2/3 Al Governance Alliance Briefing Paper Series 2024

Unlocking Value from Generative AI: Guidance for Responsible Transformation

IN COLLABORATION WITH IBM CONSULTING

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Executive summary

Organizations should emphasize responsible transformation with generative Al to build a sustainable future.

Generative AI entered the popular domain with the launch of OpenAI's ChatGPT in November 2022, igniting global fascination surrounding its capabilities and potential for transformative impact. As generative AI's technical maturity accelerates, its adoption by organizations seeking to capitalize on its potential is maturing at pace while also swiftly disrupting business and society and forcing leaders to rethink their strategies in real time. This paper addresses the impact of generative AI on industry and introduces best practices for responsible transformation.

Leaders have realized new generative AI opportunities for their organizations, from streamlining enterprise processes to supporting artists in reimagining furniture design or even aiding nations in addressing global climate challenges. From the public to the private sector, organizations are witnessing generative AI's ability to enhance enterprise productivity, create net new products or services, and redefine industries and societies. In adopting generative AI, leaders report a shift towards a use-case-based approach, focusing on evaluating and prioritizing use cases and structures that enable the successful deployment of generative AI technologies and compound value generation.

Organizations should evaluate potential use cases across the following domains: business impact, organisational readiness and investment strategy.

- Strategic alignment with the organization's goals, revenue and cost implications, and impact on resources are key factors when leaders prioritize use cases based on their potential for **business impact**.
- The requisite technical talent and infrastructure, the ability to track data and model lineage, and the governance structure to manage risk are

considerations when leaders evaluate use cases against their **operational readiness**.

 Balancing upfront development cost with reusability potential, projected time to value and an increasingly complex regulatory environment are criteria when leaders select use cases in alignment with an organization's investment strategy.

Following use case selection, organizations weigh benefits against downstream impacts such as impact to the workforce, sustainability or inherent technology risk such as hallucinations. A multistakeholder approach helps leaders to mitigate risk and scale responsibly.

- Multistakeholder governance with distributed ownership is central to addressing accountability.
- Communications teams that shape a cohesive narrative are essential to addressing trust through transparency.
- Operational structures that roadmap and cascade use cases to extract, realize, replicate and amplify value across the entire organization are key to addressing challenges to scale.
- Value-based change management is critical to addressing human impact and ensuring the workforce remains engaged and upskilled.

The findings in this briefing paper provide leaders with insights on how to realise the benefits of generative AI while mitigating its downstream impacts. Future publications will build on these recommendations for responsible transformation as generative AI becomes increasingly able to mimic human skills and reasoning, and technology advances in pursuit of artificial general intelligence.

Introduction

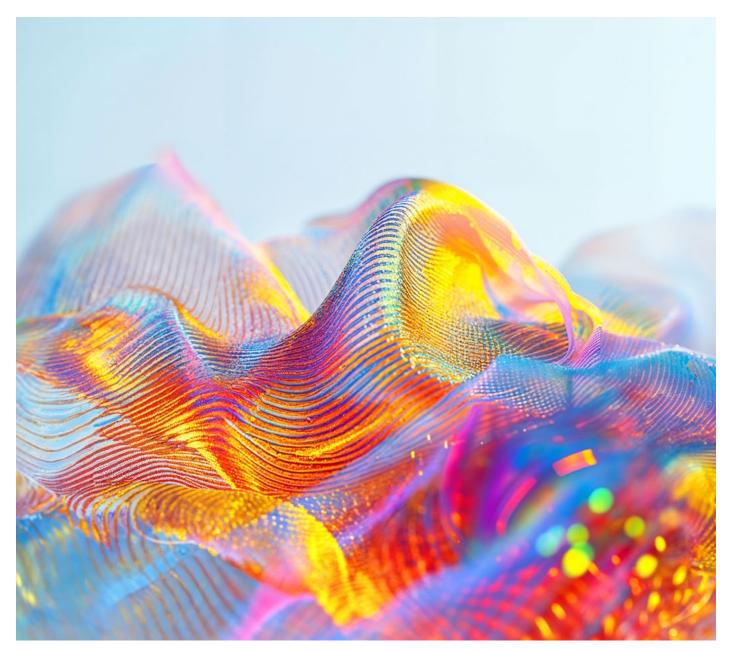
Generative AI raises new questions about responsible transformation for industry executives, government leaders and academia.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) has captured global imagination with its human-like capabilities and has shown the potential to elevate creativity, amplify productivity, reshape industries and enhance the human experience. As a result, cross-sector executives, government leaders and academia are considering the potential impact of this technology as they weigh answers to critical questions:

 Where are the growing opportunities and novel application areas to drive sustainable economic growth?

