

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

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Organizational Arrangements of the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority

Issued by Council of Ministers Decision No. (292) dated 27/4/1441 AH
Amended by Council of Ministers Decision No. (195) dated 15/3/1444 AH

First:

Wherever they appear in these Arrangements, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each:

Arrangements: The Organizational Arrangements of the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority.

Authority: The Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority.

Board: The Board of Directors of the Authority.

Chairman: The Chairman of the Board.

Authority's organs: The National Information Center, the National Center for Artificial Intelligence, and the National Data Management Office.

Second:

The Authority shall have legal personality and financial and administrative independence, and shall be organizationally linked to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Its headquarters shall be in the city of Riyadh, and it may establish branches within the Kingdom as needed.

Third:

1. The Authority aims to govern data and artificial intelligence, to provide data-related capabilities and foresight capacities, and to enhance these through continuous innovation in the field of artificial intelligence, so as to ensure the Kingdom's advancement to leadership among economies built on information, data, and artificial intelligence.
2. The Authority shall be the competent body in the Kingdom for data (including big data) and artificial intelligence, and the national reference for all matters relating to their regulation, development, and handling.

Fourth:

The Authority shall exercise all competencies and powers necessary to achieve its objectives, and shall hold original jurisdiction over all matters relating to operation, research, and innovation in the data and artificial intelligence sectors. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology shall hold subsidiary jurisdiction over matters that the National Data Management Office recommends for discussion with the Ministry. In particular, the Authority shall:

1. Regulate the data and artificial intelligence sectors by setting policies, standards, and controls specific to them and to how they are handled; circulate these to relevant governmental and non-governmental entities; and monitor compliance, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.
2. Build specialized national expertise and capabilities in the data and artificial intelligence sectors; adopt professional standards; build and implement professional measures, examinations, and educational and training programs in those fields; and coordinate with the Ministry in this regard.
3. Build, operate, and host government digital data and clouds, and the electronic systems related thereto.
4. Stimulate the growth of the data and artificial intelligence sectors, encourage innovation and investment in them, and coordinate with the Ministry in this regard.
5. Propose mechanisms to improve spending efficiency and develop revenues in the data and artificial intelligence sectors, and coordinate on this with the competent authorities to take what is necessary.
6. Raise awareness of the relevant policies, laws, regulations, and decisions concerning data and artificial intelligence.
7. Represent the Kingdom in relevant international forums concerning data and artificial intelligence.
8. Any other competency or power determined by the Board within the scope of these Arrangements.

Fifth:

The Authority shall have a Board of Directors whose Chairman is appointed by a decision of the Council of Ministers, and whose members are appointed by order of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Sixth:

The Board is the supreme authority over the affairs of the Authority and its organs, their management, and the conduct of their business, and to that end holds all competencies and powers necessary to achieve the Authority's objectives. In particular, the Board shall:

1. Approve policies relating to data and artificial intelligence and oversee their implementation, in coordination with the relevant governmental entities.
2. Propose draft laws and regulations relevant to the activity of the Authority and its organs, propose amendments to those in force, and submit them to complete the statutory procedures.
3. Approve national strategies relating to data and artificial intelligence and submit them to complete the statutory procedures.
4. Approve the establishment of centers specialized in data and artificial intelligence.

