
Global Network Initiative:

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

Introduction

Octopus Interface Conference on Cooperation against Cybercrime (23-25
March 2010, Strasbourg)

Cornelia Kutterer, Microsoft

The Global Network Initiative

Global

- All over the world, ICT companies face pressure from governments to follow laws and policies that conflict with internationally recognized human rights of freedom of expression and privacy.

Network

- A multi-stakeholder group of companies, human rights groups, press freedom groups, academics and investors responding with a collaborative approach to protect freedom of expression and privacy
- Aim to become the global standard

Initiative

- Launched in October 2008, the 60th Anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and based in internationally recognized standards:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (“UDHR”)
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”)
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“ICESCR”)

The Global Network Initiative

Principles

Overarching commitment of the GNI's members to collaborate in the advancement of user rights to freedom of expression and privacy.

Implementation Guidelines

Detailed guidance on how to put the Principles into practice.

Governance, Accountability and Learning Framework

Multi-stakeholder governance structure; a system of company accountability; ensure integrity of GNI.

The Global Network Initiative

Academics

- Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School
- Rebecca MacKinnon, Journalism and Media Studies Centre, University of Hong Kong
- Research Center for Information Law, University of St. Gallen
- University of California, Berkeley School of Information

Investors

- KLD Research & Analytics, Inc.
- Trillium Asset Management
- Domini Social Investments LLC F&C Asset Management
- Boston Common Asset Management
- Calvert Group

Civil Society Organizations

- Center for Democracy & Technology
- Committee to Protect Journalists
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Human Rights First
- Human Rights in China
- Human Rights Watch
- International Business Leaders Forum
- Internews
- World Press Freedom Committee

Companies

- Yahoo! Inc.
- Microsoft Corp.
- Google Inc.

Observer

- UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Business & Human Rights

Governance of the GNI

1. Independent Legal Entity; filing for 501c3 non-profit status.
2. Full Time Executive Director about to be appointed.
3. Governance Charter with decision making processes.
4. Multi-stakeholder Board.

Constituency	Board Members	Alternates
NGOs (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Leslie Harris, CDT » Robert Mahoney, CPJ » Elissa Massimino, HRF » Arvind Ganesan, HRW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Danny O'Brien, EFF » Sharon Hom, HRIC » Persephone Miel, Internews » Name TBD, WPFC
Company (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Michael Samway, Yahoo! » Lewis Segall, Google » Chuck Cosson, Microsoft » 5 Open Seats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ebele Okobi-Harris, Yahoo! » Bob Boorstin, Google » Dorothy Dvoskin, Microsoft » 5 Open Alternate Seats
Academia (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rebecca MacKinnon » Colin Maclay, Berkman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Deirdre Mulligan » Ernest Wilson
Investors (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Bennett Freeman, Calvert » Adam Kanzer, Domini 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Dawn Wolfe, Boston Common » Alexis Krajeski, F&C

Current Work of the GNI

Learning & Human Rights Impact Assessments

- Implementing the Principles, shared learning, creation of human rights tools

Collaboration

- Collaboration on issues of shared concern (e.g. You Tube etc)

Implementation Dialogue

- Increase relevance of GNI to a wider range of ICT companies
- Grow the membership globally

GNI Implementation Dialogue

Increasing relevance of GNI to wider range of ICT companies

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

Findings to Date

- Large sections of Principles and Implementation Guidelines are relevant (top level commitments; due diligence; responsible decision making; collaboration)
- Need to further address: Product Functionality; Due Diligence/Use Phase; Consulting; Government Mandates/Demands.

Membership Package

- Listed as a “Full Member” of the Global Network Initiative
- Leadership and participation in an initiative addressing emerging human rights opportunities and challenges faced by the whole industry
- Opportunity to advocate for the most robust implementation of core human rights norms in the ICT sector and shape the global standard for corporate responsibility and compliance
- Collaborative approaches to shared problems and participation in shared learning activities
- Co-create Human Rights Impact Assessment Tools and other implementation resources/guidelines developed by the GNI.
- Ability to participate in the governance of the GNI and shape its future direction