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REPORT*

**“Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in the BSEC Region -
Social Aspects”**

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I INTRODUCTION

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer confined to the realm of advanced technology or experimental science but is now intricately woven into the fabric of modern life. AI is influencing fundamental societal processes, affecting a wide range of activities, from how people work, learn, and communicate, to how public services are delivered, and decisions are made. Alongside the Fourth Industrial Revolution, AI has become both a driver and a reflection of socio-economic development, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance social equity, improve public sector efficiency, and empower marginalized communities. However, these opportunities are not evenly distributed, and the success of AI's integration into society depends largely on the capacity of the public institutions, civil infrastructure, and social systems to adapt in an ethical, inclusive, and participatory manner.

2. In the social context, AI must also be seen as a tool for advancing human development, reducing structural inequality, and protecting human dignity. Ensuring that AI serves the public good requires robust governance strategies that consider not only innovation and efficiency, but also accountability, transparency, fairness, and democratic oversight. Governments must recognize AI's dual nature—as both a source of potential and a source of risk—and design policies that mitigate exclusion, prevent discrimination, and safeguard fundamental rights. Ethical frameworks, data governance standards, and inclusive innovation policies must form the backbone of national and regional approaches to AI.

3. Recognizing the strategic relevance of AI, the Committee for Social and Humanitarian Policy at its 64th Meeting decided to discuss at its next Meeting the Report, dedicated to the “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in the BSEC Region - Social Aspects”. The present Report reflects the information from the national delegations of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine. It also uses the research material and reports of relevant international organizations, as well as information from various Internet sources.

II ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE BSEC REGION - SOCIAL ASPECTS

4. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), AI represents a transformative technology that reshapes the way individuals interact with knowledge, services, and one another, offering opportunities for innovation but also raising questions of inclusivity and equity. In parallel, the European Union defines AI as software systems that can generate outputs, predictions, recommendations, or decisions that influence real and virtual environments, highlighting its potential to affect people's daily lives and social interactions. Beyond definitions, AI incorporates several pillars: data, which reflects the collective experiences and behaviors of societies; algorithms, which interpret and structure human knowledge into actionable outcomes; computing power, which enables the scaling of these systems to global dimensions; and human oversight, ensuring that AI remains responsive to social needs.

5. Within this framework, three categories of AI are often distinguished. Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI) already shapes everyday social life through tools like digital assistants, recommendation systems, and automated translation. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), still under development, envisions machines with broad problem-solving capacity comparable to human intelligence, raising profound implications for education, employment, and culture. The speculative notion of Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) represents a stage where machines could surpass human capacities, carrying both extraordinary promises for solving global challenges and equally profound risks of social disruption. This typology reflects the progression of AI from tools embedded in routine social activities to future possibilities that could redefine the foundations of human society itself.

6. Global trends in the adoption of AI reveal both great promise and persistent disparities. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNCTAD estimates, more than 40% of public and private institutions are deploying AI technologies. Uptake in social sectors like education, health, and welfare is accelerating, with some countries reporting annual growth rates exceeding 15%. However, digital readiness indices show that fewer than 20% of civil society organizations and social service institutions possess the necessary infrastructure, skills, or financial resources to harness AI effectively. This imbalance creates a growing risk of technological exclusion and those who could benefit most from AI are the least equipped to access it.

7. AI plays an increasing role in tackling global development challenges, particularly in achieving the SDGs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, AI-powered diagnostic tools could reduce diagnostic errors by more than 30%, especially in fields like radiology and pathology. Despite this potential, disparities remain, and over 80% of AI investment is concentrated in just ten countries, while more than 40% of the world's population lacks access to basic internet infrastructure. These figures underscore the need to bridge digital divides and ensure that AI becomes a force for inclusive, rather than unequal, socio-economic development.

8. Among the most debated areas of AI application in social life is education. Intelligent tutoring systems and adaptive learning platforms have the potential to personalize education, track student progress in real time, and identify learning gaps. These technologies are particularly valuable in under-resourced classrooms and remote areas suffering from teacher shortages. For students with disabilities, tools such as speech-to-text, predictive typing, and visual recognition offer more independent and dignified access to learning. However, these benefits are unevenly distributed. Rural and conflict-affected areas often lack the necessary infrastructure, devices, and teacher training. Furthermore, the increasing use of algorithms to assess student performance or assign grades raises concerns about fairness, particularly when these systems operate without transparency or clear accountability. It is essential that AI assists in, rather than obscures, the human aspects in the learning process.

