



GNI Fundraising Policy and Procedures

1. Purpose

Effective fundraising is necessary to enable the Global Network Initiative (GNI) to achieve its mission and goal, i.e. to protect and advance freedom of expression and privacy in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry. This policy applies to all GNI's fundraising activities. GNI will list all funding sources on its website.

2. Policy

GNI may accept support from diverse sources, including member companies and organizations, private foundations, and governments.

GNI prefers unrestricted support for implementing its mission and core activities. GNI may also accept designated support and specific project support if their purpose is consistent with its strategic objectives and mission. GNI will include a minimum of 10% overhead on project budgets.

Any source of support will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure that soliciting or accepting such support is consistent with the strategy and mission of GNI and does not:

- Create a perception of bias or actual bias that would undermine GNI's reputation or credibility.
- Compromise the effectiveness of GNI's work, or
- Present any other risk to the reputation and mission of the organization.

Situations in which GNI may avoid funding include, but are not limited to:

- Support from a government that has a poor record in regards to freedom of expression and privacy online.
- Support from a non-member company whose business activities negatively impact freedom of expression and privacy online or acts in a manner that is otherwise inconsistent with the GNI Principles.
- Support from a private foundation or other private donor that may compromise GNI's reputation, even if the issues we identify are unrelated to freedom of expression and privacy online.

3. Procedure

In order to ensure adherence to this policy, each potential source of support will be reviewed by the Executive Director and Managing Director on a timely basis and will periodically report to

and seek input from the Development Committee and GNI Board of Directors about its activities and decisions. Before GNI accepts funding above \$10,000 from a government or above \$100,000 regardless of source, GNI will inform the full board and Development Committee.

To the best of its ability and when appropriate, GNI will seek to deconflict with members in its fundraising efforts. This can include sharing proposals with the Development Committee, the Board, and the membership, running consultations, and seeking input from individual members.

The Development Committee may also propose revisions to the policy for board approval and further refine and articulate the criteria for accepting or rejecting support, when appropriate.

This policy does not apply to membership dues of companies since company membership must be approved by the board and would thus be deemed to be consistent with the mission of GNI.

This policy is not retroactive, but GNI reserves the right to return or reject funds at any time.

4. Principles for Company Contribution

The following principles will guide GNI's acceptance and use of contributions from companies:

- The company is a GNI member and/or meets criteria for GNI stakeholder engagement
- GNI maintains independence and discretion over the substance of work.
- GNI will maintain control of and ensure protection of personally identifiable information and other sensitive information.
- GNI will be transparent about company contributions, including in our legally mandated [financial disclosures](#), taking into consideration reasonable privacy, security, and other operational considerations.