- What are the new challenges and downstream impacts?
- What are the best practices for scaling responsibly and bringing about exponential transformation?

Finally, as the curiosity to replicate or even exceed human intelligence grows in the future, what does this mean for organizations seeking to capitalize on the opportunities offered by this technology?



New opportunities with generative AI

Generative AI creates new opportunities but requires a distinctive approach to value generation focused on use cases and experimentation.

Generative AI is expected to unlock opportunities that will significantly impact the global economy. Organizations are already using generative AI to enhance existing products, services, operations and provide hyper-personalized customer experiences. While most use cases focus on boosting human capabilities, some have the potential to radically accelerate benefits to humanity. For example, novel synthetic protein structures generated to help fix DNA errors can significantly accelerate the creation of new cancer therapies.¹ Generative AI is also used to orchestrate deep synthesis of numerous data catalogues to enable work to protect the oceans.² These bolder bets have the potential to reshape not just entire industries but economies and societies at large. In general, use cases can be considered under different categories that include enhancing enterprise productivity, creating new products or services and, eventually, redefining industries and societies.

TABLE 1 Snapshot of sample generative AI case studies in the market

Category	Company	Challenge	Action	Impact
Enhancing enterprise productivity	Brex: automating corporate card expenses ³	Support corporate card customers to categorize transactions and add notes to meet company policies and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) compliance.	Brex, with OpenAI and Scale, used generative AI to create the Brex Assistant to streamline expense reporting, automatically classify expenses and create IRS- compliant notes.	Brex Assistant fully handles 51% of card swipes, saving time and improving expense accuracy and compliance. It generated over 1.4 million receipts and 1 million receipt memos.
Enhancing enterprise productivity	IKEA: reimagining furniture design ⁴	Seek creative solutions to aid furniture designers in crafting new designs inspired by their iconic past.	IKEA and SPACE10 used generative AI to explore furniture design concepts, training a model on 1970s and 1980s catalogues for students to create future- focused designs inspired by the past.	Furniture designers collaborate with Al, expanding design possibilities and speeding up cycles.
Enhancing enterprise productivity and net- new product or service	Google: streamlining software prototyping ⁵	Reduce software development cycles internally and simplify access to generative Al models.	Google created Google Al Studio, a generative Al tool to simplify software prototyping and democratize access to their foundation models, which were first used internally.	Increased proactive UX and product prototyping, provided an efficient UI for easy model prompting and was later launched as a new product in 179 countries and territories.
Net-new product or service	Synthesia and PepsiCo: reinventing the football fan experience ⁶	Connect brand and performance marketing efforts into one seamless experience.	Fans could generate and share personalized videos using Lionel Messi's Al avatar in eight languages, bypassing traditional production limits.	Seven million videos weregenerated, attracting over 38 million website visits in 24 hours.

TABLE 1 | Snapshot of sample generative AI case studies in the market (continued)

