

# UNICEF Requirements and Recommendations for Child-Centred AI

## 1. Support children's development and well-being

- Prioritize how AI systems can benefit children in particular in AI policies and strategies.
- Develop and utilize AI-enabled systems that benefit children and support their development.
- Leverage AI systems to support and increase children's well-being and environmental sustainability.

## 2. Ensure inclusion of children and for children

- Strive for diversity amongst those that design, develop, collect and process data, implement, research, regulate and oversee AI systems, and collect and process data.
- Adopt an inclusive design approach when developing AI products that will be used by children or impact them.
- Explicitly include girls, children from low-income communities and from minority communities in the use and development of AI systems.
- Support meaningful child participation both in AI policies and in the design and development process.

## 3. Prioritize fairness and non-discrimination for children

- Actively support the most marginalized children so that they may benefit from AI systems.
- Develop datasets so that a diversity of children's data are included.
- Reduce prejudicial bias against children or against certain groups of children that leads to discrimination and exclusion.

## 4. Protect children's data and privacy

- Follow a responsible data approach for the handling of data for and about children.
- Promote children's data agency.
- Call for and implement a privacy by design approach.
- Consider protections at the group level.

## 5. Ensure safety for children

- Call for mechanisms for assessing and continually monitoring the impact of AI systems on children in AI policies and strategies.
- Continuously assess and monitor AI's impact on children throughout the entire development lifecycle.
- Require testing of AI systems for safety, security and robustness.
- Leverage the use of AI systems to promote children's safety.

## 6. Provide transparency, explainability, and accountability for children

- Strive to explicitly address children when promoting explainability and transparency of AI systems.
- Use age-appropriate language to describe AI.
- Make AI systems transparent to the extent that children and their caregivers can understand the interaction.
- AI systems should be developed so that they protect and empower child users according to legal and policy frameworks, regardless of children's understanding of the system.
- Review, update and develop AI-related regulatory frameworks to integrate child rights
- Establish AI oversight bodies compliant with principles and regulations and set up mechanisms for redress.

## 7. Empower government and businesses with knowledge of AI and children's rights

- Ensure capacity building on AI and child rights for policymakers, top management and AI system developers.
- Capitalize on customers' demand for trusted and transparent AI solutions for children.
- Commit to child-centred AI.

## 8. Prepare children for the present and the future

- Consider a national self-assessment for teachers to assess and then develop the AI awareness and skills of all teachers.
- Develop and update formal and informal education programmes globally to include technical and soft skills needed to flourish in an AI world, including in the future workspace.
- Leverage the use of AI systems in education, when it is appropriate.
- Facilitate and encourage collaboration between business and education institutions
- Develop and promote awareness campaigns for parents, caregivers and society as a whole.

## 9. Create an enabling environment for child-centred AI

- Support infrastructure development to address the digital divide and aim for equitable sharing of the benefits of AI.
- Provide funding and incentives for child-centred AI policies and strategies.
- Support research on AI for and with children across the system's life cycle.
- Engage in digital cooperation.