## ESG POLICY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

## Document No. ESG-2024-001

## **EFFECTIVE DATE: January 15, 2024**

THIS ESG POLICY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK (this "Framework") is adopted and implemented by NEXUS INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), effective as of the date first written above.

WHEREAS, the Company develops and deploys artificial intelligence and industrial automation solutions for manufacturing operations;

WHEREAS, the Company recognizes its responsibility to conduct business in an environmentally and socially responsible manner while maintaining high standards of corporate governance;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") deems it advisable to establish comprehensive environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") policies and procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Company hereby adopts this Framework as follows:

# 1.0 ESG POLICY STATEMENT AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

#### 1.1 Board Oversight

The Board shall maintain ultimate oversight responsibility for the Company's ESG strategy and performance. The Board shall review and approve material ESG initiatives, policies, and disclosures at least annually. The Board shall ensure alignment between ESG objectives and corporate strategy, including assessment of climate-related risks, social impact considerations, and governance practices. The Board shall designate sufficient resources and expertise to fulfill its ESG oversight duties effectively.

#### 1.2 ESG Committee

- (a) The Board hereby establishes an ESG Committee (the "Committee") comprising at least three (3) independent directors, with at least one member possessing substantial ESG expertise.
- (b) The Committee shall: (i) Review and assess ESG risks and opportunities across all business operations; (ii) Monitor implementation of ESG initiatives and ensure compliance with

relevant standards; (iii) Evaluate ESG performance metrics and establish appropriate targets; (iv) Report to the Board quarterly on ESG matters; (v) Review and approve ESG-related public disclosures; (vi) Assess emerging ESG trends and regulatory requirements; (vii) Oversee stakeholder engagement on ESG matters; (viii) Review third-party ESG ratings and responses.

(c) The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and maintain detailed minutes of all proceedings.

## 1.3 Management Accountability

- (a) The Chief Executive Officer shall have primary responsibility for ESG strategy execution and shall: (i) Develop and implement comprehensive ESG initiatives; (ii) Allocate necessary resources for ESG programs; (iii) Establish appropriate ESG performance indicators; (iv) Ensure integration of ESG considerations into business planning.
- (b) The Chief AI Officer shall oversee ethical AI development and deployment, including: (i) Implementation of AI ethics guidelines; (ii) Assessment of AI-related social impacts; (iii) Development of responsible AI governance frameworks; (iv) Monitoring of AI bias and fairness metrics.
- (c) Department heads shall implement ESG initiatives within their respective areas and: (i) Establish department-specific ESG objectives; (ii) Monitor and report on ESG performance; (iii) Ensure staff training on ESG matters; (iv) Integrate ESG considerations into operational decisions.

## 1.4 Reporting Structure

- (a) The Company shall maintain clear reporting lines for ESG matters, with: (i) Monthly departmental ESG performance reports; (ii) Quarterly consolidated updates to the Committee; (iii) Annual comprehensive reviews by the Board; (iv) Regular stakeholder communications on ESG progress.
- (b) ESG reporting shall include: (i) Quantitative performance metrics; (ii) Progress against established targets; (iii) Material ESG risks and mitigation measures; (iv) Emerging ESG opportunities and initiatives; (v) Stakeholder feedback and engagement outcomes.

## 1.5 Policy Review and Updates

This ESG Policy shall be reviewed annually by the Committee and updated as necessary to reflect evolving ESG standards, regulatory requirements, and business needs. Material changes shall require Board approval.

# 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

## 2.1 Carbon Footprint Reduction

- (a) The Company commits to: (i) Achieve carbon neutrality in operations by 2030; (ii) Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2027; (iii) Implement science-based targets for Scope 3 emissions; (iv) Establish quarterly emissions monitoring and reporting protocols; (v) Conduct third-party verification of emissions data annually.
- (b) Implementation Requirements: (i) Develop detailed emissions reduction roadmap by Q4 2024; (ii) Install emissions monitoring equipment at all facilities; (iii) Submit annual progress reports to the Board of Directors; (iv) Maintain comprehensive emissions inventory database; (v) Establish carbon offset verification procedures.

