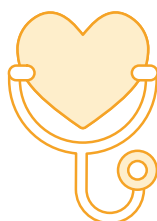
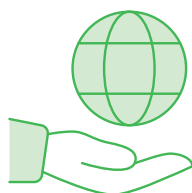




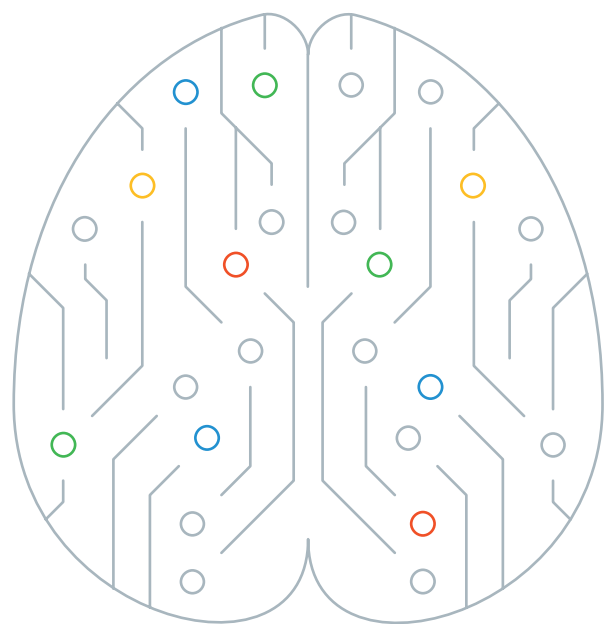
AI Policy Gold Standard

10 Policy Recommendations
for Achieving AI Leadership



Artificial intelligence (AI) offers transformative opportunities for global economies and societies. Nations that strategically leverage AI and importantly, promote and implement economy-wide adoption of AI, will accelerate their development and secure significant competitive advantages. A proactive and well-considered AI policy framework is therefore crucial.

This paper presents 10 Gold Standard AI policy priorities for governments to position their countries for AI leadership.





01 Enhance Cloud Capacity and Implement Cloud-First Policies

Robust AI infrastructure is fundamental to AI development and deployment. Cloud computing plays a critical role, providing individuals and organizations access to AI capabilities and solutions through cloud-based services.

Governments should prioritize enhancing national cloud capacity and adopting “Cloud First” policies that encourage public sector organizations to utilize public cloud solutions. Encouraging a multi-cloud, multi-vendor, approach with interoperability and data portability will help to ensure robustness, preventing vendor lock-in. Beyond government use, facilitating access to cloud and compute resources for start-ups and academia is crucial.



02 Consolidate and Make Public Sector Data Publicly Available

Access to high-quality, open datasets is vital for AI innovation. Governments should establish centralized and open-sourced national data repositories, aggregating datasets from various government sectors like healthcare, agriculture, finance, and education.

Adopting an “*Open by Default*” policy, similar to the UK’s approach, can mandate the release of public sector data, fostering transparency and economic growth. This will empower innovators to develop AI solutions tailored to local needs, while ensuring robust safeguards for data privacy and security.

Another good example is the *IndiaAI Mission*, which is working on a centralized repository of AI datasets across critical sectors like healthcare, agriculture, finance, and education, aiming to democratize access to high-quality data and spur innovation.



03 Facilitate the Creation of Anonymized, Aggregated, and Varied Datasets in Sensitive Contexts

AI has a significant impact on areas like healthcare, improving access and detection capabilities. In order to make headway in using AI for crucial areas such as healthcare, it is important for governments to take a proactive role in facilitating access to these sensitive datasets and setting the right governance frameworks to enable their use.

National institutions, such as National Institutes of Health, can play a key role in anonymizing, aggregating, and disseminating high-quality, representative datasets in healthcare and medicine, along with guidelines for creating privacy-preserving clinical datasets that address all patient populations.



04 Invest in Building a Vibrant AI Ecosystem, Including Through Public-Private Partnerships

Governments can accelerate AI innovation and adoption by implementing policies that incentivize a vibrant AI ecosystem. This includes strengthening the AI startup ecosystem, encouraging collaboration between local academia and foreign companies, and attracting venture capital and acceleration programs.

