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Statement Regarding the Release of NIST's AI RMF

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The Future of Life Institute applauds NIST for spearheading a multiyear and stakeholder initiative to improve the management of risks in the form of the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF). As an active participant in its development process, we view the AI RMF as a crucial step in fostering a culture of risk identification and mitigation in the US and abroad.

With this launch, NIST has created a global public good. The AI RMF decreases barriers to examining the implications of AI on individuals, communities, and the planet by organizations charged with designing, developing, deploying, or using this technology. Moreover, we believe that this effort represents a critical opportunity for institutional leadership to establish clear boundaries around acceptable outcomes for AI usage. Many firms have already set limitations on the development of weapons and on activities that lead to clear physical or psychological harm, among others.

The release of version 1.0 of the AI RMF is not the conclusion of this effort. We praise NIST's commitment to update the document continuously as our common understanding of AI's impact on society evolves. In addition, we appreciate that stakeholders will be given concrete guidance for implementing these ideas via the agency's efforts in the form of a "playbook." External to NIST, our colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley are complementing the AI RMF with a profile dedicated to increasingly multi or general-purpose AI systems.

Lastly, we recognize that for the AI RMF to be effective, it must be applied by stakeholders. In a perfect world, organizations would devote resources to identifying and mitigating the risks from AI intrinsically in a prosocial manner. In reality, incentives are needed to push this process forward. We/you/society should create responsible AI incentives that really encourage organizations to not only comply with the basic tenets of the AI RMF, but do so in a manner that effectively mitigate the risks catalyzed by this technology, such as:

- Making compliance with the AI RMF a submission requirement at prestigious AI conferences;
- Having insurance companies provide coverage benefits to entities that evaluate AI risks through the AI RMF or another similar instrument;
- Convincing local, state, or the federal government to prioritize AI procurement based on demonstrable compliance with the AI RMF; and,
- Generating positive consumer sentiment for organizations that publicly express devoting resources to the AI RMF process.