

GOVERNANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EGYPT

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



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Artificial intelligence is growing rapidly across the African continent, gradually transforming governance models and public policies. In this context, Oxford Insights has published a global ranking based on a central question: **To what extent can a government leverage AI for the public good?**

To answer this, Oxford Insights assesses 195 countries across 69 indicators grouped into 14 dimensions within 6 pillars: **Political Capacity** (vision and commitment), **Governance** (principles and regulation), **AI Infrastructure** (computing, data, connectivity), **Public Sector Adoption** (e-government), **Development & Diffusion** (AI ecosystem, human capital), and **Resilience** (security, societal transition). Each indicator is weighted and aggregated to produce an overall score out of 100, allowing countries to be ranked individually and by region.

On the African continent, **Egypt** ranks first among governments best prepared to harness artificial intelligence for public benefit.

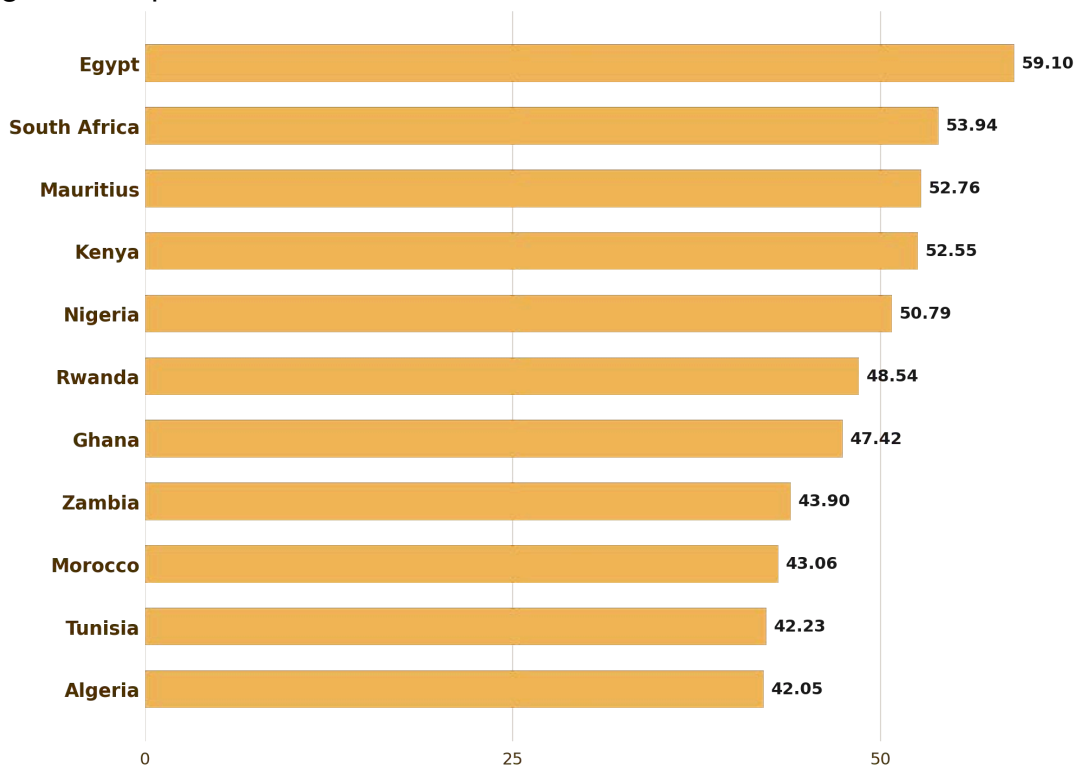


Figure 1. Ranking of African Countries by the Government AI Readiness Index in 2025 (Source : Oxford insights)

In this report, we will focus specifically on Egypt's case, analyzing its **second national AI strategy (2025–2030)** and its **guidelines for trustworthy and responsible AI**.

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Egypt is positioning itself as a major player in artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa and the Middle East through a dual strategic approach: the second edition of its national AI strategy (2025-2030) and the national guidelines for trustworthy and responsible AI, published in March 2026.

