

ODA3 INSTITUTE

MBP — MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME CHARTER

ODA3 Membership Programme

Structured Participation in Operational AI Assurance

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Publication Notice

This document is the ODA3 Membership Programme Charter (“this charter”), the canonical public reference for the ODA3 Membership Programme.

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This charter does not constitute certification, accreditation, or endorsement of any individual, organization, product, service, or AI system (§3).

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Foreword

The market is not short of AI governance frameworks. It is short of a practical answer to the question every security architect and compliance officer eventually asks: how do we actually produce the evidence that a system behaves the way our governance documents say it should? That gap — between the standard and the operational reality — is what ODA3 Institute exists to work on. This Membership Programme is our attempt to build the community that gap requires, rather than assume one already exists.

I want to be direct about where ODA3 stands today. This Institute was founded in March 2026. We do not have decades of institutional history, an elected governance body, or a certification

scheme. We are not pretending otherwise anywhere in this charter, including in the sections that describe what membership does not yet include. I would rather you know exactly what you are joining than discover the gaps later.

What I can commit to, personally, is this: ODA3's independence is not for sale. Corporate participation will never buy influence over our research, our methodology, or our conclusions — a principle this charter enforces structurally, not just rhetorically. We believe operational AI assurance will become its own professional discipline. Disciplines are built by communities before they are sustained by institutions. This programme is ODA3's contribution to that community.

If you work on the practical side of AI governance — the people who have to make assurance actually happen inside real systems, not just describe it in a policy document — this is an invitation to help build the discipline alongside us, on terms that protect the independence of the work itself.

Founder & Executive Director, ODA3 Institute

Executive Summary

Organizations and practitioners working in AI governance, security, and compliance face a common gap: standards and frameworks describe what operational AI assurance should look like, but there are few structured pathways to participate in developing that discipline as it matures. The ODA3 Membership Programme exists to close that gap. It offers practitioners, researchers, academics, and organizations a structured way to contribute to, provide feedback on, and participate in the evolving practice of operational AI assurance — not as a passive audience for ODA3's publications, but as active participants in shaping the discipline.

Who it is for.

Individuals join as Affiliate, Practitioner, Student & Early-Career, or Academic Members; organizations join as Corporate Members, exercised through named representatives. A limited, time-bounded Founding Cohort recognizes the Programme's first formative participants.

What membership provides.

In Year One: programme communications, an optional public listing, and an authorized membership badge — available to all approved members without condition. Beyond that: conditional access to briefings, working groups, pre-publication review, and structured feedback channels — extended in good faith as capacity allows, never promised as entitlements.

What membership is not.

The boundaries are stated plainly, as they are among the most critical clarifications this charter provides: membership is not certification, accreditation, audit or assessment authority, regulatory endorsement, partnership status, commercial delivery rights, or framework ownership. It does not provide API access, integration support, or any right to represent ODA3 commercially. No membership category — including Corporate — can direct, approve, or influence ODA3's independent research, methodology, or assessment conclusions.

Year-One reality.

ODA3 Institute was founded in March 2026. This charter is built for that actual maturity: no elected governance, no fee schedule, no certification programme, no regional chapters, and no guaranteed working-group placement exist yet, and this charter says so directly rather than implying otherwise. What is committed here — the principles, the boundaries, the governance model, the lifecycle — is what ODA3 can keep today.

The invitation.

Membership is a seat at the table for those who will have to operationalize AI assurance in practice, offered on the condition that ODA3's independence is never for sale. It rewards structured, evidence-based contribution over payment, tenure, or organizational size — and asks, in return, only that members participate in that same spirit.

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1. Purpose and Strategic Mandate

The ODA3 Membership Programme is a structured participation framework for individuals and organizations contributing to the advancement of operational AI assurance.

ODA3 Institute exists at the intersection of cybersecurity, AI security, standards development, applied research, and training and certification — building the operational and certification layer between AI governance standards and real-world system behavior. That work depends on more than publications. It depends on a community of practitioners, researchers, academics, and organizations actively engaged with the discipline as it develops.

Today, most people can read standards, attend conferences, and consume research. Few have a structured pathway to participate in the development and operationalization of AI assurance itself. The ODA3 Membership Programme exists to create that pathway.

