

NEW DELHI COMPACT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACCOUNTABILITY

*The world's first multi-stakeholder implementation instrument of the
Universal Declaration of AI Accountability Rights
Adopted at New Delhi on 14 May 2026 · LAAF Inaugural Session*



PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Compact,

Recognising that the absence of accountability in the design, development, deployment, and operation of artificial intelligence is not a regulatory gap but a civilisational risk;

Affirming that the Global South enters the international AI governance order not as a passive recipient of rules formulated elsewhere, but as co-architect, co-author, and co-enforcer of those rules;

Determined to operationalise the Universal Declaration of AI Accountability Rights through concrete obligations, enforceable liability standards, and durable institutional mechanisms;

Acknowledging the accelerating rise of agentic and autonomous AI systems, the emergence of quantum-augmented computation, and the corresponding need for a forward-looking accountability architecture;

Guided by the Duggal Doctrine on AI-Induced Harm and by the AI Accountability Framework 2026;

Have, by acclamation and consensus, adopted this Compact as follows:



Article 1 — Purpose: Implementation, Not Declaration

This Compact is the first multi-stakeholder implementation instrument of the Universal Declaration of AI Accountability Rights. It establishes concrete obligations, liability standards, and institutional mechanisms binding upon Parties drawn from States, intergovernmental organisations, AI-enterprises, platforms, academic institutions, civil-society organisations, and other actors in the AI ecosystem.

Whereas the Universal Declaration sets forth rights and principles, this Compact specifies who is accountable, how compliance is to be proved, and what shall follow upon failure, in conformity with the Duggal Doctrine on AI-Induced Harm and the AI Accountability Framework 2026.

Article 2 — Parties (Multi-stakeholder Definition)

Parties to this Compact are:

- **States' representatives**— sovereign nations that adopt or associate themselves with this Compact;
- **Intergovernmental organisations** — United Nations agencies, regional bodies, and other inter-State institutions;

- **AI-enterprises and platforms** — developers, deployers, model providers, and cloud or AI-infrastructure providers;
- **Academic institutions and research centres** — specialised in AI law, ethics, governance, and accountability;
- **Civil-society organisations** — including human-rights, digital-rights, consumer-rights, and AI-victim-support entities;
- **Other actors** — in the AI ecosystem that subscribe to the core accountability obligations of this Compact.

Each Party assumes differentiated but cumulative obligations commensurate with its position in the AI value chain.

Article 3 — Human-Centred Decision-Making

State Parties, and non-State Parties deploying or operating AI systems, shall ensure that no AI-only system determines life-altering outcomes in criminal justice, social welfare, child protection, electoral processes, or medical-diagnosis-impacting treatment, unless a human-in-the-loop or human-on-the-loop mechanism is legally required and independently auditable.

Article 4 — Strict Liability for AI-Induced Harm

For AI systems under their design, development, deployment, or operation, non-State Parties, including AI-enterprises, platforms, deployers, and integrators, shall be strictly liable for AI-Induced Harm, including wrongful incarceration, denial of entitlements, algorithmic discrimination, and AI-hallucination-driven damage, unless they demonstrate that the harm was not reasonably foreseeable and that all relevant safeguards were in place.

State Parties shall ensure that domestic law recognises, enforces, and gives full effect to this strict-liability standard.

Article 5 — Agentic AI Liability

Autonomous AI agents capable of independent goal-formation, planning, and action shall be subject to enhanced attribution, traceability, kill-switch, and liability requirements. No agentic AI shall be developed, released, or deployed without an identifiable principal bearing legal responsibility for its conduct and consequences.

Article 6 — Rights of AI-Affected Persons

State Parties shall guarantee, through domestic law, that AI-affected persons are informed when AI materially influences decisions affecting them, receive meaningful explanations of those decisions, and may contest such decisions before independent forums offering effective remedy.

Non-State Parties designing, deploying, or operating AI systems shall respect and operationalise these rights in practice.

Article 7 — Algorithmic Colonialism and Global South Safeguards

State Parties, and non-State Parties deploying AI systems in Global South jurisdictions, shall prevent algorithmic colonialism by refraining from conditioning development aid, trade, or technical cooperation on AI-system lock-in. They shall conduct AI-impact assessments and shall secure local data sovereignty, explainability, and accessible redress mechanisms.

Article 8 — New Delhi AI Accountability Council (NDAC)

The New Delhi AI Accountability Council (NDAC) is hereby established as a multi-stakeholder body composed of representatives from all categories of Parties. The NDAC shall:

- (a) monitor implementation of this Compact;
- (b) publish the annual Duggal Accountability Index;
- (c) issue interpretive guidance on the Duggal Doctrine and the AI Accountability Framework 2026;
- (d) convene the global AI-Victim Redress Network established under Article 10; and
- (e) maintain the Register of Adherents established under Article 12.

All Parties are invited to participate in the NDAC in accordance with rules of procedure adopted at its inaugural session.

Article 9 — Model Statute and AI Accountability Codes

State Parties shall align national AI-accountability legislation with the Model Statute on AI Accountability, to be developed subsequent to this Compact.

Non-State Parties, including AI-enterprises, platforms, and deployers, shall adopt internal AI Accountability Codes of Conduct grounded in the Model Statute, and shall submit to periodic audits as provided in Article 11.

Academic institutions and civil-society organisations may develop independent assessments of such Codes and shall be entitled to publish their findings.

Article 10 — AI-Victim Legal-Aid Network

State Parties shall establish AI-Victim Legal-Aid Networks within their jurisdictions.

The NDAC shall coordinate a global AI-Victim Redress Network, enabling non-State Parties, civil-society organisations, and legal-aid institutions to participate in cross-border referrals, harmonised practices, and joint capacity-building.

Article 11 — Audits, Transparency, and Provenance

Non-State Parties deploying high-risk AI shall subject such systems to mandatory AI-accountability audits conducted by NDAC-accredited auditors.

State Parties shall require such audits for AI used in the public sector and in critical private-sector contexts of national consequence.

All Parties shall promote and uphold the transparency, data-provenance, and explainability standards set out in the AI Accountability Framework 2026.

Article 12 — Adoption, Association, and Effect

1. **Adoption.** This Compact is adopted by acclamation at the inaugural session of the International AI Accountability Forum (IAAF), convened at New Delhi on 14 May 2026. The fact of adoption shall be recorded in the official proceedings of the IAAF and authenticated by the Chair and the NDAC Secretariat. That record shall constitute the authoritative instrument of adoption.
2. **Association.** The Compact shall remain open for association by any State, intergovernmental organisation, AI-enterprise, platform, academic institution, civil-society organisation, or other actor falling within Article 2. Association is effected by communication to the NDAC Secretariat, which shall enter the Party in the Register of Adherents.
3. **Register of Adherents.** The NDAC Secretariat shall maintain a public Register of Adherents, listing all Parties associated with this Compact, the date of their association, and their Party category under Article 2. The Register shall be updated periodically.
4. **Effect.** The obligations set forth in Articles 3 to 11 shall apply to each Party from the moment of adoption or, in the case of subsequent adherents, from the date of entry in the Register of Adherents. No instrument of ratification, deposit, or further formality is required for the Compact to take effect upon a Party.
5. **Withdrawal.** A Party may withdraw from the Compact by written notice to the NDAC Secretariat. Withdrawal shall take effect six months after the date of such notice and shall not affect obligations or liabilities arising prior to its taking effect.