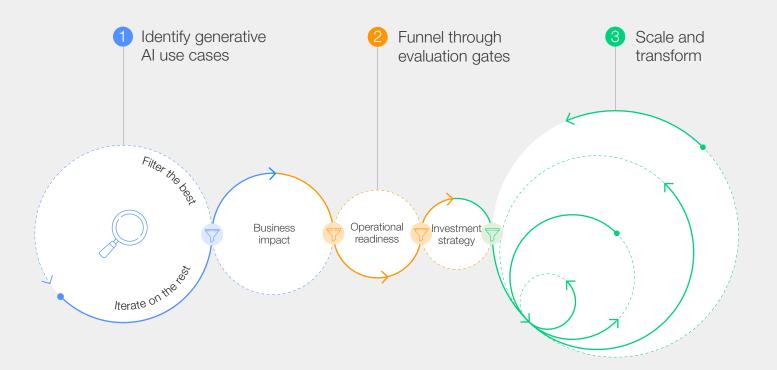
Category	Company	Challenge	Action	Impact
Redefining industries and societies	Insilico Medicine: accelerating drug discovery ^{7,8}	Discover and develop new treatments for serious diseases more quickly and cheaply compared to traditional processes.	Generative AI was used during the preclinical drug discovery process to identify a novel drug candidate for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.	A preclinical drug candidate was discovered in less than 18 months and at one-tenth of the cost of a conventional programme. The drug candidate has now entered phase two trials.
Redefining industries and societies	NASA and IBM: unique global planning for climate phenomena and sustainability ⁹	Build a unique foundation model to generate insights from over 250 terabytes (TBs) of mission satellite imagery.	NASA and IBM created the first open-source geospatial foundation model, available via Hugging Face, using NASA data to enhance and democratize global environmental research and planning.	The model is estimated to increase geospatial analysis speed by four times with 50% less labelled data; used to solve global climate challenges, including reforestation in Kenya and other development efforts in the Global South.
• Organizations are shifting towards smaller, use-case based approaches that emphasize ideation and experimentation.	The speed of adoption and implementation of generative AI is unparalleled to any other technological advancement. The technology is no longer dependent on the manual labelling of significant amounts of data – often the most time- consuming and costly part of traditional AI workflows. Across the board, leaders report a new approach to generative AI opportunities that extends beyond rapid proofs of concept (POCs) based on large models. Instead, organizations are shifting towards smaller, use-case based approaches that emphasize ideation and experimentation. They are involving the workforce in the use case discovery and ideation process. Smaller use cases with low complexity are often applied first, allowing		leaders to find value while minimizing downstream implications. In either case, leaders start with diverse POCs, which are scaled across the enterprise once value is proven. In many instances, generative AI experiments may yield unexpected learnings about where value, and often also cost and challenges, truly lie. Organizations may realize the compound benefits of generative AI when implementing it in tandem with technologies such as causal AI models ¹⁰ to increase explainability, advances in quantum technologies to accelerate the generative AI life cycle, or 5G to increase reach. These compounding benefits will help organizations to prioritize use cases for adoption.	

Assessing use cases for adoption

Generative AI use cases may be assessed by business impact, organizational readiness and investment strategy prior to adoption.

As organizations consider generative AI, they must assess all factors involved to move a use case from concept to implementation. Leaders need to ensure that each use case benefits the organization, its customers, its workforce and/or society. While evaluation criteria can differ between organizations, the following gates comprise the most common approaches adopted by industry leaders to evaluate the viability and value-generation potential of use cases. The order is not sequential and can differ depending on each organization and use case.

FIGURE 1 Funnelling use cases through evaluation gates



2.1 | Evaluation gate: business impact

Leaders evaluate the use case's value alignment with the organization's strategic objectives and its stakeholder responsibility. After alignment on the outcomes and generative AI as the best technology to address a specific use case, the impact of each use case on an organization can be categorized as follows:

- Scaling human capability by enhancing productivity and existing human skills (e.g. near instant new content generation for rapid idea iteration; creation of multiple versions of an advertising campaign).
- 2. Raising the floor by increasing accessibility to technologies and capabilities previously requiring specific resources, skills and expertise (e.g. giving everyone the ability to code).
- 3. Raising the ceiling by solving problems thus far unsolvable by humans (e.g. generating new

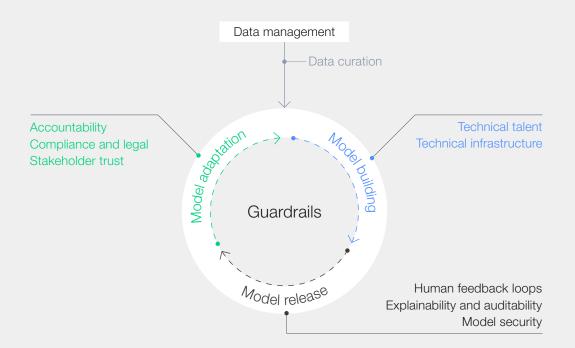
molecular structures, which could aid the creation of novel and more effective therapeutic agents.¹¹

Generative AI opportunities have created strong competitive pressures and inaction can come with significant opportunity costs.¹² In industries such as marketing or consumer goods, understanding the criticality of time to market and improved experience for users, helps leaders prioritise use cases and resource allocation. Reputation is another important consideration - will the use case enhance the organization's brand as a pioneer of innovation? Enabling the workforce to access generative AI tools can be an important factor for talent attraction and retention. When generative Al performs administrative tasks that previously required significant time and effort, the workforce can repurpose their time from rote activities to those that allow them to explore their creativity and hone their unique skillset.

