



General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Version 1.0

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Versions and Amendments Table

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1.0	20 May 2025	First release of the policy

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1. Glossary

Term	Definition
iGA	Information & eGovernment Authority.
Data	A set of facts in raw or unstructured form such as numbers, letters, images, videos, audio recordings, or emojis.
Artificial Intelligence	A technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy.
Sensitive Data	Information that requires special protection due to the potential harm its disclosure may cause to individuals or institutions. This includes personal data such as names and addresses, financial data such as account numbers, health information such as medical records, and legal information such as criminal records.
Policy	The General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence.
Big Data	Large and complex datasets that are difficult to process using traditional tools.
Open Data	Open data is data that is available to everyone for use and sharing freely, without legal or financial restrictions. It is published by governments or institutions to promote transparency and innovation.
Individuals	Citizens or residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Concerned Entities	Government entities in the Kingdom of Bahrain
Digital Technology	Refers to the use of electronic devices and software to process, store, and transmit information digitally, contributing to the facilitation and improvement of operations across various aspects of life, such as education, communications, and industry.

2. Introduction

In light of the rapid developments in digital technology, the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to deploying artificial intelligence to drive economic and social growth and advance all areas of government. This policy establishes a comprehensive framework to ensure the safe and ethical use of these technologies, aligned with Bahrain Vision 2030 and national objectives, while complying with national and international standards.

The policy is built around several key pillars. The first emphasizes policies and legislation, requiring government entities to comply with laws, regulations, policies and standards related to artificial intelligence, including the Personal Data Protection Law, the Law on Protection of State Documents and Information, the Open Data Policy, and the GCC Artificial Intelligence Ethics guideline. These commitments aim to ensure the protection of data and information and to enhance transparency and safety in the use of artificial intelligence technologies.

The second pillar focuses on the adoption and use of artificial intelligence technologies, where government entities seek to integrate these technologies into their operations and services, contributing to improved efficiency and increased performance effectiveness. This requires studying how to use artificial intelligence in various fields, including public services, health, education, and transportation, which enhances Bahrain's competitiveness regionally and internationally.

The third pillar addresses awareness and education, where government entities bear the responsibility of raising awareness and educating employees about artificial intelligence technologies and their benefits, to ensure the effective and sustainable use of these technologies. This requires providing training programs and workshops that highlight challenges and opportunities related to the application of artificial intelligence in the government work environment. The fourth pillar focuses on local and international cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence, which is essential to promote innovation and develop artificial intelligence applications at the local and international levels.

Through this integrated framework, the Kingdom of Bahrain hopes to achieve a qualitative leap in the management of government services and enhance the satisfaction of citizens and residents, thereby contributing to the building of an innovative and sustainable society.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all government entities in the Kingdom of Bahrain with the aim of encouraging the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies and enhancing their use across various sectors. It seeks to guide and regulate the mechanisms for implementing these technologies to ensure their effectiveness and integration with national plans. Through this policy, the role of artificial intelligence will be enhanced in supporting digital transformation, improving the quality of government services, and achieving operational efficiency.

4. Principles

This policy was established based on the following fundamental principles:

- **First Principle: Human Decision-Making**

This principle is based on the idea that artificial intelligence technologies are tools to assist humans in decision-making. However, the final decision in important matters must remain under human control, especially in cases related to individual and societal rights.

- **Second Principle: Safety and Prevention of Harm**

This principle aims to ensure that all artificial intelligence applications are safe and capable of preventing any physical or psychological harm to individuals or society. The safety of individuals must be a top priority in the design and implementation of these technologies.

- **Third Principle: Fairness, Equity, and Non-Discrimination**

This principle emphasizes that artificial intelligence technologies must be fair, ensuring equity for all without any discrimination based on race, religion, gender, or any other non-objective factors, in order to avoid unjust biases in outcomes.

- **Fourth Principle: Transparency and Explainability**

This principle states the importance of having processes carried out by artificial intelligence systems that are clear and transparent, such that they are explainable and understandable by users and specialists, to ensure informed decisions based on full knowledge of how these systems operate.

- **Fifth Principle: Responsibility, Accountability, and Awareness**

This principle stresses the need to clearly define responsibilities when using artificial intelligence technologies, with accountability mechanisms in place in case of errors. There should also be comprehensive awareness of the impacts of using these technologies and the associated social responsibility.