For example, the *Rwandan National AI Policy* aims to facilitate collaboration among startups and research communities to jointly develop AI innovations, and plans to support financing by co-investing alongside angel and venture capital investors.

Similarly, *Egypt’s AI Strategy* is geared towards increasing funding for AI startups and creating AI startup incubators. Exploring mechanisms for co-investment alongside specialist funds in promising AI companies can further catalyze private sector investment and support growth.



05 Facilitate Government Adoption of AI

Broad adoption of AI can only happen if citizens trust the technology. Governments should lead by example by proactively integrating AI into its own operations to improve public service delivery and efficiency. This will involve creating a comprehensive AI adoption strategy for the public sector, outlining clear goals, priorities, and implementation plans.

Key areas for initial focus should include AI applications to increase public sector efficiencies and productivity (e.g. AI-powered processing of permits, licenses, and regulatory documents), citizen services enhancement (e.g. real-time translation), and knowledge management (e.g. processing public consultation responses). Establishing “AI sandboxes” within agencies can also enable piloting innovative AI solutions in controlled environments.



06 Facilitate Small and Medium Business (SMB) Usage of AI

SMBs make up the majority of businesses in most countries, providing employment opportunities and fueling the local economy. There's a real opportunity for SMBs to adopt AI tools to boost productivity and address manpower and resource shortages. If done well and at scale, this has the potential to greatly lift overall economic productivity and growth. Governments can play a key role in helping SMBs access and adopt AI tools and solutions, including through the provision of grants, skilling programs, and advisory assistance.

For example, the Australian government has established *AI Adopt Centres* which specialize in supporting SMBs that engage in international and interstate trade to adopt responsible AI-enabled services and enhance their businesses. The Singapore government provides grants to SMBs to adopt Generative AI solutions and productivity tools, as well as a *Chief Technology Officer-as-a-Service (CTO-as-a-Service)* programme to provide SMBs with complimentary digital consultancy services.



07 Implement Comprehensive AI Skills Development for All Citizens

To fully harness the potential of AI for economic growth and societal benefit, it is crucial to help all citizens become AI-ready. This requires cultivating a workforce with varying levels of AI competency, including AI Learners (basic literacy), AI Implementers (using/adapting tools), and AI Innovators (shaping the technology).

National AI skills initiatives, bolstered Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, and targeted AI skilling campaigns for SMBs should be prioritized. Public-private partnerships are also vital for aligning training programs with industry needs and promoting online learning opportunities.



08 Adopt International AI Standards as Domestic Regulatory Standards

To avoid regulatory fragmentation and promote global interoperability in AI, governments should actively engage with international standards bodies and consider adopting internationally recognized standards as domestic regulatory standards.

Standards from organizations like the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), such as ISO/IEC 42001 for AI Risk Management Systems, provide a strong foundation for responsible AI development and deployment. Aligning with international standards ensures consistency, facilitates cross-border collaboration, and allows companies – especially SMBs and startups – to more easily globalize their products and services.



09 Create (or Maintain) Copyright and Privacy Frameworks that Enable the Use of Publicly Available Information

A balanced copyright framework is essential to support AI innovation while protecting rightsholders interests. Governments should consider updating their copyright laws to enable training on publicly available content on the open web, potentially through relevant limitations and exceptions such as fair use or text and data mining (TDM) exceptions. These exceptions support innovation by carefully balancing protections for creators with the need for innovation and cumulative creativity, while ensuring that developers and innovators are able to assemble the building blocks needed for AI development and innovation.

Similarly, governments should promote balanced privacy laws that recognize exemptions for publicly available information to enable the development of AI.



10 Leverage Existing Regulations as a Starting Point

Before introducing new AI-specific regulations, governments should conduct a comprehensive assessment of how existing regulatory frameworks and sectoral regulations already apply to AI applications within their respective domains.

This approach ensures that existing laws are effectively leveraged to address potential harms, preventing a fragmented or contradictory regulatory landscape. If gaps are identified, the relevant regulator should propose and consult on proportionate additional rules that align with international standards or practice. This thoughtful, evidence-based approach will profoundly influence the trajectory of AI innovation and its benefits.