2.2 | Evaluation gate: operational readiness

Responsible adoption of generative AI requires operational readiness for technological dependencies and outcomes. Before organizations expose generative AI to their data, data curation is essential to ensure it is accurate, secure, representative and relevant. In developing or implementing generative AI technologies, organizations must consider if they have the right technical talent and infrastructure, such as appropriate models and necessary computing power. In deploying generative AI technologies, organizations should ensure human feedback loops are in place to mitigate risks by ensuring user feedback is elicited, standardized and incorporated into the continuous fine-tuning of the model. Additionally, organizations require the ability to track model lineage and data sources that inform model outputs, as well as vet models and systems for cybersecurity robustness.

FIGURE 2 Operational readiness considerations (non-exhaustive) across the model life cycle



Organizations will be held responsible for the outcomes of their AI technology and must, therefore, ensure compliance with the global complexity of regulation and policies as cited in *Generative AI Governance: Shaping the Collective Global Future*.¹³ This will require new skills and roles for accountability, compliance and legal responsibilities as a multistakeholder approach. Generative AI's

evolutionary nature and its inherent potential for downstream implications create a greater need to continually evaluate even if the necessary guardrails are in place. Finally, organizations need a plan to enhance stakeholder trust with a technology that can elicit great scepticism to ensure their workforce, customers and other critical parties responsibly adopt generative AI.

2.3 | Evaluation gate: investment strategy

While investment considerations are important to any organizational decision-making, they are particularly significant for generative AI opportunities. Use cases often require a higher upfront investment, the regulatory environment is becoming increasingly complex and the technology is evolving at a rapid pace.

When prioritizing use cases, leaders must consider if each merits the use of models adopted from open-source communities, acquired from other third parties or developed in-house. Model selection must account for alignment with the use case, speed to market, requisite resource investments, including capital and talent, licensing and acceptable use policies, risk exposure and competitive differentiation offered by each option.

Leaders evaluate the reusability potential of a use case across the organization, as it can offset development costs and curtail sustainability footprints. Additionally, they evaluate whether the use case can operate viably within the current regulatory environment and whether the organization can monitor compliance to minimize legal risk. This can require significant investment of capital and human resources, such as developers, lawyers, senior leadership and ethics boards.

Talent availability is central to an organization's investment strategy as well. Total investment may include upskilling, re-skilling or hiring additional employees with appropriate generative AI skills, such as content creation, model development or model tuning.

Following the evaluation of use cases by business impact, organizational readiness and investment strategy, the next step is to implement and scale selected use cases. How can they maximize opportunities while mitigating risks to ensure a responsible and successful transformation?



3 Responsible transformation

A multistakeholder approach creates value while balancing challenges of trust, accountability, scale and the workforce.

3.1 | The case for responsible transformation

As The Presidio Recommendations on Responsible Generative AI detail, responsible transformation requires specific considerations for generative AI's unique capabilities, along with multistakeholder collaboration and proper steering during the transformation journey. Global generative AI regulations and standards (NIST et al.) are changing, and so the current need for self-governance is shared by organizations and leaders. There is also a need to ensure that the technology is accessible to all. Organizations are committed to aligning with global environmental and sustainability goals, pledging to adopt AI in a responsible and accessible manner.

The lack of responsibility in an organization's transformation can have many negative consequences, which are multi-fold and compounded for a technology as revolutionary as generative AI. From perpetuating biases, introducing security vulnerabilities and spreading misinformation – causing severe reputational damage – irresponsible generative AI applications and practices not only threaten the organization itself but can also negatively impact society at speed and scale.

Generative AI comes with several downstream implications associated with more traditional forms of AI, together with amplified and new ones. The following are most often noted for their potential impact, with a further list to be explored in future work.