9. The intersection of AI and healthcare represents another promising and ethically sensitive frontier of digital innovation. AI is being used to predict disease outbreaks, detect cancers from imaging, monitor chronic conditions, and optimize resource allocation. In aging societies or areas facing medical staff shortages, AI can extend service coverage and improve care delivery. For people with disabilities, AI-enhanced assistive technologies, such as mobility aids and visual recognition tools, are improving autonomy and quality of life. Nevertheless, these gains come with risks. AI-driven diagnostics and treatment planning may rely on incomplete or non-contextual data, potentially sidelining patient input and local realities. In countries lacking robust data protection frameworks, the collection and use of sensitive health information introduce serious privacy concerns. Human oversight must remain central to ensure that AI enhances, rather than erodes, the patient-provider relationship.

10. AI is rapidly transforming the labor market, with a wide range of social implications. Automation and intelligent systems can boost productivity, reduce the burden of repetitive tasks, and create new job roles in fields like AI ethics, data governance, and human-machine collaboration. At the same time, AI's role in recruitment and workplace monitoring raises questions of fairness and potential bias. Workers in manual or service-based occupations are particularly vulnerable to displacement. The nature of work is shifting toward roles requiring digital literacy, critical thinking, and adaptability. Without large-scale upskilling and reskilling programs, significant portions of the labor force may be excluded from the AI-driven economy. Addressing this transformation requires robust social protection measures that consider age, region, gender, and socioeconomic status. Legal

safeguards, algorithmic audits, and appeal mechanisms must be instituted to ensure that AI supports rather than undermines the labor force and equity.

11. Another sphere of AI integration is the design and delivery of social protection systems. Machine learning is being applied to detect fraud, assess eligibility, and forecast risks in welfare programs. These tools can improve efficiency, transparency, and the targeting of services. However, over-reliance on algorithmic decision-making poses serious ethical and social risks. Individuals may be oversimplified into data points, with complex situations, such as unstable housing or undocumented status, overlooked. This can result in wrong exclusions from benefits. Public trust may decline when decisions are made by such systems that are difficult to understand or challenge. Human oversight should be mandatory in all AI-driven welfare decisions, and clear mechanisms must be established to uphold fairness and accountability.

12. For people with disabilities, AI presents transformative possibilities if designed inclusively and made affordable. Navigation aids for visually impaired individuals, AI-powered sign language translation tools, and context-aware communication interfaces can remove longstanding barriers to participation in education, employment, and civic life. However, many of these technologies remain expensive and inaccessible, particularly in languages and contexts specific to the BSEC region. Furthermore, AI systems that lack universal design principles may inadvertently exclude the very populations they aim to empower. Accessibility must be treated not as an optional add-on but as a fundamental design requirement in all AI development.

13. In cities and public spaces, AI is central to the rise of “smart” infrastructure. Systems that manage traffic, optimize energy use, or support emergency responses can significantly improve urban life. When implemented responsibly, these technologies enhance efficiency and expand access to services. However, benefits are not always equitably distributed. Low-income neighborhoods are often left out of smart city initiatives, and data collection practices can disproportionately target or surveil vulnerable populations. Without inclusive planning and strong safeguards, AI-driven urbanization may deepen spatial inequality and intensify digital exclusion. Equitable urban AI strategies must ensure that all communities share the benefits of digital transformation.

14. Youth, as the most active and digitally connected part of society, are at the forefront of engaging with AI-powered technologies through educational platforms, entertainment algorithms, social media, or emerging forms of digital interaction. This high level of exposure brings both opportunities and profound challenges. On one hand, AI can enhance personalized learning, foster creativity, and expand access to knowledge and civic engagement tools. On the other hand, the same algorithms that recommend content or optimize engagement can also manipulate attention, spread misinformation, and encourage addictive behaviors. The psychological and developmental impacts of AI-driven environments on young people, including rising concerns about anxiety, identity distortion, and reduced attention spans, are increasingly evident.

15. While AI offers significant potential to enhance social development through improved access to education, healthcare, public services, and citizen engagement, it also presents a complex array of social risks that warrant careful and coordinated governance. These risks are deeply interwoven with broader societal structures and include the automation of inequality, the erosion of privacy, institutional strain, the proliferation of misinformation, and the systemic exclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Without inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance mechanisms, there is a real danger that AI may exacerbate existing disparities.

16. To mitigate these risks and harness AI's full potential as a driver of socio-economic progress, it is imperative to adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach to governance. This includes the development of legal and ethical frameworks that uphold fundamental rights, ensure transparency, and provide mechanisms for accountability and redress. Strengthening institutional capacity,

investing in digital literacy, and fostering regional and international cooperation are equally essential to ensuring that AI contributes to the advancement of social cohesion, equity, and human dignity. In this regard, AI must be recognized not merely as a technological innovation, but as a transformative force whose societal impact must be guided by democratic principles and shared human values.

17. The parliamentarians have responsibility to align AI development with human rights and societal needs. Given the pace of AI innovation, existing laws often lag behind the new technologies, creating regulatory gaps and ethical blind spots. To safeguard public interest, binding standards must be legislated for ethical AI use, ensuring transparency, non-discrimination, data protection, and human oversight. AI systems deployed in sensitive domains must undergo mandatory algorithmic impact assessments and ethical audits, with built-in mechanisms for appeals to protect individuals from harm.