- **Sixth Principle: Integrity and Non-Fabrication**

This principle is based on ensuring that all data and information used and provided by artificial intelligence systems are accurate and not falsified, ensuring the integrity and accuracy of these systems in delivering the required results.

- **Seventh Principle: Privacy and Data Protection**

This principle involves protecting privacy and ensuring that personal data is preserved and secure when used in artificial intelligence systems, in accordance with applicable laws and standards to guarantee the protection of individual rights.

- **Eighth Principle: Reliability and Safety**

This principle relates to ensuring the reliability and safety of artificial intelligence systems and software by designing and operating them in a way that guarantees accurate and consistent results, with necessary measures taken to protect them from manipulation or breaches. It also aims to build trust in the use of AI and ensure it complies with ethical and security standards, creating a positive impact while reducing potential risks.

- **Ninth Principle: Investment in Advanced Technology**

This principle calls for continuous investment in the development and adoption of the latest artificial intelligence technologies to ensure performance improvement and enhance the technological capabilities of government entities, contributing to sustainable progress.

- **Tenth Principle: Promoting Technological Innovation**

This principle encourages technological innovation through the adoption of new ideas and the application of the latest artificial intelligence technologies, in a way that supports digital transformation and contributes to improving operations and services in an innovative and sustainable manner.

- **Eleventh Principle: Protection of Intellectual Property Rights**

This principle focuses on ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights in the field of artificial intelligence technologies, by establishing clear frameworks and controls that preserve innovations and intellectual outputs. This includes protecting innovation rights in projects and initiatives related to artificial intelligence technologies, thereby ensuring the promotion of creativity and respect for intellectual rights.

5. Objectives

- Establishing a comprehensive framework that includes an ethical charter, regulations for data protection, and guidelines for data classification and sharing to develop and adopt artificial intelligence solutions.
- Directing investments towards innovative solutions that enhance efficiency and raise the level of effectiveness in delivering government services.
- Promoting innovation and building the capabilities of government entities to face future challenges and contribute to achieving sustainable development goals.
- Affirming Bahrain's commitment to leadership in innovation and technology at both the regional and international levels, while enhancing local and international partnerships.
- Encouraging the use of artificial intelligence technologies in innovative ways that contribute to enhancing national identity and preserving cultural heritage, while minimizing potential risks to this heritage and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.
- Enhancing artificial intelligence research and innovation to support the development of advanced technologies that align with ethical principles and promote responsible use of artificial intelligence.

6. General Policy Pillars for the Use of Artificial Intelligence

6.1. First Pillar: Commitment to Policies and Legislations

This pillar emphasizes the necessity of adhering to existing policies and regulations to ensure privacy protection and enhance security and transparency in artificial intelligence applications, while complying with the laws on personal data protection, state documents protection, and the open data policy. These policies contribute to building trust in smart systems and ensuring their safe and consistent use in serving the public interest. This policy also integrates with other legal frameworks to ensure that government entities comply with national standards, while preserving human values and achieving security and efficiency in the provision of government services using artificial intelligence, ensuring innovation without compromising the rights of individuals or society.

6.1.1. Objectives

1. Enhancing the protection of individuals' data through compliance with personal data protection laws and adherence to data-related policies.
2. Adhering to the applicable national frameworks and legislations in the Kingdom of Bahrain by aligning policies with current laws.
3. Preserving ethical and human values when using artificial intelligence technologies within government entities.
4. Ensuring data safety and security in a manner that contributes to improving the efficiency of providing government services using artificial intelligence.
5. Building community trust in artificial intelligence technologies through transparency and government entities' commitment to ethical standards.

6.1.2. Rules and Requirements

Commitment and alignment with the following policies and legislations:

6.1.2.1. The Personal Data Protection Law

Personal Data Protection Law, issued under Law No. (30) of 2018, aims to regulate how personal data is processed and protected in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This law includes provisions related to data processing using automated means and defines the conditions that must be met to make such

processing lawful. In the context of using artificial intelligence, this law is essential to ensure that the use of AI does not violate individuals' privacy or rights.

