Voluntary Responsible AI Commitments for Startups & Investors
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Artificial intelligence (AI) offers enormous promise and great risk. In this pivotal moment as new companies are founded and funded, it is critical that startups incorporate responsible AI practices from the outset.

**Responsible Innovation Labs**, a nonprofit global coalition of leading founders and venture capitalists, convened a multi-sector working group to define the most critical Responsible AI commitments that startups and investors should make as well as a framework for operationalizing those commitments. These documents incorporate the most relevant elements from public policy initiatives, civil society, academia, and industry to meet the specific needs of the burgeoning AI startup sector. This industry-driven initiative is intended to establish standards and serve as an accountability mechanism for the entire ecosystem.

Signatories to this document make these voluntary responsible AI commitments:

**Secure organizational buy-in**
We understand the importance of building AI safely and are committed to incorporating responsible AI practices into building and/or adopting AI at our organization. We will implement internal governance processes, including a forum for diverse stakeholders to provide feedback on the impact of new products and identify risk mitigation strategies. We will build systems that put security first and invest in cybersecurity best practices to prevent misuse.

**Foster trust through transparency**
We will document decisions about how and why AI systems are built and/or adopted (including the use of third party AI products). In ways that account for other important organizational priorities, such as user privacy, safety or security, we will disclose appropriate information to internal and/or external audiences, including safety evaluations conducted, limitations of AI/model use, model's impact on societal risks (e.g. bias and discrimination), and the results of adversarial testing to evaluate fitness for deployment.

**Forecast AI risks & benefits**
We will take reasonable steps to identify the foreseeable risks and benefits of our technologies, including limitations of a new system and its potential harms, and use those assessments to inform product development and risk mitigation efforts.

**Audit and test to ensure product safety**
Based on forecasted risks and benefits, we will undertake regular testing to ensure our systems are aligned with responsible AI principles. Testing will include auditing of data and our systems' outputs and documenting those results. We will use adversarial testing, such as red teaming, to identify vulnerabilities.

**Make regular and ongoing improvements**
We will implement appropriate mitigations while monitoring their efficacy, as well as adopt feedback mechanisms to maintain a responsible AI strategy that keeps pace with evolving norms, technologies, and business objectives. We will monitor the robustness of our AI systems.
Who Should Sign

By signing this document, you are agreeing to the following:

**For Startups:** My organization makes these voluntary Responsible AI commitments.

**For Venture Capital Firms:** My organization will make reasonable efforts to (1) encourage portfolio companies to make these voluntary Responsible AI commitments, (2) consult the commitments when conducting diligence on potential investments in AI startups, and (3) foster responsible AI practices among portfolio companies.

**For Limited Partners:** My organization encourages the venture capital firms in which I invest to make these voluntary Responsible AI commitments.

**For Supporters:** My organization encourages startups and venture capital firms to make these voluntary Responsible AI commitments.

How to Sign

Once you have read and agreed to the commitments, [complete your signature here.](#)

Additional Information

**Implementation Guidance**
Information about how to operationalize these commitments can be found in the [Responsible AI Protocol](#), an actionable ‘how to’ guide for startups building AI systems and their investors. It adapts responsible AI principles and practices from the public sector, civil society, academia, and industry to meet the unique needs of the AI startup sector.

**White House Commitments**
For generative models at or beyond the current industry frontier, investors and startups are encouraged to review and adopt the [Biden-Harris Administration’s voluntary commitments to manage the risks posed by AI](#).

**More on Responsible Innovation Labs**
[Responsible Innovation Labs](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to equip founders and investors to create the next generation of high growth technology companies with responsible innovation at their core. We develop company-building tools like the Responsible AI Commitments and the supporting Protocol for Responsible AI. We build the responsible innovation community (with events like the annual Responsible Innovation Founders Summit, intimate founder dinners, roundtables, and webinars). Our coalition includes investors (like General Catalyst, Base10, Bessemer Ventures, Khosla Ventures), founders (like the CEOs of Cityblock, Gusto, Guild, Warby Parker), major [LPS](#) (like Princeton University Investment Company and Oxford University Endowment Management), and an [Advisory Board](#). Read our [charter here](#).

For more information, reach out to ai@rilabs.org.