## 2.2 Data Center Sustainability

- (a) All Company data centers shall: (i) Achieve Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) of 1.2 or better; (ii) Source 100% renewable energy by 2026; (iii) Implement advanced cooling optimization; (iv) Conduct monthly energy efficiency assessments; (v) Maintain ISO 50001 energy management certification.
- (b) Operational Requirements: (i) Deploy real-time power monitoring systems; (ii) Implement predictive maintenance protocols; (iii) Establish thermal management guidelines; (iv) Document power distribution architecture; (v) Maintain emergency power reduction procedures.

#### 2.3 Energy Efficiency

- (a) The Company shall: (i) Conduct annual energy audits; (ii) Implement AI-driven energy optimization; (iii) Upgrade to energy-efficient equipment; (iv) Establish energy performance benchmarks; (v) Monitor and report energy intensity metrics.
- (b) Facility Requirements: (i) Install smart building management systems; (ii) Implement LED lighting with motion sensors; (iii) Optimize HVAC scheduling and controls; (iv) Conduct thermal envelope assessments; (v) Maintain energy consumption databases.

## 2.4 Waste Management

(a) Electronic Waste Management: (i) Recycle through certified partners; (ii) Maintain chain of custody documentation; (iii) Conduct quarterly waste audits; (iv) Implement asset recovery programs; (v) Establish e-waste reduction targets.

(b) General Waste Requirements: (i) Achieve zero landfill waste by 2028; (ii) Implement waste segregation protocols; (iii) Establish composting programs; (iv) Deploy waste tracking systems; (v) Conduct staff training on waste reduction.

## 2.5 Environmental Compliance

- (a) Regulatory Compliance: (i) Maintain environmental permits and licenses; (ii) Submit required regulatory reports; (iii) Conduct compliance audits bi-annually; (iv) Document regulatory communications; (v) Update compliance procedures annually.
- (b) Environmental Management System: (i) Maintain ISO 14001 certification; (ii) Conduct environmental risk assessments; (iii) Establish incident response procedures; (iv) Document corrective actions; (v) Review performance indicators quarterly.

## 2.6 Reporting and Disclosure

- (a) The Company shall: (i) Publish annual sustainability reports; (ii) Participate in CDP disclosure; (iii) Report to sustainability rating agencies; (iv) Maintain environmental data management systems; (v) Conduct stakeholder engagement sessions.
- (b) Documentation Requirements: (i) Maintain environmental performance records; (ii) Document methodology and assumptions; (iii) Archive supporting calculations; (iv) Retain third-party verification reports; (v) Establish data quality controls.

## 2.7 Implementation and Oversight

- (a) The Environmental Steering Committee shall: (i) Review progress quarterly; (ii) Approve environmental initiatives; (iii) Allocate necessary resources; (iv) Ensure policy compliance; (v) Report to Board of Directors annually.
- (b) Department Responsibilities: (i) Designate environmental coordinators; (ii) Implement department-specific procedures; (iii) Monitor performance metrics; (iv) Report incidents promptly; (v) Maintain required documentation.

# 3.0 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

#### 3.1 AI Ethics Guidelines

(a) All AI development shall adhere to: (i) Transparency in algorithms, including: - Documentation of decision-making processes - Public disclosure of AI system capabilities and limitations - Regular reporting of algorithmic impact assessments - Maintenance of comprehensive audit trails (ii) Fairness in data usage, encompassing: - Regular bias detection and mitigation protocols - Demographic representation in training data - Equal treatment

across protected characteristics - Periodic fairness audits by independent third parties (iii) Human oversight of critical decisions, requiring: - Designated oversight committees for highrisk AI systems - Clear escalation protocols for automated decisions - Regular review of AI system outputs - Mandatory human intervention thresholds

