

Gaborone to New Delhi Compact

Teacher-Led, Localised and Frugal AI for Equitable Education

In Plain Terms

This Compact commits the signing agency to some common principles, in working with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) on a framework for Commonwealth Frugal AI in Education. It says that when we use AI in education, teachers will review and manage AI generated content. Our education data stays under our control. The systems will work even when the internet is unreliable. In agreeing to the compact, we will start to work together on pilots which build upon COL's initial work in this area to extend to formal pilot projects intended to have national impact, but not to entail any cost requirements or national-level technology rollout. We agree to share what we learn with each other and move in concert.

Commitment of Intent

We, participating education leaders, affirm that education systems can benefit from AI without compromising teacher authority, learner safety, or national control — including where connectivity is poor and resources are limited.

This commitment of intent has no legal obligation.

1. Purpose and Scope

What this covers: AI tools that help teachers with lesson planning, adapting learning materials, translation, and administrative tasks. **What this does NOT cover:** Automated decisions about whether students pass or fail, or receive certificates — those require stricter national safeguards.

2. Shared Principles

- **Teachers stay in charge:** AI assists; teachers retain professional responsibility;
- **Our data stays locally with us:** Education data remains under national control; if anything is processed externally e.g. overseas, we decide the rules;
- **Works without reliable internet:** Systems work locally and sync when connection returns, as needed;
- **Fits a local curriculum:** AI outputs align with national curricula, local languages, and approved materials;
- **Safe from the start:** Protections for learners are built in, not added later.

3. Minimum Requirements

Any AI system used in our educational institutions should have:

- Ability to work offline when internet fails;
- Automatic removal of student names and personal details before AI processing;
- Records that cannot be secretly altered (for accountability);
- Security controls: who can access what, encrypted data, regular updates;
- A plan to grow from pilot to national scale.

4. Teacher Approval Rules (by Risk Level)

When in doubt, treat as high risk.

High risk (content going to students)—**teacher MUST approve before release.**

Medium risk (drafts for teacher use only)—released to teacher immediately; quality checked afterwards; if shared with students, becomes high risk.

Low risk (translation, formatting)—automated, with records kept.

5. Sovereignty Guidelines for Cloud/Internet Service Access

Any use external computing services ("the cloud"), to be supported by a clear framework:

- What data can shared externally (e.g. to an overseas or commercial source), and what must stay sovereign;
- Student names and personal details removed before sending anything abroad;
- Identifiable student work does NOT leave the country unless we specifically authorise it;

- Any commercially procured service used must declare data sovereignty upfront.

6. What We Will Do (12 Months)

(a) Endorse this Compact; **(b)** Run 2–3 pilot projects across countries; **(c)** Publish a shared implementation guide; **(d)** Track results: teacher usage, language coverage, system performance, any safety problems.

7. How We Will Work

- Priority to Anonymity: no identifiable student data in pilots;
- Learn from pilots and adjust; share lessons openly;
- Train teachers through existing professional development; trained teachers train others;
- Each country appoints two contacts: one for policy, one for technical matters;
- Clear governance checks at each check-point;
- Check progress at Month 6; decide on scaling opportunities by Month 12.

What You Are Committing To

- ✓ Appoint two focal points (policy and technical)
- ✓ Participate in or observe a pilot over 12 months
- ✓ Share lessons at Month 6 and Month 12 reviews
- ✓ Apply baseline safeguards to any AI used in education

You are NOT committing to any specific budget, binding legal obligations, or immediate rollout.

What You Will Receive

- ✓ Technical assistance for pilot design from COL
- ✓ Access to shared resources, e.g. Implementation guide (Reference Architecture)
- ✓ Peer learning network with other participating partners
- ✓ Documented lessons from all pilots shared across the group

Endorsement

To endorse the Gaborone to New Delhi Compact, complete this [secure form](#) with your organisation/country.