The Programme's strategic mandate is to:

- build a professional community around operational AI assurance;
- support ODA3's applied research and standards development work through structured practitioner and academic input;
- create a documented, transparent mechanism for participation that does not compromise ODA3's independence;
- recognize and develop practitioner capability in a field that does not yet have a mature professional identity;
- do all of this without claiming scale, history, or institutional machinery ODA3 does not yet have.

This last point matters as much as the others. The Programme is built for ODA3's actual maturity as an institute founded in March 2026, not for the maturity it may reach in future years. Every commitment in this charter is one ODA3 can keep today.

2. Programme Principles

Membership in the ODA3 Membership Programme is built on the following principles:

Independence. Membership does not compromise ODA3's independent judgment. No membership category — including Corporate Membership — obtains the right to direct, approve, suppress, or influence ODA3 research findings, assessment methodologies, or assurance conclusions.

Evidence. Participation is grounded in verifiable reasoning and professional rigour, consistent with ODA3's broader evidence discipline.

Professionalism. Members are expected to act responsibly, constructively, and respectfully in all ODA3-affiliated activity.

Contribution. The Programme values active contribution over passive consumption. Recognition is earned through participation, not conferred by payment, tenure, or organizational size.

Transparency. Membership rules, categories, and boundaries are publicly documented and consistently applied.

Intellectual integrity. Members must not misrepresent ODA3 research, frameworks, or positions, or imply an affiliation, endorsement, or certification that does not exist.

Global perspective. The Programme is intended to be internationally relevant and inclusive, within the operational limits of a young institute.

Non-endorsement. Membership is not approval of a person, organization, product, service, or AI system.

Stewardship. Members are encouraged to advance the operational AI assurance discipline responsibly, recognizing that their contributions should strengthen the community, preserve methodological integrity, and support the Programme's long-term sustainability.

These principles are not aspirational. They are operational constraints. Where a growth opportunity, commercial relationship, or community request conflicts with these principles, the principles take precedence.

Two constitutional statements anchor the Programme and should be read together with these principles:

Membership follows contribution, not influence.

Payment does not create authority. Organizational size does not create privilege. Contribution earns recognition. ODA3 retains methodological independence regardless of who participates.

Membership recognizes participation. It does not imply endorsement.

Membership is ODA3's acknowledgment that someone is participating in its community — not ODA3's approval of that person, their organization, or anything they produce, sell, or operate.

3. Membership Is Not

This section defines what the Programme deliberately does not provide. It is placed early because it is one of the most important sections in this charter, not a defensive footnote.

Membership in the ODA3 Membership Programme is a structured form of participation in ODA3's professional community. It does not constitute, and must never be represented as:

- certification of an individual's competence;
- certification of an organization's compliance;
- certification, approval, or assessment of a product, service, or AI system;
- audit or assessment authority of any kind;
- regulatory endorsement, safe harbor, or compliance guarantee;
- commercial delivery rights, partner status, or licensing rights;
- ownership of, or voting authority over, ODA3 frameworks (GAISSF™, UAIF™, AI-IRF™, PAI-SF™, or any future framework);
- the right to represent ODA3 publicly, unless expressly authorized in writing;
- influence over ODA3's independent research findings, assessment methodologies, or assurance conclusions;
- employment, agency, or representation of ODA3 Institute;
- membership in, or representation by, any standards body, regulatory authority, or accreditation body.

Membership is intended to support informed participation in ODA3's mission. It does not transfer authority over ODA3's methodologies, publications, or governance.

This charter does not restrict members from developing or selling their own commercial products or services designed to help their customers meet ODA3 frameworks, provided such products or services do not imply ODA3 endorsement, certification, or partnership.

Members may not describe themselves as "ODA3 Certified," "ODA3 Approved," "ODA3 Accredited," "ODA3 Endorsed," or "ODA3 Verified." Approved public representation is addressed in §13.

