

**CODE OF ETHICS
FOR THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
IN RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS
*A Value-Based Framework***

(Based on Paragraphs 23, 24 of the “Astana Peace Declaration 2025”)

Astana, 2026

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Technical Terms

Definitions

Algorithmic Bias	Systematic errors in machine learning algorithms that produce unfair or discriminatory outcomes.
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	The simulation of human intelligence processes by machines and computer systems via data and algorithms.
Big Data	Massive, complex datasets that traditional data management systems cannot handle.
Bioengineering	The application of engineering principles to biological systems and biomedical technologies. <i>Mentioned in the document among breakthrough technologies requiring ethical oversight.</i>
Digital Infrastructure	A combination of physical and virtual components (servers, data centres, communication networks, databases, energy facilities, and development and operational services) that support the functioning of AI systems.
Encryption	The cryptographic transformation of data to protect it from unauthorized access.
LLM (Large Language Model)	A neural network model trained on massive amounts of text, capable of understanding and generating human-like language.
Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Any information connected to a specific individual that can be used to establish that individual's identity. Within the framework of this Code, it includes two categories: <u>Personal identifying data</u>: basic information (full name, email address, phone number, ID number). <u>Sensitive personal data</u>: information requiring enhanced protection under the law, including data concerning religious beliefs, spiritual needs, health, and biometrics.

Ethical, Legal, and Social Terms

Definitions

Digital Equality	The principle of equal access for all people to technological advancements.
Inclusivity (Inclusive Dialogue)	The principle of ensuring the maximum involvement of and consideration for the interests of all societal groups, including religious communities, the scientific community, and vulnerable populations.
Informed Consent	The principle that users must clearly understand that they are interacting with an AI system (algorithm), rather than a human being. Developers are required to openly inform users that they are interacting with AI through clear labeling, notifications, or watermarks, and to obtain their explicit consent to such interaction.

Subject of Moral Responsibility	An entity with the conscious agency and free will to choose between right and wrong, making them accountable for the consequences of their actions.
Synergy	A state where the combined action of multiple factors or systems produces a greater total impact than the sum of their individual effects.
Verification	The process of checking and confirming the accuracy and reliability of information
Vulnerable Groups	Segments of the population facing a higher risk of social exclusion, discrimination, or violations of their rights due to socioeconomic, physical, or structural barriers. This includes persons with disabilities, older persons, children, refugees, migrants, and low-income individuals.
Philosophical and Religious Definitions	
Doctrinal Principles	The core dogmas, tenets, and foundational teachings that define a specific religious belief system.
Dogmatic Aspects of Religion	The immutable doctrinal foundations representing absolute truth for believers. They establish religious law and define the boundaries of the sacred and the impermissible (sinful), which are not subject to revision to suit changing social norms.
Moral Relativism	An ethical concept asserting that universal standards of right and wrong do not exist, and that morality is defined by cultural or personal contexts.
Religious Authority	A religious guidance and mentoring provided by members of the clergy, which are an exclusive sphere of their professional and spiritual responsibility, and which cannot be delegated to or replaced by artificial intelligence.
Religious Contexts	The areas of public and private life shaped by faith systems, including rituals, spiritual education, and the operations of religious institutions.
Religious Studies Experts	Academics who analyze and study religion objectively as a social and cultural phenomenon.
Sacred Functions	Practices, rituals, and obligations recognized as sacred or endowed with the highest spiritual value in accordance with the doctrines and traditions of a particular faith.
Theology	A systematic academic discipline that studies the nature of the divine, religious doctrines, and ethical principles through the rational analysis of sacred texts and spiritual experience.

PREAMBLE

“Astana Peace Declaration 2025”, para. 23:

“We call for responsible use of new technologies, including digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and bioengineering. The use of AI for discrimination, hostility, or undermining human dignity is unacceptable. We emphasize the need to develop international norms for AI usage based on human rights and ethical principles. We affirm that despite the progress in the development of AI, the capacity for genuine compassion and love remains exclusively human, and cultivating these qualities should become the foundation of humankind’s humanistic and spiritual-moral development”.