The guidelines, championed by key institutions such as the **National Council for Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing and Emerging Technologies** (NCAI) and the **Egyptian Center for Responsible AI** (ECRAI), aim to position the country as a regional innovation hub while ensuring the ethical, transparent and human-centred adoption of these technologies. Other stakeholders include sector ministries, universities, startups, investors, and partner international organisations, all working together to deliver this ambitious vision.

VISION

To make Egypt a regional hub for AI innovation, ensuring an ethical, transparent and human-centred adoption.

An ambitious national strategy (2025-2030)

The 2025-2030 national AI strategy, launched under the impetus of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, marks a decisive milestone in Egypt's digital transformation. It builds on the achievements of the first strategy (2021) to accelerate AI integration across all of the country's key sectors. Its six strategic objectives aim to make Egypt a regional AI leader, with ambitious targets: an ICT sector contribution of **7.7% of GDP by 2030**, the training of **30,000 AI experts**, and the creation of **more than 250 specialised companies**.

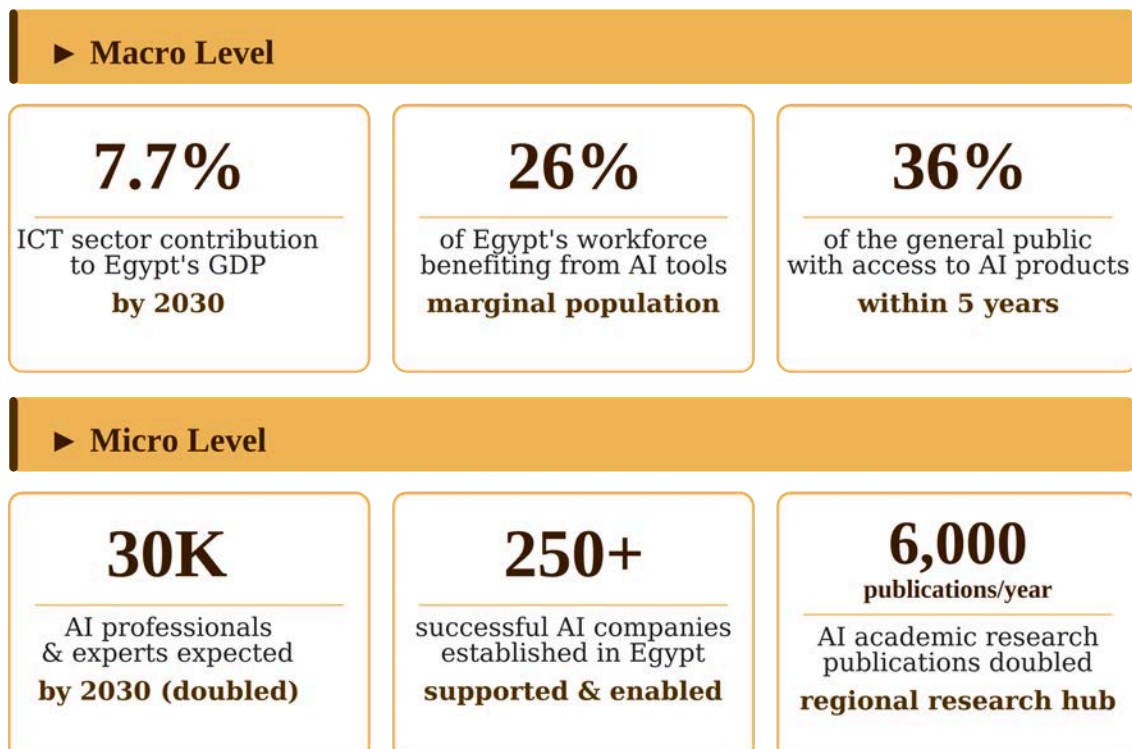


Figure 2: The six strategic objectives of Egypt's National AI Strategy (2025-2030)

01. Six pillars, twenty-one initiatives

To achieve this, the strategy rests on six pillars: **governance**, **technology**, **data**, **ICT** and **AI infrastructure**, the **ecosystem**, and **talent**. Flagship initiatives include the development of national Arabic-language models, the establishment of regulatory frameworks for ethical AI, and major investments in national data centres and sustainable infrastructure.