The law also includes provisions for transferring personal data outside the Kingdom, which enhances security in environments that rely on artificial intelligence, where many smart solutions may require sharing data with international companies or platforms. Through the establishment of a dedicated Data Protection Authority, the enforcement of these provisions is monitored, contributing to strengthening the confidence of citizens and residents in the use of artificial intelligence technologies in government services and confirming Bahrain's commitment to global standards in data protection.

6.1.2.2. The Protection of Information and State Documents Law

Law No. (16) of 2014 concerning the protection of information and state documents aims to protect sensitive and important information related to the state from internal and external threats. This law provides criminal protection for everything related to state information and documents, ensuring that all relevant parties, including private companies that may be involved with this information, comply with the necessary security standards.

The law includes the classification of such information into three levels: Top Secret, for information whose disclosure seriously threatens the safety and security of the state; Secret, for information whose disclosure may harm the state's security or interests; and Prohibited/Restricted, for information whose disclosure results in limited harm. Concerned entities are obligated to issue decisions defining the topics that fall under each classification according to the nature of the information involved.

In the context of artificial intelligence technologies, this law is essential to ensure the protection of data and information used by the government and private entities in developing AI solutions. Sensitive data is used in training and analyzing AI models, which requires a legal framework that protects this information from leakage or unauthorized use. By applying this law, the Kingdom of Bahrain strengthens its efforts in safely adopting artificial intelligence, contributing to the improvement of government services without compromising the confidentiality and privacy of information.

6.1.2.3. Cybercrime Law

Law No. (60) of 2014 regarding cybercrimes aims to establish an integrated legislative framework to combat cybercrimes and protect individuals and institutions from threats resulting from the misuse of information technologies. This law provides legal protection for electronic systems and data, and enhances cybersecurity in the Kingdom of Bahrain by criminalizing a range of acts such as unauthorized access to systems, damage to data, electronic fraud, and dissemination of illegal content.

The law includes clear provisions regarding the classification of types of cybercrimes and the appropriate penalties for them, which may include imprisonment and fines depending on the severity of the crime. It also contains articles that ensure the preservation of digital evidence and facilitate legal proceedings, in line with international standards.

In the context of artificial intelligence technologies, this law is an important element in protecting the digital infrastructure relied upon by AI applications. Artificial intelligence requires access to and analysis of large amounts of data, making it necessary to have a legal framework that ensures such data is not exploited in harmful or unlawful ways. Through the implementation of this law, Bahrain strengthens its secure digital environment and supports digital transformation and the confident, efficient adoption of artificial intelligence technologies, achieving a balance between innovation and rights protection.

6.1.2.4. The Provision of Cloud Computing Services to Foreign Parties

Decree Law No. 56 of 2018 regarding the provision of cloud computing services to foreign parties aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for providing cloud computing services to foreign entities, enhancing the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as a leading cloud technology hub. The decree

focuses on regulating the relationship between cloud service providers and foreign clients while ensuring data protection and compliance with international standards in this field. The decree includes clear provisions regarding the responsibilities of service providers, the requirements for protecting data stored in cloud data centers within the Kingdom and ensuring the confidentiality and security of information. It also enhances the flexibility of procedures related to the provision of these services in a manner that supports attracting foreign investment in the technology sector.

In the context of digital transformation and the adoption of AI technologies, this decree is a strategic step in strengthening the digital infrastructure that modern technologies rely on. By providing a developed regulatory environment, the decree ensures optimal use of cloud computing in a way that promotes innovation and protects the rights of concerned parties. In doing so, the Kingdom of Bahrain enables companies and institutions to safely and effectively leverage cloud technologies, enhancing their competitiveness in the global digital economy.

6.1.2.5. Promulgating the Electronic Communications and Transactions Law

Decree Law No. (54) of 2018 promulgates regulations on electronic communications and transactions, aiming to establish a comprehensive legal framework to govern their use in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This enhances the legal environment for digital transactions and ensures their compatibility with modern technological developments. The law aims to regulate electronic signatures and digital records and ensure their legal validity in civil and commercial transactions. The law includes provisions that clarify the conditions for accepting electronic communications and transactions and enhance trust in digital signatures and records by providing a clear legal environment regarding trust services, such as electronic signature, electronic seal, and electronic authentication. The law also regulates the responsibilities and accreditation of trust service providers and includes provisions related to the preservation of electronic records and the conclusion of digital contracts. In the context of digital transformation and the adoption of AI technologies, this law is fundamental for protecting electronic transactions and ensuring their credibility. By enhancing trust in digital dealings, the law supports the adoption of technological innovations and provides a secure legal environment to encourage investment in the digital economy, achieving a balance between technological advancement, rights protection, and the interests of individuals and institutions.

