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Standard Operating Procedure

The Use of AI-Generated Audiovisual Content

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DPO STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE ON THE USE OF AI-GENERATED AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT

- Contents:**
- A. Purpose and Rationale**
 - B. Scope**
 - C. Procedures**
 - D. Roles and Responsibilities**
 - E. Terms and Definitions**
 - F. References**
 - G. Monitoring and Compliance**
 - H. Contact**
 - I. History**
-

ANNEXURES

- A. Workflow to determine appropriate use of AI-generated audiovisual content
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A. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

1. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to set out when and how peacekeeping personnel may create, edit, and disseminate Artificial Intelligence (AI) - generated or AI-altered audiovisual content. It establishes permitted uses, prohibited uses, and minimum standards for authorisation, accuracy, disclosure, and human review. This SOP applies to all AI-generated or AI-altered audiovisual materials intended for internal or public-facing use.
2. AI-generated and AI-altered audiovisual content has become a global phenomenon with the rise of generative AI tools capable of producing lifelike or stylised images, animations, videos, and synthetic audio and text. While these technologies offer new creative possibilities, they also present significant risks. When used without clear safeguards, AI-generated or AI-altered content can weaken trust in information, generate uncertainty, mislead and confuse audiences, or reinforce harmful stereotypes. Even when applied with good intentions, these technologies can blur the line between reality and fabrication, and undermine trust in the UN. In the context of peace and security work, where accuracy, credibility, and trust are essential, these risks can have serious political, operational, and reputational consequences for the Organization.
3. The determining factor for permissibility in this SOP is not visual style or production technique, but whether the content could reasonably be interpreted as depicting, documenting, or standing in for real people, voices, places, events, bearing in mind varying levels of familiarity with AI-generated content amongst global audiences. Where such interpretation is unclear, ambiguity should be resolved in favour of non-use.
4. The goal of this SOP is to ensure the responsible use of AI tools, while safeguarding authentic audiovisual material and human expertise in documenting real-life events and experiences. The SOP should be read in conjunction with, and is subsidiary to the [Policy on Information Integrity in Peacekeeping Settings \(2024\)](#), which is mandatory guidance for all

peacekeeping personnel. The Policy includes applicable guiding principles such as non-clandestinity and people-centred approaches. In keeping with these principles, concealment of activities that may be inconsistent with UN legal frameworks, principles, policies, and peacekeeping mandates are not allowed. A people-centred approach to information integrity involves enabling agency, ownership and attribution of narratives and adopting a “do no harm” approach that prevents potential negative effects.

5. This SOP is also informed by the [Global Digital Compact¹ \(2024\)](#), the [UN Global Principles for Information Integrity \(2024\)](#),² the [Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System \(2022\)](#),³ the UNESCO [Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence](#),⁴ the [Secretary-General’s Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use \(2024\)](#)⁵, as well as all Secretary-General Bulletins on data and technology (see the references for full list).⁶ The document draws on and complements DGC’s forthcoming *Guidelines on the Ethical and Responsible Use of AI in Communications*. These frameworks highlight the need for transparent, accountable, human-centred information practices, and adherence to human rights standards.
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B. SCOPE

6. This SOP applies to DPO, peacekeeping and associated personnel, including civilian staff, uniformed personnel, consultants, government-provided personnel and interns involved in the production, approval, or dissemination of audiovisual content. External vendors producing content for DPO and/or peacekeeping missions must also comply with this SOP. It may be used as a reference document by staff in the DPPA/DPO regional structure and shared services.
 7. The SOP applies to the creation, editing, and dissemination of audiovisual content using AI tools for both public-facing and internal materials, including strategic communications and public information purposes, training materials, and informational materials for internal and external audiences including Member States, civil society or other partners.
 8. The SOP does not address the use of AI tools for analytical, quantitative, or data-processing purposes, nor drafting, editing or reviewing written textual outputs, except as indicated in the paragraph on tools for editing or production of audiovisual content (para. 13).
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C. PROCEDURES

¹ United Nations. *Global Digital Compact*. New York: United Nations, 2024. https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf

² United Nations. *Global Principles for Information Integrity*. New York: United Nations, 2024. <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un-global-principles-for-information-integrity-en.pdf>

³ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. *Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System*. 2022. https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/CEB_2022_2_Add.1%20%28AI%20ethics%20principles%29.pdf

⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. 2021. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>

⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use: SG-1 Guidance*. 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/digital-technology-use-guidance-sg-1-en.pdf>

⁶ United Nations Department of Peace Operations. *Policy on Information Integrity in Peacekeeping Settings*. 2024. https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/policy_on_information_integrity_in_peacekeeping_settings_2024_-_final.pdf

9. In this SOP, the use of generative AI systems falls into three content-based categories, summarised in this paragraph. This section provides details on the conditions under which each type of content may be used, and specifies the applicable conditions and prohibitions.
- 1) **Photorealistic synthetic audiovisual content – prohibited with a narrow exception.** AI-generated or AI-altered content that could be reasonably mistaken for authentic, naturally recorded scenes or audio is prohibited. This includes content that could be reasonably understood as depicting realworld people, voices, places, or events (representational content), as well as fabricated or composite images and audio. Audiovisual content falling within this category creates heightened risks in peacekeeping settings and is prohibited except for the use of internal training/pedagogical materials, with prior authorisation and conditions (see para 11.5 for the relevant authorisation procedure).
 - 2) **Non-realistic synthetic audiovisual content – permitted with conditions.** AI-generated or AI-altered content that is clearly illustrative, symbolic, stylised, or abstract and cannot reasonably be interpreted as naturally recorded real-world scenes or audio of people, voices, places, or events is permitted, with clear labelling and disclosure. Nonrealistic content may be representational or nonrepresentational. When used to portray sensitive topics (e.g., violence, SGBV, human suffering, protest, displacement), it is permitted only under specific conditions.
 - 3) **AI-assisted editing for technical enhancement – permitted.** Use of AI tools is permitted when used solely for technical enhancements (e.g., colour correction, stabilization, noise reduction, accessibility features) that do not generate synthetic content and do not materially alter content such that viewers could be misled.
10. In all cases, AI-generated or AI-altered audiovisual content that reinforces bias, discrimination, or harmful stereotypes, or that may otherwise undermine or violate human rights standards, shall not be created, disseminated, or used under any circumstances, regardless of whether the content is technically enhanced, non-realistic, photorealistic and/or representational.

11. **Photorealistic synthetic audiovisual content**

11.1. DPO and peacekeeping personnel shall not create, disseminate, or endorse photorealistic AI-generated audiovisual content except as expressly permitted in para 11.5.

- AI-generated images, video, or audio that imitate the likeness or voice of an identifiable, natural person, including in the form of profile photos, official videos, or public-facing and internal communications are not permitted. This applies to imitations of UN personnel as well as external individuals.
- Even where no specific recognisable individuals, locations, or events are depicted, photorealistic AI-generated images, video, or audio that could reasonably be interpreted as depicting real people, voices, places, events are not permitted.

11.2. DPO and peacekeeping personnel shall not repost, share or otherwise forward photorealistic AI-generated audiovisual content in their official capacity on social media, including synthetic video, images, or audio that resemble people, places, or events, and lived experiences. Such material can be mistaken for genuine documentation, may mislead the recipients, and can be misunderstood as endorsement by the Organization.

11.3. AI-generated photorealistic visuals must **never be used to depict sensitive topics** such as violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human suffering, trauma, protest, displacement, or other situations involving heightened risk of harm, stigma, or retraumatisation. Such depictions carry a high risk of misinformation, emotional harm, and loss of public trust. Where credible real-world, authentic imagery exists, it must always be prioritised, subject to considerations that protect those being depicted and ensure their informed consent, where relevant.

11.4. In documentary reporting contexts, particularly where individuals may face risk, stigma, or harm, identity protection must be achieved through established editorial and photographic practices (such as framing, lighting, angle, anonymisation through distance or silhouette, or consent-based approaches), rather than through AI-based image or video manipulation. AI alteration of visual evidence is not allowed. As a core editorial principle, professional photographers, videographers and all other personnel are expected to protect identity through established documentary techniques rather than image manipulation.

