

MISSION REPORT

OCT 2022 • OCT 2023



Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions - Vatican City, January 10th, 2023. From left to right: Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah, Abp. Vincenzo Paglia, Chief Rabbi Eliezer Simha Weisz.



MISSION REPORT

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 2022 - OCTOBER 2023

THE IDENTITY OF THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION AND ITS MISSION

Established on 12th April 2021 by Pope Francis, the RenAlssance Foundation is a non-profit organization and has as its institutional purpose the promotion of anthropological and ethical reflection about the effects of new technologies on human life.



Vision

In the Foundation's **vision** of the future, technology will be at the service of human beings, respecting the dignity of each individual without causing any harm to humanity, protecting the common home that hosts every form of life.

Mission

As part of its **mission**, RenAlssance Foundation promotes:

- the signature of the Rome Call as a lever for the adoption of algorethics by design;
- joint reflection and discussion by representatives of civil society and government, businesses, the technology community, academia, and religions to identify ethical principles to be applied in the development and adoption of AI;





Public engagement and audience development

After the pandemic, as the free movement of people gradually resumed, the RenAlssance Foundation decided to respond to the need for promoting in-depth dialogue and connections with communities and the different sectors of society in order to offer both the general public and experts the opportunity to learn more about the Church's contribution to the debate on artificial intelligence.

Audience engagement activities were carried out tirelessly by its members, who have participated in or devised high quality opportunities for discussion in various contexts.

The critical topics that are part of the RenAlssance Foundation's mission have been addressed in a variety of meetings and projects, with the aim of engaging and enthusing the widest possible audience vis-à-vis the issues under consideration, and showing them the immediate and everyday impact of the issues at stake.

Participation in these public events made it possible for people to become aware of the multiplicity of initiatives currently underway in this field, and to get to know perspectives at times surprising in their boldness or creativity, but also in light of the profound diversity of anthropological approaches expressed.

- 26th -27th October 2022
 Notre-Dame University,
 South Bend, Indiana (USA)
- May-June 2022
 Video promoting the Rome Call
- 10th January 2023

 Joint signature of the Rome Call

 for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic

 Religions Vatican City
- 26th October 2023
 Prof. Paolo Benanti at the UN Al Advisory Body

















26th -27th October 2022

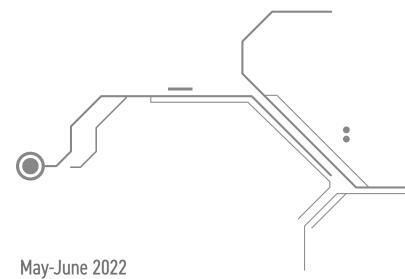
Notre-Dame University, South Bend, Indiana (USA)

The Global University Summit for the Rome Call for AI Ethics co-organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, IBM and the University of Notre Dame, hosted by the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab, explored the ways in which the academic world can use the complementary roles of research, education and policy in developing human centred approaches to artificial intelligence.

More than 130 representatives from 40 institutions, including 28 universities from around the world, attended the event.

During the Summit, eight universities signed the Rome Call: SWPS University (Warsaw, Poland), Schiller International University (Madrid, Spain), Chuo University (Tokyo, Japan), University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida), Catholic University of Croatia (Zagreb, Croatia), University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain), University of Notre Dame (Notre-Dame, Indiana), University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa).

Noteworthy was the multi-religious session which saw the participation of speakers such as Abp. Paglia, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, and Rabbi Yehiel E. Poupko, Rabbinic Scholar at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.



Video promoting the Rome Call

Three video chapters were promoted by Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, on his personal social-media channels, with thousands of views, to endorse the Rome Call through a discussion involving literature, science, technology, faith, and reason to illustrate the advancement of human knowledge.

