18. National legislation should align with international standards, especially for high-impact AI systems in public services. These systems should be subject to mandatory risk classification and human rights impact evaluations. Independent AI observatories can play a vital role in monitoring these effects, collecting disaggregated data (by gender, age, region, and income), and informing evidence-based, equitable policy responses. Such institutions help uphold transparency, ensure accountability, and foster a just AI ecosystem grounded in human dignity, social inclusion, and democratic oversight.

19. In parallel, AI's influence on the labor market and society require proactive strategies to manage the transition to an AI-powered economy. Without inclusive action, the benefits of AI may remain unevenly distributed. Governments must adopt forward-looking labor policies, modernize social safety nets, and invest in digital infrastructure. Industry leaders should prioritize ethical innovation and invest in human capital development. Educational systems must update curricula to align with future skill needs, while cross-sector partnerships ensure broad-based inclusion. National AI strategies must embed social equity at their core—mandating open data ecosystems, public service transparency, and ethical oversight. Public investment should support socially beneficial AI applications, especially in underserved regions.

20. Crucially, many of the most vital elements of human intelligence, such as creativity, empathy, ethical reasoning, and contextual judgment, remain irreplaceable by AI. These faculties are essential in fields like education, healthcare, social work, and public service, where interpersonal understanding and moral discernment are foundational. While AI excels at data processing and automation, it lacks emotional intuition and moral nuance. Therefore, it is essential to invest in lifelong learning, interdisciplinary education, and soft skills development. Reskilling programs must not only enhance technical proficiency but also cultivate adaptability, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and civic responsibility. This human-centered approach ensures that societies remain resilient, ethical, and inclusive amid rapid digital transformation.

21. To address these risks and unlock AI's potential for positive youth development, education systems across the BSEC region must prioritize digital literacy, critical thinking, and ethical AI awareness as core competencies from an early age. Youth must be actively involved in AI governance, not as passive users, but as stakeholders shaping the digital future. Platforms that support safe digital spaces, algorithmic transparency, and age-appropriate content regulation are essential. Governments, educators, and civil society must collaborate to empower young citizens with the knowledge and resilience they need to thrive in an increasingly algorithmic world.

22. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public sector play a pivotal role in shaping AI's impact on socio-economic development, particularly in safeguarding its social dimensions. NGOs bring essential grassroots perspectives, acting as watchdogs, advocates, and innovators in ensuring AI technologies align with human rights, equity, and community needs. Their involvement is critical

in highlighting the voices of marginalized groups, monitoring algorithmic bias, and promoting ethical AI standards.

23. At the same time, the public sector holds the responsibility of creating an enabling environment through inclusive policies, transparent regulations, and accountable institutions. Together, these actors can drive participatory governance of AI by fostering public dialogue, setting ethical benchmarks, and ensuring that AI solutions are not only technologically sound but also socially just. Within the BSEC region, stronger collaboration between governments and civil society is vital to ensure AI becomes a force for inclusive development rather than deepening existing socio-economic divides.

Situation in the BSEC Member States

24. The governance and strategic development of the artificial intelligence sector in **the Republic of Armenia** are administered by the Ministry of High-Tech Industry, which serves as the central coordinating authority for national AI policy and institutional initiatives. In 2021, the Government of Armenia identified AI as a priority area, noting that its application could serve as a tool for economic growth and technological breakthrough, as well as a factor of strategic advantage in the defence sphere.

25. According to the Statistical Committee of Armenia, in 2023 a large-scale assessment of the digital maturity of more than 2,000 enterprises was carried out for the first time. The digital maturity index reached 12.25, reflecting an early stage in the transition of businesses to digital processes. Most companies operate in trade, industry, and ICT, where AI is most commonly used to optimise production processes, marketing, and cyber-security.

26. The Armenian Government views AI as one of the key tools for competitiveness and effective public administration. The main policy directions include: Virtual AI Institute a national platform for researchers, companies, and international partners, offering access to cloud computing resources and open models; “Generation AI” programme development of AI literacy in secondary schools and introduction of AI courses by 2030; E-government use of AI to assess risks, detect violations, optimise public services, and deploy chatbots.

27. Agriculture is one of the most promising sectors for AI adoption in Armenia. In recent years, solutions aimed at increasing the resilience and efficiency of the agricultural sector have been actively developed. Drones and sensors are used for early detection of diseases and pests, analysis of crop conditions, and optimisation of treatment processes. Using aerial imagery, AI systems identify infected areas and direct targeted spraying, thereby reducing chemical use and improves crop quality. Machine-learning models make it possible to forecast crop yields, taking into account weather and soil parameters.

