

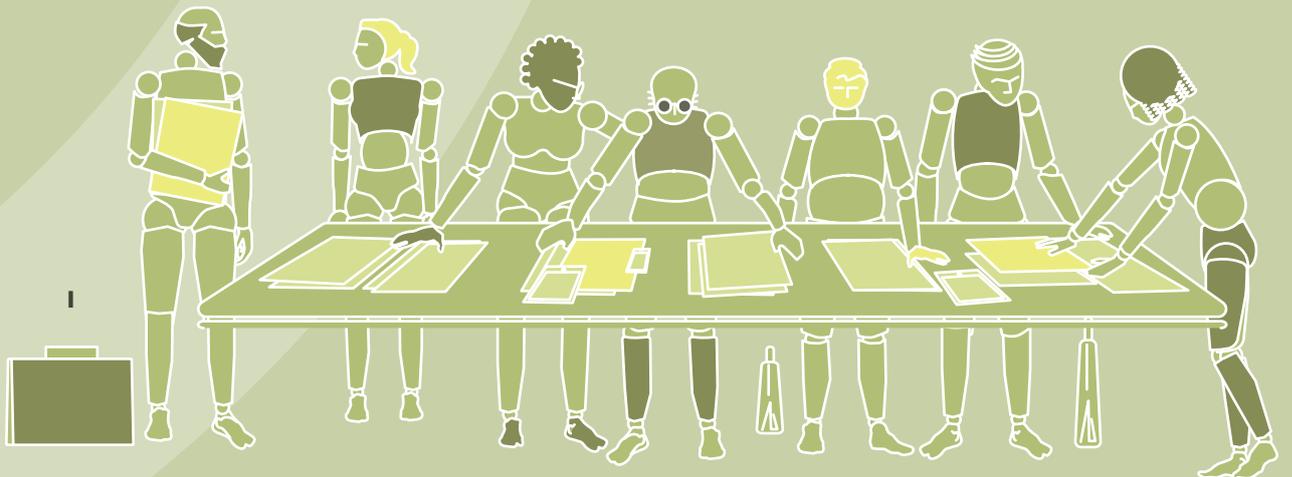
ABOUT THE GLOBAL NETWORK INITIATIVE

The Global Network Initiative plays a unique role in the global conversation about human rights, technology and public policy.

Our multi-stakeholder forum addresses the increasing pressures faced by the Information & Communications Technology (ICT) sector to comply with domestic laws and policies in ways that conflict with the internationally recognized human rights of freedom of expression and privacy.

The independent assessment of member companies, which is the subject of this report, is one of several components of GNI's work. Apart from member companies participating in the biannual independent company assessment process, the GNI pursues a number of important initiatives. These include private and public shared learning activities and policy advocacy – all focused on a multi-stakeholder approach to protecting the free expression and privacy rights of users around the world.

The GNI has an unparalleled ability to bring together civil society, companies, investor groups, academic institutions and others to engage in a dialogue and make recommendations based on the GNI Principles, about the global challenges to freedom of expression and privacy. By seeking common ground and exploring policies and solutions that draw on the perspectives of our diverse stakeholders, the GNI is a uniquely authoritative advocate for public policy



reforms. Whether it's providing views on the technical and human rights implications of a surveillance law, or pushing back against the growing trend of governments seeking to restrict access to online information and services, the GNI helps to shape global public policy and governance issues fundamental to the future of privacy and free expression around the world.

The GNI speaks with one multi-stakeholder voice to policymakers that brings together the perspectives of human rights activists, academics, investors and companies – because it has been carefully designed to:

- build trust among diverse and expert stakeholders;
- identify areas of common interest for policy development and advocacy;
- work together to educate and advocate for policy reform by engaging with governments, international institutions, civil society and the technology sector;
- facilitate the sharing of diverse perspectives and learning among GNI members within our confidential forum; and
- compliment the important work of individual members and partner organizations, while speaking with a voice larger than the sum of its parts.

For more information about the policy positions, advocacy, and learning activities of the GNI, please visit our website.

If you would like to explore membership of the GNI as part of our civil society, academic, investor or company constituencies, please contact the GNI's Executive Director, Judith Lichtenberg, judith@globalnetworkinitiative.org

The rest of this document discusses the independent assessment process, which is another distinct component of GNI's work.

A Step-by Step Guide to the GNI assessment process can be found [here](#).

