

AI ETHICS POLICY

ACCESS TO NUTRITION FOUNDATION

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1. About the Access to Nutrition Foundation

ATNF is a global foundation actively challenging the food industry, investors, and policymakers to shape healthier food systems. We analyse and translate data into actionable insights, driving partnerships and innovations for market transformation, ensuring access to nutritious and sustainable food for all.

Since launching our first Global Index in 2013, ATNF has benchmarked the world's largest food and beverage manufacturers and worked with them to improve their performance to accelerate access to affordable, nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Our goal is to ensure markets provide access to nutritious and affordable foods, so that by 2030, at least half of food and beverage companies' sales come from healthier products that contribute to healthy, sustainable diets for everyone, especially the most vulnerable in society. This is critical as nutritious, affordable diets support physical and mental development, build resilient societies, and reduce diet-related non-communicable diseases.

We produce high-quality research and accountability tools to drive market transformation. We publish global and country-specific indexes, conduct research to monitor industry action and understand food environment and support increased alignment around nutrition accountability tools. Based on our new theory of change, we increasingly leverage our research into catalysing market change through actions, partnerships, and research.

To maximise our impact, we tailor our work to meet the needs of responsible investors, policymakers, and consumer groups. We contribute to, and convene, key debates shaping the future of healthy diets. Building strong alliances and engaging stakeholders are central to our mission, as we continue to expand our network to share knowledge and promote access to nutritious food for all.

1.1 Access to Nutrition Foundation Mission

We improve market performance by driving key actors in the food system – starting with industry -- to accelerate access to affordable nutritious foods for all, especially vulnerable consumers, in a sustainable way.

We develop, deliver and translate data-driven tools and strategies that catalyse market change for nutrition.

2. Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines principles and guidelines for the ethical use, development, and governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within ATNF. As a research-focused and data-driven organization addressing global nutrition and malnutrition, we are committed to ensuring that AI technologies are used responsibly and transparently, respecting the rights and interests of all stakeholders. This policy applies to all employees, contractors, partners, and stakeholders engaged with ATNF's use or development of AI tools, systems, or research. It encompasses both internal applications and external collaborations involving AI.

3. General Principles

3.1. Transparency and Accountability

We will ensure that AI systems and processes are explainable and transparent to relevant stakeholders. And clearly document and communicate how AI influences and/or drives decisions, especially when they affect stakeholders or beneficiaries. We will assign clear accountability for AI system outcomes to designated team members or functions and report this to the AI Committee.

3.2. Bias Mitigation and Fairness

We will actively identify, evaluate, and mitigate biases in data and algorithms to avoid perpetuating discrimination or inequality. We will make use of, and where necessary design, AI systems to respect cultural, social, and regional diversity, with a focus on equitable outcomes for underserved populations.

3.3. Privacy and Data Protection

We will adhere to strict data privacy standards, ensuring compliance with applicable regulations (e.g., GDPR). We will minimize data collection to what is strictly necessary, anonymize datasets whenever possible, and ensure the confidentiality of information shared by third parties. Additionally, we will conduct rigorous risk assessments before integrating AI into data analytics processes to safeguard privacy and data integrity.

3.4. Human-Centric Approach

We prioritize human oversight and intervention in AI-driven decisions that impact livelihoods, health, or rights. In all research-based projects, we ensure that humans remain actively involved at every stage to safeguard the quality and reliability of the data we produce. This commitment aligns with findings from our pilot studies, which underscore the importance of integrating human expertise to enhance contextual judgment and maintain ethical sensitivity. Furthermore, we are committed to transparently disclosing instances where AI was used to generate content, reinforcing trust and accountability in our processes.

3.5. Sustainability

We will continuously assess the environmental impact of AI technologies and prioritize energy-efficient methods. And collaborate with stakeholders to ensure that AI solutions align with sustainable development goals (SDGs), including promoting global nutrition equity.

3.6. Integrity

We will at all times avoid applications of AI that could harm individuals or communities, directly or indirectly. And will ensure AI systems are not used for exploitative purposes or in ways that conflict with our mission of combating malnutrition.

4. Implementation Guidelines

4.1. AI committee

We have established an AI Committee to assess the ethical implications of AI projects and partnerships. And will conduct regular audits to ensure compliance with this policy and respond to emerging ethical challenges.

4.2. Stakeholder Engagement

We engage with stakeholders, including policymakers, investors, and companies, to address concerns about AI systems and to collaboratively develop solutions. We will share research findings, methodologies, and datasets openly when appropriate, fostering trust and accountability.

4.3. Training and Awareness

ATNF provides ongoing training for employees and partners on AI ethics, including bias mitigation, privacy, and responsible use of data. We encourage a culture of ethical reflection and discussion across all levels of ATNF.

4.4. Collaboration with Experts

We will partner with AI (ethics) researchers, technologists, and industry experts to ensure our approaches are informed by the latest knowledge and best practices.

5. Considerations and Evolving risks

We recognize that (Generative) AI is still evolving and may produce inaccurate, misleading, or biased information. ATNF will continue to test AI solutions using a structured, phased approach and conduct rigorous risk assessments before integrating them into research and analytics processes. We will exercise caution when applying AI to sensitive topics or generating insights based on organizational data. AI-generated outputs will always be critically reviewed, and where necessary, references to credible sources, such as academic papers or official reports, will be provided to validate findings.

The regulatory landscape around AI is rapidly evolving and may impose additional requirements or restrictions on its use in the future. To ensure compliance and maintain flexibility, we will actively monitor regulatory developments, anticipate potential changes, and avoid over-reliance on AI tools in our work.

We also recognize concerns regarding AI models being trained on copyrighted data. ATNF is committed to following recommended best practices on this issue and will take necessary precautions to ensure that our use of AI aligns with ethical and legal standards.

6. Compliance and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to adapt to advancements in AI technology and evolving ethical standards. Feedback from employees, partners, and stakeholders will be incorporated to

ensure the policy remains robust and relevant. We will monitor the impact of AI-generated content and adjust as needed. We ensure compliance through periodic audits and report findings to management.

By following these ethical principles, ATNF commits to the ethical use of AI technologies to improve access to accurate and culturally sensitive information.

7. Contact

Questions about this policy or concerns regarding AI ethics at ATNF can be directed to the AI Committee at info@atni.org.



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