public entities or foundations contributing more than 10% of the budget) **sit on the Foundation Board**, they systematically abstain from participating in decisions concerning:

- Any **certification** concerning Geneva- or Switzerland-based entities
- Any **governance decision** involving Swiss partners
- Any **publication or position** concerning Swiss public policies on AI

##### **Application:**

- This clause is **included** in **all funding contracts**
- **Minutes** of governance bodies explicitly mention abstentions applied
- The **Ethics Committee** annually verifies effective compliance with this clause
- Any observed violation triggers **immediate review** of the concerned financial relationship

#### 4.5 Mandatory Progressive Diversification

##### **5-year diversification plan:**

- **Objective:** Reduce institutional anchor funding share from **40% (year 1)** to **30% (year 5)**
- **Public semi-annual report** on progress of geographic and sectoral diversification
- **International fundraising strategy** documented and published annually
- In case of **failure to meet objectives**, the Ethics Committee **recommends** corrective measures that the Foundation Board must adopt or publicly justify their rejection
- Publication of a **public transparency portal** showing diversification evolution

**Indicative calendar:**

| Year          | Maximum Anchor Funding | Minimum International Funding |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 (2025-2026) | 40%                    | 60%                           |
| 2 (2026-2027) | 37%                    | 63%                           |
| 3 (2027-2028) | 34%                    | 66%                           |
| 4 (2028-2029) | 32%                    | 68%                           |
| 5+ (2029+)    | 30%                    | 70%                           |

## 4.6 Undue Influence Reporting Mechanism

**Whistleblower protection system:**

- Any **stakeholder** (staff member, external expert, partner, observer) may report **confidentially and under protection** any attempt at undue influence
- **Secure dedicated platform** managed directly by the Ethics Committee
- **Guarantee of non-retaliation** included in employment contracts and partnership agreements
- **Processing time:** 30 days maximum with feedback to reporter (respecting confidentiality)
- **Annual aggregated report** (without identifying reporters) published in the Ethics Committee report

## 4.7 Funding Review Clause

**Exit mechanism for problematic funders:**

If the Ethics Committee or Foundation Board identifies **undue influence** from a funder (institutional anchor or international), GAIGI commits to:

1. **Immediately suspend** the concerned financial relationship
2. **Publish a report** explaining the reasons for suspension (respecting confidentiality of sensitive commercial information)
3. **Implement a funding replacement plan** within **6 months**
4. **Inform the Ethics Committee** monthly of plan progress

This clause demonstrates that **independence takes precedence over financial resources**.

## 5. Intellectual Independence

- GAIGI retains **full editorial control** over all its publications, standards, methodologies, and communications
  - **Research results** are published **independently** of sponsor preferences or political sensitivities
  - **Methodological development** is **free from external interference**
  - All **draft standards and frameworks** undergo **public consultation** before adoption
  - **Minority opinions** within working groups are documented and made available in final publications
  - **No right of review** or prior approval is granted to any external party
- 

## 6. Geographic Balance in Operational Activities

While the Foundation Board prioritizes anchoring in the International Geneva ecosystem, GAIGI's **operational activities** (certification, research, standardization) reflect strict geographic diversity:

- All **technical working groups** include experts from at least **3 different geographic regions** (Europe excluding Switzerland, Americas, Asia, Africa/Middle East, Oceania)
  - **No region** may represent more than **40%** of a technical committee or working group
  - **Active outreach** to underrepresented regions, including capacity building support and travel expense assistance if necessary
  - **Linguistic accessibility**: Key documents are available in **UN working languages** (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)
  - **Regional consultations** conducted to ensure diverse perspectives inform GAIGI's work
- 

## 7. Transparency and Accountability

### 7.1 Public Annual Report

**Mandatory publication including:**

- **All funding sources** and amounts (exceeding 10,000 CHF)
- **Composition of governance bodies** by nationality and affiliation
- **Summary of key decisions** and their decision-making process
- **Geographic distribution** of working group participants

- **Assessment of compliance** with this transparency policy
- **Full Ethics Committee report** with recommendations and Foundation Board responses

## 7.2 Public Documentation

- **Public register** of all cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, and partnership arrangements
  - **Minutes** of Foundation Board and governance body meetings published (sensitive elements redacted according to predefined and public criteria)
  - **Conflict of interest declarations** of all Foundation Board members, committee chairs, and senior executives published annually
- 

## 8. Independence Principles in Certifications

Our certifications and standards apply the same independence and transparency principles as our governance.

### 8.1 Philosophy of Complementarity and Respect for Sovereignty

GAIGI recognizes the inalienable right of each State to regulate artificial intelligence on its territory according to its own values and priorities.