6.1.2.6. Open Data Policy

The Kingdom of Bahrain, through its open data policy, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability by sharing public data with individuals, which contributes to enhancing collaboration and innovation. In the context of AI, this policy is essential for providing high-quality and easily accessible data, enabling developers and researchers to use it in training AI models and analyzing trends. Using open data contributes to data-driven decision-making and enhances the efficiency of government services.

The policy also commits to protecting personal information, enhancing trust between citizens and the government. The government also aims to enhance the national open data platform by regularly updating data and providing it in machine-readable formats. This makes it easier for developers to access the information they need to create innovative applications. Through mechanisms for monitoring data quality and setting priorities, the policy enhances transparency and stimulates innovation in the use of AI technologies.

6.1.2.7. The GCC Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guideline

The Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted the GCC Artificial Intelligence Ethics guideline, issued by the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Arabic Gulf. This charter aims to promote the use of this technology in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in a manner consistent with human values and local laws.

The guide focuses on four main values: respect for human dignity, respect for Islamic Sharia and promoting cooperation among GCC countries, environmental protection and the promotion of

sustainability, and achieving human well-being. GCC countries must adopt these values to ensure that smart systems serve humanity and enhance regional cooperation without harming the environment or threatening individual rights.

The principles included in the guide revolve around four core areas: supporting human autonomy and decision-making, ensuring system safety and preventing harm, achieving justice, fairness, and non-discrimination, and protecting privacy and data. Artificial intelligence systems must support human rights, work to protect the environment, and serve the public good. They should prioritize human oversight and accurate risk assessment to ensure safety and effectiveness.

6.2. Second Pillar: Use and Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Technologies

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, adopting advanced technologies is essential to achieve excellence and drive innovation in delivering government services. Artificial intelligence is one of the most important tools contributing to improving the efficiency of government performance and supporting decision-making. To ensure the safe and sustainable use of artificial intelligence technologies, specific standards must be followed, with supervision and accountability assigned to the specialized staff responsible for overseeing these technologies and ensuring their application aligns with best practices.

6.2.1. Objectives

1. Adopting AI and advanced technology solutions in various government sectors, contributing to raising service efficiency and achieving digital transformation.
2. Relying on specific criteria to evaluate and identify projects that can benefit from artificial intelligence, ensuring the implementation of effective initiatives that meet the desired goals.
3. Ensuring that government entities use artificial intelligence technologies in accordance with global best practices, effectively enhancing operational efficiency.
4. Ensuring human supervision and close monitoring of all stages of AI use, guaranteeing responsible and ethical decision-making and optimal benefit from the technologies.
5. Ensuring the presence of human oversight in the use of AI technologies so that responsibility rests with the relevant individuals, not the machines, affirming that any negative outcomes result from human decisions rather than the technology itself.

6.2.2. Rules and Requirements

1. Government entities should study the possibility of employing AI solutions in government initiatives, projects, and procurements.
2. Government entities must adopt AI technologies in cooperation with the Information & eGovernment Authority and coordinate regarding the development of AI initiatives.
3. When adopting AI solutions, government entities must follow any relevant standards issued by the Information & eGovernment Authority, such as the criteria and procedure for launching and adopting AI initiatives.
4. Government entities should conduct regular audits and reviews to ensure that AI technologies are being used according to best practices and contributing to efficiency improvement.
5. Government entities bear the responsibility of applying and using AI technologies, meaning that any negative effects resulting from these solutions are attributed to the responsible individuals, not to the machine.

6.3. Third Pillar: Awareness and Education

With digital transformation accelerating and artificial intelligence technologies being adopted across government sectors, raising awareness and providing education about these technologies is essential to ensure their safe and effective use. Government entities aim to raise employee awareness about artificial intelligence, focusing on improving understanding of its applications and impacts on the workplace and society. These efforts also promote adherence to ethical AI use, thereby building trust and ensuring safety in adopting these technologies.

