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Social and Human Sciences

UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI & its implementation

Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section,
Sciences Sector, UNESCO



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Promoting the ethics of science and technology

Technologies

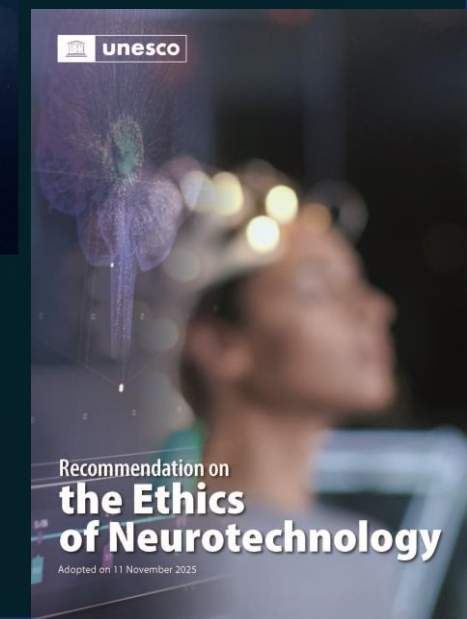
2021:

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

2025:

Recommendation on the Ethics of Neurotechnologies

Universal Declaration
on Bioethics
and Human Rights





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Basis of the Recommendation

1. Values

1

Human rights and human dignity

Respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and human dignity

2

Living in peaceful just, and interconnected societies

3

Ensuring diversity and inclusiveness

4

Environment and ecosystem flourishing



Basis of the Recommendation

2. Principles

1. Proportionality and do no harm
2. Safety and security
3. Fairness and non-discrimination
4. Sustainability
5. Right to privacy, and data protection
6. Human oversight and determination
7. Transparency and explainability
8. Responsibility and accountability
9. Awareness and literacy
10. Multi-stakeholder and adaptive governance and collaboration



Basis of the Recommendation

3. Areas of policy action

1



Data policy



Gender

Respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and human dignity

2



Development & international cooperation



Environment & ecosystems



Health and social well-being

3



Communication & information



Education & research

Ensuring diversity and inclusiveness

4



Economy & Labour



Culture

Ensuring environment and sustainable development flourishing



RAM Features



- Offers a structured approach for countries to assess their preparedness to ensure ethics is considered in the development, deployment, and use of AI.
- It is not an exercise to score/rank countries.
- Identifies strengths and gaps in infrastructure, institutions, and regulations, considering the unique socioeconomic contexts.
- Enables UNESCO to provide tailored support to build inclusive, ethical AI ecosystems aligned with the Recommendation.



Concrete Outcomes of the RAM

- **National AI Strategies**
 - Bangladesh, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
- **Regional AI Strategies (referencing RAM)**
 - African Union Continental AI Strategy, ASEAN Responsible AI Roadmap
- **Capacity building**
 - Civil servant trainings in 22 countries (2,500 civil servants trained from 220+ government agencies)
 - Bangladesh, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Viet Nam, +8 countries in East Africa Community
 - Embed course modules in civil service training programs; train-the-trainers
 - Whole-of-UNESCO approach to RAM follow-up (especially capacity building and policy assistance)
- **Ethical Impact Assessment implementation**
 - Piloted by over 100 institutions across 18 countries; involved training more than 500 workshop participants



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Ethical Impact Assessment (EIA)