Recognizing that humanity has entered an era of unprecedented technological transformation driven by developments in artificial intelligence, big data and bioengineering, which are redefining every aspect of human life and creating new opportunities for societal progress;

Confirming that artificial intelligence can foster social cohesion and serve as an effective tool for improving access to education, healthcare and social protection, as well as promoting dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse communities;

Acknowledging that artificial intelligence technologies, rightly managed, possess the potential to reduce inequality and enhance the quality of public discourse, and can significantly improve quality of life by automating routine processes;

Believing that true progress is not measured solely by the capabilities that technology achieves, but by the extent to which it upholds human dignity and safeguards humanity’s spiritual and moral values;

Affirming that this Code addresses the ethical dimensions of the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies in religious contexts, and regards them as essential to ensuring security and respect for human dignity;

Recognizing that a universal moral imperative — the Golden Rule: “Treat others as you would wish to be treated” — lies at the heart of the world’s spiritual

traditions, and affirming this rule as the ultimate standard for evaluating technological innovation;

Expressing concern that technological development is progressing at a rate that exceeds the capacity of ethical and legal standards to adapt, creating a critical gap between innovation and moral responsibility for its consequences;

Emphasizing that the deployment of neural networks and transformative technologies presents complex global challenges, creating risks of influencing human consciousness and reshaping beliefs and behavior through intelligent algorithms, including threats to freedom of choice, privacy, digital equality and personal security;

Convinced that, in an era of global transformation, the spiritual and religious dimension is increasingly significant in social development, and highlighting the unique role of religious and spiritual leaders in providing moral and ethical guidance for the use of new technologies that can profoundly affect the nature of human relationships;

Emphasizing that particular responsibility for the social, ethical, and spiritual implications of the deployment of artificial intelligence algorithms, codes, data, applications, and models rests with technology companies and corporations, as well as with their developers, as the creators of tools that shape modern society;

Recognizing that all technology must exclusively serve the common good of humanity and strengthen the values of human fraternity, dialogue, coexistence, and social peace; countering manifestations of hatred, extremism and discrimination; and placing human dignity above all, which requires inclusive dialogue among representatives of religious communities, the scientific community and the technology sector in a manner that contributes to strengthening digital peace and protecting society from polarization, incitement, and disinformation online;

Welcoming the initiative to establish universal principles for the responsible use of artificial intelligence, grounded in the unacceptability of discrimination and the safeguarding of human agency;

Striving to achieve synergy between spiritual wisdom and expert knowledge as a vital instrument for addressing the pressing challenges of our time;

Drawing upon the fundamental principles of humanism, freedom of conscience and religion, and respect for religious diversity, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)¹ and other fundamental international human rights instruments;

Guided by the principles outlined in the historic Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together (2019)², which promotes human dignity, coexistence, peace, and respect for religious and cultural diversity;

Taking into account recognized international ethical frameworks and digital transformation initiatives, notably the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021)³, the Rome Call for AI Ethics (2020)⁴, the Encyclical letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV “Magnifica humanitas” (2026)⁵, the Asilomar Artificial Intelligence Principles (2017)⁶, as well as national legislation and regulatory mechanisms in the sphere of artificial intelligence;

Affirming that the provisions of this Code are advisory in nature, establish general ethical principles, and do not create legal obligations for governments, religious associations, developers, operators, or users of artificial intelligence systems;

Noting that the implementation of the provisions of this Code shall be carried out in accordance with the national legislation of governments and applicable international obligations;

Expressing confidence that voluntary adherence to the provisions of this Code will foster the harmonious integration of technological innovation and spiritual traditions for the benefit of humanity as a whole,

¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted by General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

² Document on Human Fraternity, signed in Abu Dhabi in 2019 by His Eminence Professor Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and Chairman of the Muslim Council of Elders, and His Holiness Pope Francis, the late pontiff of the Catholic Church.

³ UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Adopted on 23 November 2021.

⁴ Rome Call for AI Ethics. Signed by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Microsoft, IBM, FAO, and the Ministry of Innovation of the Italian Government. Rome, 28 February 2020.

⁵ The Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV “Magnifica Humanitas: on Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence”, Vatican, 15 May 2026.

