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CURAÇAO

Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CARMABI	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GenAI	Generative AI
GERD	Gross Expenditure in Research and Development
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IODC	International Open Data Charter
ISOC	Internet Society
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MBPD	Ministry of Governance, Planning, and Public Service
MEO	Ministry of Economic Development
MOWCS	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports
MVVRP	Ministry of Traffic, Transportation, and Urban Planning
MSDF	Ministry of Social Development and Family
MSTKI	Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation
NAAM	National Archeological Anthropological Memory Management
NAIS	National AI Strategy
NES	National Export Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NO	National Ordinance
ODIN	Open Data Inventory
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Open Government Partnership
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RAC	Regulatory Authority of Curaçao
RAM	Readiness Assessment Methodology

R&D	Research and Development
R&I	Research and Innovation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Foreword



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has ushered in a transformative era, reshaping societies, economies, and governance at an unprecedented pace. AI-powered technologies enhance daily life, streamlining processes from accessing information to financial services, transportation, and public administration. Yet, this rapid advancement is not without its challenges.

The benefits of AI remain unequally distributed, with significant disparities in access to digital infrastructure and technological resources. While some nations lead AI research and innovation, others face barriers that limit their ability to develop or regulate these technologies effectively. AI systems, if not governed responsibly, can exacerbate societal inequalities, reinforce biases, and challenge ethical norms. The need for inclusive and ethical AI governance has never been more critical.

In response, UNESCO spearheaded the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, a landmark framework adopted in 2021 by 193 countries to ensure AI promotes human rights, dignity, and sustainable development. This global commitment underscores the importance of accountability, transparency, and privacy in AI governance. However, implementing these principles requires robust national frameworks, adaptive policies, and strong institutions.

The Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) serves as a diagnostic tool to help Member States evaluate their preparedness for ethical AI adoption. By identifying regulatory gaps, technical challenges, and institutional needs, RAM provides a roadmap for countries to navigate AI governance in alignment with the UNESCO Recommendation.

In 2024, Curaçao undertook the RAM assessment with support from the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, engaging diverse stakeholders from government ministries, regulatory bodies, academia, civil society, and the private sector. The assessment involved consultations with over 50 participants representing key sectors influencing AI policy and development in the country.

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of Curaçao's AI landscape, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Among Curaçao's key advantages is its commitment to digital transformation, reflected in its SMART Nation Vision and initiatives to integrate AI into public services and economic strategies.

However, challenges remain. The absence of a dedicated National AI Strategy and limited AI governance mechanisms have slowed progress in regulatory development. Additionally, gaps in AI expertise within the public sector, fragmented coordination across ministries, and outdated cybersecurity policies present barriers to effective AI governance. While the private sector has begun adopting AI in tourism and marketing, the broader AI industry remains underdeveloped, requiring targeted investment in research, skills development, and infrastructure.

To address these challenges, the report proposes several strategic recommendations, including:

- Developing a National AI Strategy that aligns with global best practices and regional priorities.
- Establishing an AI Oversight Body to coordinate policies, ethical guidelines, and risk assessments.
- Strengthening AI governance through regulatory sandboxes, impact assessments, and transparency requirements.
- Expanding AI education and workforce training to bridge the digital skills gap and prepare future generations for AI-driven economies.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships to drive AI innovation while ensuring ethical deployment and responsible use.

This report outlines a clear path for Curaçao to leverage AI as a force for sustainable development and economic growth, ensuring its benefits are equitable, inclusive, and aligned with ethical principles. At UNESCO, we firmly believe that responsible AI governance can foster innovation while upholding human rights and democratic values.

It has been a privilege to collaborate with the Government of Curaçao on this critical initiative. We commend their commitment to ethical AI development and look forward to seeing the impact of these efforts in the years ahead. With the insights provided by this assessment, Curaçao is well-positioned to navigate the AI revolution responsibly, ensuring that technological progress serves the public good. Moreover, by proactively addressing AI governance and fostering inclusive digital transformation, Curaçao sets an inspiring example for other Caribbean nations, demonstrating how small island states can embrace AI ethically and strategically to drive sustainable development.

Gabriela Ramos

Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Executive Summary

 Curaçao has identified artificial intelligence (AI) as a key component for national development since 2018, with its SMART Nation Vision Paper outlining six pillars for AI-driven innovation. The vision aimed to integrate AI into public services, enhance efficiency, and create economic opportunities. However, progress was hindered by economic challenges, such as the oil refinery closure, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, Curaçao's Parliament tasked the Regulatory Authority with developing a National AI Strategy (NAIS), aligning with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. While consultations are ongoing, Curaçao has initiated government-wide discussions on AI governance, ethical concerns, and security implications.

Despite growing interest, Curaçao's AI ecosystem remains at an early stage. AI applications are primarily concentrated in tourism and marketing, where Generative AI is used to analyze visitor data and optimize digital campaigns—estimated to be adopted by about 40% of operators in the sector. However, broader usage of AI across the economy remains limited, with national AI adoption in both the public and private sectors estimated between 5–7%.

The domestic AI industry is minimal, with local firms representing less than the global average of innovative companies per capita. Most AI services are imported. According to SIMIA (2021), the public R&D spending in the tech sector is estimated at around USD 10 million, and the IT services sector—of which AI forms a part—contributes approximately USD 26 million in foreign exchange according to industry sources. High-tech exports still represent less than 1% of total trade, and AI-related patents or open-source contributions remain negligible.

Key barriers include:

1. Knowledge and Skills Gaps – Limited expertise in AI governance within the public sector.
2. Coordination Difficulties – AI requires cross-ministerial cooperation, which has been challenging.
3. Regulatory Lag – Absence of updated laws on personal data protection and AI-specific regulations.

Curaçao is still in the process of defining AI-specific regulations. Currently, data protection falls under the National Ordinance on Protection of Personal Data, which aligns with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) due to Curaçao's ties with the Netherlands. However, comprehensive AI laws are lacking.

To address these challenges, this RAM report recommends accelerating the development of the NAIS with a focus on: establishing a robust legal and institutional framework; integrating AI and data science in education; and incentivizing research and workforce reskilling. By prioritizing these efforts, Curaçao has the opportunity to position itself as a regional leader in responsible AI governance, aligning ethical innovation with sustainable development goals.

