

Sovrin Identity for All Council Charter

Version 2
2019-03-27



<https://sovrin.org>

Identity for All Council (I4A)

This charter contains the content required by [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#). This charter was approved by the Sovrin Foundation Board of Trustees on 27 March 2019 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: 2

Date approved by Sovrin Board of Trustees: 2019-03-27

[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 **council** as defined in [Sovrin Governing Body Policies](#).

Purpose

The purpose of the Identity for All Council (I4A) is to support the development of identification systems that serve marginalized or otherwise underserved populations worldwide, with a focus on the highest need cases of the Global South.

Principles

All Sovrin Governing Bodies operate under the Core Principles in section 2 of the [Sovrin Governance Framework V2](#). I4A operates under the following additional principles:

1. **We strive to be an objective, trusted authority.** I4A will earn its credibility from a commitment to unbiased, objective analyses and advocacy; e.g., although I4A supports Sovrin-based solutions, we will explicitly and proactively point to use cases or contexts where Sovrin solutions are infeasible or unnecessary, and other alternatives would be better suited.
2. **We focus on outcomes, not technology.** We evaluate the merits of an identification systems base on the outcomes we care about—such as inclusion, individual agency, and privacy—and not based on the technological architecture or design of the system; e.g., even systems that are designed for “decentralized” governance may in fact still be controlled by the small subset of the population that has the knowledge and resources to participate in decentralized initiatives.
3. **We believe there is no singular “ideal” model of identification system.** State, private-sector, and humanitarian/NGO actors all serve different populations and use cases, and have distinct goals and requirements for the identification systems they use; recognizing this diversity we promote fundamental principles, not a singular model.
4. **We support initiatives that are in alignment with the I4A mission.** While we support the entire Sovrin ecosystem through thought-leadership and advocacy activities, we most directly support those efforts that are in alignment with the I4A mission.

Activities and Duties

1. **Understand current gaps and unmet needs.** Conduct analyses on the technological dimensions of identity systems to map the current gaps or needs where open-source, decentralized technology such as Sovrin may be beneficial.
2. **Develop relationships with key actors.** Through ongoing outreach and contributions to the space, build connections with key stakeholders in the identity sector, including humanitarian and development organizations, private firms, and government actors.
3. **Replace hype with objectivity.** Develop and promote clear, accessible analyses of the technological advantages, and risks, with open-source, DLT-based platforms for identity.
4. **Bring people together for knowledge sharing.** Convene industry stakeholders in targeted events designed to share knowledge and increase participants’ understanding.
5. **Define best practices.** Develop guidelines and best practices for adoption of open-source, DLT-based identity platforms such as Sovrin.

6. **Help steer the ship.** Contribute to the development of global conventions, principles, and standards around digital identity (e.g., ID4D's [Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development](#)).
7. **Directly support initiatives that are aligned with I4A.** Develop an “innovation fund” or similar mechanisms that provide grants and other support to proof-of-concepts and pilots that are in alignment with I4A principles.

The Council is not directly responsible for any [Controlled Documents](#).

Membership

1. Participation in I4A Council activities, including monthly calls and community activities, is open to all interested parties.
2. Voting members of the I4A Council will be appointed by the I4A Council chair based on their expertise working with marginalized populations and identification systems, especially in the Global South; members may come from the humanitarian or development sectors, government/policy, or relevant private-sector.
3. All Sovrin Governing Bodies must have at least five members, including chairperson(s).
4. No more than 20% of the members may be affiliated with the same organization (with the exception of Sovrin Trustees).

Chairperson(s)

The Council shall have one chairperson appointed by the Sovrin Board of Trustees (BoT) who is either an existing Trustee or who shall serve as an ex-officio member of the BoT. The members at their option may elect up to two additional chairperson(s).

Facilitator(s)

The I4A Council may select 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](#).

Funding

One chairperson and at least one additional staff person shall be funded positions on the I4A Council. The Council shall seek annual budget for the I4A Innovation Fund and other external funding activities from the Sovrin Board of Trustees.

Meeting Schedule

The Council shall hold regular virtual meetings either monthly or as frequently as needed on a day and time determined by consensus or a vote of the members and recorded on the meeting page. The Council shall also hold face-to-face meetings as needed with notice and details provided 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 [I4A meeting page](#).

Version History

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

Version	Date	Link and Description
2	2019-03-27	This document
1	2018-06-07	Sovrin Identity for All Council —original charter