4. Notably Absent at Launch

Consistent with ODA3's evidence discipline, this charter states plainly what the Programme does not yet have, rather than allowing that to be discovered by omission:

- No regional chapters are operational.
- No member-elected committee is operational.
- No fellowship process is operational.
- No membership fee schedule is published.
- No certification or professional credential is attached to membership.
- No guaranteed working-group placement exists.
- No in-person annual conference is committed.
- No proprietary incident dataset or confidential client telemetry is available to members.
- No membership category carries partner, assessor, or commercial-delivery authority.
- No regulatory or standards-body endorsement is implied by any membership category.
- No public-interest or regulatory-observer participation status is defined or operational at this time.
- No formal appeals mechanism for admissions or sanctions decisions is operational.
- No member directory, roster, or public listing of members is operational beyond the optional individual listing described in §8.

5. Membership Categories

The Programme launches with six categories: five standing membership categories, and one separate time-bounded recognition status.

Individual Track

Affiliate Member

General participation for anyone with an interest in operational AI assurance. Open application; no professional-relevance review. This is the Programme's lowest-friction entry point. Affiliate applications remain subject to identity, conduct, alignment, and programme-capacity review; only the professional-relevance gate is waived.

Year-One Policy: Complimentary.

Practitioner Member

For active professionals in cybersecurity, AI security, governance, risk, compliance, standards, or assurance. Application reviewed for professional relevance.

Year-One Policy: Complimentary, subject to review.

Student & Early-Career Member

For enrolled students, recent graduates, and researchers beginning their careers in a relevant discipline. "Early-career" generally refers to applicants in the initial stage of relevant study, research, or professional practice; the Membership Secretariat may consider career transitions,

research pathways, and other relevant circumstances. Detailed operational benchmarks are maintained in the internal review procedure, not in this charter.

Year-One Policy: Complimentary.

Academic Member

For faculty and individual researchers with a current academic or research affiliation. Academic affiliation reviewed. (Departments, laboratories, centres, or universities seeking organizational participation are directed to Corporate Membership or a future organizational academic category.)

Year-One Policy: Complimentary, subject to review.

Organizational Track

Corporate Member

For organizations seeking structured participation in ODA3's research and community. Invitation, or application subject to independence review (criteria in §6).

Year-One Policy: By invitation or approved application, subject to independence review and programme capacity.

Organizational participation model: Corporate Membership belongs to the approved organization, not to any individual. Participation is exercised through named representatives registered with the Membership Secretariat. ODA3 may limit the number of representatives during Year One (the specific limit is set in the application procedure, not this charter). All representatives remain individually subject to applicable conduct, confidentiality, conflict-of-interest, and mark-use requirements, regardless of their role within the member organization. Membership does not automatically transfer if a representative leaves the organization; the organization must register a replacement. Replacement of representatives does not require re-approval of the Corporate Membership itself, provided replacement representatives satisfy applicable participation requirements.

Recognition Status (not a membership category)

Founding Cohort

Invitation-only recognition for a limited first group of individuals and organizations contributing meaningfully to the Programme's formation. Full terms in §7.

The distinction between Affiliate and Practitioner Member is procedural, not hierarchical: Affiliate removes the professional-relevance gate to preserve a frictionless entry path; Practitioner adds that review for those seeking recognition of active professional standing. Neither implies superior standing over the other. Affiliate Member reflects demonstrated interest; Practitioner Member reflects active professional responsibility in an assurance-relevant role. ODA3 may reclassify an application to the more appropriate category at the time of review.

6. Eligibility and Admissions

Admissions philosophy: curated but welcoming. Anyone may apply to the Programme. Approval is based on relevance to operational AI assurance, professional or organizational

conduct, alignment with ODA3's principles, and programme capacity — never on prestige, organizational size, or purchasing power.

Corporate Member Review Criteria

Corporate membership applications are assessed against:

1. Relevance to operational AI assurance;
2. Willingness to operate within ODA3's independence principles;
3. Absence of material conflicts that would compromise framework governance;
4. Commitment to respectful, evidence-based participation;
5. Demonstrated willingness to contribute constructively to the Programme and its objectives.

Corporate review does not evaluate commercial size, market share, or purchasing power.

Corporate Membership Application Pathway

Organizations may apply for Corporate Membership through the same general process described below; they are not required to wait for an invitation. Applications are assessed against the five criteria above. Invitation-only status in Year One is a capacity and cohort-quality measure, not a permanent exclusion — ODA3 may invite organizations that would strengthen the Programme's diversity, representational balance, or operational relevance, and may open or close the invitation channel at any time.

