

## About The Future Society

December 2024

At The Future Society, we work to **align artificial intelligence through better governance**. With the capabilities and use of AI expanding rapidly, we know that this is a critical moment for governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and civil society to collectively ensure a safer, fairer future for all of us.

As an independent U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we analyze and propose sound AI policy recommendations, build relationships across the spectrum of decision-makers, and facilitate action-oriented dialogue to address risks and uphold fundamental rights.

Incubated at The Harvard Kennedy School in 2014, The Future Society has been working on how to govern powerful technologies since before concerns about their consequences became mainstream. We are uniquely positioned to advance AI governance in the United States, the European Union, and at the global level, with a trusted, high-performing team that currently includes 18 staff based in ten countries across four continents.

## Our Track Record

Over the last decade, we have been an influential player in AI policymaking. We have a strategic [methodology](#) for setting organizational priorities and seizing opportunities for impact, which has been key for securing our accomplishments.

### RECENT IMPACT IN NUMBERS: The depth and breadth of our work

(January 2023 to June 2024)

#### Research

- Produced more than **44 publications and memos**, with a primary focus on outlining rules for general-purpose AI in order to safeguard fundamental rights

#### Advocacy

- Promoted recommendations for trustworthy AI at **25+ conferences and workshops**
- Raised public awareness through **20+ interviews with media**

#### Field Engagement

- Convened **1,150+ people worldwide** for The Fifth Edition of The Athens Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law in Washington, D.C., and online
- Advised and engaged policymakers through **200+ meetings, briefings, and conversations**
- Participated in **20+ expert working groups**

### SELECTED STORIES OF IMPACT: How we have helped shape AI governance over the past ten years

(2014-2024)

- Global Civic Debate and Presentation at the European Parliament:** We gathered 3,300+ contributions from around the world and presented results at the European Parliament (2016-2018)
- U.S.-China AI Tech Summit:** From the beginning, we believed governance solutions to AI issues would require international coordination so we co-hosted the [first-ever public AI governance dialogue between American and Chinese technology executives](#) (2017-2018)
- Global Governance of AI Roundtable:** We facilitated the first and second [Global Governance of AI Roundtable](#) in Dubai, as part of the World Government Summit (2018-2019)
- Global Partnership on AI:** We completed [three commissioned projects](#) with the Global Partnership on AI (2019-2021)
- The Athens Roundtable on AI and the Rule of Law:** Over five editions, our annual flagship event [The Athens Roundtable](#) has brought together more than 4,000 policymakers, innovators, and thought leaders from 120 countries (2019-2024)
- OECD:** We researched and helped develop the [OECD AI Principles](#) and [Framework for the Classification of AI Systems](#), as well as the OECD.AI policy observatory and the Global Partnership on AI (2019-2022)
- National AI Strategies for Ghana, Rwanda, and Tunisia:** We supported the development of three [National AI Strategies](#) for sustainable growth (2020-2022)
- Massive Open Online Course on AI and the Rule of Law:** We worked with UNESCO to create a [six-module online course](#) on AI's application in justice systems (2022)
- European AI Act:** We led successful advocacy for guardrails for the most powerful AI systems, including [better rules](#) and [regulatory sandboxes](#) through our acclaimed [pioneering research](#) (2022-2024)
- European AI Office:** Our [blueprint](#) and recommendations helped shape the European AI Office (2023-2024)
- AI Action Summit Consultation:** We co-developed and administered the [multistakeholder consultation for France's AI Action Summit](#), supporting inclusion in global AI governance (2024-2025)

**“The Future Society has emerged as a pioneer in this space, building bridges across diverse communities of AI experts and practitioners around the world.”**

-Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and UNSG's Tech Envoy, United Nations

**“The Future Society's contributions to OECD.AI's work over the past six years have been invaluable. They helped give shape to our most relevant contributions to trustworthy AI, including the OECD AI Principles and the OECD Framework for the Classification of AI Systems.”**

-Karine Perset, Head, OECD.AI Policy Observatory

**“Their talented team has exhibited a unique understanding of the AI governance landscape, as well as a keen ability to identify, deconstruct, and tackle significant and tractable issues ... TFS brings an innovative and much-needed civil society voice to our field.”**

-Konstantinos Karachalios, Managing Director, IEEE-Standards Association

**“Unlocking AI requires balancing innovation with responsibility. The Future Society supports this through forward-looking leadership in intergovernmental institutions, convenings, and dialogues that advance AI governance. TFS plays a key role in shaping a future in which AI serves, rather than threatens, our collective well-being.”**

-Stuart Russell, Founder, Center for Human-Compatible AI, and Professor of Computer Science, UC Berkeley

**“Their pioneer work with strategic foresight on general-purpose AI systems and regulatory sandboxes is a great example that can positively influence the safeguarding of fundamental rights in the age of AI. At UNESCO, we are proud to partner with them.”**

-Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

## Why Support The Future Society?

The coming years will be important for establishing rules for the development and deployment of AI. In these momentous times, we are doubling down on efforts to provide policymakers with better advice and research. Here are a handful of reasons to consider funding our work in order to make a difference in advancing AI governance:

**1. AI governance is vital.** AI is an important technology, but our future will be the result of human decisions about how to govern AI.

**2. AI systems are already causing harm.** The consequences are widespread and documented.

**3. AI governance is tractable.** Better rules for AI will result in better AI.

**4. Investing in AI governance now helps us today and tomorrow.** Because rules have a compound effect over time, improving these rules now increases the returns in terms of impact.

**5. We take a prioritized, portfolio-based approach.** There are many ways to align AI, but we methodically make evidence-informed assessments in order to focus on the most effective interventions.

**6. We are independent.** As an organization not beholden to companies or governments, we work toward AI governance that prioritizes people over profits.

**7. Funding gaps limit our impact.** We have a number of potential activities queued up, but are currently unable to launch them due to funding constraints.

**8. The playing field isn't level.** Corporations are lobbying for their own interests with billions of dollars. Your support is crucial for independent nonprofits like us to serve the public interest.

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