The strategy also includes a detailed roadmap with **21 initiatives** spread across the six pillars, together with key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress at 1, 3 and 5 years.

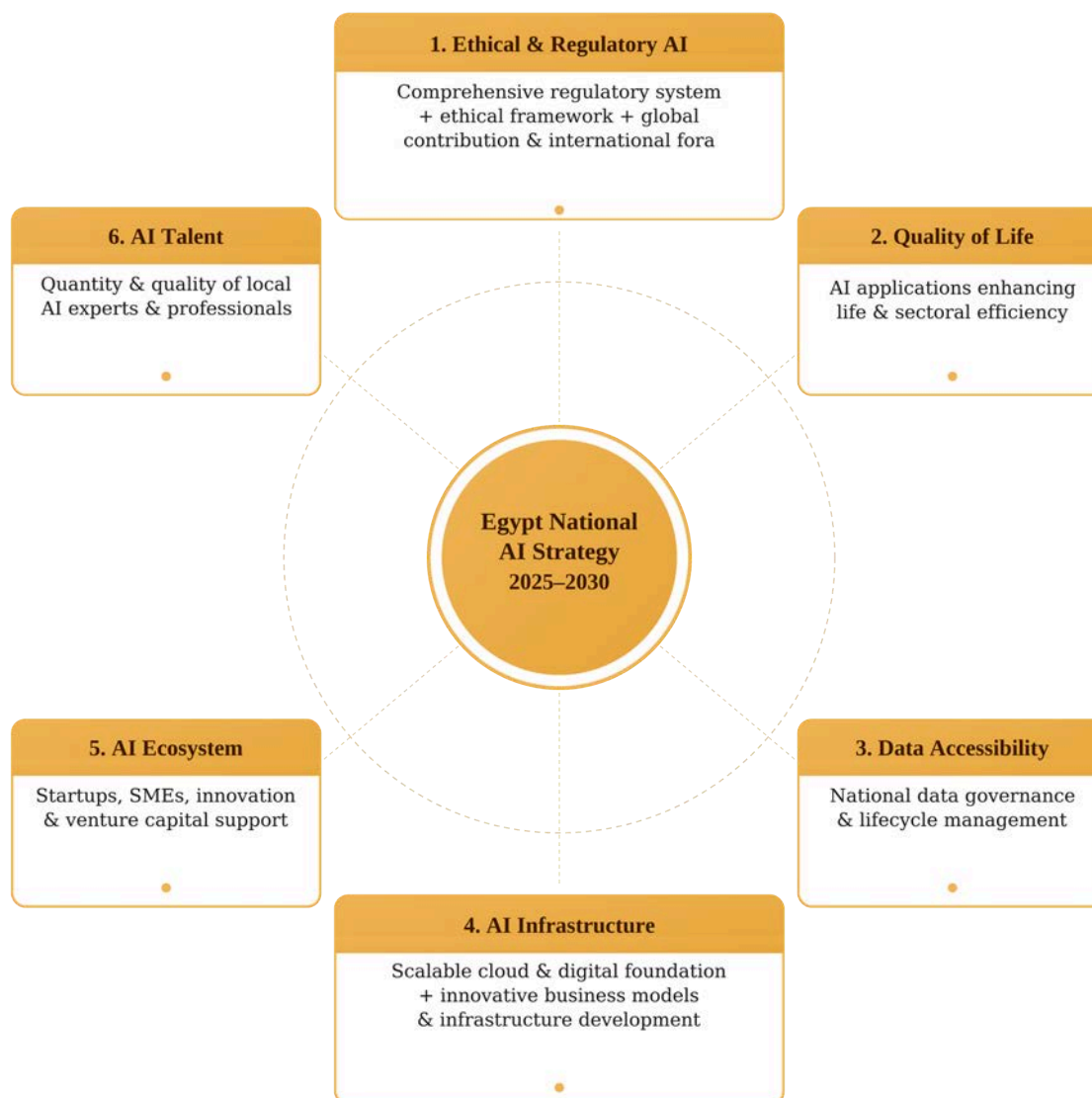


Figure 3: Macro and micro indicators of the strategy: GDP contribution, access to AI tools, expert training and academic publications (Egypt National AI Strategy 2025-2030)

Operational guidelines

Complementary to this strategy, the national guidelines for trustworthy and responsible AI provide an operational framework to translate ethical principles into concrete actions. Developed by ECRAI under the supervision of NCAI, these guidelines apply to all AI stakeholders in Egypt, whether governments (G), enterprises (E), or communities (C). Each actor may play the role of provider/developer (PD) or beneficiary/user (BU) of an AI system, with specific obligations depending on its position.