General Admissions Process

1. Application submitted through the designated ODA3 process.
2. Eligibility reviewed by the Membership Secretariat (see §10) against the criteria for the relevant category.
3. Applicant notified of approval, request for further information, or decline. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within a reasonable period; where additional information is required, the applicant will be informed of what is needed.
4. Approved applicants proceed to onboarding.

ODA3 aims for a balanced Corporate Membership cohort representing diverse approaches to operational AI assurance. Deferral or decline of an application reflects programme capacity and cohort balance, and does not constitute an adverse assessment of the applicant, its products, services, or governance. Application outcomes and the information supplied in an application remain confidential, and are not disclosed beyond ODA3 personnel involved in review, unless disclosure is required by law or authorized by the applicant.

Full operational review procedure is maintained separately (see Appendix B and its note on future development into a standalone internal procedure document). Detailed data-handling practices for application and member information are addressed in Appendix D (Data, Privacy, and Confidentiality).

7. Founding Cohort

The Founding Cohort recognizes a limited first group of individuals and organizations contributing meaningfully to the Programme's formation.

Maximum: up to 30 participants, across individuals and organizations combined, subject to contribution relevance and programme capacity. ODA3 reserves the right to decline all invitations and close the cohort at any number below this maximum. The cohort closes no later than 31 December 2026.

Eligibility: invitation only.

Confers:

- Recognition in the inaugural Founding Cohort register, published as a companion document to this charter;
- Invitation to selected programme-formation discussions;
- Eligibility to provide structured feedback on the Programme's initial design;
- Contributor acknowledgement where appropriate.

Does not confer:

- Permanent governance, voting, or veto rights;
- Lifetime privileges or a permanent fee waiver;
- Commercial delivery rights or preferential access to paid engagements;
- Certification or assessment advantage;
- The right to direct or approve ODA3 publications.

Founding Cohort recognition is permanent as a matter of historical record — it does not carry forward rights into future years — and is subject to the same conduct, mark-use, and conflict-of-interest rules as all members. Membership itself remains subject to annual renewal regardless of Founding Cohort status. Recognition may be withdrawn for misrepresentation or serious misconduct.

Acceptance of a Founding Cohort invitation includes consent to be named in the published companion register. Individual members may request to be listed anonymously or to opt out of public naming while retaining Founding Cohort recognition privately; organizations are listed by default, reflecting that public recognition is central to the value of the designation for organizational participants.

Publishing the register as a companion document, rather than embedding it in this charter, allows routine corrections (additions, formatting, late closure) without triggering a charter revision under the policy in §10. Inclusion in the register records historical recognition only and does not indicate current membership status.

8. Member Benefits and Participation Opportunities

Benefits are opportunities for participation, not guaranteed entitlements. Benefits may evolve as the Programme develops. Participation in the ODA3 Membership Programme does not create an expectation that future benefits will be provided retrospectively or permanently.

No fee may be imposed during an active complimentary membership term. Any future fee structure will be published in advance and will apply only from a subsequent renewal period. Founding Cohort recognition does not create a permanent fee waiver.

Available in Year One

- Programme communications and updates;
- Optional public membership listing;
- Authorized, year-dated, non-transferable membership badge (see §13).

Conditional — Not Guaranteed

- Invitations to member briefings and roundtables, subject to scheduling and capacity;
- Eligibility to apply for approved working-group seats and consultations;
- Selected pre-publication draft-review opportunities, where capacity allows;
- A structured channel for framework and methodology feedback;
- Contributor acknowledgement and credit on specific publications, where published contribution thresholds are met and editorial standards are satisfied. Where an organization supports the dedicated time of a named representative contributing to a working group, ODA3 may recognize the organizational affiliation in publication metadata or contributor notes, subject to the same editorial standards;
- Notices of ODA3 education, training, and Academy development as available;
- Speaking opportunities;
- Research collaboration;
- Advisory-panel participation.

Inclusion in a conditional opportunity does not create an expectation of access. All conditional opportunities depend on relevance, capacity, conduct, and conflict-of-interest screening at the time.