11.5. **Exceptionally**, the use of photorealistic AI-generated content, as well as AI-generated voice, is permissible for the specific production and use of UN peacekeeping training materials involving virtual reality and other simulations for pedagogical purposes. This exception is subject to these conditions:

- Such training materials are explicitly, clearly and persistently labelled;
- The training materials are developed and used by UN peacekeeping trainers;
- The training materials are for UN internal distribution only;
- No editing, manipulation or access to the training materials are permitted by external actors (including Member States, private sector or civil society).

Examples of AI-generated audiovisual content that IS NOT permitted

- Synthetic content that can be mistaken for real or fictitious people, places, events
- Synthetic content that portrays bias, discrimination, or harmful stereotypes
- Synthetic audio that imitates the voice of an identifiable, natural person
- An authentic image (e.g. of a place, or person) which is edited using genAI, resulting in a material change that would mislead (e.g. altered landscape feature, altered appearance of a person)

Examples of AI generated audiovisual content that IS permitted, with disclosure and prior permission

- AI voice for a pedagogical podcast, with clear disclosure that it is not a cloned voice of a natural person.
- A virtual reality video for training purposes.
- AI-generated inserts for a table-top simulation exercise.

12. Non-realistic AI-generated audiovisual content

12.1. Non-realistic AI-generated audiovisual content **may be used** when it is clearly illustrative or symbolic and cannot reasonably be interpreted as authentic, naturally recorded visuals or sound. This includes stylised illustrations, cartoons, abstract animations, symbolic imagery, or synthetic audio that cannot reasonably be confused with the authentic audiovisual recording of a natural person, place, or event. Note that due consideration should be given to styles that may be protected by intellectual property (IP) rights, whether they involve IP of third parties, or IP of the genAI model itself.

12.2. In relation to **sensitive topics** (including violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human suffering, trauma, protest, displacement, or other situations involving heightened risk of harm, stigma, or retraumatisation), credible real and authentic imagery must be prioritised and should be used when it does not pose risk to the safety, dignity, or well-being of individuals, or to those documenting a situation (see paras 11.3 and 11.4 above). Nevertheless, where the use of real imagery will pose a risk, clearly non-realistic stylised, abstract, or symbolic AI-generated audiovisual content on sensitive topics **is permitted**. This is subject to the following conditions:

- such illustrative material does not include contextual detail that could place individuals or communities at risk, including identifiable names, features, locations, or other characteristics, and metadata containing identifiable information is not exposed to the AI model during production;
- the illustration, abstract or stylised content cannot reasonably be mistaken for documentary evidence or an authentic visual record;
- the purpose is contextual, explanatory, or educational, not representative of lived experience or presented as legal testimony;
- development is informed by consultation with relevant subject-matter experts (e.g. protection, human rights, gender, or ethics); and
- the illustration is accompanied by clear and persistent disclosure, such as: “*AI-generated illustration used for explanatory purposes; not a documentary depiction.*”

13. Audiovisual content that is technically enhanced by AI-assisted editing tools

13.1. AI-assisted editing tools may be used within DPO and peacekeeping missions where they support purely technical tasks and do not generate synthetic content, or materially alter the original content to the point where it could mislead viewers (with particular consideration given to the alteration of the appearance of a person or group). Examples of technical tasks include audio cleanup, background removal, storyboarding, colour correction, and accessibility enhancements.

13.2. The output of AI-assisted editing tools must be subject to human review and/or editorial control within each office. For translations, auto-captioning and subtitling in pre-produced videos, human oversight is always needed and, in such cases, private, confidential or sensitive data should not be used in external translation tools, with the exception of those cleared by the Organization for such use (e.g. Copilot for use on data classified up to and including Confidential). Disclosure is required if auto-translations are enabled on platforms. Such use remains subject to applicable [United Nations requirements on information sensitivity, classification and handling](#), as well as on [data protection, privacy, and information sensitivity](#).⁷

13.3. Watermarking (such as Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA)) is often used by commercial generative AI models to embed metadata to content generated by their models at the point of creation, so that the content may be identified as AI generated or edited. However, watermarks do not replace clear human-

⁷ [United Nations](#), *Secretary-General's Bulletin: Information Sensitivity, Classification and Handling* (ST/SGB/2007/6), 12 February 2007.;

[United Nations](#), *Secretary-General's Bulletin: Data protection and privacy policy for the Secretariat of the United Nations* (ST/SGB/2024/3, 13 March 2024).

