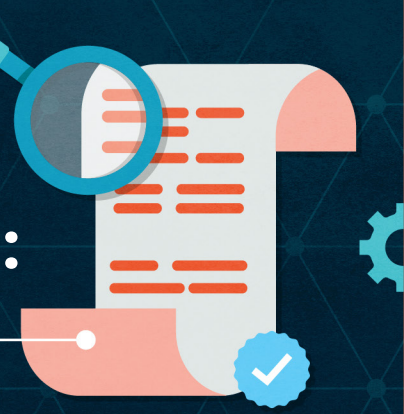


GNI Policy Brief on Government Interventions in AI: ONE PAGER (CIVIL SOCIETY)



The Global Network Initiative (GNI) is a multistakeholder initiative focused on safeguarding freedom of expression and privacy in tech. In October 2025, GNI and its multistakeholder AI Working Group (AIWG) launched a Policy Brief to aid understanding of the human rights implications of government interventions in artificial intelligence AI (“Brief”). The Brief presents a taxonomy of five types of government interventions—hard and soft governance, investment, procurement, and informal influence—across the AI value chain of infrastructure, development, and deployment, with illustrative examples from diverse regions.

The Brief highlights how government interventions in AI can both advance and undermine the rights to freedom of expression, privacy, and non-discrimination. Positive measures—such as mandatory human rights assessments, risk-based regulation, privacy laws, inclusive investments, and rights-focused procurement—can strengthen protections, while overbroad censorship, discriminatory surveillance, restrictive export controls, and weak legal safeguards risk violating rights and deepening inequality.

The Brief concludes with recommendations for governments, companies, and civil society, encouraging all sectors to use international human rights law as a basis for developing and analyzing interventions that impact human rights. The recommendations made to **civil society** include:



Advocating for Rights-Based AI Governance: Civil society should champion the integration of international human rights standards into both national and global AI governance frameworks by actively participating in international policy discussions.



Engaging Companies for Rights-Respecting AI: Civil society should work closely with companies to align their AI policies and practices with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the GNI framework. This includes advising on governance frameworks, monitoring due diligence processes, publishing independent research on AI’s societal impacts, and contributing to remedy mechanisms throughout the AI lifecycle.



Ensuring Public Sector Accountability: Civil society should advocate for transparency, public consultation, and strong oversight mechanisms in government use of AI, particularly in areas where risks to human rights are highest, such as in policing, welfare distribution, migration control, and defence.



Building Evidence and Elevating Affected Voices: By continuous engagement with impacted rightsholders, civil society can document, analyse, and publicise the real-world human rights impacts of AI systems, strengthening accountability across both public and private sectors.