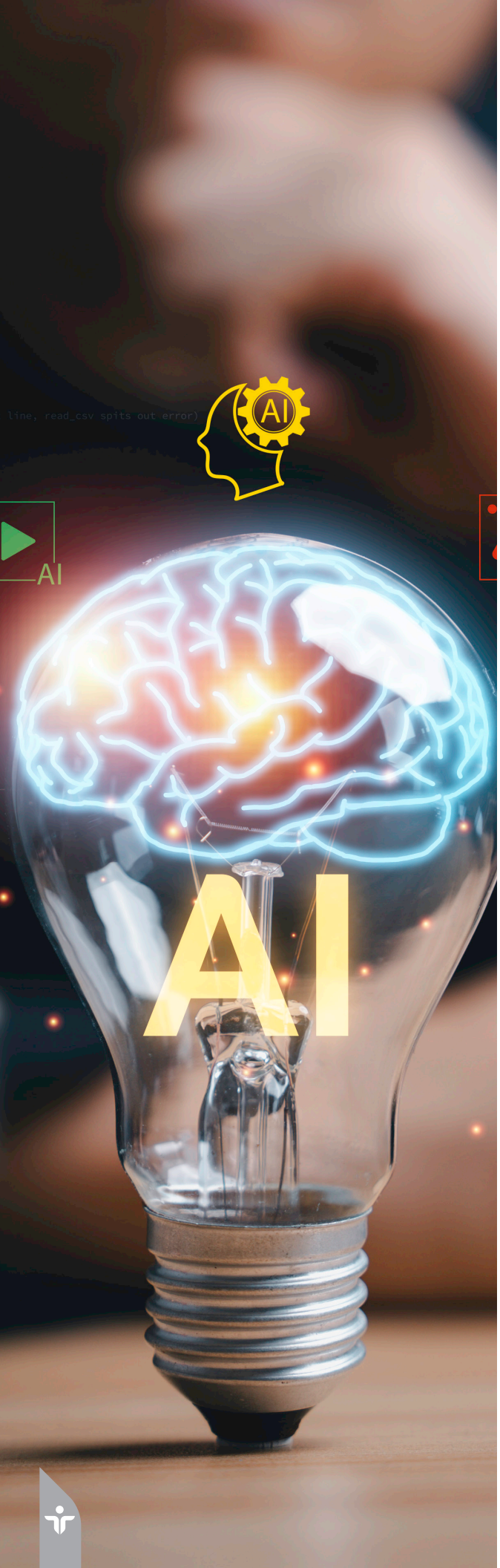
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Artificial intelligence: a world learning through experimentation

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No one yet has the formula for harnessing artificial intelligence (AI). What does exist is a global laboratory already under way: dozens of governments are testing different paths to put this technology to work in support of their development, and El Salvador is among them. This diversity is the first lesson from "*GTIPA Perspectives: Making AI Policy to Drive Innovation," published by the Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA) and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)*, which brings together 32 perspectives from 28 think tanks in 30 countries.

AI is a relatively new technology and is changing rapidly, both in its foundation models and in its applications. This makes it difficult to know the best way to harness it: humanity is only beginning to discover how to use it. The report confirms that there is no universal strategy. Italy, with a mature industrial economy, prioritizes the adoption of AI applications across its manufacturing sector over the development of its own models. India, with its vast multilingual market, subsidizes computing capacity, trains talent, and finances models tailored to 22 of the country's languages. In the report, El Salvador is described as an early adopter: the Doctor SV telemedicine platform, supported by AI, surpassed 2.3 million consultations in its first five months, and the AI tutoring program in public schools is an ambitious commitment to education, among several examples of initiatives already under way. Three different realities, three different paths.

What matters at this stage of experimentation? First, devote effort and resources to understanding the technology. But understanding it is not enough. Second, begin using it to learn by doing, something the country is already doing through public and private initiatives in health, education, public services, and business. Third, always bear in mind that people are the ultimate purpose of development: from the perspective of society as a whole, technology should complement people's work and expand their capabilities, not replace them. Fourth, keep an eye on the world in order to learn from others' successes and avoid their mistakes, knowing that every country is different and that El Salvador, as a small country, has particular characteristics that require adaptation, not imitation.

The report itself draws four common lessons from this range of experiences: strategies work best when they are proactive and combine several policy levers at once, with concrete implementation goals; they require a balance between the freedom to experiment and the state's role as a purchaser and early adopter; they must build on each country's own strengths; and they depend on an ecosystem of partners and on open, rules-based trade.

The world is learning as it goes, and those who learn faster and with a greater sense of purpose will be better positioned. El Salvador has already taken the step of beginning to use AI; the next is to turn that experience into capabilities of its own, measure results rigorously, and continue learning from the world.

