

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ENSURE PROPER CONTROL OF USAGE OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE (AI) TECHNOLOGY IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED
MATTERS, 2023

Sponsored by Hon. Sada Soli

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria as follows-

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|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1. The objectives of this Bill are: | Objectives of
the Bill |
| 2 | (i) To ensure an ethical practices, safeguard the rights, safety and | |
| 3 | well beings of individuals and society as a whole; | |
| 4 | (a) To promote the harmonization of legal rules on artificial | |
| 5 | intelligence (AI) transactions across national boundaries; | |
| 6 | (b) To facilitate the appropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI); | |
| 7 | (c) To enable business and community have confidence in | |
| 8 | Artificial Intelligence (AI); | |
| 9 | (d) To enable businesses and community to use artificial | |
| 10 | intelligence in their transactions with government, and | |
| 11 | (e) Ensure responsible and ethical practices, safeguarding the | |
| 12 | rights, safety and well being of individuals and society as a whole. | |
| 13 | 2. The provisions of this Bill shall apply to transactions both in the | Application of
this Bill |
| 14 | private and public sectors- | |
| 15 | (a) This law shall apply to AI systems developed, used or deployed | |
| 16 | within Nigeria; | |
| 17 | (b) AI system refers to any software, hardware or hybrid that utilize | |
| 18 | AI techniques to perform tasks with varying levels of autonomy. | |
| 19 | 3. AI developers shall adhere to a set of ethical principles | Ethical Principles |
| 20 | including but not limited to; | |

1 (a) development and use of AI system shall prioritize human values,
2 respect human rights and promote fairness and transparency;
3 (b) AI system shall be designed, developed and operated with
4 considerations to ensure the safety and privacy of individuals and their data;
5 (c) AI system shall not discriminate based on race, gender, religion or
6 any other protected characteristics defined by law;
7 (d) AI developers and users should be accountable for actions and
8 outcomes of their AI systems, including any potential harm caused;
9 (e) AI system should respect and protect the privacy and personal data
10 of individuals complying with the relevant data protection laws regulations.

11 A1 DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

Risk and mitigation
12 **4.** (a) Developers and operators shall conduct risk assessments and
13 proactively identify and mitigate potential risks and harm before deployment;
14 (b) Transparent documentation of AI system or architecture, data
15 sources and algorithms shall be maintained to facilitate the adults and ensure
16 accountability;
17 (c) Risk mitigations, strategies shall be implemented to minimize the
18 potential harm caused by AI system, including mechanisms for error
19 correction, fail safe mechanism, and human oversight where necessary.

Data protection and privacy
20 **5.** AI system shall comply with relevant data protection and privacy
21 law, ensuring informed consent, data minimization secure storage and
22 processing of personal data;
23 (b) individuals shall have the right to access, correct and delete their
24 personal data used by AI systems.

Data Governance
25 **6.** (a) AI developers and users shall ensure the response collection,
26 storage, and use of data, adhering to relevant data protection and privacy laws;
27 (b) data used for training AI systems should be diverse, representative
28 and free from bias to avoid perpetuating discriminatory practices;
29 (c) consent and transparency should be ensured when collecting and

1 using personal data for AI systems, allowing individuals to have control
2 over their data;

3 (d) AI systems that impact individuals lives shall be designed and
4 operated in a transparent manner, providing understandable explanations
5 for their decisions and actions;

6 (e) Individuals shall be informed when interactions with an AI
7 system and have the right to know if they are conversing with a machine.

8 7.(a) AI developers and users shall prioritise the safety and security
9 of AI systems ensuring they are robust, reliable and resistant to malicious
10 attacks;

11 (b) appropriate safeguards and measures shall be implemented to
12 prevent unauthorized access, manipulations or misuse of AI systems and
13 their data;

14 (c) in case of potential safety and risks, AI developers and users
15 shall promptly address and mitigate such risks, and inform relevant
16 stakeholders as necessary.

17 8. Artificial decisions with significant consequences shall involve
18 human oversight and intervention, ensuring human accountability and
19 preventing undue reliance on AI systems

20 9. Encourage training and reskilling programmes to keep
21 individuals adopt to the changing job landscape due to AI technologies
22 mitigating the impact of job development

23 10.(a) establishment of an independent regulatory authority for
24 overseeing compliance with this law, issuing guidelines and conducting
25 audits and assessment;

26 (b) the regulatory body shall be the Ministry of Justice and shall
27 have the authority to issue guidelines conduct inspections, impose penalties
28 for non-compliance and promote best practices in AI government;

29 (c) collaboration and engagement with stakeholders including AI
30 developers, users and civil society organizations should be

Safety and security

Human oversight and intervention

Education and awareness

Regulatory Authority

	1	encouraged to foster a participatory and inclusive governance framework.
Enforcement and penalty	2	11. Non compliance with this law shall result in penalties which includes Fines, remedial actions or suspension of AI system operators, or other appropriate measures to be determined by the regulatory body;
	5	(b) individual or entities affected by the actions or decisions of AI
	6	systems shall have the right to seek legal remedies and compensation for any
	7	harm caused.
Review as amendment	8	12. This Act shall be subject to periodic review and assessment to ensure its effectiveness and relevance on the rapidly evolving field of AI;
	10	(b) amendment to this Act may be proposed to address emerging challenges, technological advancement or changes in societal needs.
Interpretation	12	13. In this bill, unless the context otherwise requires;
	13	"AI" systems refers to any software, hardware or combination thereof that is designed to perform tasks with varying degrees of autonomy, using techniques such as machine learning, neural networks or other similar methods;
	16	"AI" developers refers to any person, organization or entity involved in the creation, design or production of AI systems;
	18	"AI" users refers to any person, organization or entity utilizing AI systems for their operations or services.
Citation	20	14. This Bill may be cited as the Control of Usage Artificial Intelligence Technology in Nigeria Bill, 2023.
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1 SCHEDULES

2 *Advantages of AI to society*

3 (i) AI technologies can automate repetitive tasks, improving
4 productivity and allow humans to focus on more complex and creative
5 work;

6 (ii) AI can help in diagnosing diseases, predicting outbreaks and
7 developing personalized treatments, thereby saving lives and improving
8 the overall healthcare system;

9 (iii) AI can be used in autonomous vehicles and surveillance
10 systems to increase safety, preventing accidents and detecting criminal
11 activities;

12 (iv) AI algorithms can analyze vast amount of data to personalise
13 services and products for individuals, resulting in a more tailored and
14 enhanced user experience;

15 (v) AI powered assistance technologies can help individuals with
16 disabilities by improving accessibility, communication mobility and
17 independence.

18 SCHEDULE 2

19 *Disadvantages of AI to society*

20 (i) The automation of tasks by AI can lead to job losses in certain
21 sectors, potentially impacting the livelihoods of individuals and leading to
22 income inequality;

23 (ii) AI raises ethical considerations like privacy concerns,
24 algorithmic bias and the potential for misuse or unethical decisions made by
25 autonomous systems;

26 (iii) Executive reliance on AI systems may lead to a loss of critical
27 human skills, such as ethical thinking and problem solving and reduce
28 social interaction;

29 (iv) As society becomes more dependent on AI, vulnerabilities like
30 system failures, hacking or cyber attacks can have severe consequences;

1 (v) Assigning accountability or determining liability when AI
2 systems cause harm can be challenging, as the responsibility may be
3 distributed between developers, manufacturers and users.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for application of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria, ensure ethical practices and harmonize legal rules on Artificial Intelligence Transactions across nations.