#### **For domestic AI systems:**

- National standards prevail without reservation
- GAIGI does not comment on national public policy choices
- Each State defines its own safety, ethics, and governance criteria

#### **For AI systems requesting GAIGI certification for cross-border use:**

- The system must satisfy national legal requirements AND GAIGI standards
- Certification is voluntary and aims to facilitate international acceptance
- States remain free to accept or refuse GAIGI-certified systems on their territory
- GAIGI certification never replaces national regulatory requirements

#### **Our mission:**

Certifications and standards developed by GAIGI **complement national regulatory frameworks, not replace them**. They aim to:

- **Strengthen transnational trust** in the ethical use of artificial intelligence
- **Guarantee international compatibility** of practices while respecting national regulatory specificities
- **Promote a common framework** of accountability and transparency
- **Facilitate cross-border AI applications** through establishment of harmonized standards

## 8.2 Modular and Evolving Approach

- **Progressive certification levels** adapted to different national regulatory contexts
- **Compatibility** with existing standards (ISO/IEC 42001, EU AI Act, etc.) to reduce compliance burden
- **Possible extension** to meet specific sectoral or geographic needs
- **Regular review** (every 12 months) to adapt to regulatory and technological developments

## 8.3 Mutual Recognition

GAIGI establishes **mutual recognition agreements** with national and regional regulatory authorities to:

- Avoid duplication of certification processes
- Facilitate cross-border acceptance of GAIGI certifications
- Contribute to developing a **global trust ecosystem** for AI

**Note:** These agreements are subject to regular audits to guarantee maintenance of GAIGI standards and are revocable in case of non-compliance.

**Operational details of the certification process**, including management of national regulatory profiles and contextualized certification procedures, will be published in the separate document "**GAIGI Certification Framework**" currently under development with input from international stakeholders.

---

## 9. Specific Exclusions

GAIGI will **never** engage in:

- **Exclusive partnerships** limiting engagement with other actors

- Activities requiring **approval or prior review** by an external entity (governmental, corporate, or institutional)
- **Co-branding or endorsement arrangements** that could compromise perceived neutrality
- Arrangements granting **preferential access** to GAIGI outputs, data, or methodologies
- **Consulting missions** where GAIGI would validate or certify specific products, services, or national policies (beyond the certification framework that GAIGI develops)

## 9.6 Non-Interference in Internal Affairs

In accordance with its commitment to neutrality and respect for national sovereignty, GAIGI strictly prohibits itself from:

- **Ranking, judging, or comparing** national AI policies of sovereign States for purposes of political challenge
- **Participating in initiatives** aimed at circumventing a State's regulatory authority on its territory
- **Intervening in States' internal political debates** concerning their regulatory choices for domestic AI
- **Using its platform** to influence or criticize national public policy choices

### Positive commitment:

GAIGI commits to:

- Present its research work and certifications in a **factual and balanced** manner
  - **Fully respect** national laws in all countries where it operates
  - Not take sides in national political debates
  - **Publish clarifications** if its work is cited misleadingly or taken out of context
- 

## 10. Implementation and Review

### 10.1 Nature of this Policy

This transparency policy is:

- **Published** for the information of all stakeholders
- **A voluntary commitment** by GAIGI to transparency and independence

- **Reviewed annually** with publication of updates
- **Immediately applicable** to all our partnerships and decisions

## 10.2 Accountability

The Foundation Board commits to:

- **Respect this policy** in all its decisions
- **Publish an annual report** demonstrating effective compliance
- **Publicly communicate** any substantial modification with justification

## 10.3 Contact

Any stakeholder may submit questions or concerns regarding this policy via:

**Email:** [independence@gaigi.org](mailto:independence@gaigi.org)

**Web:** [gaigi.org/independence](https://gaigi.org/independence)

## 10.4 Progressive Implementation Timeline

| Period                    | Milestones                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Year 1 (2025-2026)</b> | Establishment of Ethics Committee, first independent audit, launch of transparency portal        |
| <b>Year 2 (2026-2027)</b> | Full operationalization of all mechanisms, first diversification report                          |
| <b>Year 3 (2027-2028)</b> | External evaluation of mechanisms' effectiveness, adjustments if necessary                       |
| <b>Year 5 (2029-2030)</b> | Achievement of 30% maximum institutional anchor funding objective, complete strategic evaluation |

---

## Our Commitment

We commit to guaranteeing ethical, balanced, and transparent governance, where no single entity can influence our decisions to the detriment of global interest.

This policy strengthens GAIGI's international legitimacy and consolidates global trust in our actions. By combining **strong institutional anchoring** with **radical transparency**, we demonstrate that it is possible to be both rooted in a territory and serving the global interest.

GAIGI establishes a new transparency standard for international AI governance organizations, where every franc can be traced and every decision verified. This posture distinguishes us and strengthens our credibility precisely because we accept being subject to an exceptional level of scrutiny.

---

## Conclusion

This transparency and independence policy constitutes the cornerstone of GAIGI's mission: to ensure artificial intelligence governance free from any undue influence, serving the global collective interest, while valuing anchoring in the International Geneva ecosystem and the neutrality tradition that characterizes this center of global governance.

The **radical transparency** we adopt transforms our institutional anchoring into demonstrative strength of our commitment to integrity and international trust. Our model proves that an organization can be **deeply anchored locally while serving a truly global mission.**

By explicitly recognizing national sovereignty and focusing exclusively on facilitating cross-border trust, we create a cooperation space acceptable to all States, regardless of their national approaches to AI regulation.

---

**Adopted:** October 28, 2025

**Next review:** October 2026

**Version:** 1.1

**Contact:** [info@gaigi.org](mailto:info@gaigi.org)

**Web:** [gaigi.org/independence](https://gaigi.org/independence)

---