ODA3 intends to provide meaningful participation opportunities throughout the membership year, subject to programme maturity, capacity, and relevance. This is a statement of intent, not a guaranteed entitlement. ODA3 intends to publish an annual Programme activity summary reporting on briefings held, working-group activity, and other engagement conducted during the year, providing accountability without committing to specific outcomes for specific members.

Contributions submitted during consultations, working groups, or draft reviews will be handled in accordance with the participation terms communicated for that specific activity at the time.

A Member's engagement over a membership year may look different depending on category and interest. Illustratively, and without creating any obligation, engaged participation over a twelve-month period might include: responding to a structured consultation, submitting framework or methodology feedback, maintaining current representative registration (for Corporate Members), and remaining in good standing under the Code of Conduct (§13).

Not Available Through Membership

- Commercial delivery rights;
- Partner status;
- Consulting access;
- Private technical support commitments;
- Certification priority or preference;
- Assessment preference;

- Regulatory introductions;
- Access to confidential client evidence or proprietary telemetry.

9. Member Responsibilities

Membership is reciprocal. In exchange for the participation opportunities above, members are expected to:

- Keep registration and profile information current and accurate;
- Comply with ODA3's Code of Conduct (§13);
- Avoid misrepresenting ODA3, its research, frameworks, or the nature of their own membership;
- Disclose relevant conflicts of interest where requested, particularly in working-group or research-review contexts;
- Respect confidentiality where applicable, including in closed sessions or draft-review materials;
- Use membership marks only as authorized (§13).

No minimum time commitment is required to maintain or renew membership. Advancement or recognition based on contribution (see §2, Stewardship) reflects the quality and relevance of participation, not hours logged. For Corporate Members, conflict-of-interest disclosure and conduct obligations apply to the organization's named representatives participating in a specific ODA3 context, not to the organization's broader commercial activities, strategic plans, or transactions generally.

10. Governance and Administration

Current Year-One Operating Model

The Programme is administered in its initial operating phase by the **ODA3 Membership Secretariat**, directly within ODA3 Institute. The Secretariat is responsible for:

- Applications and eligibility review;
- Category decisions;
- Onboarding and member records;
- Renewals;
- Conduct concerns, suspension, and termination;
- Programme communications.

The Founder & Executive Director retains final responsibility for the Programme. No elected member committee, no separated admissions or conduct panels, and no member voting mechanism are operational at launch.

Intended Future Governance

Governance arrangements may be expanded as the Programme's participation and operational complexity increase, and will be described here only once actually operational — not before. The overarching principle for future governance is to progressively introduce member voice and

independent review as the Programme scales, while preserving ODA3's institutional independence and methodological control. Possible future elements include independent programme advisers, separated admissions and conduct review, member consultation mechanisms, a formal appeals process, working-group chairs, and an annual governance report.

Review Policy

This Programme will be reviewed at least annually, or sooner where material operational, governance, or legal changes require revision.

Programme Amendment

Amendments to the ODA3 Membership Programme are approved and published by ODA3 Institute through a documented revision process. Changes take effect only upon publication of an updated programme document. Individual staff members, working groups, or members may not independently modify programme rules or governance. Revisions may be initiated by the Founder & Executive Director, the Membership Secretariat, or through documented member feedback channels; all revisions require approval by the Founder & Executive Director before publication.

Programme Revision Policy:

Revision Type	Scope
Major Revision	Changes to programme scope, governance, membership categories, constitutional principles, or member rights and responsibilities
Minor Revision	Clarifications, editorial improvements, operational refinements, additional examples, or appendices that do not materially change programme intent
Administrative Update	Metadata, contact details, links, or typographical corrections that do not affect programme content

Where a proposed amendment would materially alter member rights, responsibilities, governance principles, or programme scope, the published revision will include a summary of substantive changes.

11. Independence, Conflicts, and Anti-Capture

ODA3 preserves independent judgment in all research, assessment, standards, and assurance activities. Membership — at any category, including Corporate Membership — does not influence ODA3's independent conclusions.

Corporate and organizational members may participate in community activities, but do not obtain the right to direct, approve, suppress, or influence ODA3 research findings, assessment methodologies, or assurance conclusions.

Members are expected to disclose relevant conflicts of interest when participating in working groups, research reviews, or public-facing ODA3 activities. Individual members participating in working groups or research reviews must disclose any professional or financial interests that could reasonably be perceived as influencing their contributions.