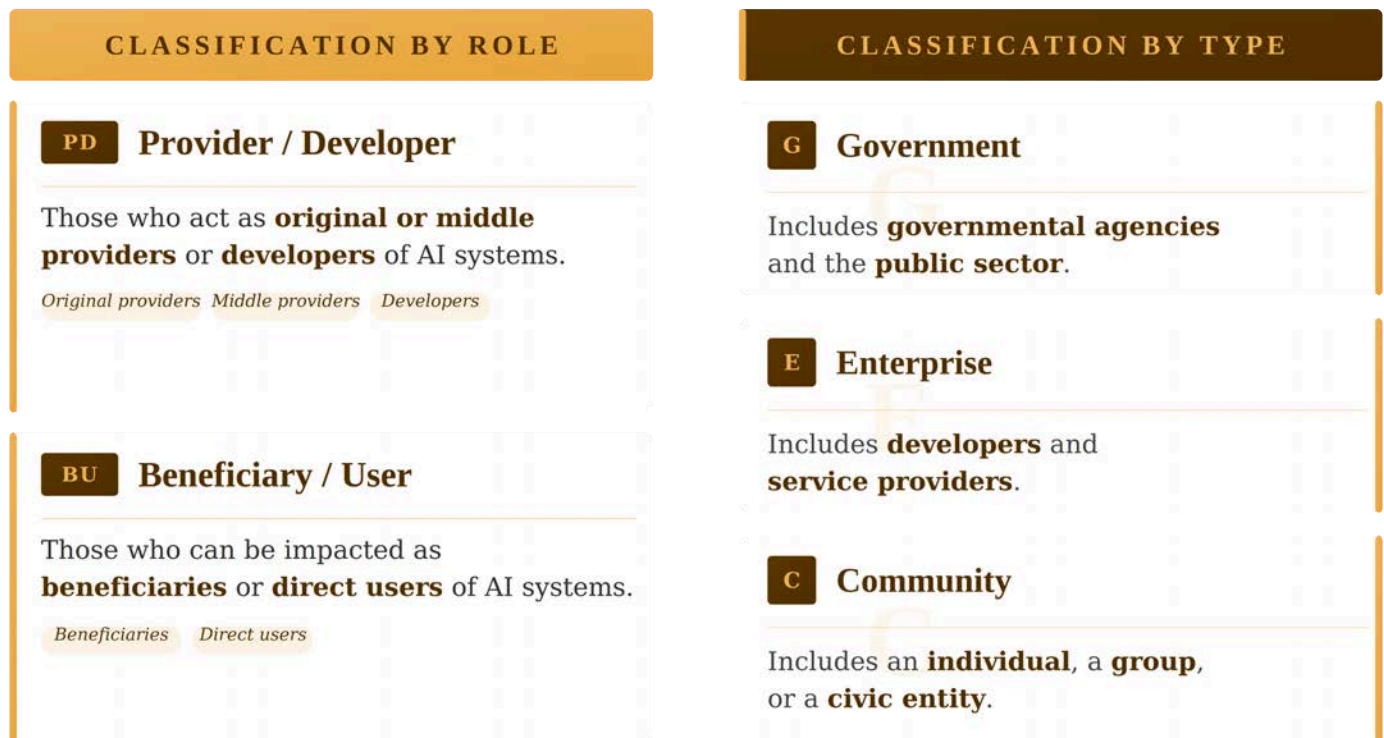


Figure 4: Classification of AI ecosystem actors, by role (PD / BU) and by type (Government, Enterprise, Community) (Egypt National AI Strategy 2025-2030)

02. Risk-proportionate governance

The document stresses the importance of proportionate governance, where the application of rules depends on the level of risk associated with each AI system. It specifies in particular that data protection must be embedded by design (Privacy-by-Design), in strict compliance with the Egyptian data protection law (PDPL- Personal Data Protection Law - Law No. 151 of 2020).

