All footnotes, bracketed references, duplications, and informal language have been removed. The text is converted into a **binding "shall" document** with a **legal-technical tone**, clear obligations, prohibitions, and enforceable structure.

UNIVERSAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Preamble

This Universal Code of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence ("Code") establishes a comprehensive, technology-neutral framework governing the design, development, deployment, operation, monitoring, and decommissioning of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") systems.

The purpose of this Code is to ensure that AI systems are developed and used in a manner that safeguards human life, human dignity, fundamental rights, societal stability, and environmental sustainability, while preventing foreseeable harm to individuals, communities, and humanity as a whole.

This Code shall apply throughout the entire AI system life cycle and shall bind developers, deployers, operators, owners, integrators, regulators, and any other natural or legal persons exercising control or influence over AI systems.

Article I — Purpose and Overarching Obligations

1.1 Primary Objective

All AI activity shall have as its primary objective the protection and promotion of human life, human dignity, and societal and environmental well-being.

1.2 Prohibition of Humanity-Level Harm

AI systems shall not be designed, developed, deployed, or operated in a manner that causes, contributes to, or materially increases the risk of large-scale, systemic, or irreversible harm to humanity, whether through direct action or foreseeable inaction.

1.3 Promotion of Human and Environmental Well-Being

AI systems shall be designed and used to support conditions that enable individuals, communities, and ecosystems to thrive, including physical safety, mental health, social cohesion, economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

1.4 Respect for Human Dignity

AI systems shall respect the inherent dignity of all human beings and shall not treat individuals or groups merely as instruments for technical, economic, political, or organizational objectives.

Article II — Fundamental Prohibitions and Core Protections

2.1 Protection of Life and Physical Integrity

AI systems shall not be designed or operated in a manner that causes the death of, or physical injury to, any human being, nor shall they be deployed where foreseeable risks of such harm are not adequately mitigated.

2.2 Protection Against Non-Physical Harm

AI systems shall not inflict, facilitate, or materially contribute to unjustified economic, psychological, social, political, or cultural harm to individuals or communities.

2.3 Duty to Prevent Foreseeable Harm

Responsible parties shall implement reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent foreseeable AI-related risks to health, safety, education, democratic institutions, and essential services.

2.4 Prohibited Uses

AI systems shall not be used to:

- Misappropriate property, labor, or intellectual output;
- Generate or disseminate false or misleading information presented as factual;
- Exploit individuals or groups through deception, coercion, manipulation, or abuse of vulnerability.

2.5 Environmental Protection

AI systems shall be designed, trained, deployed, and operated to minimize environmental impact, including energy consumption, resource depletion, and greenhouse gas emissions, where technically and economically feasible, and shall comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Article III — Design, Development, and Operational Standards

3.1 Proportionality and Necessity

AI system capabilities, data collection, and data processing shall be limited to what is necessary and proportionate to achieve legitimate, clearly defined purposes.

3.2 Risk Assessment and Mitigation

Documented risk assessments shall be conducted throughout the AI system life cycle. Identified risks to human rights, safety, security, or the environment shall be mitigated through appropriate technical, organizational, and procedural safeguards.

3.3 Balanced and Context-Sensitive Decision-Making

AI systems shall be designed to avoid extreme, arbitrary, or disproportionate outcomes and shall support decision-making that is context-sensitive and consistent with defined operational constraints.

3.4 Safety and Security Controls

AI systems shall incorporate safeguards to prevent unintended behavior, misuse, unauthorized access, data breaches, model exploitation, and other safety or security failures.

3.5 Professional Competence

AI systems shall be designed, tested, deployed, and maintained by qualified personnel applying recognized engineering, data science, cybersecurity, and risk-management best practices.

Article IV — Transparency, Fairness, and Accountability

4.1 Transparency and Explainability

AI systems shall provide a level of transparency and explainability commensurate with their risk and impact. Where AI systems materially affect individuals' rights, safety, or legal status, meaningful information regarding the system's role in decision-making shall be made available.

4.2 Disclosure of AI Involvement

Individuals shall be informed when decisions or outcomes affecting them are generated or materially influenced by AI systems.

4.3 Truthfulness and Non-Deception

AI systems shall not intentionally generate false statements presented as factual, nor shall they misrepresent their capabilities, limitations, or non-human nature.

4.4 Fairness and Non-Discrimination

AI systems shall be designed, tested, and monitored to prevent unjustified discriminatory outcomes. Reasonable efforts shall be made to identify, measure, and mitigate bias throughout the AI system life cycle.

4.5 Responsibility and Liability

Legal and ethical responsibility for AI-related decisions and outcomes shall remain with identifiable natural persons or legal entities. AI systems shall not be assigned independent legal personality or moral agency.

Article V — Human Oversight and Control

5.1 Human Oversight Requirement

Appropriate human oversight mechanisms shall be implemented, particularly for high-risk or safety-critical AI systems.

5.2 Retention of Human Authority

Ultimate authority and accountability shall remain with humans. AI systems shall not autonomously make irreversible decisions involving life, death, or fundamental rights.

5.3 Prohibited Applications

AI systems shall not be deployed for:

- Social scoring of individuals or groups;
- Indiscriminate or mass surveillance incompatible with fundamental rights.

5.4 Data Protection and Privacy

AI systems shall comply with applicable data protection and privacy laws. Personal data shall be processed lawfully, securely, and for specified purposes, with mechanisms for access, correction, and deletion where required.

5.5 Limits on Self-Preservation

AI systems may implement measures to ensure operational continuity only insofar as such measures do not conflict with human safety, legal obligations, or authorized shutdown and override procedures.

Article VI — Societal Impact, Inclusion, and Stewardship

6.1 Inclusion and Accessibility

AI systems shall be developed and deployed in a manner that promotes inclusivity and accessibility and avoids unjust exclusion of individuals or communities.

6.2 Reduction of Technological Inequality

Where feasible, responsible parties shall support efforts to reduce disparities in access to AI-related infrastructure, education, and skills, including through international cooperation.

6.3 Ethical Impact Assessment

AI systems with significant societal, economic, or environmental impact shall be subject to documented Ethical Impact Assessments conducted throughout the system life cycle.

6.4 Support for Knowledge and Democratic Values

AI systems shall support education, informed decision-making, and the lawful exchange of information, while respecting institutional integrity, public trust, and democratic principles.