28. In recent years, **Azerbaijan** has adopted a set of strategic initiatives to promote AI development and integration into socio-economic systems. The adoption of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2019) marked a milestone in this process. The strategy outlines several priority areas: Human capital development: Establishing training and professional development programs in the field of AI to foster a skilled workforce. Research and development: Increasing funding for research projects related to AI. Infrastructure: Development of digital infrastructure to support AI technologies.

29. Azerbaijan actively fosters innovation through investments in AI-related technologies. The creation of technology parks and startup incubators, such as High Tech Park, promotes the development of innovative projects. These initiatives allow local startups to develop solutions that can be applied to address social issues such as healthcare, education, and governance. Education remains a priority domain for AI integration in Azerbaijan. The introduction of AI-based systems in

the learning process enables personalized learning, adapting educational materials to the individual needs of students.

30. In the healthcare sector, AI contributes significantly to improving the quality of medical services. Azerbaijan is actively implementing AI technologies for disease diagnostics, particularly through the use of algorithms for the analysis of medical imaging and patient data, as well as developing applications for continuous health monitoring. At the same time, AI underpins Azerbaijan's vision of smart cities, ensuring more efficient urban management and improved quality of life. Examples include intelligent traffic management systems that analyses real-time road conditions to optimize traffic flow, and energy efficiency solutions that monitor and regulate consumption at both household and municipal levels.

31. Azerbaijan demonstrates an active approach to the introduction of AI in socio-economic development, which contributes to solving urgent social problems and improving the quality of life for its citizens. Investments in education, health, and sustainable urban development open new horizons for the successful future of the BSEC region. Artificial intelligence is not only changing economic realities but also creating opportunities for building a more just and sustainable society. Azerbaijan is ready to continue cooperation with other countries and international organizations to achieve the common goal of sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

32. As a Member State of the European Union (EU), **Bulgaria** applies the harmonised rules for the placing on the market, putting into operation, and use of AI established by Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 on harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act). The Regulation, adopted in 2024, aims to establish clear and enforceable rules to ensure the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence systems, while respecting fundamental rights and values in the European Union, and stimulating innovation and investment in this area. The Artificial Intelligence Act supports the development of the single market for legal, safe, and trusted AI applications while avoiding market fragmentation.

33. Currently, Bulgaria has a strategic planning document, "Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Bulgaria by 2030." It presents the strategic plan for creating and strengthening the national AI ecosystem through capacity building in science, education, innovation, and ethics. The document aims to unite the efforts of the state, academia, and business to implement AI in all sectors, emphasizing sustainable and responsible development, education, and research in line with global standards.

34. Particular attention is paid to the integration of AI with digitalization, infrastructure development, and key industries such as healthcare, agriculture, public administration, and ecology, to increase competitiveness and improve the quality of life. In addition, in the Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization 2021-2027 (ISSS), artificial intelligence is a key element, being seen as an important factor for digital transformation, innovation, and competitiveness of the economy.

35. In Bulgaria, consistent actions are being taken to regulate the use of digital technologies in work management in a way that does not lead to a reduction in labour rights. An example of this is the changes to the Labour Code of March 2024, which, for the first time, regulated in national legislation the requirements for the use of information systems by the employer for assigning and reporting work, including with regard to the implemented systems for algorithmic management of work processes for remote work. They guarantee the worker's right to written information about how decisions are made, as well as the right to request a human review of decisions made by the algorithmic management system. The improvement of national legislation in relation to digital changes will continue, and the necessary changes related to the transposition of the Platform Work Directive are also being prepared.

36. In *Greece*, “Blueprint for Greece’s AI Transformation” (2024) strategy integrates AI across healthcare, education, social protection, and public administration to improve service access and promote inclusive growth with ethical safeguards. In education, the Ministry of Education will launch an AI tutoring assistant (“Enhancing the Digital School”) by 2025–2026, as a complementary tool to traditional teaching which is supported by the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility. In healthcare, advanced supercomputing centres like DAEDALUS infrastructure enable AI-driven diagnostics and public health initiatives, such as medical image analysis and data-driven public health interventions.

37. In social protection, Greece participates in the EU Technical Support Instrument (TSI 2024), supported by the European Commission’s DG REFORM, a project to use AI for better job matching of Guaranteed Minimum Income beneficiaries, while collaborating with the World Bank to develop an AI tool predicting long-term unemployment for the Public Employment Service (DYPA). Both initiatives, which practically address the social implications, emphasize and aim at inclusive and citizen-centric AI development in order to overcome daily challenges like gender inequalities or long-term unemployment, respectively, especially regarding vulnerable groups.

38. Greece is actively addressing the ethical, cultural, and social challenges posed by AI deployment. Key concerns include algorithmic bias, data privacy, transparency, and accountability, especially as AI decisions affect sensitive areas like hiring and social benefits. To build trust, Greece emphasizes secure data use, explainable AI decisions, and clear legal responsibility for algorithm-driven outcomes.

