Nobody wants to talk about AI safety. Instead they cling to 5 comforting myths

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This week, France hosted an AI Action Summit in Paris to discuss burning questions around artificial intelligence (AI), such as how people can trust AI technologies and how the world can govern them. Sixty countries, including France, China, India, Japan, Australia and Canada, signed a declaration for "inclusive and sustainable" AI. The United Kingdom and United States notably refused to sign, with the UK saying the statement failed to address global governance and national security adequately, and US Vice President JD Vance criticising Europe's "excessive regulation" of AI.

Critics say the summit sidelined safety concerns in favour of discussing commercial opportunities.

Last week, I attended the inaugural AI safety conference held by the International Association for Safe & Ethical AI, also in Paris.(…) As I listened, I realised the disregard for AI safety concerns among governments and the public rests on a handful of comforting myths about AI that are no longer true – if they ever were.

1: One of the major threats of AI is developing AGI, a more advanced type of artificial Intelligence able to take on its own and learn far beyond human abilities. Myth : Many experts believe it to be a sci-fi only scenario, neglecting security, while some some actually believe we're relatively close to it.

2: Myth : ther's no need to worry about contemporary AI. But AI is **already** harmful for humans because AI interferes with elections and it even kills people.

3: Saying that AI is easy to control is wrong because AI systems do have unexpected reactions, but this is often put aside. AI behaviors are sometimes surprising for a non-intelligent entity since its aim to ensure their own preservation.

4: MYTH : AI is completely under control and is already safe. The EU works to improve it. People should not criticize AI because it is safe.
BUT Regulation is not enough → should also focus on education / training / performance measurement

5: Myth : AI alone creates risks
   AI is part of a system → interaction : AI data, technology, humans
  The elements of this system are intertwined

AI safety is arguably one of the most important challenges our societies face. To get anywhere in addressing it, we will need a shared understanding of what the risks really are.