## 3.2 Workforce Development

(a) The Company commits to: (i) Annual training on AI ethics, including: - Mandatory completion of ethics certification programs - Quarterly updates on emerging AI ethical considerations - Case study reviews of ethical dilemmas - Cross-functional ethics workshops (ii) Reskilling programs for affected workers, comprising: - Individual skills assessment and development plans - Fully-funded technical training programs - Career transition counseling services - Partnership with educational institutions - Minimum 12-month transition support (iii) Diversity and inclusion initiatives, including: - Targeted recruitment programs - Mentorship opportunities - Regular pay equity reviews - Cultural competency training - Employee resource group support

#### 3.3 Customer Data Protection

(a) The Company shall: (i) Implement ISO 27001 standards through: - Annual certification maintenance - Regular staff security training - Information security management systems - Incident response protocols - Business continuity planning (ii) Conduct quarterly security audits, including: - Penetration testing - Vulnerability assessments - Third-party security reviews - Data handling compliance checks - Access control verification (iii) Maintain transparent data usage policies by: - Publishing detailed privacy notices - Providing opt-out mechanisms - Regular policy updates - Clear consent procedures - Data retention schedules

## 3.4 Community Impact

(a) The Company shall: (i) Assess automation impact on local employment through: - Annual economic impact studies - Job displacement monitoring - Local workforce surveys - Industry collaboration reports - Regional employment tracking (ii) Support STEM education initiatives via: - School partnership programs - Scholarship funding - Internship opportunities - Teacher training support - Educational resource provision (iii) Engage in community consultation through: - Quarterly town hall meetings - Stakeholder advisory boards - Public feedback mechanisms - Regular progress reports - Community liaison officers

#### 3.5 Implementation and Monitoring

(a) The Company shall establish: (i) Oversight mechanisms including: - Board-level social responsibility committee - Regular stakeholder reviews - Annual impact assessments - Performance metrics tracking (ii) Reporting requirements comprising: - Quarterly progress updates - Annual sustainability reports - Stakeholder feedback summaries - Compliance

documentation (iii) Continuous improvement processes through: - Regular policy reviews - Stakeholder feedback integration - Best practice updates - Performance benchmarking

## 3.6 Enforcement and Compliance

(a) The Company shall maintain: (i) Internal compliance mechanisms including: - Designated compliance officers - Regular audits and assessments - Employee reporting channels - Documentation requirements (ii) Remediation procedures comprising: - Clear violation protocols - Corrective action plans - Stakeholder notification processes - Appeal mechanisms (iii) Accountability measures through: - Performance metrics - Regular board reporting - Public disclosure requirements - Stakeholder engagement records

## 4.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

#### 4.1 ESG Risk Assessment

- (a) The Company shall maintain a comprehensive ESG risk matrix that: (i) Identifies potential environmental, social, and governance risks; (ii) Evaluates likelihood and impact severity on a standardized scale; (iii) Establishes mitigation strategies for each identified risk; (iv) Updates risk ratings quarterly or upon material changes.
- (b) Quarterly risk assessments shall address: (i) AI safety and reliability, including: Algorithm bias detection and mitigation System failure contingency plans Data security protocols Third-party AI integration risks (ii) Environmental compliance, including: Carbon emissions monitoring Waste management procedures Resource consumption metrics Environmental permit compliance (iii) Social impact metrics, including: Community engagement measures Labor practices assessment Human rights compliance Diversity and inclusion metrics

## 4.2 Compliance Monitoring

- (a) The Company shall: (i) Monitor regulatory changes through: Weekly regulatory updates review Industry association memberships Legal counsel consultations Regulatory authority notifications (ii) Conduct compliance training that: Occurs at least bi-annually Covers all relevant ESG regulations Includes role-specific modules Requires certification of completion (iii) Maintain audit trails documenting: All compliance activities Training attendance records Risk assessment results Corrective actions taken
- (b) The Compliance Officer shall: (i) Establish annual compliance objectives; (ii) Review compliance metrics monthly; (iii) Report to the Board quarterly; (iv) Maintain compliance documentation for seven years.