5. Approve the establishment of branches of the Authority or any of its organs.
6. Study data-sharing requests, issue decisions on them, and follow up on their implementation with governmental and non-governmental entities, in accordance with a mechanism it approves.
7. Approve the annexation of any governmental data center or infrastructure relating to the activities and fields within the Authority's competence, and submit whatever requires completion of statutory procedures.
8. License individuals and non-governmental entities to carry out the data and artificial intelligence activities and operations it specifies.
9. Develop performance indicators specific to data and artificial intelligence, and prepare periodic reports on them.
10. Disseminate national achievements relating to data and artificial intelligence locally and internationally, and publish the relevant official reports.
11. Approve methods to sustain the services provided by the Authority and its organs and their effectiveness.
12. Approve the fees for the services provided by the Authority and its organs.
13. Approve the organizational structures of the Authority and its organs, in accordance with the applicable procedures.
14. Approve the Authority's financial regulations in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, and approve the Authority's administrative regulations in agreement with the Ministry of Finance regarding the provisions therein that have a financial impact.
15. Approve the unified regulations for the Authority and its organs, and other internal regulations for conducting their affairs.
16. Approve the draft budget of the Authority, its final accounts, the auditor's report, and the annual report, and submit whatever requires completion of statutory procedures.
17. Supervise and oversee the work of the Authority and its organs.
18. Engage study, research, and planning centers, expertise houses, experts, and consultants.
19. Approve the conclusion of agreements and contracts, in accordance with the statutory procedures.
20. Review the periodic reports submitted to it on the progress of work in the Authority and its organs.
21. Accept grants, donations, gifts, bequests, and endowments, in accordance with the relevant laws.
22. Appoint an internal financial controller.

In order to fulfil these competencies and powers, the Board may form standing or temporary committees, from among its members or others, entrusting them with whatever tasks it sees fit;

the decision forming each committee shall specify its chairman, members, and competencies. Committees may engage whomever they see fit to perform the tasks assigned to them. The Board may also delegate some of its competencies to its Chairman, to the President of the Authority, or to whichever of its members it sees fit.

Seventh:

1. Board meetings are held at the Authority's headquarters, chaired by the Chairman or a member he deputizes; where necessary, they may be held elsewhere within the Kingdom.
2. The Board meets periodically at least four times a year. The Chairman may call a meeting whenever needed, or whenever at least one-third of the members so request. The invitation to meet shall be issued in writing by the Chairman at least seven days before the meeting, and shall include the agenda.
3. A Board meeting is valid if attended by at least a majority of members, including the Chairman or his deputy. Decisions are issued by at least a majority of the votes of those present; in the event of a tie, the side with which the meeting's chair voted prevails.
4. The Board's deliberations and decisions are recorded in minutes signed by the meeting's chair and the attending members.
5. A Board member may not abstain from voting, nor delegate another member to vote on his behalf in his absence. An objecting member may record his objection and its reasons in the minutes.
6. A Board member may not disclose any of the Authority's secrets that came to his knowledge by reason of his membership, even after his membership ends.
7. The Board may invite such specialists and consultants as it sees fit to attend its meetings, without those persons having the right to vote.
8. The Board may appoint a Secretary-General, from among its members or others.

Eighth:

The Authority shall have a President appointed at the rank of Minister, on the nomination of the Chairman of the Board. He is responsible for managing the Authority's affairs, his responsibilities being confined within the limits set by these Arrangements and as approved by the Board, and he shall hold the following competencies and powers:

1. Supervise the progress of work in the Authority and its organs.
2. Propose policies relating to data and artificial intelligence, raise them to the Board, and follow up on their implementation after approval.
3. Supervise the preparation of national strategies relating to data and artificial intelligence, and raise them to the Board.
4. Appoint employees of the Authority and its organs in accordance with the regulations, supervise them, and terminate their services.

5. Disburse from the Authority's approved budget and take all financial measures, in accordance with the approved laws and regulations and the powers delegated to him by the Board.
6. Prepare the organizational structures of the Authority and its organs, and raise them to the Board.
7. Prepare the Authority's financial and administrative regulations — including the unified regulations for the Authority and its organs — and other internal regulations, and raise them to the Board.
8. Prepare periodic reports on the progress of work in the Authority and its organs, and present them to the Board.
9. Prepare the draft budget of the Authority, its final accounts, the auditor's report, and the annual report, and raise them to the Board.
10. Represent the Authority before the judiciary, and before governmental entities, institutions, other bodies, and other parties inside and outside the Kingdom. He may delegate others to do so.
11. Sign agreements and contracts after the Board's approval of them.
12. Any other competency assigned to him by the Board.