Developing a National AI Strategy: Policy Recommendations

The present RAM aims to assess readiness to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in Curaçao. As such, it is not a report card to produce a score of how Curaçao is performing, nor to showcase advanced projects, rather, it aims to explore the gaps and potentials that contribute to the ethical use and implementation of AI systems. Conducting the RAM encompassed a broad range of multi-stakeholder consultations identified by the National Steering Committee as essential to the process.

The RAM serves as a foundational tool to support the development of Curaçao's National AI Strategy by identifying existing capacities, gaps, and stakeholder perspectives across sectors. Its inclusive and evidence-based approach ensures that ethical considerations, governance priorities, and national development objectives are integrated into the strategy from the outset. To fully harness AI's potential, Curaçao's National AI Strategy should be structured around:

- **Regulation & Policy Framework**

1. Draft and enact an agile National Ordinance (NO) on AI to establish ethical guidelines, transparency, and impact assessments.
2. This NO should introduce AI regulatory sandboxes to allow controlled testing of AI applications, improve alignment with GDPR, and prevent algorithmic discrimination.
3. Finally, this NO is to implement ethical recommendations for AI in policies for government AI adoption.

- **Institutional Governance & Oversight**

1. Establish an AI Oversight Coordination to oversee policy implementation and compliance. This oversight exercise should operate as an AI Ethics Committee to monitor risks in finance, healthcare, and public services.
2. The utilization of a National AI Policy Lab for data-driven policymaking and AI impact analysis would be the government's own sandbox to innovate, while the Assignment of AI liaisons within local government should serve to integrate AI into urban planning and public services.

- **Capacity Building & Workforce Development**

1. For the main challenge of Human Capital, the government should integrate AI and data science into school curricula from primary to tertiary levels.
2. Keeping up with AI developments is as important as the catch-up exercise. Therefore, it is recommended that Curaçao not only focus on catching up with global advancements but also prioritize continuous upskilling. To this end, the government should launch AI training and certification programs for professionals in key sectors such as tourism, finance, and healthcare. Additionally, reskilling initiatives should be implemented to support workers transitioning into AI-related job.
3. Priority areas should be identified to support AI research and development initiatives in collaboration with institutes of (higher) learning.

Curaçao stands at a crucial juncture in AI adoption and governance. Implementation of regulations, strengthening of institutional oversight, and investment in AI education will enable AI to stimulate economic growth and social progress while upholding ethical standards. The NAIS will position Curaçao as a leader in responsible AI development within the Caribbean, ensuring equitable AI benefits, regulatory alignment with UNESCO, and sustainable technological growth.

DIAGNOSIS OF THE NATIONAL AI LANDSCAPE

Curaçao has identified new innovative technologies like AI as a key element for the development of a SMART Nation in 2018 (Smart Nation Vision Paper, 2018). This Vision Paper is one of the earliest tangible initiatives that addressed AI as one of the modern ICT solutions, a necessity to assist in providing the necessary services and facilities to its citizens. The vision outlines 6 Pillars of Smart Nation development, each covering specific Sector Innovation Programs (SIPs) to be ultimately implemented through projects. The SMART Nation platform aims at addressing local needs/issues and to support SMART Nation development programs, initiated cooperatively by representatives of the Public sector, Private sector, and Knowledge Institutions in Curaçao. This initiative also includes efforts to enhance digital infrastructure, including secure and interoperable data systems across government agencies. The rollout of this project was hindered by the closing of the oil refinery in Schottegat, drawing all possible resources given its economic impact, and subsequent economic and social challenges like the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, whereby all attention was given to mitigation and recovery.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been identified as a growing global trend and a strategic opportunity for Curaçao. Within the framework of the National Export Strategy (NES), AI is recognized as a means to diversify the economy by fostering the development of a more robust IT services sector. The IT Services Strategy is currently in its initial deployment phase.

With the advent of ChatGPT propelling the meteoric rise in attention for AI, Curaçao's Parliament assigned the Regulatory Authority of Curaçao (RAC) with the task to develop a National AI Strategy (NAIS) in 2024. The consultations in this endeavor are still ongoing, as Curaçao is currently underway to incorporate UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence within this strategy.

Most recently in 2024, the Ministry of Governance, Planning, and Public Service (MBPD), together with the Public Internal Audit Department initiated a trajectory to familiarize the sector with AI and its implications for Government Operations, Public Services, Security and Ethical Use, and Human Resources. The main obstacles identified by experts in the development of policies and regulations concerning AI in the country were as follows:

- 1** Substantial knowledge and skills gaps have been identified regarding technology and its governance in the public sector.
- 2** Coordination difficulties and challenges in establishing shared priorities among ministries, since AI is a general-purpose technology that requires involvement from multiple ministries.
- 3** Lagged regulations or execution in related areas, such as Personal Data Protection, hinder the development of AI regulations.

In the following sections, Curaçao's national AI landscape will be discussed across various dimensions, including legal and regulatory, social and cultural, scientific and educational, economic, and technical and infrastructural.

1. General Questions

As one of the first Caribbean nations assessing the readiness for adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, Curaçao aims to use the exercise as a means to better understand the landscape and craft the most efficient pathway to transpose these into laws, policy, and practices. At the moment, no specific sectors have been prioritized for government intervention in relation to AI.

Consultations have not been able to ascertain whether the government informs the public when they are subjected to the use of AI systems that profile or make decisions about them in the provision of public services. This is definitely a matter that has been addressed in the MBPD trajectory on both supply side and demand side, prompting actions to make sure information is provided. The Foundation for Promotion of Consumer Rights dedicated a seminar on the matter in 2024, hosting speakers from the private sector, academia, government, and the regulator.

Sectors currently utilizing and seeking AI-related skills include tourism, where AI is leveraged to better align offerings with potential visitors and enhance marketing strategies. In this context, AI competencies are understood to include the ability to work with generative AI tools to analyze social media data and optimize the communication and promotion of both individual properties and the island as a whole.

AI governance in Curaçao is currently in a formative stage, with the national strategy being developed by the RAC. This presents a valuable opportunity to establish a dedicated institutional framework that can guide the responsible and strategic implementation of AI across sectors. As a result, AI governance is not led by one single ministry, and actions are being conducted across different sectors.