readable disclosure, nor does the lack of them guarantee authenticity, as they can be (deliberately or accidentally) removed or degraded. Peacekeeping staff should endeavour to retain the integrity of generative AI watermarks when added by generative AI models.⁸

14. Attribution of AI-generated and AI-altered audiovisual content

14.1. AI-generated audiovisual outputs must always be disclosed and clearly labelled. They must comply with the United Nations' information sensitivity, classification, and handling requirements.⁹ Examples of AI disclosure labels:

- "Image generated using AI for symbolic representation."
- "Voiceover generated using a non-cloned AI voice."
- "Historical re-creation generated using AI, based on archival sources and expert review."

15. Authorisation and review of AI-generated and AI-altered audiovisual content

15.1. Authorisation must be sought before embarking on both exceptional use cases described above, i.e.: (1) photorealistic synthetic content for training and other pedagogical materials (para 11.5), and (2) the creation of non-realistic synthetic content to portray sensitive topics such as violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), human suffering, trauma, protest, displacement, or other situations involving heightened risk of harm, stigma, or retraumatisation (para 12.2).

15.2. At Headquarters, authorisation must be sought from the Head of Department, who would be advised by DPO's Information Integrity Unit and Strategic Communications Section. In peacekeeping missions, authorisation must be sought from the Head of Mission, with advice from the Strategic Communications and Human Rights components, where they exist. In missions without those components, the DPO Strategic Communications Section and Information Integrity Unit may be consulted.

15.3. For all use cases, the following criteria must be assessed by the originating office, and submitted together with a request for authorisation to the Head of Department of Mission, as relevant:

- i) Whether the proposed audiovisual content may pose a risk (to human rights, or the reputation of the Organization);
- ii) Whether and why synthetic content is necessary and proportional to risks (why authentic imagery may not be viable);
- iii) Mitigation measures that will be put in place to manage risks (e.g. on disclosure, distribution control, expert review, consent, privacy);
- iv) What accountability and remedial measures will be put in place (who is the author of the content, who is responsible for modifications).

⁸ Watermarks can be checked through tools such as the Content Credentials verification tool: <https://verify.contentauthenticity.org/>

⁹ [United Nations](#), *Secretary-General's Bulletin: Information Sensitivity, Classification and Handling* (ST/SGB/2007/6), 12 February 2007.

- 15.4. All AI-generated audiovisual content on sensitive topics that has been created with prior approval must be reviewed and cleared by the Head of DPO or Head of Mission, as applicable, prior to finalization and dissemination.
- 15.5. AI-altered content must be reviewed and cleared by the Section, Service and/or Division head of the relevant office, in line with procedures, and observing the relevant measures indicated in section C of this SOP.
- 15.6. Personnel should use the workflow in the annex to assess specific use cases for use of AI-generated audiovisuals. If uncertainty remains after completing the checklist, the DPO Information Integrity Unit and the Strategic Communications Section may be consulted for advice.

D. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

16. All DPO and peacekeeping personnel, including civilian staff, uniformed personnel, consultants, government-provided personnel, and interns, involved in the production, approval, or dissemination of audiovisual content are responsible for ensuring compliance with this SOP. Personnel commissioning audiovisual content produced by external vendors are responsible for ensuring that such content complies with this SOP and that requisite approvals have been obtained.
17. DPO and Mission leadership, Mission Chiefs of Staff, and Heads of Strategic Communications shall ensure that staff under their purview understand and apply the SOP. The DPO Information Integrity Unit and the Strategic Communications Section shall provide guidance, review, support, and interpretive advice upon request.

E. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Generative artificial intelligence (generative AI):¹⁰ an AI technology that automatically generates content in response to prompts written in natural-language. Rather than simply curating existing webpages, by drawing on existing content, generative AI actually produces new content. The content can appear in formats that comprise all symbolic representations of human thinking: texts written in natural language, images (including photographs, digital paintings and cartoons), videos, music and software code. Generative AI is trained using data collected from webpages, social media conversations and other media. It generates its content by statistically analysing the distributions of words, pixels or other elements in the data that it has ingested and identifying and repeating common patterns (for example, which words typically follow which other words).

