

A Call from Reykjavík

Forty years ago, at Höfði House in Reykjavík, two leaders – with extraordinary differences and armed to the teeth – met at a dangerous moment in history. They did not have all the answers, nor did they come to an immediate agreement. But they paused, listened and dared to imagine a different future.

That conversation helped change the course of the Cold War.

Today, humanity stands at a more dangerous threshold.

Wars and geopolitical tensions are intensifying. Nuclear risks are rising once again. The climate, land and nature crisis are placing unprecedented pressure on the natural systems we all depend on. At the same time artificial intelligence is advancing at extraordinary speed – bringing immense hope and promise for the future, while also transforming warfare, information, democracy, work and human relationships at a pace that exceeds our ability to understand, govern and guide the consequences.

These challenges are increasingly interconnected. And they transcend borders, sectors and generations.

This is a moment for all who have the power to shape the future to lead with responsibility, guided by five principles:

1. Humanity remains in control.

We must not build systems that escape human control. Technology must serve people, human dignity and the health of our shared planet – never the other way around.

2. Peace remains our primary responsibility.

Human judgement and human rights must never be surrendered; least of all in decisions of war, weapons, races for power, or nuclear command.

3. Power comes with accountability.

Governments and those developing the world's most powerful technologies share a responsibility to ensure that they are verifiably safe, trustworthy and governed in the public interest.

4. Cooperation over dangerous competition. No nation and no company can meet the age of AI alone. Just as previous generations set aside rivalry to build guardrails against existential threats, we must cooperate to establish common standards, verification mechanisms, and responsible limits that keep frontier AI aligned with the interests of humanity.

5. Dignity, rights and responsibility across generations. Every person deserves dignity and opportunity. Gender equality, human rights, and a healthy planet are essential to our common future. We must ensure that the choices we make today safeguard the wellbeing, interests and opportunities of children, young people, and the generations yet to be born.

Forty years ago, leaders showed that even in moments of profound danger, dialogue could open the door to a different future.

We commit to carrying these principles into the institutions, communities and decisions we can influence — and we call on others, across governments, technology, business, science and civil society, to summon the courage to pause, to listen and to act together.

Not to stop progress, but to steer it in service of humanity.

Not out of fear, but out of hope for the future — and the awareness that we must work together for a better world.

We still have time.

Reykjavík, 11 October 2026