39. Regionally, within the BSEC framework, Greece engages actively in sharing best practices and fostering cooperation on AI’s social implications, advocating for joint capacity-building projects and common guidelines on AI’s role in sustainable socioeconomic development. Through participation in BSEC discussions, Greece contributes insights from its EU and OECD experience, promoting coherence between global standards and regional policymaking.

40. *The Republic of Moldova* has engaged in the strategic development of its artificial intelligence ecosystem, integrating it into its national legislative and strategic framework, while closely aligning with European initiatives and standards. This multi-functional approach aims to harness AI for socio-economic growth, sustainable development and improved public services. The harnessing of AI for Moldova’s socio-economic growth is a key priority, encapsulated in several strategies and programmes.

41. The vision of the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation for the near future is to put Moldova on the European digital map as a dynamic hub of cooperation and knowledge exchange with other actors and partners within European AI Factories and offices to ensure a synergy of efforts and to share the best AI practices. The participation of Moldova in international and regional initiatives underlines its commitment to the fair use of AI for socioeconomic development.

42. AI integration in public services is an objective of the digital transformation Strategy of Moldova. However, there are significant social challenges. The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation promote a new approach to data management in compliance with the EU Data Governance Acquis. This implies the standardisation and inventory at central level of data held and produced by the State. The number of cyberattacks in Moldova has increased significantly emphasising the urgent necessity to boost investment in cybersecurity. The percentage of personnel involved in research and development activities is low (3.9% compared to the EU average of 12.5%) and the number of researchers is constantly falling.

43. The future plans and policies for AI development in the Republic of Moldova are strategic, multi-phased, focused on the development of infrastructure, services, human capital, and an ethical governance framework. Strategic investments in physical and virtual infrastructure, including small-

scale AI computing resources, a solid software environment, and physical and virtual hub facilities. Development of AI competence frameworks for various educational pathways (“Basic AI Literacy”, “AI Business Analyst”, “AI Engineering”, “AI Researcher”), a modular approach to AI education, support for lifelong learning, Living-Lab spaces, certification and micro-credential systems, and cloud-based e-learning tools. Emphasis will be placed on integrating AI skills into university curricula through cooperation with universities.

44. In *Romania*, the government adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for 2024–2027, setting out the country’s roadmap for adopting and integrating AI technologies across multiple sectors. The strategy places strong emphasis on modernizing public administration through advanced technologies, strengthen risk analysis, improve public procurement processes, and optimize public expenditure. It also underscores the need for a regulatory framework tailored to Romania’s context, alongside fostering cooperation between academia, businesses, research institutions, and public authorities to encourage innovation and investment. Through this strategy, the government expects AI to play a pivotal role in reshaping Romania’s economy, driving growth, and advancing social prosperity.

45. The AI Strategy of Romania emphasizes the social responsibility of AI adoption, ensuring respect for human rights, democratic values, and labour rights. It calls for human-centered, inclusive, and non-discriminatory AI, with humans remaining the final decision-makers. Accessibility and equity are prioritized so that AI systems can be used by all, regardless of age, gender, or abilities. Transparency is highlighted through the need to explain algorithms and allow citizens to contest AI-driven decisions. Accountability mechanisms are required to safeguard responsible use, while international partnerships aim to ensure AI contributes to fairness, trust, and shared societal progress.

46. At the level of the Romanian society, the strategy aims to o improve citizens’ quality of life, strengthen democratic values, and enhance trust between the public and state institutions. AI is seen as a tool for better access to education, healthcare, culture, and public services, while also supporting fairness in the labour market and social welfare. The government program highlights the adoption of AI solutions in public administration to deliver more efficient and citizen-friendly services, reducing bureaucracy through automation. It also envisions applications in the judicial system, environmental protection, and energy, ensuring that the society directly benefits of the technological progress. Overall, the strategy positions AI as a driver of social well-being, inclusivity, and stronger citizen–state relations.

47. From the point of view of the challenges that it poses, artificial intelligence requires careful consideration of its social, ethical, and legal implications. When referring to Romania, we can note challenges such as the deficit of digital skills and the need for professional reorientation, the deepening of the digital divide and social inequalities, lack of transparency and public trust deficit in AI tools, and risks of discrimination due to algorithms. Although Romania has adopted a National AI Strategy for 2024–2027, effective implementation remains a major challenge. Socially, there is a risk of fragmented adoption if agencies implement incompatible or ethically inconsistent AI solutions. For the integration of Artificial Intelligence to become a genuine driver of social progress in Romania, a holistic approach is imperative. This approach must combine investments in technology with substantial investments in human capital, prioritize the reduction of the digital divide, and establish a robust ethical and legal framework that ensures transparency, fairness, and the protection of citizens’ rights.