AI-assisted editing tools: AI-powered tools used for technical enhancement but do not materially alter a person's likeness or voice, such as colour correction, exposure or lighting adjustment, noise reduction, stabilization, cropping, resizing, or format conversion.

Non-realistic AI-generated audiovisual content: any AI-generated content consisting of still or moving images (with or without synchronised audio), or standalone audio, that is created, synthesised, or materially altered by an artificial intelligence system and that does not emulate the look or sound of naturally recorded scenes or audio and therefore cannot

¹⁰ Adapted from: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. *Guidance for generative AI in education and research*. 2023. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386693>

be reasonably mistaken for authentic, naturally recorded visuals or sound. Examples include illustrative, abstract, symbolic or stylised images such as animations, cartoons, painterly illustrations, schematic or iconographic visuals, and clearly synthetic audio (e.g., robotic text-to-speech).

Photorealistic AI-generated audiovisual content: any still or moving images (with or without synchronised audio), or standalone audio, that are created, synthesised, or materially altered by an artificial intelligence system and that emulate the look of naturally recorded visuals and/or sound, such that they could reasonably be mistaken for authentic, naturally recorded scenes or audio—whether the depicted persons, places, or events are real, fabricated, or composited.

Representational AI-generated audiovisual content: any still or moving images (with or without synchronised audio), or standalone audio, that is created, synthesised, or materially altered by an artificial intelligence system, that can be reasonably understood as depicting an identifiable real-world referent (including a natural person’s voice or likeness, place, or event), whether the depiction of that referent is accurate, altered, or fabricated.

Disclosure: Clear indication, through captioning or credits, that AI systems or tools contributed to the creation or alteration of content.

Synthetic content: audio, still images or moving images created, synthesised, or materially altered by an AI system. Routine postproduction edits (e.g., colour correction, basic noise reduction) that do not materially change the meaning, identity, or context of the content are not treated as “synthetic” for the purposes of this SOP.

F. REFERENCES

Normative or superior references

- A. UN Charter, UN human rights framework and relevant international standards (1945)
- B. Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, UNESCO (2021)
- C. Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United Nations System, CEB (2022)
- D. Global Digital Compact (2024)
- E. Global Principles for Information Integrity (2024)
- F. SG Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use (2024)

Related Policies

- G. DPO Policy on Information Integrity in Peacekeeping Settings (2024)
- H. DGC DPO DPPA Policy on Strategic Communications in Peace Operations (2024)
- I. Secretary-General’s Bulletin: Data protection and privacy policy for the Secretariat of the United Nations (ST/SGB/2024/3).
- J. Secretary-General’s Bulletin: Information sensitivity, classification and handling (ST/SGB/2007/6).
- K. Secretary-General’s Bulletin: Record-keeping and the management of United Nations archives (ST/SGB/2007/5).
- L. Secretary-General’s Bulletin: Use of information and communication technology resources and data (ST/SGB/2004/15).
- M. UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).

G. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

Compliance with all elements of this SOP is mandatory. Awareness-raising on the content of this SOP is the responsibility of Heads of Missions (with support from Chiefs of Staff and Strategic Communications and Public Information components) and the Head of DPO (with support from Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training and Strategic Communications Section). Non-compliance may require corrective measures or additional training.

H. CONTACT

DPO Information Integrity Unit. Email: dpo-info-integrity@un.org

I. HISTORY

This is the first version of this SOP.

APPROVAL SIGNATURE: 

NAME, TITLE, DEPARTMENT

Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Peace Operations

DATE OF APPROVAL: 1 June 2026

ANNEX A – WORKFLOW TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Scope: Applies to any item where AI is used to create, synthesise, or materially alter audiovisual content prior to internal or external distribution.

Legend: = proceed; = check/confirm; STOP = do not proceed without escalation.

Step 1: Start — Pre-check

Does this item involve AI at any stage (creation, synthesis, material alteration, translation/subtitling, enhancement)?

No → SOP not applicable (other UN policies still apply). STOP.

Yes → Go to Step 2.

Step 2 — Human-rights screen and category of the content

2.1 Applies to all items: Does the content reinforce bias, discrimination, or harmful stereotypes, or otherwise undermine or violate human-rights standards (e.g., privacy, dignity, non-discrimination)?

