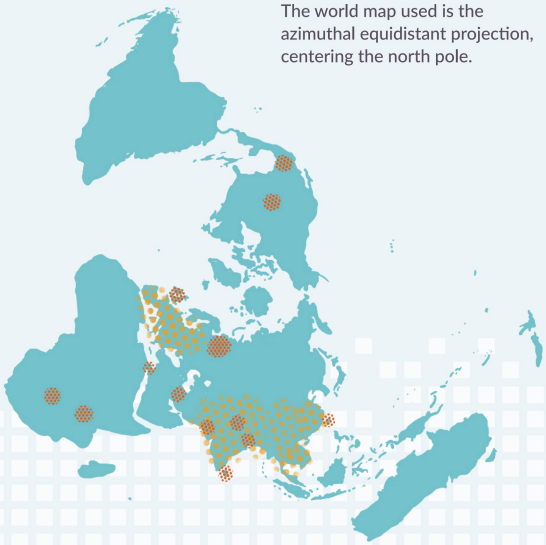
Policy

2025 Policy Impact

- Mobilized targeted legal and human rights submissions across 8 countries (Bangladesh, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, the UK, and Zambia) to block non-transparent content regulation, biometric tracking, and anti-encryption measures.
- Challenged nationwide connectivity blockades and platform blocks in Tanzania, Nepal, Iran, and Gaza, directly advocating for the digital rights and connectivity of millions during critical political and human rights crises.
- Shaped regional and global policy standards at the UN (Cybercrime Treaty & WSIS+20), ASEAN (Platform Governance Guidelines), the EU (CSRD standards), and the US (State Department international tech engagement) to preserve an open, interoperable Internet.
- Advocated against state-mandated blockades of secure messaging apps (Signal and WhatsApp), defending the private, encrypted communications of millions of users against enforced migration to unencrypted state channels.



The world map used is the azimuthal equidistant projection, centering the north pole.



Jurisdiction	*Advocacy Target*	*GNI Instrument*	*Strategic Policy Pillar*
Tanzania	Election-period nationwide Internet blackout	GNI Statement condemning electoral connectivity blockades	Network Disruptions
Iran	Government ban on ~24 digital platforms	GNI Statement challenging arbitrary platform blocks	Network Disruptions
Nepal	State-mandated connectivity restrictions	GNI Statement highlighting severe civilian risks of network controls	Network Disruptions
Gaza	Conflict-related infrastructure & connectivity threats	GNI Statement raising concerns over civilian communication blackouts	Network Disruptions
Pakistan	Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) amendments	GNI Statement detailing critical human rights concerns	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
Bangladesh	Cyber Security & Personal Data Ordinances (2025)	GNI Statement calling out non-transparent lawmaking processes	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
Sri Lanka	Online Safety Act 2024 reform process	GNI Policy Submission delivering human rights recommendations	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
Taiwan	Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act amendments	GNI Submission raising concerns over freedom of expression restrictions	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	ASEAN Guidelines on the Governance of Digital Platforms	GNI Submission urging open public comment and transparency	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
European Union (EU)	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)	GNI Submission advocating for four-pillar social disclosure standards	Intermediary Liability & Content Regulation
Mexico	Telecommunications & Intelligence Acts	GNI Statement raising the alarm on warrantless database access	Privacy & Surveillance
Zambia	Cyber Security Act & Cyber Crimes Act (2025)	GNI Statement challenging sudden, non-transparent enactment	Privacy & Surveillance

Russia	Targeted blocking of encrypted apps (Signal, WhatsApp)	GNI-Led Joint Statement defending secure communications against platform bans	Privacy & Surveillance
United Nations (Global)	UN Convention Against Cybercrime	GNI Statement re-emphasizing overbroad surveillance risks	Jurisdictional Assertions & Limits
United States	US State Department international tech engagement	GNI-led Joint Letter urging sustained open Internet commitment	Jurisdictional Assertions & Limits
United Kingdom	Inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on AI Regulation and Human Rights	GNI Parliamentary Submission anchoring AI rules in UN frameworks	AI & Emerging Technologies

Shaping the WSIS+20 Review for a Unified Internet Multistakeholderism

In 2025, GNI partnered with Global Partners Digital (GPD) to launch "Shaping the WSIS+20 Review for a Unified Internet Multistakeholderism" (SWUIM), a major, year-long project supported by the inaugural Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Grant Program. Designed to safeguard a rights-respecting, multistakeholder model of Internet governance during the UN's 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20), the initiative focused on elevating voices from the Global Majority and the technical community into global frameworks like the Global Digital Compact. Through SWUIM, GNI and GPD collaborated with **ten** civil society partners to conduct national workshops and research across countries including **Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, India, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia,** while tracking the policy positions of major global actors like China, the EU, and the US.



These localized insights directly informed GNI's regional and global advocacy, including dedicated sessions at the Africa Internet Governance Forum (Africa IGF) in Tanzania, the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in Geneva, and successive ICANN meetings. Throughout the year, GNI translated these findings into policy inputs, submitting formal recommendations to the WSIS+20 Elements Paper, the Zero Draft consultation, and the final Outcome Document revisions. The project culminated in the launch of the report, "The Road to WSIS+20: Key Country Perspectives," alongside a summary infographic, mapping national government priorities to empower civil society advocacy and drive rights-based implementation across international digital governance architectures.

Launching MAP-AI: Multistakeholder Approaches to AI Governance

In late 2025, GNI launched Multistakeholder Approaches to Participation in AI Governance (MAP-AI) in partnership with the Centre for Communication Governance (CCG) at National Law University Delhi – one of GNI's longest-standing academic institution members. The initiative aims to foster meaningful multistakeholder engagement across critical AI governance processes, with a particular focus on elevating underrepresented voices, especially those from the Global Majority. An initial goal for MAP-AI is to strengthen academic and civil society influence at the India AI Impact Summit, hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in February 2026.

Through this work, GNI and CCG convened a series of pre-Summit multistakeholder conversations, several formally recognized by the IndiaAI Mission as official pre-Summit events. GNI and CCG are working to support travel for a broad range of Global Majority stakeholders to the Impact Summit, and will host multiple convenings alongside the Summit to center and amplify their vital perspectives.