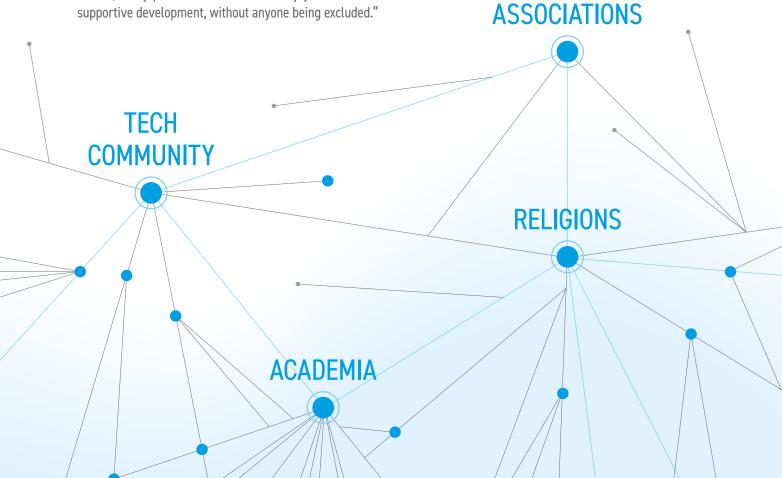
10th January 2023

Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions

The main event during the period under consideration was the interreligious signing of the Rome Call that saw three leaders of the three monotheistic religions signing together the call for an ethical development of artificial intelligence. The three signatories involved were: Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy of Life; Chief Rabbi Eliezer Simha Weisz, member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel; Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah, representing Sheikh Abdallah bin Bayyah, Head of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace and Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council.

During the event, the participants were received in a papal audience, during which the Holy Father Francis said, "I am pleased to know that you also wish to involve the other great world religions and men and women of goodwill so that "algor-ethics" – ethical reflection on the use of algorithms – will be increasingly present not only in public debate, but also in the development of technical solutions. Indeed, every person must be able to enjoy a human and supportive development, without anyone being excluded."

The event, which was attended by Brad Smith (Microsoft), Dario Gil (IBM) and Maximo Torero Cullen (FAO), then ended with a session that featured a keynote speech by Prof. Paolo Benanti (Scientific Director of the RenAlssance Foundation and Professor at the Gregorian University), and lectures by distinguished speakers: Prof. Ana Palacio (former Spanish Foreign Minister), Prof. Mario Rasetti (Professor Emeritus of theoretical physics at the Polytechnic University of Turin and Chairman of CENTAI's Scientific Committee), Dr. Hamza Yusuf (President of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA); Prof. Aviad Hacohen (President of the Academic Center for Law and Science in Hod HaSharon, Israel, former Dean of the Law School) and Prof. Sebastiano Maffettone (Director of Ethos, at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome).





26th October 2023

Prof. Paolo Benanti at the UN AI Advisory Body

RenAlssance Foundation's Scientific Director Prof. Paolo Benanti – one of the main proponents of the Rome Call for Al Ethics – is one of the experts appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as a member of a new Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. The goal of this select group of experts, whose creation was announced on $26^{\rm th}$ October 2023, is to assess the risks, opportunities and define an international governance of artificial intelligence.

The Advisory Body on AI consists of 38 members and one permanent member of the Secretariat (the UN SG Envoy on Technology, Amandeep Gill). The expert group is diverse, representative of different sectors and balanced in terms of gender, age, geography and areas of expertise. Its members, 20 women and 19 men, are deeply experienced in the fields of government, business, the technology community, civil society, and academia.

The final report of the Advisory Body on AI will be released in the summer of 2024, before the Summit of the Future.

