



## COLOMBO DECLARATION ON DATA PROTECTION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Adopted at a conference on data protection convened by the LAWASIA Committee on Communications, Technology and Data Protection, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 6 September 2024 and endorsed with amendment by the LAWASIA Council on 13 October 2024\**

### MINDFUL OF:

- (1) The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) as an important research and investigative tool;
- (2) the potential value of AI to legal practice, law enforcement, and the administration of justice;
- (3) Notwithstanding the clear benefits that AI can bring to all aspects of legal administration and the rule of law, the need to ensure that the personal rights of individuals are not unreasonably or unnecessarily compromised and
- (4) in particular, the capacity of AI to reinforce, rather than eliminate, discriminatory practices and thereby undermine public confidence in the legal process,

### THIS CONFERENCE RESOLVES that all LAWASIA member organisations:

- (A) have a responsibility to understand the potential uses and benefits of AI with respect to legal education and ongoing professional development, and with respect to the administration of justice.
- (B) nevertheless have a responsibility to understand and promote an awareness of the potential limitations inherent in various applications of AI and other forms of artificial enhancement of human deliberation.
- (C) should encourage the adoption of regulatory and ethical practices applicable to any usage of AI which has the potential to unnecessarily compromise the rights of individuals or adversely affect the fundamental principles of the rule of law.

*\*The original Colombo Declaration was not a formal LAWASIA resolution or statement but reflected the views of a majority of attendees at the conference on 6 September 2024. The Declaration was endorsed by the LAWASIA Council at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 13 October 2024, subject to minor amendment.*

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