

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Laurie Locascio
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Dear Director Locascio,

We applaud the National Institute of Standards and Technology for its efforts to establish a best-in-class, voluntary framework for organizations developing and deploying artificial intelligence to mitigate associated risks. This work is a critical step to supporting meaningful risk-based governance of artificial intelligence systems. We write to request that NIST work with stakeholders and other federal agencies to expeditiously translate the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (RMF) and related guidance into multiple languages to help non-English speaking peoples, organizations, and nations to address the risks they face when developing and deploying this technology.

Published in January 2021, the RMF was produced in collaboration with stakeholders across public and private sectors in a widely applauded, consensus-driven, open, transparent, and collaborative process. NIST has also released several critical guidance documents to help organizations implement the framework, including a playbook¹ and documents for identifying and mitigating bias in artificial intelligence systems². As evidenced by the scope of participation in the RMF's creation and its alignment with international standards, the framework is not meant to only support U.S. efforts to improve artificial intelligence governance.

Countries all over the world are grappling with challenges related to the recent advances in artificial intelligence and automation. The European Union is working on the E.U. Artificial Intelligence Act that in part focuses on risk assessments for artificial intelligence systems.³ Mexico introduced legislation this year that encourages the creation of an ethical framework for the development of these technologies.⁴ Many other countries across the globe are considering their own rules. For the framework to be usable by the broader international community, it must be translated into multiple languages.

NIST has set this precedent before with its cybersecurity and privacy frameworks. In both cases, NIST has worked with the Department of State's Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP) as well as outside organizations to provide dozens of translations on key documents.⁵ In part due to these efforts, NIST's cybersecurity guidance enjoys widespread adoption and adaptation by the international community, including in Canada, Japan, and Ukraine.

Non-English-speaking organizations and countries around the world are struggling to identify, understand, and mitigate risks associated with advances in artificial intelligence, especially due to the fact that standards and guidelines for these systems are woefully underdeveloped. Therefore, we request that NIST work expeditiously to translate the framework and related documents into multiple languages.

We appreciate your dedication to cultivating trust in artificial intelligence systems and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please contact Alan McQuinn of the Committee's Minority staff at (202) 225-6375 and Aditi Gupta in the Office of Senator Luján at (202) 597-2324.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

cc:

Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State

¹ “NIST AI RMF Playbook,” National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed October 12, 2023, https://airc.nist.gov/AI_RMFKnowledgeBase/Playbook.

² Reva Schwartz et al., “Towards a Standard for Identifying and Managing Bias in Artificial Intelligence,” National Institute of Standards and Technology, March 15, 2022, <https://www.nist.gov/publications/towards-standard-identifying-and-managing-bias-artificial-intelligence>.

³ “Regulatory framework proposal on artificial intelligence,” European Commission, June 20, 2023, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>.

⁴ Diana Baptista, “ChatGPT drafts law as Latin America seeks to regulate AI,” Reuters, July 10, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/article/latam-ai/refile-feature-chatgpt-drafts-law-as-latin-america-seeks-to-regulate-ai-idUKL1N38N01C>.

⁵ “Translations of NIST Cybersecurity and Privacy Resources,” National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed October 12, 2023, <https://www.nist.gov/cybersecurity/translations-nist-cybersecurity-and-privacy-resources>.