48. The regulatory framework in the field of AI in *Türkiye* was established with the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (NAIS) enacted in 2021, which was updated with its 2024–2025 Action Plan. The Strategy is built on strategic priorities, including training AI experts, supporting research and entrepreneurship, ensuring access to high-quality data, ensuring socio-economic

harmonization, strengthening international collaborations, and accelerating structural transformation. The Artificial Intelligence Research Commission established within the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT) and the Artificial Intelligence Science Commission planned to be established by the Ministry of Justice are intended to strengthen the legal basis for these priorities. In addition, the Twelfth Development Plan (2024–2028) integrates AI technologies with analytical thinking in education, widespread use of digital technologies, personalized learning, and virtual reality applications, and envisages systematic monitoring of their sectoral impacts.

49. The NAIS 2021-2025 document, as one of the key tools recently developed in this field, aims to promote the effective use of AI in public services and deems the acceleration of digital transformation, especially in citizen-focused areas such as health, education and social services, among its priority targets. The Strategy envisages applications such as using AI-supported decision support systems in health services, providing personalized education opportunities to individuals, and making social protection systems more efficient and targeted. Establishing an AI ecosystem based on ethical principles to strengthen the data-driven service delivery of public institutions and to support the development of socially beneficial AI solutions is also among the strategic priorities.

50. One of the main goals in Türkiye’s digital transformation process is to support the active participation of disabled and elderly individuals in social life by ensuring that they benefit equally from all human rights without discrimination. To this end, social services are being diversified, and inter-institutional cooperation and coordination are being strengthened. The Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (EYHGM) takes an active role in both national and international platforms, coordinating the harmonization of laws, policies and services with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and carrying out informational activities.

51. Within the framework of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan of the Ministry of National Education, it is aimed to implement AI-supported individual learning platforms for the development of higher-order thinking and social-emotional skills, to increase the quotas for international graduate education programs in strategic areas such as AI, cybersecurity, and defence, and to develop AI-supported school investment planning applications based on student residence and transfer data. The Artificial Intelligence in Education Policy and Action Plan (2025–2029), elaborated under the coordination of the General Directorate of Innovation and Educational Technologies, covers AI applications in areas such as learning analytics, content recommendation systems, and teacher development. The Vocational and Technical Education Policy envisages giving priority to employment-based higher education programs focused on AI and digitalization.

52. *Ukraine* has recognized AI as a strategic priority for digital development and public service reform. In recent years, several key policies and initiatives have been introduced: The Concept of AI Development in Ukraine (2020–2030), adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, outlines Ukraine's strategic vision for AI integration, with a strong emphasis on human-centric and socially responsible applications. Diia Ecosystem is Ukraine's flagship digital governance platform, which integrates AI-driven services to improve access to administrative, educational, and healthcare services. The Diia app is already used by millions of citizens to access documents, receive payments, and interact with the state. eHealth System includes AI-driven tools for diagnostics, remote consultations, and medical data analysis – ensuring continuity of healthcare even in conflict zones.

53. The Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Education are promoting digital learning platforms with AI-based personalization tools. Initiatives such as the Diia Osvita platform promotes digital skills and online learning, helping Ukrainians reskill and adapt to the rapidly changing labour market. Pilot AI tools are being developed to detect fraud in social benefits, identify vulnerable individuals, and better target humanitarian and state support – particularly important in

wartime conditions. Special attention is given to ensuring AI systems used in public services do not reinforce discrimination, especially in sensitive areas like social welfare eligibility or job placement.

54. AI solutions are adapted to Ukraine's multilingual, multi-ethnic society to ensure accessibility and relevance for all citizens, including internally displaced persons and people with disabilities. The full-scale war against Ukraine has created new ethical dilemmas, such as the use of AI in defence, surveillance, and humanitarian coordination, which require careful regulation and transparency. While urban areas are digitally connected, rural and frontline regions face infrastructure gaps. This limits access to AI-enhanced services for vulnerable populations.

55. Ukraine is an active member of several international frameworks addressing the social and ethical aspects of AI. In February 2025, during the Paris Action Summit on AI, Ukraine joined the Declaration on Inclusive and Sustainable AI for People and Planet. Ukraine participates in the Council's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), which is drafting a binding international legal instrument on AI and human rights. Ukraine supports knowledge sharing and joint initiatives focused on digital resilience, especially for post-conflict recovery and social reintegration of vulnerable populations. As a candidate country, Ukraine is working to harmonize its legal and institutional framework with EU standards on AI, data governance, and digital rights.

III INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORK AND EXPERIENCE

The United Nations (UN)

56. The United Nations recognizes AI as a transformative instrument for addressing global challenges and achieving the SDGs. Multiple UN agencies, such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), have initiated AI-focused programs aimed at capacity building, research, and policy development. Notably, the Global Digital Compact has been initiated to encourage inclusive and human-centered digital governance. The UN also supports international collaboration through platforms like the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), promoting responsible innovation and harmonized global standards. These efforts highlight the importance of cross-border cooperation in bridging digital divides and promoting equitable access to AI technologies.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

57. Among the UN's specialized agencies, UNESCO has taken the lead in shaping the global normative framework for AI through the adoption of its landmark Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in 2021. This document, endorsed by 193 member states, serves as the first universal standard-setting instrument in the field of AI ethics. It identifies key principles such as human dignity, non-discrimination, inclusion, cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, and data privacy as essential to AI governance. Importantly, UNESCO's Recommendation highlights the critical role of education systems in preparing societies for the challenges and opportunities of AI. It calls for the integration of digital literacy, AI competencies, and ethical reasoning into curricula, ensuring that students and citizens alike are equipped to live and work in AI-augmented societies. The Recommendation also emphasizes the need for open access to data and digital infrastructure to avoid the deepening of global knowledge divides. UNESCO's approach reinforces that ethical AI governance must be systemic, inclusive, and grounded in human rights, especially when applied in sensitive areas like education and social welfare.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

58. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays a central role in helping countries leverage AI for sustainable, inclusive development. In its Digital Strategy 2022–2025, UNDP explicitly prioritizes AI as a tool for achieving the SDGs, particularly in areas such as poverty

reduction, gender equality, public service delivery, and climate resilience. UNDP supports governments in developing AI governance frameworks that emphasize human rights, transparency, and equity, often through its Digital Public Goods Alliance and national digital transformation programs.

The World Health Organization (WHO)

59. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been increasingly active in shaping the global ethical and practical integration of AI in healthcare systems. Recognizing AI's potential to revolutionize diagnostics, health surveillance, and service delivery, the WHO released its landmark 2021 report titled "Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for Health", which sets out six key principles for the ethical use of AI in health, including human autonomy, safety, transparency, accountability, equity, and sustainability. The document emphasizes the need to avoid AI-driven health inequalities, particularly in underserved populations and low-resource settings. WHO has also collaborated with partners on the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025, which includes AI as a core enabler of universal health coverage.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

60. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) plays a foundational role in establishing the technical and ethical infrastructure needed for equitable AI deployment, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies. Its flagship platform, the AI for Good Global Summit, launched in 2017 in partnership with 40 UN agencies, serves as the leading UN initiative promoting AI as a force for social good in health, education, disaster response, and poverty alleviation. ITU has also developed policy guidance and interoperability standards through its Focus Group on AI for Health and Focus Group on Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, ensuring AI tools are safe, accurate, and accessible globally. Additionally, ITU's Connect 2030 Agenda promotes inclusive digital development and underscores the importance of AI in bridging digital divides.

Council of Europe

61. The Council of Europe has positioned itself as a global leader in promoting ethical, inclusive, and human rights-based AI governance, particularly in support of socio-economic development. In 2024, it adopted the world's first legally binding treaty on AI - the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, which sets out comprehensive obligations for states to ensure transparency, human oversight, accountability, and protection from discrimination in AI systems. This Convention applies across the full AI lifecycle and prioritizes sectors critical to social well-being, such as education, healthcare, welfare, and public administration. Developed through a participatory, multi-stakeholder process led by the Committee on AI (CAI), the Convention complements and reinforces other global instruments, encouraging legal coherence and ethical consistency. It mandates human rights impact assessments, safeguards against algorithmic bias, and introduces mechanisms for public redress, ensuring that citizens affected by automated decisions can seek justice. The Convention also addresses risks of social exclusion and data misuse, which are especially relevant in the delivery of AI-powered social services.

The European Union

62. The European Union has taken a pioneering, risk-based approach to regulating AI through its landmark AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689), which entered into force on 1 August 2024. This comprehensive framework categorizes AI systems into four risk levels, such as unacceptable, high-risk, limited-risk, and minimal-risk. In July 2025, the EU issued specific guidance on compliance protocols for AI models with systemic risks, such as those impacting safety or fundamental rights. These include mandatory documentation, adversarial testing, and incident reporting. To support this regulatory shift, the EU has also introduced measures such to strengthen AI literacy and capacity

building. Overall, the EU AI Act sets a global precedent by embedding social safeguards—including non-discrimination, data protection, and redress mechanisms—into AI governance. It offers a balanced model for promoting innovation while ensuring human-centric, inclusive socio-economic development.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