ODA3 will take reasonable steps to prevent any single organization, vendor, sector, or interest group from disproportionately influencing working groups, research outputs, or community positions. ODA3 may decline participation in any activity where independence could reasonably be perceived as compromised.

Where a conflict of interest is identified in the context of a specific working group, research review, or public-facing activity, the Membership Secretariat may limit, condition, or exclude the affected member's participation in that specific activity without affecting their general membership status.

12. Working Groups and Contribution Pathways

Working groups are a primary mechanism for member contribution beyond passive participation. Proposed working-group themes — illustrative and subject to revision, reflecting current institutional interest rather than committed deliverables — include AI Governance, Operational Assurance, AI Incident Management, Evidence Architecture, and Standards Mapping. These are introduced only as capacity allows, not committed to on a fixed timeline.

Working-group participation does not grant ownership of ODA3 outputs unless expressly agreed in writing. Working-group outputs may recognize contributors by name, but ODA3 retains final editorial and methodological control.

No working group constitutes a standards body, certification scheme, or regulatory advisory panel. Groups operate under ODA3 charters, with ODA3 retaining final editorial and methodological control over any output.

13. Code of Conduct, Membership Marks, and Public Representation

Code of Conduct

Members must act professionally, respect confidentiality where applicable, avoid misrepresentation, disclose relevant conflicts, refrain from abusive or deceptive conduct, respect intellectual property, comply with applicable law, and use ODA3 marks only as authorized.

Sanctions for violation may include a warning, suspension of benefits, removal from a working group, non-renewal, termination, or public correction where necessary. Sanctions are applied proportionately, through a documented internal process, and may be escalated for repeated or serious violations. Members will be informed of the basis for a decision and given a reasonable opportunity to respond before a sanction is applied, except in cases of serious misconduct where immediate action is necessary. The detailed sanctions procedure is maintained as a controlled internal process and may be published in a future programme revision where appropriate.

Membership Marks

Members may display a current membership badge reading "**Member, ODA3 Membership Programme**" (year-dated, non-transferable). The badge must not be altered, must not imply certification, and must not be used in a way suggesting ODA3 endorsement of a product or

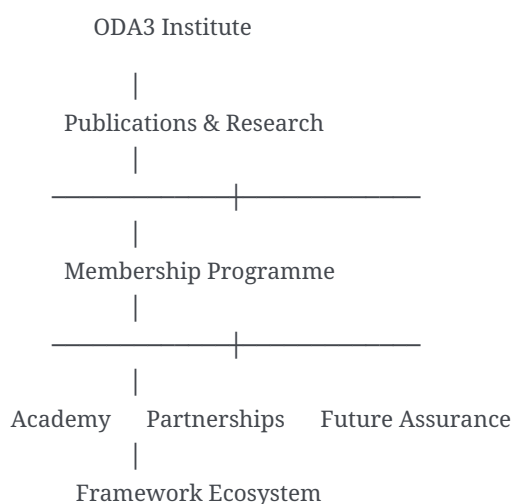
service. Marks must be removed upon expiry or termination, subject to a reasonable 30-day phase-out period for digital and printed corporate materials.

Prohibited representations include "ODA3 Certified," "ODA3 Approved," "ODA3 Accredited," "ODA3 Endorsed," "ODA3 Verified," "ODA3 Partner," and "ODA3 Assessor."

The remaining sections describe how the Membership Programme interacts with the broader ODA3 ecosystem, how participation progresses over time, and where additional operational guidance is provided.

14. Membership within the ODA3 Ecosystem

Membership is the community participation layer of the ODA3 ecosystem. It complements — but does not replace — the distinct roles of publications, education, partnerships, and future assurance activities. This section clarifies how Membership relates to each, and, importantly, what it does not grant with respect to any of them.



14.1 Relationship to Publications

ODA3 publications — including GAISSE™, UAIF™, AI-IRF™, PAI-SF™, GEL, and any future frameworks — are published for public access. Membership does not provide exclusive access to publications; restricting frameworks to paying or approved members would work against ODA3's mission of advancing operational AI assurance broadly.