Legal framework — PDPL

This law governs the collection, processing, storage and transfer of personal and sensitive data. The Personal Data Protection Authority (Personal Data Protection Center), now operational, oversees its enforcement and ensures compliance with principles such as data minimisation and security.

The four pillars of the guidelines

The guidelines rest on four fundamental pillars, designed to cover the entire AI lifecycle

I. Institutional governance

The first pillar, **institutional governance**, requires organisations to put in place clear structures to oversee the use of AI. This includes the mandatory appointment of a **Chief AI Officer (CAIO)** or an AI governance committee, responsible for defining policies, procedures and accountabilities for risk management, data protection and transparency.

Organisations must also maintain an inventory of AI systems classified by risk level (**Tier 1 to 4**), with enhanced requirements for high-risk systems, such as Large Language Models (LLMs) or generative AI. Workforce readiness is also a key element, with training and certification programmes to ensure that teams master the ethical, technical (such as the **TEVV** process: Test, Evaluate, Verify, and Validate) and legal requirements.

KEY CONCEPT · AI SYSTEM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A formal, documented process to identify, assess and address the potential impacts of AI systems on individuals, social groups and society as a whole.

This assessment, integrated from the earliest phases of the lifecycle, makes it possible to anticipate risks related to discrimination, privacy or societal consequences, and to put in place suitable mitigation measures.

// AI lifecycle governance

The second pillar, **AI lifecycle governance**, divides the lifecycle into three critical phases: design and development, pre-deployment evaluation (TEVV), and post-deployment (monitoring and audit).

During the design and development phase, organisations must clearly document the objectives, use cases and functional and non-functional requirements of AI systems. The selection of models and data must be justified, with an assessment of bias and data quality (provenance, representativeness, accuracy). Embedding trust principles—such as fairness, transparency, privacy, security and human oversight—is essential from this phase onwards.

· HITL, HOTL and HOOTL models

The **HITL** (Human-In-the-Loop), **HOTL** (Human-Over-the-Loop) and **HOOTL** (Human-Out-of-the-Loop) models are chosen according to the level of risk.

- **HITL** is preferred for high-risk systems, where humans retain full control over decisions, as in healthcare or justice, ensuring direct supervision and manual validation of AI-generated outputs.
- **HOTL** is suited to systems requiring continuous oversight but where automation can operate autonomously under normal conditions; humans only intervene in case of anomalies or critical situations, as in power-grid management or logistics.
- **HOOTL** is reserved for low-risk applications, where decisions can be fully automated without constant human supervision, provided that the potential consequences are minor, reversible and well understood.

This proportionate approach optimises efficiency while maintaining a balance between **autonomy and human accountability**.