## 4.3 Incident Reporting

- (a) All ESG incidents shall be reported within 24 hours to: (i) Relevant department heads; (ii) Compliance Officer; (iii) Legal department; (iv) Executive management, where applicable.
- (b) Investigation protocols shall be documented and include: (i) Initial incident assessment within 48 hours; (ii) Root cause analysis procedures; (iii) Corrective action planning; (iv) Preventive measure implementation.

## 4.4 Audit Requirements

- (a) Internal audits shall be conducted: (i) Semi-annually for high-risk areas; (ii) Annually for standard compliance matters; (iii) As required by regulatory changes.
- (b) External audits shall be performed: (i) Annually by certified third-party auditors; (ii) Following major operational changes; (iii) Upon regulatory authority request.

## 4.5 Documentation and Reporting

- (a) The Company shall maintain: (i) Digital compliance management system; (ii) Real-time risk monitoring dashboard; (iii) Automated compliance alert system; (iv) Centralized document repository.
- (b) Regular reports shall include: (i) Monthly compliance status updates; (ii) Quarterly risk assessment summaries; (iii) Annual compliance review; (iv) Ad-hoc incident reports.

## 4.6 Continuous Improvement

- (a) The Company shall: (i) Review risk management procedures annually; (ii) Update compliance protocols as needed; (iii) Incorporate industry best practices; (iv) Implement stakeholder feedback.
- (b) Performance metrics shall be: (i) Tracked continuously; (ii) Reviewed quarterly; (iii) Benchmarked against industry standards; (iv) Used to inform policy updates.

## 5.0 REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

## **5.1 ESG Metrics**

(a) The Company shall track and report: (i) Environmental metrics, including but not limited to energy consumption, carbon emissions, water usage, waste management protocols, and environmental incident rates; (ii) Social impact indicators, encompassing workforce diversity, employee turnover, occupational safety metrics, community engagement initiatives, and human rights compliance; (iii) Governance performance, including board composition, executive compensation, ethical business practices, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

(b) All metrics shall be: (i) Quantifiable and verifiable through documented evidence; (ii) Measured against established industry benchmarks; (iii) Updated quarterly and reviewed annually by the ESG Committee.

#### 5.2 Disclosure Framework

- (a) Annual ESG reports shall follow: (i) SASB Standards, with specific attention to Technology & Communications Sector metrics; (ii) TCFD Guidelines, including comprehensive climate-related financial risk assessments; (iii) GRI Framework, ensuring adherence to materiality principles and stakeholder inclusiveness.
- (b) The Company shall: (i) Engage independent third-party verification of reported metrics; (ii) Maintain detailed documentation of calculation methodologies; (iii) Implement internal controls for data accuracy and completeness.

#### 5.3 Stakeholder Communication

- (a) Regular updates shall be provided to stakeholders through: (i) Quarterly ESG performance summaries; (ii) Annual comprehensive sustainability reports; (iii) Real-time incident reporting when materiality thresholds are exceeded.
- (b) Communication channels shall include: (i) Dedicated ESG portal on the Company website;
- (ii) Direct stakeholder engagement sessions; (iii) Regulatory filings as required by applicable laws.

## 5.4 Reporting Timeline and Responsibilities

- (a) The Company shall adhere to the following schedule: (i) Monthly internal ESG performance reviews; (ii) Quarterly stakeholder updates within 30 days of period end; (iii) Annual comprehensive report within 90 days of fiscal year end.
- (b) Responsibilities shall be allocated as follows: (i) ESG Committee: oversight and final approval; (ii) Department heads: data collection and verification; (iii) External auditors: independent assurance.

#### 5.5 Non-Compliance and Remediation

- (a) Failure to meet reporting requirements shall trigger: (i) Immediate notification to the Board of Directors; (ii) Development of remediation plan within 15 business days; (iii) Implementation of enhanced monitoring protocols.
- (b) Material misstatements or omissions shall require: (i) Prompt issuance of corrected reports;
- (ii) Root cause analysis and preventive measures; (iii) Disclosure of corrections to affected stakeholders.