On the one hand, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports (MOWCS) is rolling out the largest digitalization project, covering over 25000 users, and addressing AI challenges in the technical sphere. On the other hand, the Ministry of Traffic, Transportation, and Urban Planning (MVVRP) is engaged with the execution of the recommendations of a policy note regarding cybercrime, and dedicates attention to AI in this endeavor. Finally, the MBPD has identified the 4 fields as points of attention being operations, policy, digital transformation, and service. Adoption of AI would influence these fields for the government, requiring attention for the institutional framework to adapt and respond to these rapid changes. All parties agree that knowledge and skills gaps regarding AI surface as the main challenges to developing AI regulations and policies.

2. Legal and Regulatory Dimension

This section explores the legal and regulatory aspects of Artificial Intelligence. A well-defined regulatory framework is essential for the ethical deployment of AI systems, ensuring the protection of citizens' rights. It should incorporate effective mechanisms for oversight, risk mitigation, and compensation for any adverse consequences arising from AI implementation. Key components of this framework include regulations on AI governance, data protection and privacy, data sharing and accessibility, and freedom of information, among others.

2.1. AI Policy and Regulation

Curaçao is currently developing its national AI strategy, which links to several initiatives that are tangent to AI. The National Ordinance on the Protection of Personal Data (NOPPD) provides a base for protecting the Personal Data of individuals. This aspect will also be included in the NAIS. Curaçao has requested to join the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the processing of personal data of the Council of Europe (C108+).

As the NAIS is still in development, no assessment has been conducted yet. The NAIS is agnostic to the nine ministries of the Government and will include elements for each ministry. The ethical considerations relating to development and deployment of AI systems are being included in the NAIS. A diverse team of individuals are involved in developing the NAIS in terms of training background. One of the methods used for developing the NAIS is conducting consultations with stakeholders which seek to represent the diversity on the island. The NAIS is expected at the end of 2025.

The current AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) has played a key role in raising awareness and fostering dialogue around the potential impacts of AI on human rights. The insights and recommendations emerging from this assessment should be integrated into the forthcoming NAIS. This strategy will outline leadership and implementation mechanisms, as well as propose sustainable funding models to support its execution. Given the small scale of Curaçao, the current findings of the RAM contribute to the National AI Strategy and enhance visibility of the potential impact of AI. The AI RAM Consultations have highlighted the need for an impact assessment of AI in Curaçao to better inform the general public and economic sectors about ethical AI implementation. Additionally, specific industries, such as the hospitality sector, have shown interest in collaborating on this topic. Other aspects of an impact assessment, and monitoring and evaluation will be featured in the recommendations section of the document, as binding AI regulations and guidelines are very limited.

2.2. Data Protection and Privacy

The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), developed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), assesses countries' cybersecurity maturity based on their efforts to protect digital infrastructure and respond to cyber threats. The index evaluates five key pillars: legal, technical, organizational measures, capacity building, and international cooperation, using data from national surveys and self-assessments. Countries are ranked and scored based on their performance in these areas with scores ranging from 0 to 100, with a higher score indicating a more robust and mature cybersecurity framework.

Curaçao has not yet been assessed in the Cybersecurity Index, where each country's level of development or engagement is assessed (by the ITU) along five pillars – (i) Legal Measures, (ii) Technical Measures, (iii) Organizational Measures, (iv) Capacity Development, and (v) Cooperation – and then aggregated into an overall score. Caribbean peers generally rank between evolving scores of 20-55, with some more advanced nations establishing scores between 55-85 (out of 100). Most recently, the council of ministers has assigned the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning (Ministerie van Verkeer, Vervoer en Ruimtelijke Planning, VWRP) to erect a Cybersecurity Taskforce and to develop a Cybersecurity Strategy. This strategy also has tangency with AI, as these technologies may be utilized conjointly in cybercrime targeting territories with (perceived) weak protection mechanisms. This field is also challenged by a lack of enough human capital.

Curaçao has enacted the National Ordinance on the Protection of Personal Data (NOPPD), which has been in effect since October 1, 2013. Recruitment efforts are currently underway to establish a dedicated commission responsible for overseeing the protection of personal data. Organizations frequently adopt this legal framework to align with high-standard data protection regulations, thereby enhancing user trust and ensuring individuals retain control over their personal information, including the right to request data deletion.

The NOPPD is designed to safeguard individual privacy by setting clear rules for the collection, processing, storage, and sharing of personal data. It mandates that data be processed lawfully, transparently, and with due care. Furthermore, the ordinance outlines specific legal grounds under which personal data may be processed, and it strictly prohibits the processing of special categories of personal data unless additional legal conditions are met. This regulatory structure promotes both transparency and accountability in data handling practices.

2.3. Data Sharing and Accessibility

The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) ranks countries based on the availability, accessibility, usability, and governance of open government data. Scores are derived from assessments of publicly available datasets, legal frameworks, and data quality, with a range from 0 to 100. Coverage scores are based on the availability of key indicators and appropriate disaggregation over time and for geographic subdivisions. Higher scores reflect a more mature open data ecosystem, indicating better transparency and public access to government data.

Curaçao has not yet been assessed by Open Data Inventory. However, estimates from the AI RAM consultations suggest Curaçao is at similar stages as its Caribbean peers in most aspects (evolving score of 20-55) and more advanced in certain areas (establishing score of 55-85). Currently, Curaçao is not a signatory of the international Open Data Charter. There are several initiatives aimed at developing data sharing frameworks, including efforts at the University of Curaçao, which could serve as a national hub. Initiatives include adopting FAIR data policies and developing infrastructure to allow making datasets visible, accessible, and available for analysis and research. These initiatives may gain further institutional support once the National AI strategy is published and implemented.

A secure data exchange infrastructure has been initiated by the Government of Curaçao to allow the efficient, effective, and safe exchange of data to take place between public sector agencies, facilitating data minimization. The full rollout is expected at a later stage, provided no reprioritization takes place.

This system supports interoperability while upholding the principles of data minimization, ensuring that only the necessary data is exchanged for specific purposes. This project is in its initial iterative stages as data fragmentation is one of the main challenges of the island after integrating both federal and insular government systems after gaining its new position as an autonomous territory. However, this initiative marks a significant step toward digital government transformation, laying the groundwork for future innovations in data-driven governance and cross-sector collaboration. The facilitation of controlled and secure access to data, the platform can contribute to enhanced decision-making, reduce administrative tasks, and improve service delivery to citizens.