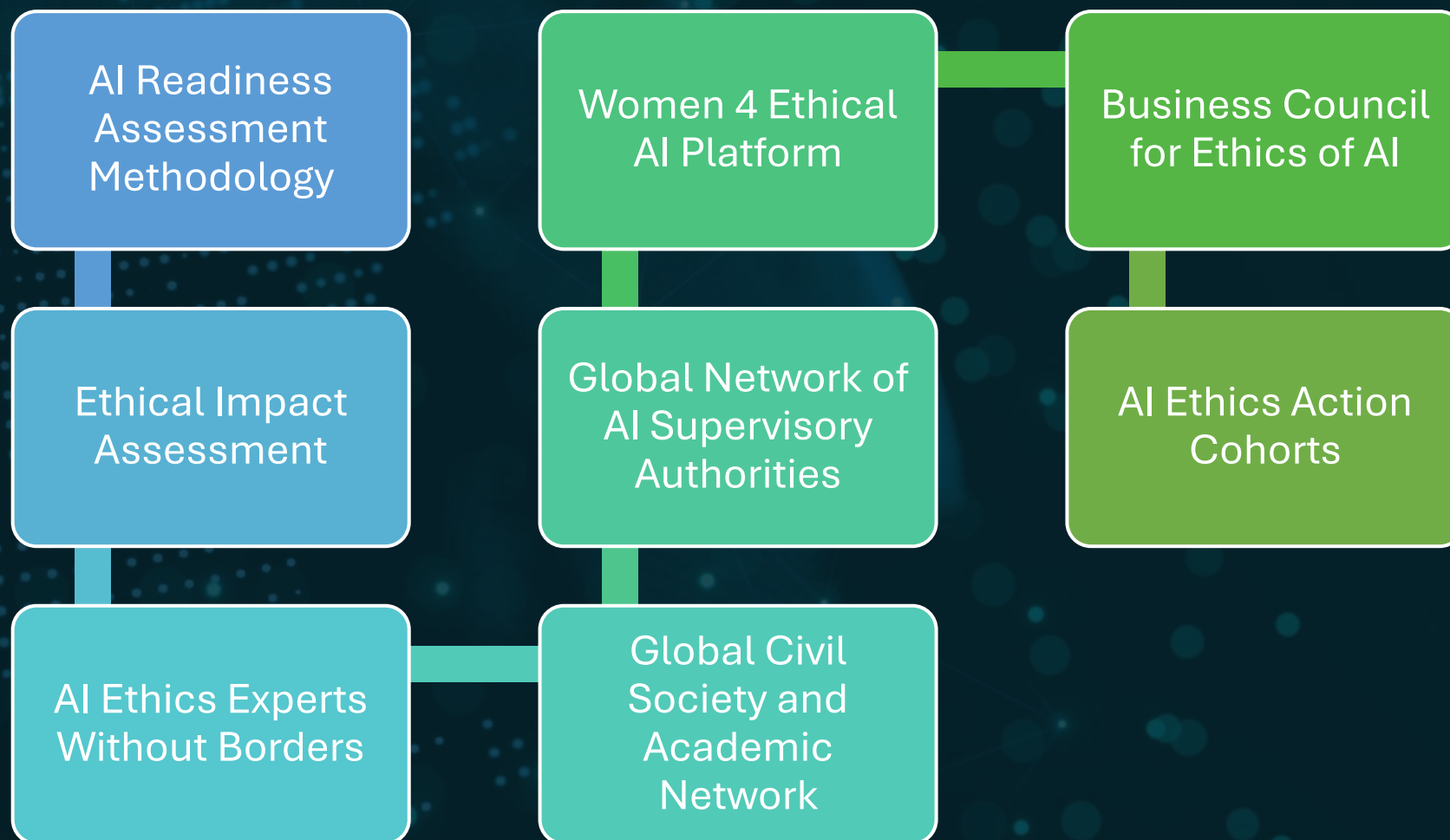
- Tool to assess positive/negative impacts of an individual AI system and how to address the risks *before* it's deployed.
- Includes questions about the AI project, stakeholder engagement, principles, and plans for mitigating risks.
- Aim to scale up implementation this year - we can provide information sessions or expert guidance as appropriate.



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Implementing the Recommendation





Thank You!

**More on the UNESCO
Recommendation on the Ethics of
AI:**

<https://en.unesco.org/artificial-intelligence/ethics>