1. Workforce and talent impact

While AI is commonly used to automate tasks, the scale at which generative AI can accomplish this amplifies its impact on the workforce. The potential risk of job displacement presents significant challenges for society that can exacerbate inequality. Research indicates that generative AI's automation capabilities provide the greatest exposure for clerical jobs, which have traditionally been held by women. In some cases, particularly in developing countries, these types of jobs may cease to exist, removing an avenue that has historically served as an entry for women into the labour market.¹⁴ Additionally, generative AI's novel capability to create, generate and simulate human-like interactions may now overlap with tasks in creative industries, and its ability to rapidly learn domain expertise may influence the roles of knowledge workers.

Skills and workloads are changing, and organizational structures need to evolve at pace.¹⁵ Generative AI is profoundly changing the way employees view their jobs and the value work brings. Nevertheless, the technology presents a unique opportunity for organizations to re-evaluate their working practices and skills: to inspire, incentivize, motivate, upskill and reskill workers, while evaluating the agility of their own organizational structures.

2. Hallucination impact

Generative Al introduces the risk of hallucinations, which can propagate misinformation, leading to confusion, mistrust and even potential harm. Equally, hallucinations are a corollary of generative Al's capability to create net-new content, which is central to its power to accelerate creativity. Organizations need to understand whether the benefit of content creation outweighs the risk of hallucination for each use case.

Hallucinations are particularly concerning when generative AI outputs appear authoritative but are factually inaccurate, especially when used to influence decision-making that may impact global communities in areas such as health, politics and science. Organizations that rely on digital content production or customer engagement face challenges as brand reputation and customer trust could be damaged. Guardrails from *Presidio AI Framework: Towards Safe Generative AI Models* need to be considered and embedded in the process.¹⁶

3. Sustainability impact

Training and fine-tuning generative AI models demand very high energy consumption.¹⁷ Growing global efforts to offset or mitigate their sustainability footprint are ongoing, such as advancements in model, runtime and hardware

optimization, as well as improved education on model choices. Algorithmic approaches like federated computing can further minimize the energy consumption of data collection and processing. Organizations also consider their choices in data needs as a growing move towards smaller, more targeted, and more energy-efficient models underlines.

In addition to ensuring generative AI models are more sustainable, the technology itself can be used to improve sustainability, for example, through use cases focussed on energy modelling and supply chain optimization.¹⁸ As the risks associated with generative AI amplify and expand, traditional organizational structures need to pivot with agility. Leaders need to ensure cross-functional connectivity from the board level down and across all impacted functions. The following are four interconnected and interdependent functions that support this organizational effort to balance the opportunities and benefits of generative AI with its downstream impacts as organizations implement and scale generative AI applications.

3.2 Addressing accountability: defined governance for immediate and downstream outcomes

An Al ethics council modelled on value-based principles is indispensable for any organization. Multistakeholder governance with distributed ownership is central to responsible transformation in the age of generative AI. This approach is characteristic of industry leaders, with legal, governance, IT, cybersecurity, human resources (HR), as well as environmental and sustainability representatives requiring a seat at the table to ensure responsible transformation across the organization. The positive and negative externalities of generative AI expand the conventional responsibilities in governance towards a more holistic, human-centred and values-driven approach.

An AI ethics council modelled on value-based principles¹⁹ is indispensable for any organization; larger organizations appoint members from their stakeholder and shareholder groups, while smaller organizations may need to rely on a limited committee or an external ethics council. Councils must collaborate with stakeholders on aspects such as workplace policies, even if they do **not** deploy generative AI, as the workforce is likely already using it at work on personal devices. The council should expand to incorporate a diverse set of members from across the entire organization to ensure the responsible adoption of not just individual use cases but also emerging and intersecting strategies on open technologies, artificial general intelligence (AGI), 5G and quantum technology.

The evolving nature of generative AI requires rigorous self-regulation and internal AI governance leads may serve as the sentinels of the organization. Generative AI supports human-led analysis in regulatory, environmental and sustainability efforts. It assists in algorithm monitoring and policy formulation, but crucially, it requires human oversight to ensure responsible and effective application, addressing potential risks and maintaining quality outcomes.