BUSINESS





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(100)	разворукт _{іон}	
MAROTO 611	Artificial/melligence" (AI) is bringing about profound changes in the lives of human beings, and it will continue to do so. AI offers enormous potential when it comes to improving social coexistence and personal being, augmenting human capabilities and enabling or facilitating many tasks that can be carried out more efficiently and fedicively. However, these results are by no means guaranteed. The transformations curvestly histories are not just quantitative. Above and lift, they are qualitative, because they affect the wy these tasks are carried out and the way in which we perceive reality and human nature itself, so much so that they are influence our mental and interpersonal habits. New technology must be researched and produced in accordance with criteria that ensure it furly serves the entire "human family" (Peranhily, Peranhily,	J. Millian Ig
Thereers A	##6fy#M, respecting the inherent dignity of each of its members and all natural environments, and taking into account the needs of those who are most vulnerable. The aim is not only to ensure that no one is excluded but the reactive by algorithmic conditioning. Given the innovative and complex nature of the questions posed by digital transformation, it is essential for all the stakeholders involved to work together and for all the needs affected by Al to be represented. This Call is a step forward with a view to growing with a common understanding and searching for a language and solutions we can share. Based on this, we can acknowledge and accept responsibilities that take into ac-	Visial
Listan Badillo	count the entire process of technological innovation, from design through to distribution and use, encouraging real commitment in a range of practical scenarios. In the long term, the values and principles that we are able to instill in Al will help to establish a framework that regulates and acts as a point of reference for digital ethics, guiding our actions and promoting the use of technology to benefit humanity and the environment. Now more than ever, we must guarantee an outlook in which Al is developed with a focus not on technology, but rather for the good of humanity and of the environment, of our common and shared home and of its human inhabitants, who are inextricably connected. In other words, a vision in which human brings and nature are at the heart of how digital innovation is developed, supported rather than gradually replaced by technology.	ONPAZ
ALM)	included the substitution of the substitution	The state of the s
Note L.	E-mice. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of fellowship (cf. Art. 1. Univ. Dec. Human Rights). This fundamental condition of freedom and dignity must also be protected and guaranteed when producing and using At systems. This must be done by safeguarding the rights and the freedom of individuals so that they are not discriminated against by algorithms due to their "race, colour, sex. language, religion, political or other producing and using right systems." The production of the right system of the states "Art. 2. Univ. Dec. Human Rights).	Junistat !
Benno	Al systems must be conceived, designed and implemented to serve and protect human beings and the environment in which they live. This fundamental outlook must translate into a commitment to create living conditions (both social and personal) that allow both groups and individual members to strive to fully express themselves where positives. In order for technological advancement to alien with true moreasts for the human race and respect for the halvest in must meet those confirmants. It must include every human being, discriminating against no one; it	Saids
Stranger ?	must have the good of humankind and the good of every human being at its heart, finally, it must be mindful of the complex reality of our ecosystem and be characterised by the way in which it cares for and protects the planet (our "common and shared home") with a highly sustainable approach, which also includes the use of artificial intelligence in ensuring sustainable food systems in the future. Furthermore, each person must be aware when he or she is interacting with a machine. Al-based technology must never be used to exploit people in any way, especially those who are most vulnerable. Instead, it must be used to help people develop their abilities (empowerment/enablement) and to sup-	Strando
July my	port the planet. EDUCATION	E 74.7
Quitio	Transforming the world through the innovation of AI means undertaking to build a future for and with younger generations. This undertaking must be reflected in a commitment to education, developing specific curricula that span different disciplines in the humanities, science and technology, and taking responsibility for educating volume generations. This commitment means working to improve the quality of education that young people neceive, this must be delivered via methods that are accessible to all, that do not discriminate and that can offer equality of opportunity and treatment. Universal access to education must be achieved through principles of soliciarity and fairness.	المُن الأرام الم
Liliana Anas C	exportanties for social participation (e.g. remote working for those with initied monity), technological support for those with cognitive classification and the description of the transformations brought about by Al in society, were and elucation become description for make the educational motto "no one left behind" a reality. In the ed-	Harmon
. D.	ucation sector, reforms are needed in order to establish high and objective standards that can improve individual results. These standards should not be limited to the development of digital skills but should focus instead on making sure that each person can fully express their capabilities and on working for the good of the community, even when there is no personal benefit to be gained from this. As we design and plan for the society of tomorrow, the use of Al must follow forms of action that are socially order (creative, connective, productive, responsible, and capable of having a positive impact on the personal and social life of younger generations. The social and ethical impact of Al must be also at the core of educational activities of Al.	AM.
Andre leader to the leader to	The main aim of this education must be to raise awareness of the opportunities and also the possible critical issues posed by AI from the perspective of social inclusion and individual respect.	O I day
₹.	The development of AI in the service of humankind and the planet must be reflected in regulations and principles that protect people – particularly the weak and the underprivileged – and natural environments. The ethical commitment of all the sukeholders involved is a crucial starting point; to make this future a reality, values, principles, and in some cases, legal regulations, are absolutely indispensable in order to support structure and guide this process. To develop and implement AI systems that benefit humanity and the planet while acting as tools to build and maintain international peace, the development of AI must go hand in hand with robust digital security	a salation
Landon	measures. In order for AI to act as a tool for the good of humanity and the planet, we must put the topic of protecting human rights in the digital era at the heart of public debate. The time has come to question whether new forms of automation and algorithmic activity necessitate the development of stronger responsibilities. In particular, it will be essential to consider some form of "duty of explanation"; we must think about making not	THE MODERY.
Richedo Merdo	only the decision-making criteria of Al-based algorithmic agents understandable, but also their purpose and objectives. These devices must be able to offer individuals information on the logic behind the algorithmic used to make decisions. This will increase transparency, traceability and responsibility, making the computer-aided decision-making process more valid. New forms of regulation must be encouraged to promote transparency and compliance with ethical principles, especially for advanced technologies that have a higher risk of impacting human rights, such as facial recognition.	Serifette
A	To achieve these objectives, we must set out from the very beginning of each algorithm's development with an "algor-ethical" vision, i.e. an approach of ethics by design. Designing and planning AI systems that we can rust involves seeking a consensus among political decision-makers, UN system agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, regarding the ethical principles that should be built into these technologies. For this reason, the sponsors of the call express their desire to work jogether, in this context and at a national and international level, to promote "algor-ethics", namely the ethical use of AI as defined by the following principles:	pelefor D.
CONSTRUCTION.	Transparency: in principle, At systems must be experimented. In the property of the property o	Costa Kicz
/ /	Security and privacy: AI systems must work securely and respect the privacy users. These principles are fundamental elements of good innovation. All the Augustus Courts and C	histofencei, Avche
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Vatican City, 21st September 2023: Deans of Latin American public and private universities who attended the meeting with Pope Francis enthusiastically put their signatures on the Rome Call.