The University of Curaçao, in cooperation with partners in the Dutch Caribbean have secured 1 million Euros for the establishment of a network of Digital Competence Centers. This 4-year project aims to map, create and promote the central storage and publication of data to promote its reuse according to the FAIR principles.

2.4. Procurement Laws and Policies

As the NAIS is currently in development, procurement policies have yet to be established. The policies are expected to take shape within the next three to five years, guided in part by the AI initiatives outlined in the first section of the report. As a result, the effectiveness of any such policy has yet to be assessed, and there is currently little to no information on special approval processes—especially by the government—for the acquisition of AI systems or certification of vendors for AI-related services. However, the present AI RAM has contributed significantly to raising awareness of the ethical considerations surrounding AI, the integration of AI systems into public frameworks, and the certification process.

2.5. Freedom of Information Acts and Access to Knowledge Acts

The National Ordinance on Government Transparency of Curaçao regulates transparency within the government by granting citizens the right to access public information. Government bodies are required to provide information both upon request and proactively, aiming for open and democratic governance. The ordinance specifies how information should be provided and sets deadlines for processing requests. Exceptions apply to confidential data, national security, and internal deliberations. The Minister of General Affairs reports annually on its implementation. This law ensures a balance between transparency and the protection of sensitive interests. The effectiveness of the National Ordinance has not yet been evaluated. Individuals may request information on how AI systems are used in the public sector, and parties using and/or sharing data are obliged to inform those whose data they are using and/or sharing.

2.6. Due Process and Accountability

The Constitution of Curaçao (Staatsregeling van Curaçao) establishes due process and accountability as core principles of governance, ensuring fairness, transparency, and the protection of fundamental rights. Due process guarantees that individuals are treated fairly by the government, particularly in legal and administrative proceedings. This includes protection against arbitrary actions, the right to a fair trial, legal representation, and the ability to challenge government decisions through judicial review. The Constitution of Curaçao enshrines these rights by outlining the independence of the judiciary and ensuring access to justice (Articles 17-20).

Accountability is a key element of democratic governance, ensuring that government officials and institutions remain responsible for their actions. The Parliament of van Curaçao (Staten) exercises oversight over the executive branch through mechanisms such as legislative inquiries, budgetary control, and the right to interpellate ministers (Articles 57-59). Additionally, independent institutions such as the Council of Advice (Raad van Advies) (Article 64), the General Audit Chamber (Algemene Rekenkamer) (Article 68), and the Ombudsman (Article 71) play a crucial role in monitoring government actions and preventing abuse of power. The Constitution of Curaçao also mandates transparency through the principle of open government (Article 91), allowing citizens access to information and ensuring government decisions are subject to public scrutiny.

The embedding these principles, the Constitution of Curaçao upholds the rule of law, promotes democratic governance, and safeguards citizens' rights against governmental overreach. As so far, the effectiveness of the Constitution of Curaçao has not yet been evaluated.

At present, Curaçao has no specific legislation requiring individuals to be informed when interacting with AI systems. There is also no existing law or policy regulating monitoring, redress, and remedy mechanisms for harm caused by AI systems.

Furthermore, Curaçao currently does not have specific laws or regulations that explicitly grant regulators or courts the right to request information about AI systems and their inner workings, like the transparency of algorithms. In the absence of AI-specific legislation, general rules from the Civil Code and administrative law could potentially be applied to obtain information in legal proceedings or investigations. However, there are no existing laws that impose transparency and explainability requirements for AI systems or grant authorities the power to access their functioning.

Curaçao currently does not have specific liability framework for damages caused by AI systems, meaning such cases fall under the general liability law (Tort Law) of the Civil Code of Curaçao. Under Article 6:162 CC, a party can be held liable for an unlawful act that causes damage, unless there is a justification. Additionally, strict liability and contractual liability may apply depending on the circumstances. In the absence of specific AI regulations, developers, providers, or users of AI systems can be held responsible for damages based on existing legal principles.

2.7. Online Safety and Integrity of Speech

As of now, Curaçao does not have a specific framework for notice-and-takedown policies addressing violating content such as online hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. Consequently, there has been no assessment of the efficacy of such a law or policy, nor are there defined responsibilities for online intermediaries under such a framework.

However, such actions are punishable under the Criminal Code of Curaçao (Wetboek van Strafrecht). Specifically, Article 2:60 prohibits deliberately insulting groups of people based on race, religion, or sexual orientation, while Articles 2:61 and 2:62 criminalize incitement to hatred or discrimination. These provisions apply to both offline and online expressions. The absence of a dedicated notice-and-takedown policy means that enforcement primarily occurs through criminal prosecution, where victims or authorities can file complaints against such offenses.

2.8. Public Sector Capacity

The government of Curaçao has recently introduced a program aimed at enhancing digital skills within the public sector. The initiative provides over 3000 courses and interventions designed to address digital gaps both directly and indirectly. At present, participation in the program is available on a voluntary basis for all public servants, of which AI Literacy has been provided in plenary form.

3. Social and Cultural Dimension

In this section, social and cultural dimensions will be discussed. Social and cultural dimensions are crucial to assessing ethical components in AI systems deployment, such as mechanisms to avoid the eruption of biases in the whole AI system lifecycle and the creation of a fair and inclusive AI ecosystem. In this regard, this section addresses topics such as the inclusion of women in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and AI development environment, as well as the incorporation of social and cultural diversity to ensure the ethical application of AI. Additionally, it includes the level of acceptance and attitudes of the public towards AI, the consideration of environmental and sustainable criteria, health, social well-being, and culture in the creation of AI solutions.

3.1. Diversity, Inclusion, and Equality

The most recent Census (2023) has not yet revealed data for the digital gender gap or the socioeconomic gap. Available, however, is data from the RAC indicating that there are 3 approximately mobiles per land line on the island, and that about 87% of households have internet connections (2024).

Male graduates are overrepresented in the graduates of STEM programs on a rate of 7-1, with the engineering faculty grossing around 150 students in total. Consultations have also indicated that this rate closely reflects the anticipated proportion of girls to boys who expect to be working in STEM professions by the age of 30. There are no public records of a difference in the science performance of boys vs. girls. It is documented that the schooling system pushes out boys in Curaçao (Narain, 2024). Currently, the only policy addressing the digital gender gap is the Digitalization Project of the MOWCS that takes into account gender differences and aims to curb the creation of new gaps. Said policy also addresses the reduction of the digital socioeconomic gap within the education ecosystem. While the project is currently in its principal phase of rolling out, assessments in this project have had an iterative character. Overall, the exercise aims to develop digital skills with the provision of internet at all schools, devices for all pupils and teachers, as well as the acquisition of digital skills by all stakeholders. Through this initiative, processes were digitized to improve oversight of resource use, with updated versions introduced at the start of the second quarter.