3.3 Addressing trust: enabling transparency through communication

Generative AI evokes mixed reactions from stakeholders, placing a high demand on communications teams. These teams shape a cohesive narrative to showcase how their organization optimizes transparency, explainability, coherence and trustworthiness on a use case basis. They play a role in educating stakeholders and shareholders on the capabilities and fallibilities of the technology while managing expectations. They can inspire and instruct end-users about the benefits on the horizon, thus building trust and increasing adoption. External communications need to assuage stakeholders that seek innovation, but not at the cost of ethical behaviour, trust and actions that prove that the organization is committed to the greater good of humanity. Internal accountability and advocacy are needed from top leadership to obtain buy-in from the workforce and establish a culture that benefits from generative AI. Examples of effective trust programmes include taking a prominent ethics stance in policy or the executive community, buddy programmes for all employees seeking (generative) AI immersion and novel career pathways that can lead to increased trust and ownership from the workforce.

3.4 Addressing challenges to scale: diverse and agile operations structures

Initial adoption of generative AI across organizations has focused on targeted, often isolated, use cases. However, as leaders plan their strategic roadmaps, many are challenged with how to scale these use cases across their organizations to realize the compound benefits of generative AI.

Operations teams are the primary implementers of use cases. Data analysts, research and development teams, resource managers, HR executives and business leaders ensure use cases are roadmapped and cascaded across the organization for maximum benefit. In their initial development, use cases require a diverse operational structure to ensure a multistakeholder approach to extracting, realizing, replicating and amplifying value. However, as use cases become integrated and scale, an interlocking and agile operational structure is needed to understand how compound value can be unlocked, and corollary impacts to other parts of the workforce or other lines of business can be anticipated.

3.5 Addressing human impact: value-based change management

Technologies that develop as rapidly as generative Al require adoption by a workforce that evolves at pace. The implications of generative Al on the workforce are central to business and need to be managed well. The chief human resources officer, the chief information officer, and the chief financial officer teams should come together to support the workforce as needed when implementing and scaling generative Al use cases.

Leaders plan and implement talent transformation while ensuring staff have access to the necessary technological tools and training. This starts with communicating the vision for generative Al pilots that clearly states desired benefits for customers and employees alike, together with emerging professional development pathways for staff. Competencies, capabilities and skills are rapidly evolving as generative Al use cases are implemented across the organization. Change management responsibilities across the organization are significant. HR professionals engage with the implementation of use cases from the beginning so they can proactively assess the impact on staff and put workforce transformation plans in place. Including employees in idea generation for use cases and encouraging them to own their career paths can increase engagement. Hackathons and company-wide training days are effective in upskilling the workforce while also encouraging experimentation and innovation.

The immense potential of generative AI for benefit as well as for harm requires that all four of these primary functions are dynamic, interlocked and in equilibrium. The effectiveness of this interlock correlates directly with the extent to which an organization scales generative AI applications responsibly.

Conclusion

New technologies driving productivity have always been positioned as repurposing workers to highervalue work, which has traditionally required human oversight and creativity. However, with generative AI becoming increasingly advanced in its ability to mimic human skills and capabilities, it opens more questions about its impact on the organizations choosing to adopt it. Technological advances towards human reasoning in the pursuit of artificial general intelligence demand ongoing discourse on the responsibility of organizations to their workforce, customers and wider society. Future work through the World Economic Forum's AI Governance Alliance will build on this foundation and address essential considerations, such as internal metrics for responsibility, understanding organizational barriers to responsible transformation, as well as broader issues such as intellectual property, regulatory alignment and workforce considerations. Generative AI is reimagining the status quo for every organization. Providing a roadmap for organizations that guides them to innovate responsibly is key to adopting and scaling this powerful technology.

Technologies that develop as rapidly as generative AI require adoption by a workforce that evolves at pace.

Contributors

This paper is a combined effort based on numerous interviews, discussions, workshops and research. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the individuals or organizations

involved in the project or listed below. Sincere thanks are extended to those who contributed their insights via interviews and workshops, as well as those not captured below.

