

Charter of Principles of the Geneva Al Governance Institute (GAIGI)

Preamble

In a world where artificial intelligence shapes our lives with unprecedented power, GAIGI was born out of the conviction that technology must serve humanity, not the other way around. Heir to Geneva's tradition of diplomacy and neutrality, our Institute stands as an ethical beacon in the storm of digital innovation. This Charter is not a rigid code, but a moral compass for navigating towards trustworthy, fair and sustainable AI.

Scope of application

These principles govern the evaluation of artificial intelligence systems that touch on the most sensitive aspects of our society: health, which unites us in our fragility; security, which protects our freedoms; justice, which underpins our coexistence; and all those invisible algorithms that weave the fabric of our modern infrastructure.

1. Human rights and the primacy of the human being

"Man is the measure of all things"

In every line of code, in every algorithmic decision, echoes our common humanity. Artificial intelligence must never forget that it serves human beings, in their inalienable dignity and precious diversity.

Our commitment:

We refuse to allow machines to turn people into numbers, algorithms to reduce individuals to scores, or technological surveillance to stifle freedom. Every system evaluated must embody respect for fundamental rights, like an indelible ethical DNA. Those affected by these technologies must be able to defend themselves, explain themselves, and be heard – because justice without recourse is merely an illusion of justice.

2. Transparency, traceability and accountability

"Truth is a light that does not fear to be looked at."

In the darkness of algorithmic "black boxes", injustices and errors germinate. We demand clarity as others demand clean air: it is vital to democratic trust.

Our commitment:

Every system must be able to tell its story – where its data comes from, how its decisions are made, what its acknowledged flaws are. This transparency is not a weakness but a strength: it enables improvement, correction and accountability. When the algorithm makes a mistake, we need to know who can be held accountable, because technological irresponsibility breeds arbitrariness.

3. Security, robustness and resilience

"Prevention is better than cure"

Artificial intelligence, like any power, has the potential for both creation and destruction. We cannot accept that innovation should advance without safeguards, that the race for performance should ignore the risks.

Our commitment:

Every system must be forged in the steel of caution, tested against storms of adversity, prepared for breakdowns and hijackings. We demand algorithms that know how to say "no" when the situation requires it, that can stop before causing harm, that learn from their mistakes without repeating them. Because true innovation is not about going faster, but about going safer.

4. Proportionality and effective human control

"With great power comes great responsibility."

Automation is not an end in itself, but a means to human ends. We refuse to abdicate human responsibility in favour of technological convenience.

Our commitment:

Every level of autonomy granted to a machine must be deserved, justified and proportionate to the stakes. In critical decisions, the human eye must remain open, the human hand ready to intervene, and human intelligence capable of understanding and correcting. Because delegating is not abdicating, and automating is not dehumanising.

5. Inclusion, equity and accessibility

"Equal opportunities in the age of algorithms"

Artificial intelligence has the power to amplify both our biases and our virtues. We are firmly committed to amplifying justice and inclusion.

Our commitment:

Our assessments pay particular attention to voices that are often overlooked: minorities, countries in the Global South, vulnerable populations. We demand that AI correct inequalities rather than perpetuate them, that it open doors rather than close them. Every system must be understandable and usable by those it affects, in their own language, according to their abilities, and in a way that respects their cultural context.

6. Sustainability and societal benefit

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Artificial intelligence consumes resources, transforms jobs and redefines our societies. This transformation must be carried out with respect for planetary and social balances.

Our commitment:

We promote AI that enriches humanity without impoverishing the planet, that creates value without destroying social ties. Each system must justify its environmental footprint through its social utility, optimise its resources and contribute positively to the challenges of our time. Because innovation that only thinks about tomorrow forgets the day after tomorrow.

Governance and integrity

Just as Geneva welcomes nations to engage in dialogue, GAIGI brings together the diverse voices of our time: researchers and citizens, businesses and NGOs, North and South. Our independence is our pride, our transparency our strength.

Implementation and continuous improvement

These principles are alive, like the society they seek to serve. They evolve wisely, adapt cautiously, and are enriched by experience and mistakes. For perfection does not exist, but continuous improvement is within our reach.

Signatories' commitment

By signing, members are not just signing a document: they are joining a movement, embracing a vision, and taking part in building a more humane technological future.

"The future is not what will happen, but what we will do."

Done at Geneva on 5 July 2025, city of peace and dialogue,

On behalf of the Geneva Al Governance Institute (GAIGI)

Dr. Axel Mazolo, DBA President of the Geneva Movement, July 2025