Curaçao does not have requirement for (tech) companies or university faculties to publish diversity statistics, and does not collect this data in its corporate survey. The labor force survey provides an indication that is currently not specific enough to identify this for the tech industry. Efforts to address diversity in the tech sector are mostly from the third sector and include the industry association SIMIA, which is mostly focused on addressing export opportunities. A notable student organization by the name of STEMBassy is based in the Netherlands is operated by students of the diaspora and organizes events in Curaçao. Curaçao Data Driven is another third-sector organization that often addresses gender diversity.

Curaçao's official languages are Papiamentu, Dutch and English. The website www.papiamentu.ai proudly provides content online to train AI systems aptly named LengaGPT. This development is in response to democratize AI as more prominent LLM's cannot capture the essence of smaller creolized languages. Likewise, the National Language Institute also provides content and data useful for training AI systems.

3.2. Public Engagement and Trust

With regards to public engagement and trust in government outreach, consultations have not revealed any activity that is able to accurately report on the matter.

3.3. Environmental and Sustainability Policies

Curaçao's National AI strategy is in development, and the impact of AI on the environment and on sustainability is the point of attention in this process. SDGs are the main guiding principles for governance as the government of Curaçao has organized its program within the sustainability framework and the 2030 development agenda (Government of Curaçao, 2017). The consultations in the present RAM have raised awareness on the impact of AI on land and water use, demands on energy, the associated carbon footprint, and the social components, and will be considered in the Sustainability section of the National AI strategy.

The use cases in the MBPD AI trajectory have not advanced to fields like transportation, and beyond. These fields will be observed and addressed in the process of development of the National AI Strategy.

3.4. Health and Social Well-being

Curaçao's digital health initiatives are subject to the NAIS. Consultations for this are currently ongoing and are to include considerations related to digital health aspects, alongside physical and mental health, and considerations for the impact of AI on children. The latter is tangent to the rollout of the digitalization strategy of the MOWCS and is addressed within the scope of the public education responsibility of the Government of Curaçao.

3.5. Culture

Curaçao has not yet implemented a policy on the use of AI for the preservation of cultural heritage. The existing framework of policies on the preservation of cultural heritage, like the Malta Convention on the preservation of Cultural Heritage, also known as the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, has yet to adopt provisions for the recognition, use, and application of AI in Curaçao. Given that organizations have horizontal structures and are easily accessible, participants in the consultations have indicated that community members are free to participate in employing AI for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Curaçao's National Institute for Languages has not yet implemented any policy regarding the use of AI for the preservation of minority and indigenous languages. Although the Institute continues its work in preserving and promoting the island's four main languages, it is currently undergoing consolidation following a merger with similar organizations and is now implementing its own strategic plan. The organization(s) in this field work with a very inclusive approach and welcome the participation of community members. This has been the case in the past for the indigenous language of Guene.

4. Scientific and Educational Dimension

In this section, scientific and educational dimensions will be discussed. Given that the scientific and educational components significantly contribute to the advancement of AI, evaluating them becomes a pertinent method to assess a country's readiness for AI development. The scientific aspect is gauged by the country's performance in research and innovation (R&I), comprising research and development (R&D) expenditure, research output, ethical AI research, and AI talent innovation output. Conversely, the educational aspect is assessed through the country's performance in educational aspects such as educational strategy, educational infrastructure, curriculum content, educational attainment, and public access to AI education.

4.1. Research and Innovation

Data on R&D on a national level is not available in the structure observed by the RAM. GERD and GBARD have not been able to be captured in the exercises to collect data for this report.

Research in the field of AI is considerably limited and hard to find. Consultations have not revealed noteworthy publications from local activity. As a consequence, the number of citations and FAcCT publications is difficult to record for purposes of this RAM. As customary with SIDS, a large proportion of its citizens study abroad, and thus makes it necessary to include researchers and experts from abroad. Among others, there are three PhD researchers that are in the fields of AI and Machine Learning. Two of these candidates are currently involved with the development of a model in the native language and have titled the project www.papiamentu.ai.

Research on the field is in its very early stage, no number of (peer reviewed) publications on AI ethics have been observed or recorded, as there are no institutions dedicated to AI Ethics research. Professional Conferences such as the Auditors Association, as well as those catering to Educators have been dedicating more attention to AI, however, have not reflected any intensive research components. The Ministry of Education, to date, has rolled out a conference that has tangent with the topic of AI ethics. When consulted on AI research centers and research departments, no evidence was found.

With regards to talent, Curaçao has no AI ethics researchers at any of the three main universities, and no Kaggle grandmaster was identified in the consultations. Kaggle is a data science competition site. Grandmasters are those who achieve the highest level of performance, which measures the quality and quantity of work produced.

Patents granted on the island are quite limited, and AI patents or commits to AI repositories on GitHub have not been able to be identified.

4.2. Education

Curaçao is currently rolling out a major digitalization project in the education system with policies on connectivity, digital literacy, and devices for children. This policy has also been expanded to include tertiary education. Instructors have been receiving training on digitalization, particularly tools to be employed in class. While not a standalone AI strategy, it allows space for and attention to AI once the RAC finalizes the National AI strategy. Instructors have been receiving awareness and laboratory training for the use of AI tools like ChatGPT, and how to tailor coursework around the new technology.

Over 80% of the educational institutions at primary, lower secondary, and secondary schools have access to the internet for educational purposes. Access to devices is arranged in the digitalization project, for everyone working in the educational field of

the subsidized schools. In the future pupils will be equipped with their own device and can perform assignments both on premises and at home.

Curaçao's tertiary education programs have a sizable portion dedicated to ICT in general with a third of the students enrolled in engineering majoring in ICT, but do not have programs dedicated to AI, machine learning or data science. This lack of programs also applies for digital anthropology, philosophy of technology, ethics of AI or related/ similar disciplines. There are, however, several projects on digitalization run by independent scholars in conjunction with researchers in the Netherlands such as Digital Heritage. The National University has also received funding from the Netherlands Research Council for projects in the Humanities. The rollout of the RAM has also drawn attention to the role of the University of Curaçao, towards enhancing AI-related skills training for its students.

