Statement of
the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) systems raise important political, legal, social, and economic questions which touch on all aspects of human existence and our ways of life. These questions urgently need to be addressed in a comprehensive and balanced way.

The **Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI)** welcomes that at the **Reykjavik Summit** on 16-17 May 2023, Heads of State and Government of the 46 member States of the Council of Europe and observer States acknowledged the positive impact and opportunities created by new and emerging digital technologies, while recognising the need to mitigate risks of negative consequences of their use on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Heads of State and Government committed to ensuring a leading role for the Council of Europe in developing standards in the digital era to safeguard rights online and offline, including by finalising, as a priority, the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence.

The **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**, Marija Pejčinović Burić, welcomed the Summit support for the CAI's work. "Artificial Intelligence is already here; I count on the CAI's continued commitment to make sure the new Council of Europe Convention sees soon the light of the day so that AI systems are used for the benefit of all, while preventing any form of abuse", she said.

The ongoing negotiations in the CAI of this Framework Convention started in September of 2022 and are steadily progressing. This follows the work of the CAHAI, which conducted a feasibility study on the issues and proposed elements for a legal framework during its mandate (2019-2021), as well as other work in the framework of the Council of Europe on AI, data processing and other emerging digital technologies.

The CAI is committed to ensuring that the Framework Convention will be human-centred, open to non-member States, and adopt a risk-based approach to the design, development, and use of AI systems facilitating the prevention of harmful uses of AI systems and promoting the use of this digital technology for the good of society, including by allowing for safe innovation.

The CAI - with its broad composition of representatives of states, other international organisations, civil society, industry, and academia - is united in its commitment to upholding and respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and working together to create, through the Framework Convention on artificial intelligence, the basis for safe and responsible use of AI systems in this area.

Due to increasing awareness of the risks and the need for regulatory involvement, we invite like-minded States and other stakeholders around the world to join us in our common endeavour.

Follow our work on: http://www.coe.int/ai