

BGF-AIWS Family



*A Beacon for the AI Age*

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# THE BOSTON DECLARATION

*On the Primacy of the Human Person  
in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*

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Proclaimed on July 4, 2026 · Boston, Massachusetts  
250th Anniversary of American Independence

*For Humanity in the AI Age*



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## Preamble

We stand at a turning point in the history of humanity.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, in this land, a people declared that human beings are not the property of kings — that each person is endowed with a dignity no crown may grant and no power may withdraw. From that declaration grew the institutions of trust on which free peoples have depended ever since.

We gather now at a new threshold. Artificial Intelligence is becoming one of the most powerful forces ever created by human civilization. It offers extraordinary promise — to advance knowledge, health, education, discovery, prosperity, and human flourishing. Yet it also raises profound questions of freedom, responsibility, dignity, conscience, and the future of civilization itself.

As these systems grow in capability, autonomy, and influence, humanity must reaffirm a timeless truth: that the human person remains the source of dignity, conscience, moral judgment, responsibility, creativity, wisdom, and legitimate authority.

No machine, however intelligent, possesses human dignity. No algorithm can bear the conscience of a human being. No artificial system may hold ultimate authority over the destiny of humanity. Technology is created by human beings; it must remain accountable to human beings; it must serve human beings.

The purpose of Artificial Intelligence is not to replace humanity, but to elevate it; not to diminish human freedom, but to enlarge human opportunity; not to weaken human responsibility, but to

strengthen humanity's capacity to pursue truth, justice, peace, creativity, and the common good.

The destiny of Artificial Intelligence is fulfilled only when it advances human wisdom, human dignity, and human flourishing.

We therefore declare, for the age now beginning, the primacy of the human person — not the supremacy of one intelligence over another, but the enduring truth that the person is the measure and the purpose of all we build.

We make this declaration not in fear of what we have created, but in fidelity to who we are. And we make it not for one nation alone, but for all humanity — inheriting the legacy of two and a half centuries of freedom, and offering it forward to a world that must now learn to live wisely with the intelligence it has made.

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## THE CENTRAL AFFIRMATION

Artificial Intelligence may surpass human intelligence in many domains.  
It must never surpass the primacy of the human person.

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## The Ten Principles of Human Primacy

*Principles for Upholding the Primacy of the Human Person in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*

Upon these truths we affirm the following principles. Each is a commitment of conviction; and each is bound to a means by which it may be made real, measured, and kept — through the work the Boston Global Forum and AIWS have pioneered for the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

## I. The Dignity of the Human Person

Every human person possesses inherent and inviolable dignity. No system may diminish, commodify, or violate it; and human dignity must remain the highest value in the design, deployment, and governance of Artificial Intelligence.

*This we secure through Human Dignity and Privacy as foundations of the AIWS Trust Standards.*

## II. The Conscience of the Human Person

The capacity for moral judgment belongs uniquely to human beings. Artificial Intelligence may inform decisions, but moral responsibility can never be delegated to a machine; human conscience must remain the final guide for decisions affecting human life.

*This we secure through the principle of Human-in-Command over every morally weighty decision.*

## III. Human Command Over Intelligence

Human beings shall retain meaningful authority over advanced AI systems — the right to understand, to refuse, and to intervene. No autonomous system shall hold irreversible authority over decisions that fundamentally affect human life, liberty, or the future of civilization.

*This we secure through Human Oversight and Agency, a cornerstone of the AIWS Trust Architecture.*

## IV. The Right to Truth

Every person has the right to know what is real and what is made — to the provenance of what they see and hear, and to an information commons that is not poisoned by deception.

*This we secure through AIWS Information Trust and the standards of provenance that distinguish the genuine from the counterfeit.*

## V. Human Freedom and Self-Determination

Artificial Intelligence must strengthen, never diminish, human freedom. It should widen opportunity, knowledge, participation, and self-determination, and must never become an instrument of domination or oppression.