World Economic Forum

Hubert Halopé

Lead, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Devendra Jain

Lead, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technologies
Daegan Kingery

Early Careers Programme, Al Governance Alliance

Connie Kuang Lead, Generative AI & Metaverse Value Creation

Benjamin Larsen Lead, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Cathy Li

Head of Al, Data and Metaverse; Deputy Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution; Member of the Executive Committee

Al Governance Alliance Project Fellows

Ann-Sophie Blank Managing Consultant, IBM

Alison Dewhirst Senior Managing Consultant, IBM

Heather Domin Executive Fellow, Director of Responsible Al Initiatives, IBM

Sophia Greulich Senior Consultant, IBM

Michelle Hannah Jung Senior Managing Consultant, IBM

Jennifer Kirkwood Executive Fellow, Partner, IBM

Avi Mehra Associate Partner, IBM

Sandra Misiaszek Associate Partner, IBM

Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation is extended to the following working group members, who spent numerous hours providing critical input and feedback to the drafts. Their diverse insights are fundamental to the success of this work.

Martin Adams Co-Founder, METAPHYSIC

Basma AlBuhairan

Managing Director, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Saudi Arabia

Uthman Ali Senior Product Analyst, Al Ethics SME, BP

Mohamed Alsharid Chief Digital Officer, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)

Stefan Badža

Director, Team for Special Projects, Office of the Prime Minister of Serbia

Ricardo Baptista Leite Chief Executive Officer, Health AI, The Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health

Elisabeth Bechtold Head, Al Governance, Zurich Insurance Group

Sébastien Bey Senior Vice-President and Global Head of IT at Siemens Smart Infrastructure, Siemens

Lu Bo Vice-President; Head, Corporate Strategy, Lenovo Group

Ting Cai

Group Senior Managing Executive Officer; Chief Data Officer, Rakuten Group

Cansu Canca

Director, Responsible Al Practice, Institute for Experiential Al, Northeastern University

Nadia Carlsten Vice-President, Product, SandboxAQ

Will Cavendish Global Digital Services Leader, Arup Group

Rohit Chauhan Executive Vice President, AI & Security Solutions, Mastercard International

Adrian Cox Managing Director, Thematic Strategist, Deutsche Bank Research, Deutsche Bank

Bhavesh Dayalji Chief Executive Officer, Kensho Technologies

Evren Dereci Chief Executive Officer, KocDigital

Dan Diasio Global Artificial Intelligence Consulting Leader, EY

P. Murali Doraiswamy Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine

Elena Fersman Vice-President and Head of Global Al Accelerator, Ericsson

Ryan Fitzpatrick Senior Vice-President, Strategy, Vindex

Lucas Glass Vice-President, Analytics Center of Excellence, IQVIA

Mark Gorenberg Chair, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Mark Greaves Executive Director, Al2050, Schmidt Futures

Olaf Groth Professional Faculty, Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Sandeep Grover Trust & Safety Leadership, TikTok

Sangeeta Gupta Senior Vice-President, National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)

Bill Higgins Vice-President, watsonx Platform Engineering and Open Innovation, IBM Matissa Hollister Assistant Professor of Organizational Behaviour, McGill University

Michael G. Jacobides Professor of Strategy; Sir Donald Gordon Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, London Business School

Fariz Jafarov Executive Director, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Azerbaijan

Reena Jana Head, Content & Partnership Enablement, Responsible Innovation, Google

Jeff Jarvis Professor, Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York

Emilia Javorsky Director, Futures Program, Future of Life Institute

Siddhartha Jha Al and Digital Innovation Lead, Botnar Foundation

Shailesh Jindal Vice-President of Corporate Strategy, Palo Alto Networks

Athina Kanioura Executive Vice-President, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, PepsiCo

Vijay Karunamurthy Head and Vice-President, Engineering, Scale Al

Sean Kask Chief Al Strategy Officer, SAP

Faisal Kazim Head, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, United Arab Emirates

Rom Kosla Chief Information Officer, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Nikhil Krishnan Chief Technology Officer, Products, C3 Al

Sebastien Lehnherr Chief Information Officer, SLB

Giovanni Leoni Head, Business Development and Strategy, Credo Al

Art Levy Chief Strategy Officer, Brex

Leland Lockhart Director, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Vista Equity Partners Harrison Lung Group Chief Strategy Officer, e&

Manny Maceda Chief Executive Officer, Bain & Company

Jim Mainard Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice-President, Deep Technology, XPRIZE Foundation

