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AFRICA TECH FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (AFRICA4DEV) INPUT ON UNESCO CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES - GLOBAL MOOC ON ETHICS OF AI

Introduction

Africa Tech for Development Initiative (Africa4dev) in its contribution has amongst other areas of case study identified synergizing stakeholders' coalition as a crucial initiative and best practice in operationalizing AI ethics. This includes human oversights and multistakeholder cooperation.

SYNERGIZING STAKEHOLDER COALITION AND COLLABORATION FOR BEST PRACTICES IN AI ETHICS

- **Summary of the best practice, including its objective and impact**

This best practice is intended to achieve awareness and adoption of ethical best practices. There cannot be ethical standards without the involvement of key stakeholders ranging from the public, coalition of civil society organizations, NGOs, researchers, academics from all fields, AI experts, AI companies, industries and government. This coalition ensures a holistic monitoring of the enforcement and adoption process of ethical standards in AI development. The objective is to create an ecosystem of all affected by AI use to demand accountability and oversight on AI companies and their deployment of AI systems. These impacts on ethical practices such as fairness, responsibility, protection of user rights, safety and secure medium and embrace of ethical standards by AI developers.

- **How does this best practice operationalize AI Ethics**

Synergy and stakeholder collaboration can serve as advocacy medium and oversight over tech and AI organizations and companies in the ensuring that ethical standards and human centered considerations are embedded in AI design, development and deployment. It is not enough to have AI policies that support ethical guidelines hence stakeholder collaboration is crucial to continue to hold AI companies and organizations accountable to ethical responsibility. This collaboration and synergy can also help operationalize research and development on best ethical practices through stakeholder dialogue, symposium, summits and conferences on ethics and AI. A synergized coalition can lead awareness campaigns on importance and need for adoption of ethics in design of AI systems.

- **Key Challenges and Lessons Learned**

The challenges encountered include the following:

- i. Challenge of mobilization of all stakeholders and agreeing to road map in operationalizing ethical AI.
- ii. Challenge of enforcing ethical AI standards and ensuring AI companies adopt these standards in design and deployment of AI systems.
- iii. Challenge of Funding to actualize the work scope of the coalition.
- iv. Challenge of embedding recommendations of the stakeholder coalition and collaboration into AI framework.

Despite these, the stakeholder coalition and collaboration was able to address these challenges through establishment of a coalition and collaboration group to advance ethics in AI, establishment of an audit unit and formulation of reports on non-ethical practices by AI companies which government can act on to penalize erring companies as well as third party funding and donations from international AI human centric organizations and government grants.

- **Solving Challenges of AI education**

Localizing AI education is ideal in solving this challenge. Creating accessible AI education contents for marginalized groups and communities especially the global south is crucial. Also utilizing an open-source model in AI education would help advance AI education.

Conclusion

Although policy framework and regulation in Artificial Intelligence are seen crucial best practice to guard railing AI design, development and deployment, there are other important best practices that are equally important aside draft of policy guidelines. As plethora of international, regional and national AI policies are been released it falls on actual enforcement to activate these plausible AI strategy and policies. The aftermath of these heralds the importance of multistakeholders collaboration and coalition in advancing AI ethics. This will ensure AI ethics transcends mere regulatory provisions to actual adherence.



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