

FACT SHEET: GETTING TO KNOW THE GLOBAL NETWORK INITIATIVE (GNI)



GNI was [launched in October 2008](#), following two years of discussions and negotiations among diverse stakeholders.



GNI is a coalition of over 100 [technology companies](#), [civil society organizations \(CSOs\)](#) (including human rights and press freedom groups), [investors](#), and [academics](#).



GNI is based in [Washington, D.C.](#), with team members located accross the United States, Europe, and Asia.

MISSION

The Global Network Initiative sets a global standard for responsible company decision-making to promote and advance freedom of expression and privacy rights across the technology ecosystem. GNI is the leading multistakeholder forum for accountability, shared learning, and collective advocacy on government and company policies and practices at the intersection of technology and human rights.

Bringing together academics, civil society, companies, and investors, GNI's multi-stakeholder governance, working methods, and membership serve as the foundation of our work. GNI implements its mission through four strategic pillars:

1. Provide a [framework](#) for responsible business conduct based on international human rights standards;
2. Foster [accountability](#) for company members through a unique multistakeholder, independent assessment process;
3. Empower [policy](#) to promote human rights on key trends and emerging developments in the tech sector;
4. Enable [learning](#) to shape best practices

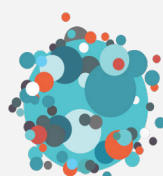
GOVERNANCE

GNI's [Governance Charter](#) defines the roles and responsibilities of participants. GNI's [staff](#) manage the day-to-day activities of GNI. An Independent Chair and Vice Chair lead a [Board of Directors](#) composed of equal numbers of company and non-company representatives. GNI is registered as a non-profit organization under U.S. law.

MEMBERS




GNI's [growing membership](#) includes leading technology companies, civil society organizations, academics and academic institutions, and investors from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the Middle East.

All members share a commitment to the GNI Principles and the core GNI documents, while contributing to shared learning, accountability, and collective action among GNI participants.



GLOBAL
NETWORK
INITIATIVE

CORE COMMITMENTS & FRAMEWORK

-  The [GNI Principles](#) state the overarching commitment of members to collaborate in the advancement of user rights to freedom of expression and privacy. The Principles provide high-level guidance to the tech industry on how to respect, protect, and advance user rights to freedom of expression and privacy, including when faced with government demands for censorship and disclosure of user's personal information.
-  The [Implementation Guidelines](#) offer more detailed guidance to tech companies on how to put the Principles into practice, and also provide the framework for collaboration among companies, CSOs, investors, and academics.
-  The Principles and Implementation Guidelines are grounded in international human rights law and informed by the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPs\)](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Companies are held accountable through a system of independent third-party assessment of company compliance with the Principles and Implementation Guidelines. Companies are expected to demonstrate good-faith implementation of the Principles and Guidelines, with improvement over time.

The assessment process takes place every two to three years. The [fourth assessment cycle, covering 2021/2022](#), evaluated eleven companies. The [Public Assessment Report](#) summarizing that assessment cycle was published in October 2023.

POLICY

GNI leverages its unique, multistakeholder voice on policy priorities that our members have identified, including content regulation, surveillance, and network disruptions. We issue statements, comment on relevant regulatory proposals, engage policy makers, and participate in global initiatives such as the Freedom Online Coalition and the Christchurch Call to advance those priorities.

LEARNING

GNI regularly facilitates opportunities for members to share their expertise and foster confidential learning across constituencies on emerging technologies, responsible business practice, and challenging situations.

GNI publishes an [annual report](#) of its activities and a [public assessment report](#) upon completion of its periodic assessment process. GNI also posts statements and other publications on its [website](#) and releases a [quarterly email newsletter](#). You can follow GNI on social media on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Bluesky](#).

