

# BOARD READINESS CHECKLIST

Your Gateway to Boardroom Success:  
Evaluate Your Readiness  
and Unlock Your Potential

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**Empowering the Next Generation of Board Leaders**

# READY TO STEP INTO THE BOARDROOM?

The journey to becoming an effective Non-Executive Director (NED) starts here. Whether you're preparing for your first role or refining your boardroom presence, this checklist is designed to help you assess your readiness for board roles and identify the next steps in your journey. From governance expertise to personal branding, each section ensures you're equipped to make an impact.

At Netā, we believe the boardroom is a space where leadership shapes industries, communities, and the future. This checklist is your first step to aligning your skills, experience, and aspirations with the demands of modern governance. Ready to elevate your journey?

## How to Use This Checklist

- **Assess Your Readiness:** Reflect on each question thoughtfully and honestly.
- **Identify Your Gaps:** Pinpoint areas where further development could strengthen your candidacy.
- **Take Action:** Use our recommendations and programs to address any gaps and accelerate your readiness.

By completing this checklist, you'll gain clarity on your unique strengths and areas of growth, ensuring you're not just board-ready but board-exceptional.

# THE CHECKLIST

## 1. Industry Expertise:

- Are you recognized as a subject matter expert in your field?
- Do you understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing boards in your target industry?
- Have you engaged with thought leadership or contributed insights relevant to your industry?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 2. Governance Knowledge:

- Do you understand the responsibilities and expectations of a non-executive director?
- Are you familiar with key governance frameworks and regulatory requirements in your target sector?
- Have you participated in governance training or workshops to enhance your understanding?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 3. Strategic Oversight:

- Can you demonstrate experience providing strategic direction and oversight in your professional career?
- Have you led or contributed to long-term planning and risk assessment initiatives?
- Are you comfortable evaluating and interrogating financial and operational reports?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 4. Networking & Connections:

- Do you have strong relationships within professional networks that align with your board aspirations?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

# THE CHECKLIST

## 4. Networking & Connections (con't):

- Have you engaged with mentors, recruiters, or peers who can guide your journey to the boardroom?
- Are you leveraging platforms like LinkedIn to increase your visibility as a potential NED?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 5. Commitment & Vision:

- Can you dedicate time for board responsibilities alongside your current role?
- Have you identified the types of organizations or causes you want to serve?
- Do you have a clear vision of the impact you want to make as a board member?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 6. Interpersonal & Leadership Skills:

- Do you have experience fostering collaboration and consensus among diverse stakeholders?
- Are you confident in navigating challenging boardroom dynamics and resolving conflicts constructively?
- Do you have experience mentoring or supporting an executive or exec team?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

## 7. Personal Brand:

- Do you have a clearly defined personal brand that highlights your "spikes" or unique areas of expertise?
- Is your NED CV tailored to highlight your governance skills and boardroom experience?
- Have you actively communicated your aspirations to become or grow as an NED within your network?

Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 3

# THE CHECKLIST

## Scoring & Next Steps:

Please add up your totals from each section into a collective total for the checklist and write it below.

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ (across all 5 sections)

- If you scored well across these categories, you're ready to take the next step! Explore the opportunities within the Netā OnBoard community or consider our Board Readiness programmes for continued growth to help you with your next step into the board room.
- If you identified gaps, don't worry—these are opportunities to grow and guideposts for areas to explore. Consider joining our *Accelerate* programme to refine your skills, build your strategy, and elevate your readiness.

**The Neta Accelerate 6-Week Programme is  
here to bridge the gap.**

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Your Journey to the Boardroom Starts Here:

No matter where you are on your path to the boardroom, there are actionable steps you can take today to strengthen your position as a board candidate. Here's how to elevate your readiness:

### 1. Highlight Your Strengths

Reflect on the areas where you scored confidently in the checklist. How can you leverage these strengths in your NED CV, LinkedIn profile, or during conversations with board recruiters?

- Showcase your unique expertise and "spikes"—such as governance, strategy, or industry-specific knowledge.
- Use LinkedIn as a platform to share insights, thought leadership, and commentary relevant to the boardroom.

### 2. Closing the Gaps

Have boxes that you didn't check? Or areas where you would like to strengthen your position?

- Seek mentorship from experienced board members to gain practical, real-world insights.
- Consider courses like Netā's Accelerate Programme or specific technical courses to strengthen your governance knowledge, develop your strategy, and gain confidence.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## 3. Expand Your Network

A strong network is key to finding the right board opportunity.

- Reach out to connections in your industry or professional networks to express your interest in board roles.
- Attend industry events, forums, or programs where decision-makers and current NEDs gather.

## 4. Clarify Your Vision

Define your goals for the boardroom:

- Which types of organisations excite you?
- What impact do you want to make?

Use this clarity to tailor your applications, conversations, and personal positioning.

## 5. Create a Standout NED CV & Cover Letter

A strong NED application highlights both your technical expertise and interpersonal strengths.

- Focus on your governance knowledge and boardroom experience.
- If you lack direct NED experience, highlight transferable skills like strategic contributions, advisory roles, or project leadership.

# YOUR NEXT STEP TO THE BOARDROOM

## What *Accelerate* Offers:

- 1:1 coaching with seasoned board members.
- Blended in-person and virtual learning to optimise your readiness in the boardroom
- Comprehensive training on governance, leadership, and networking.
- Hands on practical experience and deep dives into leading board topics.
- An exclusive network of peers and experts.

## Ready to Jump In?

The Netā Accelerate Programme is your opportunity to bridge the gap and elevate your readiness. Through blended in-person and virtual learning, 1:1 coaching with seasoned board members, and hands-on practical experiences, you'll gain the knowledge and confidence to step into the boardroom.

Lean more and enroll [here](#).