CHARTER OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

JANUARY 5, 2021

Executive Summary

In 2018, the White House chartered the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI) ("Select Committee") under the National Science and Technolocy Council (NSTC) to oversee the coordination of Federal efforts related to AI research and development (R&D). The Select Committee consists of the most senior R&D officials across the Federal government and represents a whole-of-government approach to AI R&D planning and coordination.

In accordance with the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020, the Select Committee on AI has been re-chartered with a broader scope and membership, and serves as the senior interagency body referenced in the Act that is responsible for overseeing the National AI Initiative. This document presents the new charter, which provides information on the Select Committee's purpose and scope, functions, membership, and interface with the private sector.

As outlined in the charter, the Select Committee advises the White House on interagency AI R&D priorities; considers the creation of Federal collaborations with industry and academia; establishes structures to improve government planning and coordination of AI R&D; oversees the annual coordinated interagency budget for AI; facilitates the coordination of the National AI Research Institutes; and identifies opportunities to prioritize and support the national AI R&D ecosystem. The Select Committee also provides guidance and direction to the NSTC Machine Learning and AI Subcommittee, which serves as the operations and implementation arm of the committee.

This Committee serves an important role in ensuring the continued leadership of the United States in artificial intelligence research and development.

Charter of the
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A. Official Designation

The Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence ("Select Committee") is chartered by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology (S&T) policies across the Executive Branch.

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Select Committee is to advise and assist the NSTC to improve the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal research and development (R&D), demonstration, and education and workforce development efforts related to artificial intelligence (AI). The Select Committee will address significant national and international policy matters that cut across agency boundaries and shall provide a formal mechanism for interagency policy coordination and the development of Federal artificial intelligence activities.

The Select Committee will act to improve the coordination of Federal efforts related to AI to ensure continued U.S. leadership in this field. This will include advising the Executive Office of the President on interagency AI R&D priorities; creating balanced and comprehensive AI R&D programs, including consideration of agency collaboration with academia, industry, and international allies; establishing structures to improve the way the Federal Government plans and coordinates AI R&D; leveraging Federal data and computational resources across department and agency missions; and supporting a technical, national AI workforce.

C. Functions

In accordance with the National AI Initiative Act of 2020 and the NSTC Executive Order 12881, as amended, and to the extent permitted by law, the principal functions of the Select Committee are to:

   (i)   facilitate the planning, coordination, and communication of AI R&D, demonstration, and education and workforce training activities among Federal departments and agencies;
   (ii)   identify, define, and advise the NSTC on priority areas of AI research, development, and demonstration requiring Federal Government leadership and investment, and recommend options for Administration R&D priorities;
   (iii)   encourage agency AI-related programs and initiatives for R&D, demonstration, and education and workforce training that enhance global, national, regional, State, and local competitiveness and long-term economic growth and job creation, and that address societal issues related to AI;

(iv) identify opportunities to improve the quality and availability of curated, standardized, secure, representative, aggregate, and privacy-protected datasets for AI R&D, and to facilitate access to computational, networking, and data facilities for AI R&D, as appropriate and as permitted by law;

(v) facilitate the coordination of the network of National AI Research Institutes;

(vi) identify opportunities to collaborate with academia, industry, civil society, and international allies to advance AI activities in R&D, demonstration, and education and workforce training;

(vii) oversee the preparation of an annually coordinated interagency budget for the National AI initiative, consistent with the requirements of the National AI Initiative Act of 2020;

(viii) regularly develop and publish an AI strategic plan for Federal departments and agencies that establishes goals, priorities, and metrics for guiding and evaluating activities on AI, consistent with the requirements of the National AI Initiative Act of 2020; and

(ix) coordinate with other NSTC committees and facilitate NSTC clearance of documents generated by interagency groups that are established under its sponsorship.

The Select Committee shall take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement such functions.

D. Membership

The Select Committee shall be co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and, on an annual rotating basis, the representative from the Department of Commerce, the National Science Foundation, or the Department of Energy, as selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Committee membership shall include:

Department of Agriculture, Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics;
Department of Commerce, Undersecretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology;
Department of Commerce, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere;
Department of Defense, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering;
Department of Defense, Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency;
Department of Education, Undersecretary of Education;
Department of Energy, Undersecretary of Energy for Science;
Department of Homeland Security, Undersecretary for Science and Technology;
Department of the Interior, Director of U.S. Geological Service;
Department of Justice, Director of National Institute of Justice;
Department of State, Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment;
Department of Transportation, Undersecretary for Policy
Department of Treasury, Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence;
Department of Veterans Affairs, Chief of Office of Research and Development;
Food and Drug Administration, Commissioner;
National Institutes of Health, Director;
National Security Agency, Director of Research Directorate
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Administrator;
National Science Foundation, Director; and
Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President (EOP) are also represented in the Select Committee:

    National Security Council;
    Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer;
    Office of Management and Budget; and
    Office of Science and Technology Policy

As necessary, the Select Committee may designate other departments, agencies, and EOP components to be represented on the Select Committee, as considered appropriate by determination and agreement of the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the head of the affected agency.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The Select Committee should take into consideration the recommendations of the National AI Advisory Committee, as established by the National AI Initiative Act, as well as existing reports on related topics, and the views of academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups.
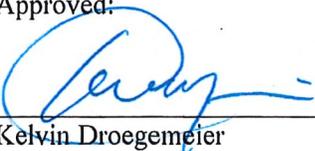
F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by NSTC, this charter shall terminate on December 31, 2025.

G. Determination

We hereby determine that the establishment of the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

_____   1/5/21
Kelvin Droegemeier   Date
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
The White House

_____   1/5/21
Michael Kratsios   Date
Chief Technology Officer of the United States
The White House

_____   1/5/21
Walt Copan   Date
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Paul Dabbar
Under Secretary for Science
Department of Energy

01/05/2021
Date

Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director
National Science Foundation

01/05/2021
Date