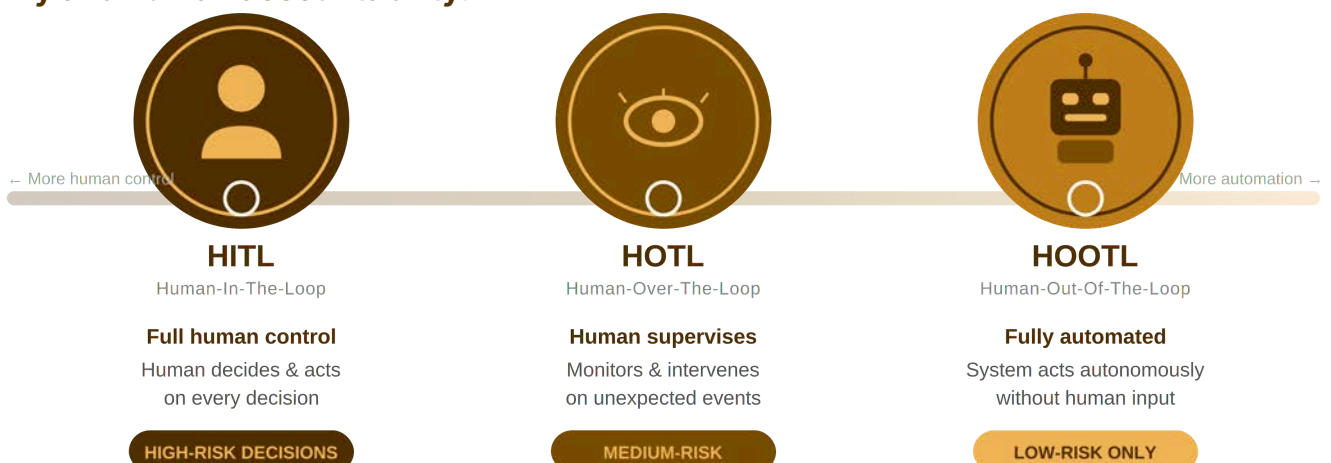


Figure 5: Spectrum of human control over AI systems, from the HITL model (high risk) to the HOOTL model (low risk)

- **Pre-deployment and post-deployment evaluation**

The **pre-deployment evaluation (TEVV)** phase involves thorough testing to validate system performance, robustness and security in realistic environments, including adversarial testing (resilience against attacks) and bias evaluations. Auditable documentation is required to ensure compliance with international and local standards.

Finally, the **post-deployment** phase includes ongoing monitoring of performance, emerging risks (such as data drift or cyber threats) and regular audits to ensure compliance with the initial requirements.

III. Stakeholder engagement

The third pillar, **stakeholder engagement**, stresses the importance of transparency and collaboration between the various actors. Organisations must identify and analyse stakeholders (citizens, regulators, NGOs, industries), assess their needs and expectations, and put in place formal collaboration mechanisms.

Complaint and redress channels must be accessible to allow citizens to report bias or unfair outcomes. Two-way communication with communities is encouraged, with awareness programmes to explain the capabilities and limitations of AI systems, and the integration of community feedback into risk management.

Responsible vulnerability disclosure

Mechanisms such as bug bounty programmes or competitions are promoted to identify and responsibly disclose vulnerabilities in AI systems.

IV. Society and sustainability

The fourth pillar, **society and sustainability**, addresses the societal and environmental impacts of AI. On the societal front, the guidelines stress responsible AI adoption, where AI should only be deployed if it brings clear value, without replacing human judgment in sensitive areas such as healthcare or justice.

The protection of minors is also a priority, in line with standards such as **IEEE 2089** for services aimed at children. **Cultural alignment** is crucial: AI systems must be adapted to Egyptian values and norms, with an assessment of socio-cultural risks. Transparency and user rights are reinforced, with clear explanations of how AI is used and mechanisms for users to exercise their privacy rights.

- **Frugal AI and environmental sustainability**

On the environmental front, the guidelines encourage the adoption of **frugal AI**, that is, the use of lightweight models (Small Language Models — SLMs) and eco-efficient techniques (compression, pruning, quantization) to reduce the carbon footprint.

An environmental impact assessment (energy consumption, carbon footprint) must be included in any AI project proposal, and systems must be deployed on sustainable infrastructure, such as green data centres or those powered by renewable energy.

Measuring maturity: a self-assessment tool

To assess compliance with the guidelines, a self-assessment tool has been developed, structured around **two dimensions**.

The first, the **institutional readiness level** (Enterprise Readiness Level), assesses the maturity of the organisation on a scale of **100 points**, covering aspects such as governance, policies, workforce and data. Readiness levels are classified into three categories: low (0–40), moderate (41–70), and high (71–100).

The second dimension, the **AI system readiness level** (Responsible AI System Readiness Level), assesses AI systems on a scale of **380 points**, distributed across the four pillars (274 for the lifecycle, 40 for stakeholder engagement, and 66 for society and sustainability). Readiness levels are also classified into three categories: low (0–152), moderate (153–266), and high (267–380).

PURPOSE OF THE TOOL

To enable organisations to measure their maturity, identify gaps to be closed, and prioritise actions to reach an optimal level of trust.