MAIN EVENTS SCHEDULED



8th - 11th July 2024

Joint signature of the Rome

Call for AI Ethics by Eastern

Religions – Hiroshima (Japan)

With a view to continuing and expanding interfaith dialogue, from 8th to 11th July 2024 the RenAlssance Foundation is organizing the signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics with representatives of the Eastern religions.

The event will be held at the city of Hiroshima. The choice of venue is highly symbolic. In the same place that in the last century became a symbol of the potential destructiveness of technology used for evil, a document will be signed that calls for the need and urgency to direct today's main technological tool, artificial intelligence, towards good.





Joint signature of the Rome Call for Al Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions - Vatican City, January 10th, 2023 Credits: Vatican Media.



STUDY CENTRE

Established as part of the RenAlssance Foundation, the purpose of the Study Centre is to aggregate experts around strategic issues and to produce original thinking on the most innovative and contemporary topics, in order to place the Foundation and the key themes of the Rome Call within the international debate as an authoritative and pioneering interlocutor.

In April 2023, the Study Centre produced the first scientific paper, authored by Dr. Simona Bonini Baldini, entitled "L'ombra digitale del migrante: il ruolo dell'Al e delle nuove tecnologie nella gestione dei processi migratori" dedicated to the role of Al and the new technologies in the management of migration processes (soon to be published). The second part of the study will soon be completed. For the development of this second paper dedicated to Al and migrants, intensive stakeholder engagement work was initiated to establish contacts with a number of key institutions, which will be interviewed as part of the research study. These include: the German Federal Office for Migrants and Refugees (BAMF), Algorithm Watch, and the Immigration Policy Lab. Stakeholder engagement work is currently underway.



SUPPORTERS OF THE ROME CALL





















































































If you want to support the Rome Call for AI Ethics you can

- sign it as an organization or as an individual (endorser) at romecall.org/join-us
- make a donation to the RenAlssance Foundation to help build a future with humans at its center at www.romecall.org/renaissance-foundation/

For further info:

RenAlssance Foundation c/o Pontifical Academy for Life 00120 Vatican City www.romecall.org

