



October 26, 2018

Mr. Faisal D'Souza
National Science Foundation
Networking & Information Technology Research and
Development National Coordination Office
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Materials Germane to Revision of the 2016 National Artificial Intelligence R&D Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. D'Souza:

ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery, is the world's largest and longest-established association of computing professionals, representing approximately 50,000 individuals in the United States and 100,000 worldwide. Its US Technology Policy Committee is charged with providing policy and law makers throughout government with timely, substantive and apolitical input on computing technology and the legal and social issues to which it gives rise.

On behalf of the Committee, and in response to the National Science Foundation's Request for Information (RFI) of September 26, 2018 (Document 2018-20914), I am pleased to submit the attached *Statement on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability* of May 2017 and its seven associated *Principles* for consideration in connection with revision of the nation's 2016 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan (see tinyurl.com/ydchmesh). The *Statement* is a joint product of ACM's Europe and US policy committees.

We respectfully and specifically commend the agency's attention to these materials in assessing strategies 3 and 4 as identified in the RFI: "understand and address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI" and "ensure the safety and security of AI systems," respectively. The Committee notes that building systems that achieve these aims is difficult. We believe, therefore, that emphasizing and enabling research to advance the field of accountable AI system design is especially important.

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ACM's US Technology Policy Committee looks forward to assisting NSF and others throughout the process of reconsideration and revision the 2016 Plan and welcomes any and all inquiries to that end. For further information, or should you have any other questions, please contact ACM's Director of Global Public Policy, Adam Eisgrau, at 202-580-6555 or eisgrau@acm.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Hendler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James A. Hendler, Chair

Attachment: *Statement on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability of May 2017*