

Key Takeaways from “Enabling Principles for AI Governance”

Given the multifaceted potential of artificial intelligence, in the United States, a flexible approach to AI governance offers the most likely path to success. The different development trajectories, risks, and harms from various AI systems make the prospect of a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach implausible, if not impossible. Regulators should begin to build strength through the heavy lifting of addressing today’s challenges. Even if early regulatory efforts need to be revised regularly, the cycle of repetition and feedback will lead to improved muscle memory, crucial to handling more advanced future systems whose risks are not yet well understood.

In order for future AI governance efforts to prove most effective, we offer three principles for U.S. policymakers to follow. We have drawn these thematic principles from across CSET’s wide body of original, in-depth research, as well as granular findings, and specific recommendations on different aspects of AI, which we cite throughout this report. They are:

- 1. Know the terrain of AI risk and harm:** Use incident tracking and horizon-scanning across industry, academia, and the government to understand the extent of AI risks and harms; and gather supporting data to inform governance efforts and manage risk.
- 2. Prepare humans to capitalize on AI:** Develop AI literacy among policymakers and the public to be aware of AI opportunities, risks, and harms while employing AI applications effectively, responsibly, and lawfully.
- 3. Preserve adaptability and agility:** Develop policies that can be updated and adapted as AI evolves, avoiding onerous regulations or regulations that become obsolete with technological progress; and ensure that legislation does not allow incumbent AI firms to crowd out new competitors through regulatory capture.

By adhering to these principles—understanding AI incidents, closely monitoring tech advancement, fostering AI literacy, and maintaining regulatory flexibility—the United States can lead in responsible AI development. This approach will help safeguard important societal values, promote innovation, and navigate the dynamic landscape of AI advancements. These enabling principles offer a roadmap for crafting agile, informed policies that can keep pace with technological progress and ensure AI benefits society as a whole.

For more information:

- Download the report: <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/enabling-principles-for-ai-governance/>
- Contact us: cset@georgetown.edu