Digital literacy training is offered to primary and secondary schools as part of the digitalization trajectory set out by the MOWCS. Tertiary programs offer aspects of digital literacy in formative coursework or as part of basic information literacy, for use in research.

Data from the schools show that about 20% of secondary school graduates are in training to enter tertiary education in STEM fields. While most study abroad due to limited availability, it is an indication of where attention is directed. The Local Universities enroll about 1500-2000 students, of which about 50-75 are in fields tangent to ICT. With regards to the number of graduates in data science, machine learning or robotics courses per capita, this consultation finds none locally and refers to the previously mentioned indication of secondary school streams.

Regretfully, Curaçao has not been reported in the Coursera Global Skills Report.

Most of the offering in terms of technical and ethical aspects of AI are of informal character by independent consultants and experts offering certified online courses, while it is expected that formalization will take place as the topic matures in Curaçao.

There are technical AI courses aimed at the general population offered in Curaçao at existing ICT training centers. Most of the offerings, however, are not aimed at the general public as a public good, but are commoditized. These instructors target specific groups and industries, and often tailor the offering to the needs of the audience. While not offered free of charge, they are offered in multiple languages, which for Curaçao includes the official Papiamentu, Dutch, English, and Spanish.

Consultations have not been able to identify courses or modules on AI ethics aimed at the general population. As a consequence, it is not possible to ascertain if the offering is free or available in multiple languages. Participants believe, however, that if there is an offering, it is likely that it is available in multiple languages.

5. Economic Dimension

In this section, the economic dimension will be discussed. The economic dimension considers relevant aspects within the ecosystem in which AI systems are developed and deployed, such as those related to the labor market, intermediate consumption and investment, and production for AI. The dynamism and qualification level of the labor market, along with the level of spending on intermediate consumption and investment, and production, are crucial aspects for evaluating the performance and readiness of the specific ecosystems in which AI is deployed.

While AI applications have been widespread, SIDS like Curaçao remain with a considerable technology gap in general terms, which makes it difficult to estimate the contribution of AI to the economy. With a substantial tourism and service-based economy, however, generative AI contributes substantially to optimizing the work in the hospitality sector in terms of matching the offering to potential visitors. A proxy for this is estimated at about 40% of those operating the space. IT services, on the other hand, have also benefited from the AI eclipse, and while the industry contributes about 26 million USD in foreign exchange, as reported by SIMIA (2021), the association of software exporters of the island, it is unclear which specific role AI plays in the generation of value.

AI firms on the island are minimal, representing less than the global average of innovative firms per capita. Most users resort to foreign products and services, and usage is estimated between 5-7% in the public and private sector at the national level. It is noteworthy to mention that while domestic research is unobservable, the momentum is building, given the perceived utility and usefulness of Generative AI tools. A report by SIMIA estimates R&D in tech to be at 10 million USD. The NAIS will have to take this into account, given the challenges of mismatches on the job market and the need to personalize on a small scale in SIDS.

Table 1 Companies in Software Export

ISIC Code and Category	Number of Companies
5820 Software Publishing Licensors of self-authored software	2
6202 Computer Consultancy IT-Advisory	103
6201 Computer Programmers Software developers	10
631 Providers of data processing, hosting and web portals	3
Total	118

Source: SIMIA Baseline Market Study 202 World Bank Group.

5.1. Labor Markets

The labor market in Curaçao is currently not responding immediately to the AI wave. The available vacancies mainly emerge in the client facing segment of the hospitality industry. The IT services industry does, however, indicate that interest for these skills will begin to rise given the growth opportunity for export of IT services in Curaçao, which is an attention point for the NAIS. The current skill penetration is observed to be minimal or limited, but definitely expected to peak at national level with some specific industries as outliers as indicated by those consulted. Data Scientist jobs/vacancies reflect the same trend and may be even moving

at higher speeds than the demand for AI. The consultations, however, were unable to determine this with precision. This will need to be addressed adequately in the National AI strategy, specifically for reselling and upskilling workers.

There have been publications on a firm divesting its customer service department due to the implementation of AI. The impact hereof was deemed minimal as the firm's own social safeguards have made it possible to reskill employees to fit the needs in other departments, and to give preference to those laid off in future hiring cycles. These approaches are noteworthy for a national level strategy as they can ease and facilitate the adoption of AI and facilitate the inevitable transformation that Curaçao will have to cope with alongside other SIDS.

5.2. Intermediate Consumption

Consultation in this RAM exercise were unable to ascertain how much companies spend on AI services. Most consumed services are imported, given the local offering that is only building at time of consultations.

5.3. Investments and Output

High-tech exports as a share of trade represent less than 1% of traded services, while Business Enterprise expenditure on R&D in the Computer programming, consultancy and related activity sector per capita is also quite sparse, estimated at less than 1% by consultations. Computer programming, consultancy and related activities form part of a category that has shown considerable variation over the past decade. A study by the industry estimates, however, that the income generated is coming through multiple streams and represents 26 million USD (SIMIA, 2021).

6. Technical and Infrastructural Dimension

In this section, infrastructural and technical dimensions will be discussed. The technical and infrastructure dimensions refer to the installed capacity within countries for the development and deployment of AI solutions, whether through their computing power, the availability of data centers, connectivity, and internet access, among others. These elements are relevant enablers for the development of AI systems within a country, as they determine development capabilities based on the infrastructure available and necessary to support processed information.

6.1. Infrastructure and Connectivity

According to a recent publication by the RAC in 2024, 87% of Curaçao's households have fixed broadband connections, while 68% is using the internet (2017) according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. With regards to access to mobile phones, the RAC records around 174.000 active mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions. This represents over 100% of Curaçao's population. It must be indicated that the amount of active mobile broadband subscriptions for data services on a daily or monthly basis is unknown at this moment. It is assumed that the share of people with an active mobile data subscription is about 70% of the population, as revealed in consultations. This is also in line with the RAC's market intelligence predictions.

Data has not been acquired to identify the gender gap in mobile access. For the rural/urban gap in internet access it is difficult to identify data due to the island geographical composition where rural and urban areas are blurred.