6.3.1. Objectives

1. Raising awareness among government employees about the latest AI technologies and how to benefit from them in service development.
2. Providing specialized knowledge to government employees through collaboration with modern technology experts.
3. Ensuring the enhancement of employees' technical capabilities for effective and safe use of AI in government operations.

6.3.2. Rules and Requirements

1. Government entities should promote a culture of innovation and continuous learning among employees.
2. Government entities should seek to provide training programs for public sector employees and continually develop their technical skills. This will ensure they understand advanced technologies, know how to manage and apply them effectively, and are prepared to meet future challenges while adopting artificial intelligence technologies efficiently.

6.4. Fourth Pillar: Encouraging Local and International Cooperation

Cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence goes beyond the international level to include local collaboration as well. This makes it a key pillar for promoting innovation and developing AI applications both nationally and internationally. Collaboration between local and international entities facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise and helps develop standards and guidelines that support the advancement of technological solutions.

6.4.1. Objectives

1. Strengthening local and international strategic partnerships across the public and private sectors to support the exchange of expertise and the development of joint technical solutions, thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of AI projects within government entities.
2. Promoting cooperation between the public sector and local companies to develop innovative solutions that improve the quality of government services.
3. Enabling government entities to access the latest innovations and developments in the field of artificial intelligence.
4. Leveraging local and international partnerships and expertise across government and private sectors to develop local talent, building the skills needed to lead national artificial intelligence projects.
5. Strengthening the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as a leader in artificial intelligence by building international partnerships and participating in research projects that advance technology and AI applications both nationally and internationally.

6.4.2. Rules and Requirements

1. Government entities should encourage their employees to participate in local and international conferences, events, and workshops that allow them to follow the latest developments in AI, enhance their technical skills, and develop their competencies.
2. Government entities should coordinate and cooperate on AI initiatives, including the exchange of experiences, algorithms, infrastructure, and security standards whenever possible.
3. The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the Information & eGovernment Authority, should define areas of cooperation with local and international entities in the field of AI, work on establishing strategic partnerships, and sign local and international memoranda of understanding to promote cooperation and the exchange of AI-related knowledge and expertise.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The following table outlines the main roles and responsibilities related to the application, implementation, monitoring, and management of this policy:

	Entity	Responsibilities
1	Ministerial Committee for Information and Communication Technology (MCICT)	- Defining the strategic directions related to artificial intelligence in the Kingdom of Bahrain. - Approving the issuance of the policy, circulating it to government entities, and directing compliance with it.
2	ICT Governance Committee (ICTGC)	- Approving updates to the policy, including any changes that occur. - Reviewing and deciding on exemption or exception requests from this policy.
3	Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA)	- Managing, updating, and developing the policy. - Promoting the policy and raising awareness across government entities. - Supervising the effective implementation of this policy.
4	Government Entities	- Working in coordination with the Information & eGovernment Authority to adopt and implement AI projects and applications and improve the efficiency of government services. - Committing to the national AI policy

8. Activation of the General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence

This policy was approved by the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communication Technology (MCICT) during its meeting on May 20, 2025. From that date, all government entities are required to comply with the rules, requirements, and guiding principles outlined in this policy.

9. Changes That May Occur to This Policy

The government has the right to amend this policy statement from time to time, and such amendments will be announced through the following channels:

- National Enterprise Architecture Framework website: www.nea.gov.bh
- National eGovernment Portal: www.bahrain.bh
- Information & eGovernment Authority website: www.iga.gov.bh

10. Comments and Suggestions

All comments and suggestions related to the General Policy for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Kingdom of Bahrain are welcomed and appreciated. Your feedback will help improve this document and ensure it is comprehensive and aligned with the user's needs. You may send comments or inquiries related to this document via the following email: standards@iga.gov.bh.

11. Related Sources and References

The following documents are related to this policy:

- The Protection of Information and State Documents Law, No. (16) of 2014.
- The Personal Data Protection Law, No. (30) of 2018.
- Law No. (60) of 2014 on Cybercrime Law.
- Legislative Decree No. (56) of 2018 on The Provision of Cloud Computing Services to Foreign Parties.
- Legislative Decree No. (54) of 2018 on Promulgating the Electronic Communications and Transactions Law.
- Open Data Policy.
- GCC Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guideline.