⁶ The Asilomar AI Principles, adopted in January 2017 at a conference in Asilomar (California, USA).

THIS CODE OF ETHICS ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. Respect for Human Dignity and Spiritual Freedom

The use and training of artificial intelligence (AI) systems must be directed toward strengthening human dignity, respecting freedom of conscience, and safeguarding human consciousness. Under no circumstances shall AI be regarded as a substitute for personal religious experience, spiritual sacraments, or religious authority; nor shall it be used for psychological manipulation through algorithms, exerting emotional influence, or shaping or falsifying beliefs. The use of technology to interfere with an individual's internal spiritual choices or to simulate sacred rites without the approval of competent spiritual leadership is unacceptable. The analytical capabilities of AI cannot replace human empathy, personal spiritual presence, and the direct connection between a spiritual mentor and a believer, particularly in situations requiring personalized spiritual guidance. The inherent freedom of the individual and freedom of religion must be unconditionally respected and protected.

2. Inclusivity, Equality and Maintenance of Diversity

The development, training, and application of artificial intelligence systems within the religious sphere should be carried out with due regard for religious and worldview diversity, freedom of conscience and religion, and the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Appropriate measures should be taken to minimize the risks of algorithmic bias and discrimination on the grounds of religion, gender, or ethnic origin, while precluding the displacement of traditional values by universalized templates.

The use of artificial intelligence systems to promote radicalism, extremism, and terrorism, to incite religious or other forms of hatred, to denigrate religions, beliefs, sacred sites, and religious symbols, or to disseminate content aimed at degrading the human dignity of individuals or groups based on their religion or belief, is strictly inadmissible. The application of artificial intelligence systems should contribute to the advancement of spiritual education, the promotion of mutual understanding, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, the strengthening of trust, the fostering of interfaith dialogue and mutual respect, as well as the promotion of digital peace. Concurrently, stakeholders must refrain from any use of these technologies as instruments for ideological coercion, political pressure, the subversion of social trust, or digital polarization.

3. Human Oversight and Accountability

Artificial intelligence does not constitute an independent subject of moral responsibility. Moral responsibility for decisions made through the use of artificial intelligence systems rests exclusively with human beings. Matters of legal liability concerning developers, operators, owners, and users of artificial intelligence systems should be determined in accordance with applicable legislation, taking due account of their respective roles and the nature of the relevant acts.

To prevent factual errors in the citation of canonical texts and the distortion of doctrinal foundations, expert assessments of qualified specialists are recommended. Concurrently, the inherent right of the individual to independently interpret spiritual truths and freedom of conscience is recognized. Consequently, the outputs of AI systems shall remain strictly reference-based rather than prescriptive.

4. Transparency and Informed Consent

Human interaction with AI systems in religious contexts must be conducted with full transparency and with due respect for privacy. Users have the right to be explicitly informed when consultation, instruction, or textual analysis is facilitated by an automated system. To minimize algorithmic bias, developers of Large Language Models (LLMs) should adhere to the principle of data authenticity by using verified digital archives of religious and cultural heritage, recognized by the academic community. The use of artificial intelligence systems for the covert manipulation of beliefs or the exertion of psychological pressure is strictly inadmissible.

5. Data Security, Protection and Feedback

The collection and processing of personal data and other confidential information, including data concerning the religious preferences and spiritual needs of users, should be carried out on lawful grounds, in compliance with applicable legislation on data protection, the right to privacy, and confidentiality. The implementation of feedback mechanisms by operators is encouraged to swiftly correct errors and prevent the dissemination of harmful content.

Any modifications to algorithms that affect matters of doctrine must undergo verification by qualified experts in theology, religious studies and technology, thereby ensuring the protection of users' religious privacy within the digital environment.

In the processing of such information, appropriate organizational and technical safeguards should be implemented, including, where applicable, encryption, anonymization, and other measures aimed at minimizing the risks of unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse of data.

6. Fairness and Digital Equality

Technological progress must not exacerbate the social divide. The use of AI in religious and educational activities must be inclusive, ensuring equitable access to knowledge and services for all segments of the population, including vulnerable groups.