Naveen Kumar Malik Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, HCL Technologies

Thomas W. Malone Professor of Management and Director, Center for Collective Intelligence, MIT Sloan School of Management

Darren Martin Chief Digital Officer, AtkinsRéalis

Francesco Marzoni Chief Data & Analytics Officer, Ingka Group (IKEA)

Darko Matovski Chief Executive Officer, causaLens

Andrew McMullan Chief Data and Analytics Office, Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Nicolas Miailhe Founder and President, The Future Society (TFS)

Steven Mills Partner and Chief Artificial Intelligence Ethics Officer, Boston Consulting Group

Angela Mondou President and Chief Executive Officer, TECHNATION

Yao Morin Chief Technology Officer, JLL

Mashael Muftah International and Regional Organizations Adviser, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) of Qatar

Abhishek Pandey Global Head of Services Business Development, GEP

Charna Parkey Real-Time Al Product and Strategy Leader, DataStax

Cyril Perducat Senior Vice-President and Chief Technology Officer, Rockwell Automation

Andreas Prøsch Vice-President and Head, Aker Al Unit, Aker ASA

Philippe Rambach Chief Al Officer, Schneider Electric Mary Rozenman Chief Financial Officer and Chief Business Officer, Insitro

Crystal Rugege Managing Director, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Rwanda

Prasad Sankaran Executive Vice-President, Software and Platform Engineering, Cognizant Technology Solutions US

Isa Scheunpflug Head, Automation Office, UBS

Mikkel Skovborg Senior Vice-President, Innovation, Novo Nordisk Foundation

Genevieve Smith Founding Co-Director, Responsible & Equitable AI Initiative, Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research Lab (UC Berkeley)

Eric Snowden Vice-President, Design, Digital Media, Adobe

Jim Stratton Chief Technology Officer, Workday

Murali Subbarao Vice-President, Generative Al Solutions, ServiceNow

Norihiro Suzuki Chairman of the Board, Hitachi Research Institute, Hitachi

Behnam Tabrizi Co-Director and Teaching Faculty of Executive Program, Stanford University

Amogh Umbarkar Vice-President, SAP Product Engineering, SAP

Ingrid Verschuren Executive Vice-President, Data and Al; General Manager, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Dow Jones

Daniel Verten Strategy Partner, Synthesia

Judy Wade Managing Director, CPP Investments

Anna Marie Wagner Senior Vice-President, Head of Al, Ginkgo Bioworks

Min Wang Chief Technology Officer, Splunk

Amy Webb Chief Executive Officer, Future Today Institute

Chaoze Wu Head of R&D Department, Managing Director, China Securities Joe Xavier Chief Technology Officer, Grammarly

Alice Xiang Global Head, Al Ethics, Sony

Zhang Ya-Qin Chair Professor and Dean, Tsinghua University

Zhang Ying Professor of Marketing and Behavioral Science, Guanghua School of Management, Peking University

Zhang Yuxin Chief Technology Officer, Huawei Cloud, Huawei Technologies

Yijie Zeng Chief Technology Officer, Beijing Langboat Technology

World Economic Forum

John Bradley Lead, Metaverse Initiative

Karyn Gorman Communications Lead, Metaverse Initiative

Jenny Joung Specialist, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Hannah Rosenfeld Specialist, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Supheakmungkol Sarin Head, Data and Artificial Intelligence Ecosystems

Stephanie Teeuwen Specialist, Data and Al Karla Yee Amezaga Lead, Data Policy and Al

Hesham Zafar Lead, Digital Trust

IBM

Phaedra Boinodiris Associate Partner

Frank Madden Privacy and Regulatory Risk Adviser

Jesús Mantas Global Managing Director

Christina Montgomery Chief Privacy & Trust Officer

Catherine Quinlan Vice-President, Al Ethics

Sencan Sengul Distinguished Engineer

Jamie VanDodick Director AI Ethics and Governance

Production

Laurence Denmark Creative Director, Studio Miko

Sophie Ebbage Designer, Studio Miko

Martha Howlett Editor, Studio Miko

Endnotes

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91–93 route de la Capite CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212 Fax: +41 (0) 22 786 2744 contact@weforum.org www.weforum.org