

Global Network Initiative

*Protecting and Advancing Freedom of Expression and Privacy
in Information and Communications Technologies*

Invitation to GNI Implementation Dialogue

Tuesday April 20th, 2pm – 5pm EST Washington DC

Video Conference Available from San Francisco

The Global Network Initiative (GNI) was launched in November 2008 as a multi-stakeholder initiative involving human rights groups, academics, investors, and Google, Microsoft and Yahoo!.

Today we are seeing a rapidly expanding interest in how the GNI's Principles and Implementation Guidelines can be adapted for other segments of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry. Senator Durbin recently sent two letters to ICT companies seeking more information about their approach to human rights, there have been numerous hearings in Congress, and a high level meeting organized by the State Department. This interest has been especially focused on equipment manufacturers, consumer electronics brands, handset manufacturers and the providers of security and filtering services and enterprise management software.

It is in this context that the GNI has established a "GNI Implementation Dialogue" to explore three key questions:

1. What do ICT companies view as their main privacy and freedom of expression risks and opportunities?
2. What do these risks and opportunities reveal about the relevance of the existing GNI Principles and Implementation Guidelines?
3. How can the existing GNI Principles and Implementation Guidelines be adapted or supplemented to increase their relevance to a wider range of ICT companies?

You are invited to participate in the next meeting of the GNI Implementation Dialogue. The meeting will take place between 2pm – 5pm Eastern on Tuesday 20th April in Washington DC, with a videoconference link available to San Francisco.

The meeting will be informed by a discussion document previously published by the GNI setting out four issues requiring further exploration:

- Understanding the freedom of expression and privacy risk associated with product functionality.
- Human rights due diligence on who ICT companies sell to, and understanding the intended use of the ICT product, service, technology or functionality.
- The consulting advice that can be provided alongside a product, service or technology.
- Responding to government demands and mandated standards.

The discussion document accompanies this invitation and is available [here](#).

To facilitate open discussion and collaborative dialogue the meeting will use the Chatham House Rule, though the GNI will be publishing a list of companies participating in the meeting. Membership of the GNI is not required to participate in the GNI Implementation Dialogue.

The Global Network Initiative

The Global Network Initiative is a multi-stakeholder group of companies, civil society organizations, investors and academics dedicated to protecting and advancing freedom of expression and privacy in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. The open and collaborative approach taken by these diverse stakeholders significantly strengthens the ability of participating companies to make thoughtful and responsible decisions that protect the freedom of expression and privacy rights of hundreds of millions of Internet and communications technology users around the world.

RSVP

To confirm attendance and receive location details please RSVP to info@globalnetworkinitiative.org by Monday 5th April.