Due attention must be paid to the needs of those with limited access to digital technologies, such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and low-income populations. Initiatives aimed at narrowing the digital divide and promoting equitable access to technology and knowledge are strongly encouraged, as they contribute to strengthening social cohesion and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Ethical Review and Cooperation

The development and implementation of breakthrough technologies—including AI, bioengineering, and Big Data—in the spiritual context necessitates sustained multilateral dialogue between the scientific and engineering communities, government authorities, religious institutions, and civil society. It is recommended to establish public oversight mechanisms, in collaboration with religious leaders and representatives, to assess the long-term impact of technology on the moral condition of society, as well as to develop proactive frameworks for identifying and mitigating emerging risks and challenges. This approach contributes to building a framework for global ethical governance of modern technologies. Initiatives aimed at advancing education and capacity-building in the field of AI ethics, alongside those fostering a culture of shared responsibility toward the future of technology and humanity, are encouraged.

8. Preserving the Religious and Moral Integrity of the Individual

The application of AI systems in religious contexts must be directed toward the edification and support of the individual's inner life.

The use of AI to manipulate emotions, exploit the psychological or spiritual needs of individuals, or design applications that lead to digital addiction, social

isolation, or pathological dependence on intelligent systems is strictly inadmissible. A proper balance between digital engagement and real-world human life must be preserved to ensure human freedom, the autonomy of consciousness, and the capacity for responsible choice.

9. Prevention of the Algorithmic Promotion of Moral Relativism

The development and application of artificial intelligence systems within the religious sphere should be predicated on the understanding of freedom as a responsible choice, inseparable from the moral guidelines of a spiritual tradition. When generating and disseminating religious content through artificial intelligence systems, the accurate transmission of the respective dogmatic and ethical aspects should be ensured. The substitution of a religious tradition's stance with assertions regarding the equivalence of all moral views, as well as the presentation of acts that receive an unequivocal moral assessment within a tradition as ethically neutral, is strictly inadmissible. Concurrently, artificial intelligence technologies should not be utilized for the imposition of religious beliefs, discrimination, the condemnation of individuals or groups of persons, or the restriction of the freedom of worldview choice. Engagement with religious content should be conducted with respect for freedom of conscience, as well as religious and worldview diversity.

The application of this principle should be carried out with due regard for the national legislation of governments and applicable international obligations.

10. Environmental Stewardship and Intergenerational Responsibility

The development of digital infrastructure must align with the principles of environmental ethics and stewardship of the natural world. AI technologies should contribute to the preservation of humanity's common home and safeguard the rights of future generations to a favorable environment.

Sustainable digital practices in the design and operation of AI systems are encouraged. This is grounded in the human ethical responsibility to steward the Earth and preserve its resources, thereby enhancing human security, stability, and global peace.

11. Allocation of Responsibility for AI Implementation in the Religious Context

Developers are encouraged to engage religious studies experts during the data curation, model development, and AI training phases to avoid offending the

sensibilities of believers. Religious organizations are advised to use AI exclusively as an auxiliary tool for awareness, education, and enlightenment without acknowledging it as a supreme authority in matters of faith and doctrine.

Governments, political leaders, as well as international and regional organizations are called upon, within the scope of their respective mandates and taking into due account national legislation, to facilitate the creation of conditions conducive to the responsible and safe application of artificial intelligence within the religious sphere, taking into consideration its growing role and pervasive impact on all aspects of public life, while ensuring the observance of freedom of conscience and religion, the autonomy of religious associations, the protection of personal data, and the prevention of the discriminatory use of technologies.

Where necessary, existing legal and institutional mechanisms may be further enhanced, taking into account the specific characteristics and risks associated with the application of artificial intelligence in the religious sphere, with a view to ensuring accountability, legal protection, and international cooperation, with particular attention given to protecting vulnerable groups from risks of exploitation or harmful digital influence.

Relevant international organizations and bodies within the United Nations system are strongly encouraged to facilitate the development of global ethical standards and to ensure the coordination of multilateral dialogue in this field.

**MAY OUR PATH TOWARD UNITY, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY
BE BLESSED!**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE LEADERS OF
WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS**

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

ASTANA

2026