6.2. Applied Standards

The consultations have revealed that standardization in terms of technical and ethical matters of AI and digital technologies is currently being accommodated within the NAIS. The application for this process will follow once the strategy is adopted and when rollout begins.

6.3. Computing Capabilities

Curaçao proudly boasts three data centers, of which one is the only tier 4 certified data center in the Caribbean. On the national level, an AI-driven cloud policy is not formalized, but given the presence of prominent data centers, this is considered in the process to be developed by the NAIS.

The Statistical Performance Indicator Score for Curaçao is not recorded by the World Bank. A selection of regional partners has been provided to approximate for Curaçao.

Table 2 Statistical Performance Indicators of Regional Partners

	Score	Quintile
Dominican Republic	74,1	3rd
Guyana	58,1	2nd
Jamaica	67,4	3rd
Suriname	57,2	2nd
Source: World Bank		

Scores on Data Products and Data Infrastructure were also not available for Curaçao. As a non-independent territory and having exited a federal structure not more than two decades ago, Curaçao is often left unobserved.

Data on Curaçao is not included in the Global Data Barometer. With regards to a comprehensive framework for consistent data management and publication, the Central Bureau of Statistics is responsible for a census and periodic report, but serves fundamental issues rather than more intricate data. While each of these efforts is evaluated, there is a need for a more comprehensive assessment.

Quality control elements of public data are currently being developed regarding the management of public data.

II. Developing a National Multi-stakeholder Roadmap

Curaçao, like most SIDS, has been once again offered an opportunity to adapt to the changing times, by the revolution of AI, and its acceleration in the past years. Organizations across both the public and private sectors have responded to these changes from various perspectives. While both sectors are actively engaging in the development of AI, entities such as NGOs and labor unions have also begun integrating these advancements into their agendas.

The initial consultations corresponding to this report centered around the 5 main themes. The representatives for each theme were identified by the Steering Committee in a stakeholder mapping session. Each session recommended experts with whom follow-up consultations and interviews were conducted. A validation session was held at the University of Curaçao which allowed for even more input from individuals and experts in and around the network of those consulted in earlier rounds. Ultimately, over 60 individuals were consulted within the course of two months, representing over 40 organizations, including most ministries, the main business association of Curaçao (Vereeniging Bedrijfsleven Curaçao), the Hospitality and Tourism Association, Labor Unions, NGO's like CARMABI and NAAM.

The main policy priority identified by consultations centers around the need to develop and maintain capacity. The technology gap is quite noticeable, and partners are aware that investments in human capital is the fastest way to close this gap, given the transversal characteristic of AI and its applications. While many activities and initiatives are underway, a missing link is identified in terms of the provision of infrastructure to develop said capacity and calls for involvement of the MOWCS to facilitate its own contribution. A human capital/manpower development would support and encourage the roll out of multiple initiatives that tackle aspects tangent to AI, and the implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI.

The Government has identified this in its SMART Nation plan, championed by the MEO and driven by the RAC as the Secretariat of the platform. At the same time, the general field of IT Services has been identified as an export industry for the future and included in the NES. Both plans mention the critical need for Human Capital (development), which in the case of small islands like Curaçao tends to be the driving force.

All of these developments come together into the NAIS, which is currently being developed by the RAC. This report's recommendation also serves as a scanning of the landscape to help accelerate the development of the NAIS.

III. National AI Strategy: Main Policy Recommendations

This section outlines the policy proposal for the creation of Curaçao’s National AI Strategy, ensuring alignment with UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI. The recommendations in this section are structured into three categories:

- 1. Regulation, which covers proposed laws, decrees, and policies governing AI, including consumer protection measures and ethical considerations.
- 2. Institutional Framework, which identifies the key agencies responsible for AI governance and outlines mechanisms for oversight and coordination.
- 3. Capacity Building and Training, which focuses on AI literacy, skills development, research, and workforce adaptation.

This section also includes a summary table that provides a clear overview of the recommendations, specifying a proposed timeframe, responsible government agencies, and potential international partners for funding and capacity-building support. In addition, a comparative analysis of countries with similar per capita income and AI development levels is presented, allowing Curaçao to draw on international best practices for AI governance.

1. Summary of Policy Recommendations

The following table presents an overview of the key recommendations:

Table 3. Overview and prioritization of recommendations

	Category	Recommendation	Timeframe	Responsible Agency	Potential Partners
1	Regulation	1.1 Finalize National AI Strategy	2025	RAC	UNESCO
		1.2 Adopt/Transpose EU AI Act	2025	VVRP, Parliament	UNESCO, OECD, IDB
		1.3 Establish AI regulatory sandboxes for responsible AI innovation.	2026-27	VVRP, OWCS, BPD	CBCS, Aquallectra, CBA, CMC, SIMIA, UoC
		1.4 Strengthen data privacy laws in line with GDPR standards.	2026	BPD, Parliament	
		1.5 Implement AI procurement policies for ethical government AI use.	2026	FIN, BPD	

2	Institutional Framework	2.1 Assign/Create agency to oversee AI governance.	2025	BPD, VVRP, AZ	UNESCO
		2.2 Develop AI Oversight and Ethics to assess risks.	2026	CBP, VVRP	EU AI Office, Caribbean AI Coalition
		2.3 Establish a National AI Observatory to track AI trends.	2026	MEO, CBS, UoC	IDB, UNDP
3	Capacity Building	3.1 Introduce AI and Data Science in national curricula.	2026	OWCS, UoC (AI Training Institute)	UNESCO, SIMIA, University of Curaçao
		3.2 Establish AI bootcamps and certification programs.	2026	Chamber of Commerce, AI Training Institute	OECD, IDB
		3.3 Fund AI research centers in partnership with universities.	2026-2027	MEO, OWCS, UoC	EU Horizon/CAF
		3.4 Develop AI literacy programs and workforce retraining.	2026	OWCS, SOAW, UoC	

1.1. Regulation: Legal and Policy Framework for AI Governance

Curaçao must position itself to adopt an AI regulatory framework to govern the ethical and responsible use of AI over time. The first step in this process is the drafting and enactment of a NO on AI, which will set the legal foundation for AI development, deployment, and governance in the country. This legislation will ensure that AI applications in both the public and private sectors adhere to ethical principles, fairness, and non-discrimination while maintaining transparency and accountability. The NO will include AI impact assessments, which will evaluate the risks of AI applications before their deployment in high-risk areas such as public services, healthcare, and law enforcement.

