



## Declaration of Intent to Create an International Brain Initiative (IBI)

### Background

On the Occasion of the *Brains at the Dome* meeting hosted by the Australian Academy of Science with support from The Kavli Foundation in Canberra, Australia, on Thursday 7 December 2017, representatives of brain research initiatives from:

- Australia
- Japan
- Korea
- Europe and
- The United States of America

made the following Declaration of Intent.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Declaration has been endorsed by the brain research organizations and national initiatives from:

- Canada
- China
- The International Brain Research Organization
- The International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility

### Declaration

1. The global Brain initiatives recognize that they are engaged in an effort so large and complex that even with the unprecedented efforts and resources from public and private resources, no single initiative will be able to tackle the challenge to measure, map, image, model, simulate, understand, imitate, diagnose and heal the brain.  
**→ The initiatives therefore commit to forming an alliance among themselves to take stock of their efforts and resources and expected products (outcomes) so as to leverage and align these efforts to maximize efficiency and the combined impact, and in this way, maximise the value of and return on the taxpayers investment**
2. The initiatives recognize that they can only significantly impact society if the efforts are embedded and in cooperation with their stakeholders: government, academia, industry, and the citizens, specifically also patients and entrepreneurs. The initiatives also understand their mission to engage and benefit the developing world.  
**→ The initiatives therefore commit to work together with their stakeholders and in close interaction with them, forming appropriate channels and activities.**

3. The initiatives also recognize that the challenges of data volume, data sharing, and data science is common to all of them, and indeed the wider community, including other fields of science and industry.

➔ **The initiatives therefore commit to explore and implement convenient data sharing and standardization mechanisms, utilizing existing mechanisms where possible or creating new ones where necessary.**

4. The initiatives recognise that (neuro-) ethics is a key concern as citizens, policy-makers, and various communities are increasingly confronted with very significant advances in capabilities in gathering brain data, in neurotechnology, and in artificial intelligence.

➔ **The initiatives therefore commit to collaborate in the fields of neuroethics, agency, responsible data stewardship, and cerebral privacy protection. They also commit to engage in a meaningful dialogue with citizens, patients, and all relevant communities to understand their concerns and communicate transparently on the opportunities and challenges arising.**

To achieve these initial goals, the initiatives move forward on a previously agreed roadmap to engage more stakeholders and to set up the necessary framework to facilitate their collaboration. Initiatives from other countries and regions are invited to join.

The first meeting of the IBI is planned to be held in Korea in the first half of 2018.

*This Declaration of Intent is non-binding and not a legal instrument. It specifically does not engage national or international authorities or institutional legal entities. A formalisation of the collaboration is envisaged after further consultations.*