63. Within the framework of the BSEC, AI has recently emerged as a subject of intergovernmental dialogue, particularly in the context of education policy. At the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Education held on 27 November 2023, Artificial Intelligence was discussed as a distinct agenda item, reflecting growing recognition of its transformative implications. Participants exchanged national experiences and best practices related to AI's integration in education, acknowledging both its potential and its challenges. The meeting underlined that AI can be a powerful tool for improving teaching and learning, enhancing access to quality education, and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. However, it was also emphasized that realizing these benefits requires system-wide reforms, strong ethical frameworks, and cross-sector collaboration. It was stressed that AI should not merely serve institutional efficiency but must aim to empower teachers, improve learning outcomes for all students, and equip citizens with critical digital and data competencies. Moreover, the discussion highlighted the need to prepare students for the socio-technical realities of an AI-driven future, with a shared regional commitment to protecting personal data and ensuring equitable access to digital tools. The BSEC approach recognizes that AI's impact transcends sectoral boundaries and therefore calls for coordinated policymaking across education, labour, technology, and social affairs ministries.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

64. Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant or abstract concept; it is already embedded in the everyday lives of individuals and communities. Its growing influence is reshaping the social foundations of societies in profound ways. From education and healthcare to public administration and urban living, AI offers immense potential to improve socio-economic outcomes. However, these benefits are not automatic. Whether AI serves as a driver of inclusive development or a tool that reinforces inequality depends on how it is governed, designed, and deployed. A human-centered, ethical, and inclusive approach to AI is essential to ensure that it becomes a force for social progress, not a catalyst for social fragmentation.

65. As AI systems become integral to essential sectors like healthcare and education, they have the potential to enhance access, efficiency, and quality of services. AI-powered learning tools can personalize education, while diagnostic systems can improve healthcare outcomes, particularly in under-resourced areas. However, the mere presence of AI does not guarantee a positive social impact. If not accompanied by investments in digital infrastructure, ethical safeguards, and inclusive design, these technologies risk bypassing or even harming the most vulnerable groups. Socio-economic development demands that equity, transparency, and human oversight be embedded in every AI application, making sure that technology functions as a bridge to opportunity and inclusion rather than a new layer of exclusion.

66. Employment is another critical social domain transformation through AI. Without comprehensive and inclusive workforce strategies, there is a real danger that the digital economy could deepen existing socio-economic divides. Reskilling initiatives must go beyond teaching technical proficiency; they should cultivate uniquely human qualities such as empathy, critical thinking, creativity, and ethical reasoning. This is particularly urgent for young people, who are deeply immersed in digital environments. They may benefit greatly from AI-powered opportunities but are also at risk from algorithmic manipulation, harmful content, and addictive platform designs. Education systems must evolve to provide not only digital literacy but also ethical awareness and

critical engagement, empowering youth to participate meaningfully in shaping the technologies that affect their lives.

67. Yet, when welfare decisions are outsourced to opaque algorithms, the risk of unjust exclusion and loss of human dignity increases significantly. The digital transformation of public services must be guided by principles of transparency, explainability, and fairness. Mechanisms for appeal and redress must be in place to preserve trust and democratic accountability. Furthermore, AI applications for people with disabilities or smart city initiatives must be accessible, affordable, and adapted to local languages and cultural contexts. Without these safeguards, the very technologies designed to enhance inclusion can end up reinforcing marginalization.

68. The disparities in AI readiness across the BSEC region underscore the broader socio-economic inequalities that persist between and within Member States. While some countries have made significant progress, developing national AI strategies, investing in digital ecosystems, and launching pilot projects in education, health, and public services, others continue to face challenges such as outdated infrastructure, fragmented data systems, and a shortage of technical expertise. These structural constraints not only limit the uptake of AI but also risk widening the gap between those who benefit from digital transformation and those left behind. Bridging these divides requires more than infrastructure investment. It demands coordinated, inclusive policy efforts that build institutional capacity, foster cross-sector collaboration, and develop a digitally literate, socially aware workforce.

69. Regional cooperation is a cornerstone of this effort. The BSEC framework offers a platform for sharing knowledge, aligning standards, and fostering solidarity among Member States. Collective action can help ensure that the development and deployment of AI technologies are guided by shared values and ethical standards. Parliaments and government institutions across the region play a decisive role in this transformation. They must enact legislation that protects fundamental rights, ensures algorithmic transparency, and prevents discrimination, especially in high-risk domains like education, health, and social welfare. Parliamentary oversight, citizen engagement, and regional coordination are crucial to creating a governance environment that reflects the public interest and promotes equitable outcomes.

70. Ultimately, the role of AI in socio-economic development, especially from a social perspective, will be determined by the choices societies make today. AI can become a tool for inclusion, resilience, and sustainable development, or it can entrench inequality and erode trust in institutions. Therefore, the Member States must adopt comprehensive strategies that combine ethical regulation, inclusive policymaking, regional collaboration, and sustained investment in both digital and human capital. International cooperation should further support this by enabling regulatory harmonization, knowledge sharing, and tailored capacity-building. The trajectory of AI will be shaped not by algorithms alone, but by the ethical and political frameworks that politicians establish. If anchored in social justice and democratic accountability, AI can contribute meaningfully to more just, cohesive, and inclusive societies across the BSEC region and beyond.