

Sovrin Global Policy Working Group Charter

Version 1
2019-03-27



<https://sovrin.org>

Global Policy Working Group

This charter contains the content required by [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#). This Working Group has been approved and is listed in [Sovrin Governing Bodies](#). All terms in First Letter Capitals not defined in this document are defined in the [Sovrin Glossary](#).

To participate directly in this Sovrin Governing Body, please visit its [Meeting Page](#).

Charter Version and Date

Version: 1

Date approved by Sovrin Board of Trustees: 2019-3-27

[Link to the Sovrin Board of Trustees meeting minutes](#).

Governing Policies

All Sovrin Governing Bodies inherit the base set of policies defined in [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#), including chartering, membership, chairpersons, facilitators, subgroups, funding, voting, intellectual property rights, meetings, and meeting pages. This charter defines extensions to these policies specific to this Sovrin Governing Body.

Status

This Sovrin Governing Body is organized as a **working group** as defined in [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#).

Purpose

The purpose of the Global Policy Working Group (GPWG) is to research, formulate, and recommend policies affecting Sovrin infrastructure as a whole, in particular the intersection between the unique capabilities of self-sovereign identity and regulatory policies and civil laws worldwide—especially in a cross-border context—including privacy and personal data protection, financial regulation, securities regulation, cybersecurity policies, guardianship, digital signatures and contracts, electronic recordkeeping and e-discovery, anti-trust, etc.

Principles

All Sovrin Governing Bodies operate under the Core Principles in section 2 of the [Sovrin Governance Framework V2](#). This governing body operates under the following additional principles:

1. **Global scope.** Although the GPWG shall consider specific regulations and jurisdictional requirements as necessary inputs, its goal is to develop policies for Sovrin infrastructure as a whole; this means addressing diverse legal frameworks in a cross-border context.
2. **Collaboration with regulators.** The GPWG shall work with regulators from legal jurisdictions around the world to determine the policies that best meet their needs together with those of Sovrin Identity Owners, Stewards, Agencies, Issuers, Verifiers, and other stakeholders in the Sovrin Community.
3. **Operationalize Sovrin capabilities.** In developing new policies and positions, the GPWG shall work with other Sovrin Governing Bodies and the Sovrin Community to leverage the special capabilities of Sovrin Infrastructure including blockchains, smartphones, biometrics, zero-knowledge cryptography, and cloud computing.

Activities and Duties

1. Identify critical global policy issues on which the Sovrin Foundation and its stakeholders, including Stewards, Agencies, and Developers, need to engage.
2. Liaise and confer with Sovrin Foundation staff and counsel on these issues.
3. Develop and recommend policy positions for approval by the Sovrin Board of Trustees.
4. Assist the Sovrin Foundation and Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group in incorporating policy recommendations into SGF policies.
5. Research, write, and publish position papers based on these recommendations.
6. Present, discuss, and defend these positions in the relevant forums.
7. Assist and advise developers of domain-specific governance frameworks from the standpoint of global policy issues.

Membership

1. Membership is open to all interested Sovrin Community stakeholders, especially those with expertise in law and policy development, particularly related to identity, privacy, security, blockchains, and governance.
2. The GPWG must have at least five members, including chairperson(s).
3. No more than 20% of the members may be affiliated with the same organization (with the exception of Sovrin Trustees).

Chairperson(s)

The GPWG shall have at least one and up to three chairpersons as determined by consensus or a vote of the members.

Facilitator(s)

The GPWG may have one or more members serve as facilitators as determined by consensus or a vote of the members.

Voting

All Sovrin Governing Bodies shall strive to reach decisions by consensus. When necessary, voting will be conducted as specified in [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#). Whenever there are dissenting opinions on policy recommendations, they should be noted to the Sovrin Board of Trustees.

Funding

No specific funding is requested or anticipated, however the GPWG may make requests for funding for members to travel to face-to-face meetings or for assistance from Sovrin Foundation legal counsel. Such funding requests must be approved by the Executive Director of the Sovrin Foundation.

Meeting Schedule

The GPWG shall hold regular virtual meetings either weekly or biweekly on a day and time determined by consensus or a vote of the members and recorded on the meeting page.

Meeting Page

All Sovrin Governing Bodies are required to maintain a meeting page with full information about the group, current documents, and how to participate in meetings. Follow this [link](#) to the GPGW meeting page.

Version History

As required by [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#), this is a history of all versions of this charter.

Version	Date	Link and Description
1	2019-03-27	This document