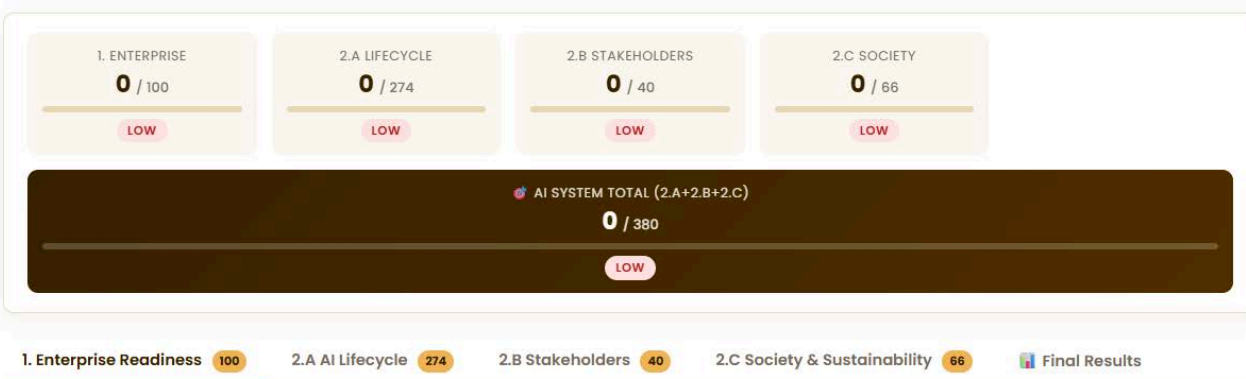
How to use this tool

This tool faithfully reproduces the self-assessment scoring grid published by the **Egyptian Center for Responsible AI (ECRAI)**. It is made of two complementary dimensions:

- **Part 1 – Enterprise Readiness Level (out of 100 points)**: organisational maturity (institutional governance).
- **Part 2 – Responsible AI System Readiness (out of 380 points)**: AI system compliance across 3 pillars (Lifecycle 274 pts, Stakeholders 40 pts, Society & Sustainability 66 pts).

For each item, choose: 0 – Not implemented | 1 – Partially implemented | 2 – Fully implemented

Source: Egypt National Guidelines for Trustworthy and Responsible AI, Document ID EG-NCAI-GOV-FW-2026-03, Edition 2.0, March 2026 – prepared by the *Egyptian Center for Responsible Artificial Intelligence (ECRAI)* under the auspices of the *National Council for Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Emerging Technologies*. This tool reproduces Annex 1 (pages 33-62). Your answers are saved locally in your browser (localStorage) and are never sent to any server.



Do the test online



Part 1 – Enterprise Readiness Level

Assesses organisational maturity (Institutional Governance) BEFORE deploying any AI system. Maximum: 100 points.

Section 1 – Leadership, Roles & Accountability (20 pts)

0 / 20

1. A CAIO (Chief AI Officer) or equivalent senior leader is formally appointed.

0 1 2

2. An AI Governance Committee exists with documented mandate.

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Figure 6: Publication of the tool by Africa Data Protection

Source : Annex 1 (pages 33-62) Egypt National Guidelines for Trustworthy and Responsible AI

A proportionate, incentive-based approach

Egypt is adopting a **proportionate, incentive-based** approach to reconcile innovation and governance. The guidelines are not set in stone: they will evolve with technological advances and field feedback. The CAIO plays a central role in supervising risks and ensuring compliance with ethical and legal standards.

Regulatory sandboxes make it possible to test AI systems in a controlled environment before large-scale deployment, thereby reducing risk while fostering innovation. By aligning its strategy with international standards (**OECD, ISO, ITU**) while adapting it to its local context, Egypt is positioning itself as a model for emerging countries seeking to innovate responsibly.

Conclusion

With its National **AI Strategy 2025-2030** and its **guidelines for trustworthy AI**, Egypt is charting the course for a human-centred technological revolution. By combining economic ambition (job creation, investment attractiveness) and ethical commitment (rights protection, sustainability, transparency), the country shows how AI can be a lever for shared prosperity while minimising risks.

TAKEAWAY

These frameworks offer a clear roadmap for public and private actors, and could inspire other nations to adopt a similar approach: innovating without sacrificing ethics.



**Non-profit organisation working for a safe and
ethical digital future in Africa**

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