To further promote responsible AI development, Curaçao could implement AI regulatory sandboxes. These controlled environments will allow startups and enterprises to test AI applications while gradually working toward full regulatory compliance. The sandbox model will enable experimentation with AI-driven innovations in fields such as healthcare, finance, tourism, and e-government, while ensuring consumer protection and risk mitigation.

Additionally, Curaçao must strengthen data privacy and cybersecurity regulations to protect personal data and ensure the safe deployment of AI systems. The existing data protection framework could include more GDPR alignment, ensuring that AI technologies adhere to stringent privacy standards. New cybersecurity regulations should be introduced to address AI-driven threats, including to address deep-fake technology, misinformation, and algorithmic bias.

The government should also implement ethical AI procurement policies to ensure transparency in AI adoption for public services. These procurement policies will define clear standards for AI contracts, public-private partnerships, and compliance mechanisms, ensuring that government AI systems are fair, explainable, and trustworthy.

Recommendations - Regulation: Legal and Policy Framework for AI Governance

1. Draft and enact a National AI Ordinance (NO) to establish the legal foundation for AI development, ensuring ethical use, transparency, fairness, and accountability, with impact assessments for high-risk sectors.
2. Implement AI regulatory sandboxes for startups and enterprises to test AI applications in a controlled environment, ensuring compliance and consumer protection.

3. Strengthen data privacy and cybersecurity regulations by aligning with GDPR standards and addressing AI-driven threats like deepfakes, misinformation, and algorithmic bias.
4. Introduce ethical AI procurement policies for public services, defining standards for AI contracts and public-private partnerships to ensure fairness and transparency.

1.2. Institutional Framework: Governing AI in Curaçao

To effectively regulate and promote AI development, it is recommended that Curaçao organize its AI Oversight across ministries. The agencies responsible will coordinate the oversight on policy implementation, regulatory compliance, and AI funding programs. The initiative will facilitate collaboration between government ministries, universities, private sector partners, and international organizations to ensure that AI development aligns with national economic goals and ethical standards.

The AI Oversight should contain an Ethics Committee tasked with conducting AI audits, risk assessments, and ethical evaluations. This Committee will monitor AI systems in critical sectors such as finance, healthcare, and public administration, ensuring that they comply with ethical guidelines. The committee will also develop guidelines on AI fairness, bias detection, and accountability, protecting citizens from potential AI-related harms.

To facilitate data-driven AI policymaking, Curaçao will establish an AI Policy Laboratory to help coordinate and assist integrated policy development. This laboratory will collect and analyze data on AI adoption trends, market impact, and research progress. Utilization of real-time data will enable policymakers to make informed decisions about AI regulation, funding priorities, and investment strategies.

At the local level, the government can designate AI liaisons in neighborhood centers to oversee AI adoption in smart initiatives, public transportation, and urban planning. These efforts will ensure that AI-driven solutions are tailored to local needs and integrated into public services efficiently.

Recommendations – Institutional Framework: Governing AI in Curaçao

1. Organize AI Oversight across ministries to coordinate AI regulation and policy implementation through a mechanism that involves government ministries, universities, private sector partners, and international organizations to ensure effective governance and alignment with national goals.
2. Establish an Ethics Committee to conduct AI audits, risk assessments, and ensure ethical evaluations in critical sectors like finance, healthcare, and public administration. This committee will develop guidelines for AI fairness, bias detection, and accountability.
3. Create an AI Policy Laboratory to collect and analyze data on AI adoption trends, market impact, and research progress, enabling data-driven policymaking and informed decisions on AI regulation and investment strategies.
4. Designate AI Liaisons at the local level to oversee AI adoption in public services, such as smart initiatives, public transportation, and urban planning, ensuring AI solutions meet local needs.

1.3. Capacity Building and Training

Curaçao must invest in AI education and workforce development to ensure that its citizens have the necessary skills to thrive in an AI-driven economy. A key priority is the integration of AI and Data Science in the national education system, starting from primary school through higher education. The training of teachers is essential to enable the introduction of AI in school curricula covering machine learning, data ethics, and computational thinking, while tertiary-level institutions would offer specialized degrees in AI, robotics, and automation.

To accelerate AI skills training for professionals, Curaçao has the opportunity to establish AI training and certification programs within a broader framework for lifelong learning in order to consider the multifaceted aspects of AI. This aims to enable reskilling and upskilling to roll out in a responsible and ethical manner. These programs will equip professionals from various industries, including finance, tourism, and healthcare, with practical AI knowledge. The government could also offer reskilling programs for workers at risk of displacement due to automation, ensuring a smooth transition into AI-related jobs.

To foster AI innovation and research, the government could enable and facilitate an AI research agenda within the NAIS to promote collaboration between educational institutions and private sector partners, within the scope of the large-scale digitalization project.

The AI agenda should be centered around applications tailored to Curaçao's economic landscape, such as AI in sustainable tourism, financial services, and digital governance. These efforts can be aligned with the National Export Strategy.

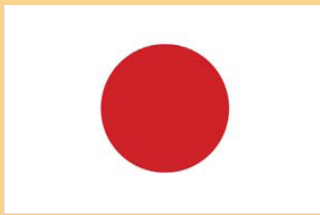
These policy recommendations, if operationalized, would assist Curaçao to advance in the field of AI governance and innovation in the Caribbean. The strategy aligns with UNESCO's AI Ethics Framework and best international practices, ensuring that AI development is ethical, sustainable, and inclusive. Through strong regulation, institutional oversight, and investment in AI education and entrepreneurship, Curaçao will harness the full potential of AI to drive economic growth and social progress.

Recommendations – Capacity Building and Training

1. Curaçao should invest in AI education from primary school to higher education, integrating AI and Data Science into the national curriculum.
2. Teacher training is key to introducing AI topics like machine learning, data ethics, and computational thinking, with tertiary institutions offering specialized degrees in AI and robotics.
3. Curaçao should establish AI training and certification programs within a lifelong learning framework to support reskilling and upskilling in a responsible manner.
4. The government should support an AI research agenda within the National AI Strategy (NAIS) to encourage collaboration between education and the private sector.
5. The research agenda should focus on AI applications for Curaçao's economy, such as in sustainable tourism, finance, and digital governance.

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