The President of the Authority may delegate some of his competencies and powers to whichever personnel of the Authority or its organs he sees fit, in accordance with the Authority's regulations.

Ninth:

1. The National Information Center shall develop, host, and operate the National Data Bank and the national foresight platforms, and shall be the operator of the government cloud(s), except as excepted by Royal Order.
2. The National Information Center shall be the owner, developer, and operator of the Government Secure Network (GSN) and the host of the Government Service Bus (GSB). The Board may assign any other tasks to the National Information Center pursuant to these Arrangements.
3. The National Information Center shall have a director at the Excellent Rank, appointed on the nomination of the Chairman of the Board, who is responsible for managing the Center's affairs, his responsibilities being confined within the limits approved by the Board.

Tenth:

1. The National Data Management Office shall set the policies, governance mechanisms, standards, and controls for data and artificial intelligence, raise them to the Board, and monitor compliance after their approval.

2. The National Data Management Office shall propose the relevant regulations for improving spending efficiency and developing revenues in the field of national data, and coordinate on this with the competent authorities to take what is necessary.
3. The National Data Management Office shall have a president at the Excellent Rank, appointed on the nomination of the Chairman of the Board, who is responsible for managing the Office's affairs, his responsibilities being confined within the limits set by these Arrangements, the regulations, and what is approved by the Chairman of the Board.

Eleventh:

1. The National Center for Artificial Intelligence shall develop technical solutions and conduct applied research in the fields of data and artificial intelligence. The Board may assign any other related tasks to the National Center for Artificial Intelligence pursuant to these Arrangements.
2. The National Center for Artificial Intelligence shall have a Chief Executive Officer appointed and removed by a decision of the Board; the decision shall set his remuneration and other financial and functional benefits. He is responsible for managing the Center's affairs, his responsibilities being confined within the limits set by these Arrangements, the regulations, and what is approved by the Board.

Twelfth:

1. The financial resources of the Authority and its organs comprise the following:
 - a. Allocations earmarked for it in the State's general budget.
 - b. Gifts, donations, grants, and bequests, and endowment returns, accepted by the Board.
 - c. The fees it charges for the services and works it provides.
 - d. Any other resource approved by the Board that does not contravene the laws and instructions.
2. The Authority's funds are deposited in the Ministry of Finance's current account at the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA).
3. The Authority shall open an account for itself at the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, and may open other accounts at any of the banks licensed to operate in the Kingdom; disbursement from these accounts is made in accordance with the Authority's budget.

Thirteenth:

1. The Authority shall have an annual budget.
2. The Authority's organs shall have sub-budgets within the Authority's annual budget.
3. The Authority's fiscal year is the State's fiscal year; exceptionally, the first fiscal year runs from the date these Arrangements are issued and ends at the close of the following State fiscal year.

Fourteenth:

Without prejudice to the competence of the General Court of Audit to oversee the accounts, operations, and dealings of the Authority and its organs, the Board shall appoint one or more external auditors licensed to operate in the Kingdom to audit the accounts, dealings, transactions, data, annual budget, and final accounts of the Authority and its organs; the Board shall set the auditor's fees. The auditor's report shall be submitted to the Board, and a copy provided to the General Court of Audit.

Fifteenth:

The personnel of the Authority and its organs — except the President of the Authority, the director of the National Information Center, and the president of the National Data Management Office — are subject to the provisions of the Labor Law and the Social Insurance Law.

Sixteenth:

These Organizational Arrangements shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force from the date of their publication.

Translator's note

This is an unofficial English translation prepared for working reference. The Arabic text issued in the Official Gazette is the only authoritative version, and any discrepancy is resolved in favour of the Arabic.

References to the "Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA)" reflect the body's name at the time of issuance. It was renamed the "Saudi Central Bank" in 2020 (the acronym SAMA was retained); the operative institution today is the Saudi Central Bank.

This translation reflects the text as amended to 15/3/1444 AH (≈ October 2022). It should be checked against the current consolidated text before being relied upon, as the Authority's structure and mandate may have been further amended.