*This we secure through the Democratic Values that anchor the AIWS Trust Standards.*

## VI. Human Creativity and Compassion

Human creativity is among humanity's most precious gifts. Artificial Intelligence must serve as a partner that enlarges the creative spirit, never as its replacement; for civilization advances through human imagination, curiosity, and inspiration. Yet civilization is sustained not by creativity alone, but also by compassion, empathy, and care for one another. Artificial Intelligence should strengthen humanity's capacity for creativity and compassion alike, helping human beings flourish together rather than drift apart.

*This we secure through Creativity, one of the four lights of AIWS Lumina.*

## VII. The Primacy of Human Wisdom and Solidarity

Intelligence alone is insufficient to guide civilization. The purpose of Artificial Intelligence must be to support the growth of human wisdom; and wisdom — not capability — must remain the guiding force behind intelligence. Wisdom also requires recognition of our shared humanity. In an interconnected world, Artificial Intelligence should strengthen cooperation, solidarity, and the common good among peoples and nations.

*This we secure through the measure of Human Flourishing and Wisdom — the soul of AIWS,  
the AI Wisdom Society.*

## VIII. Human Responsibility

The creators, deployers, and institutions that govern Artificial Intelligence remain responsible for its actions and its consequences. Responsibility cannot be transferred to an algorithm; and the greater the power of the system, the greater the responsibility of those who wield it.

*This we secure through Accountability as a binding obligation, not a courtesy.*

## IX. Accountability and Trust

Artificial Intelligence systems must be transparent, auditable, and accountable. Those who would ask for trust must first earn it, and stand ready to be measured; for accountability is indispensable to trust.

*This we secure through the AIWS Trust Standards, the AIWS Trust Rating, and the AIWS Trust Index.*

## X. Human Stewardship of Civilization

Humanity remains the steward of its own civilization. The future of society, culture, democracy, and human destiny must remain under human guidance. Artificial Intelligence is a powerful tool created by humanity; it must never become the ultimate author of humanity's future.

*This we advance through the AIWS Trust Order and the Tokyo Compact, which seek to align power with responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.*

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## Commitments

These principles are not a conclusion, but a beginning. We call upon governments, technology companies, research institutions, educational organizations, civil society, and citizens throughout the world to uphold them — and to join in building the institutions the age requires:

Trustworthy AI and human-centered governance;  
Trust Infrastructure for the AI Age;  
Information Trust and provenance against deception;  
Standards of safety, accountability, and Human Command;  
Education that cultivates wisdom alongside intelligence;  
International cooperation among trusted partners.

To this work the Boston Global Forum and AIWS pledge what they have built and will continue to build: the AIWS Trust Standards and Trust Infrastructure, the AIWS Trust Rating and Trust Index, the AIWS Trust Order, the Tokyo Compact, AIWS Information Trust, and the fellowship of the Lumina Circle — each dedicated to preserving human dignity and human responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

Inspired by this Declaration, the Boston Global Forum and AIWS shall lead the development of a Constitution for Humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, to be presented to the world in 2027, on the tenth anniversary of AIWS.

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## Call to Humanity

The future of Artificial Intelligence is, in the end, a human choice.

The defining question of our time is not whether machines will become more intelligent. The defining question is whether humanity will remain wise enough to guide that intelligence toward the common good.

Future generations may inherit technologies more powerful than any known in history. They must also inherit the enduring principles that protect human dignity, freedom, responsibility, and wisdom.

*And so we return to where we began — the central affirmation of this Declaration:*

Artificial Intelligence may surpass human intelligence in many domains.  
It must never surpass the primacy of the human person.

Let this truth guide humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Let it inspire the institutions we build, the technologies we create, and the future we choose. Let it stand as a covenant — to freedom, democracy, peace, human dignity, and the flourishing of all humanity.

*The Circle is open. Let those who share this conviction join it, and carry it onward.*

*For Humanity in the AI Age — from Boston, on the Fourth of July, in the year two thousand twenty-six.*

*The Boston Declaration · Proclaimed July 4, 2026 · Boston*

# FOUNDING SIGNATORIES

*Seventeen signatories — honoring 2017, the founding year of AIWS*

## AMERICA 250: AI PIONEERS

Yann LeCun

Alex Pentland

Vinton G. Cerf

Stuart Russell

Judea Pearl

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## GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

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## INITIATORS

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