

# The Theia Manifesto for AI and Emerging Technologies

## *Principles for Human-Centered Progress*

### **Human judgment. Local values. Global cooperation.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies should expand human capability and serve the public good. Theia Institute offers these principles as a common foundation for practitioners who design, deploy, secure, and govern technology across sectors and borders.

#### **1. Start with people and purpose.**

Define the human need, the intended benefit, and who may be affected. Measure progress through outcomes for people and communities.

#### **2. AI is a tool, not a substitute.**

AI should extend human expertise, judgment, and creativity. Consequential decisions require clear human responsibility and meaningful oversight, with the information, competence, and authority to question, intervene, and seek correction.

#### **3. Respect local values and protect human dignity.**

Draw on local knowledge, languages, cultural values, and institutional realities. Involve affected communities in shaping decisions while upholding human dignity and fundamental rights.

#### **4. Establish readiness through evidence.**

Test technology for its intended use and setting. Assess benefits, foreseeable harms, and limitations. Invite scrutiny proportionate to the stakes, and revise conclusions as evidence changes.

#### **5. Make responsibility traceable.**

Identify who is accountable for design, deployment, use, and outcomes. Preserve relevant decisions and evidence, and give affected people meaningful ways to raise concerns and seek remedy.

#### **6. Build in cybersecurity and privacy.**

Protect people, data, and essential services from design through operation and retirement. Test safeguards, monitor evolving threats, and prepare to contain and recover from incidents.

#### **7. Govern continuously and proportionately.**

Match oversight to intended use, potential harm, and uncertainty. Establish authority to

monitor, modify, pause, or retire systems, and revisit decisions as technology and conditions change.

#### **8. Design for real conditions.**

Account for limited infrastructure, unequal access, disruption, and differences in institutional capacity. Build systems and institutions that can adapt, recover, and maintain essential functions.

#### **9. Cooperate to build shared capability.**

Combine expertise across disciplines and borders. Share knowledge responsibly, strengthen local skills and institutions, and widen participation in shaping technology's benefits.

### **Putting the principles to work**

Ask: Who benefits? Who may be harmed? What evidence supports use? Who is responsible? Can people intervene? Will the system remain dependable under real conditions?

*Theia invites practitioners, institutions, and communities worldwide to put these principles into practice and contribute to their continued development.*

**Theia Institute, Washington DC**

Version 3.6