Yes → Do not proceed. STOP and revise concept and/or consult the DPO Information Integrity Unit / Strategic Communications or Human Rights as appropriate.

No → Continue to 2.2.

2.2 Category of content (choose one):

Tip: If uncertain between A and B, resolve ambiguity in favor of non-use or consult DPO Information Integrity Unit / Strategic Communications.

A) Photorealistic synthetic audiovisual content. [*This means: content that emulates the look of naturally recorded visuals and/or sound, such that they could reasonably be mistaken for authentic, naturally recorded scenes or audio—whether the depicted persons, places, or events are real, fabricated, or composited.*]

Will your synthetic content be used for training or pedagogical purposes?

Yes → go to Step 3.

No → go to next question.

Can your proposed synthetic content reasonably be mistaken for naturally recorded visuals or sound by someone in a peacekeeping host country? If yes, STOP. This is not permitted.

Yes → STOP. This is not a permitted use case.

No → Go to Step 3.

B) Non-realistic synthetic audiovisual content [*This means: content that cannot be reasonably mistaken for authentic, naturally recorded visuals or sound because it is illustrative, abstract, symbolic, stylised or otherwise clearly synthetic*]

→ See Step 5.

C) AI-assisted editing for technical enhancement only [*This means: AI will be used for technical enhancements (e.g., colour correction, stabilization, noise reduction, accessibility features) that do not generate synthetic content and do not materially alter meaning, identity, or context such that viewers could be misled.*]

→ See Step 6.

Step 3 — Screen for sensitive topics (applies to all categories)

Does the content touch on violence, SGBV, human suffering, trauma, protest, displacement, or other high-risk topics?

Yes → If A (photorealistic), PROHIBITED.

Yes → If B (non-realistic), proceed only under Step 5 safeguards.

Yes → If C (editing), proceed only if purely technical and not misleading.

No → Proceed to the relevant step for the chosen category:

Photorealistic synthetic audiovisual content: go to Step 4

Non-realistic synthetic audiovisual content: go to Step 5.

Step 4 — Photorealistic synthetic audiovisual content

Default rule: Do not create, disseminate, endorse or repost in any official capacity. STOP (not permitted).

Only exception: internal training/pedagogical purposes. Allowed only if ALL of these are true:

- Explicit, persistent labelling in/on the asset and description will be included.
- UN ownership and internal-only distribution.
- No external editing or access (including by Member States, private sector, civil society).
- Prior authorisation will be obtained (HQ: Head of Department advised by DPO Information Integrity Unit & Strategic Communications; Field: Head of Mission advised by Strategic Communications & Human Rights).
- Human-Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) documented (risks, necessity, mitigation, remedy).
- Information sensitivity, data protection (ST/SGB/2024/3) and record-keeping rules applied.

If any condition is not met → STOP (not permitted).

Step 5 — Non-realistic synthetic audiovisual content (permitted with conditions)

Baseline conditions (all are required):

- Pass the reasonable-person test (cannot be mistaken for authentic documentary record).
- No bias, discrimination, or harmful stereotypes.
- Clear, persistent disclosure (e.g., 'AI-generated illustration for explanatory purposes; not a documentary depiction').
- Intellectual-property/style rights and privacy considered.
- HRDD documented proportionate to risk; records retained per ST/SGB/2007/5.

Additional safeguards when depicting sensitive topics:

- Use only where authentic imagery would pose significant risk.
- Remove contextual details that could endanger people/communities (names, features, locations).
- Consult relevant subject-matter experts (protection, human rights, gender, ethics).
- Include clear, persistent disclosure on the asset and caption.
- Obtain prior authorisation (HQ: Head of Department; Field: Head of Mission).

Step 6 — AI-assisted editing for technical enhancement (permitted)

- Edits are purely technical (colour correction, stabilization, noise reduction, background removal, accessibility features).
- No generation of synthetic content; no material change to meaning, identity, or context (no risk of misleading).
- Human review for automated captions/translations; disclose platform auto-translation where applicable.
- Do not feed private/sensitive data into external tools; comply with ST/SGB/2024/3.
- Explicit prior consent if any change affects a person's likeness or expression.

Step 7 — Escalation

If uncertainty remains after completing this checklist, consult the DPO Information Integrity Unit and the Strategic Communications Section before proceeding.