Membership does provide:

- Early visibility into selected pre-publication drafts, where capacity allows and subject to confidentiality obligations;
- A structured feedback channel to inform publication development;
- Contributor acknowledgement where substantive input meets published thresholds and editorial standards (§8).

Membership does not provide:

- Co-authorship or joint intellectual property rights over ODA3 publications, unless expressly agreed in a separate written instrument;
- The right to approve, suppress, or direct publication content;

- Ownership of, or licensing rights to, ODA3 frameworks, methodologies, or evidence standards.

14.2 Relationship to the ODA3 Academy

The ODA3 Academy is the Institute's education and training arm. Membership and the Academy are distinct: membership recognizes participation in the community, while the Academy provides education and capability development. Participation in one does not confer standing, completion, or certification in the other.

Membership does not provide: free or discounted Academy access, priority enrolment, certification advantage, or any presumption of qualification for Academy programmes.

Membership may provide: notices of Academy programme development, and eligibility for member roundtables on curriculum development where capacity allows.

Membership is not a prerequisite for Academy participation, and Academy participation is not a prerequisite for membership.

14.3 Relationship to the ODA3 Partnership Programme

The ODA3 Partnership Programme is a separate engagement pathway for organizations with defined operational roles in delivering ODA3-aligned services, documented separately and not governed by this charter.

Membership and Partnership are fundamentally different in purpose: membership is community participation and contribution; partnership is operational collaboration and delivery.

Membership does not provide: partnership status, commercial delivery rights, assessor authority, API access, integration support, technical support commitments, or any right to deliver ODA3-aligned training, assessment, or consulting services. Membership does not provide any pathway to become a Partner solely through membership.

Membership may provide: familiarity with ODA3 frameworks and methodologies that may inform an organization's later decision to pursue Partnership, and access to the community where Partnership-relevant expertise can be developed and demonstrated.

An organization may be a Member only, a Partner only, both, or neither; none of these statuses automatically grants another.

For the avoidance of doubt: platform integration, product embedding, joint go-to-market activity, or any collaboration involving delivery of ODA3-aligned services — including any integration work of the kind contemplated in prior partnership discussions — requires a formal Partnership agreement with its own technical, legal, and independence safeguards. Corporate Membership alone grants none of this.

14.4 Relationship to Assessment and Future Certification

ODA3 intends to develop certification programmes to recognize practitioner competence and organizational capability in operational AI assurance. These programmes are not yet defined or operational. Membership is not certification (§3).

Future assessment, assurance, certification, or recognition programmes will operate under their own eligibility, independence, and governance requirements, entirely separate from Membership. Membership:

- does not reduce evidence requirements;
- does not shorten assessment procedures;
- does not influence assessor independence;
- does not affect assessment or certification decisions;
- does not confer discounts, fast-tracks, or queue priority, unless separately and explicitly published within those future programmes themselves.

What Membership can provide: a structured environment to develop expertise and demonstrate contribution, which may strengthen a member's readiness when certification programmes become available, and visibility into the development of certification requirements through working groups and feedback channels where capacity allows. ODA3 will publish separate documentation for certification programmes when developed, and this charter will be updated to reflect that relationship at that time.

14.5 Summary

Pathway	Purpose	Access	Outcome
Membership	Community participation	Open or invited	Recognition and contribution
Academy	Education and training	Enrolment	Knowledge and competence
Partnership	Operational delivery	Separate agreement	Authorized service delivery
Certification	Formal credentialing	Not yet defined	Recognized capability

Each pathway is distinct. Participation in one does not guarantee access to another. ODA3's governance, independence, and methodological control are preserved across all pathways. Nothing in this section creates an entitlement to any service, benefit, or access not expressly described in the relevant governing instrument.

15. Member Lifecycle, Renewal, Suspension, and Exit

This section describes how an individual or organization progresses through the Membership Programme — from application through to exit — and how membership status is maintained, reviewed, and, where necessary, ended.

15.1 Lifecycle Overview

[Discover] → [Apply] → [Review] → [Onboard] → [Participate] → [Renew] → [Advance / Exit]

Membership states: Applicant, Active, Inactive/Lapsed, Suspended, Terminated, Former. A member is in exactly one state at a time; state changes are recorded by the Membership Secretariat. Former Member is an administrative status indicating prior participation in the Programme; it conveys no continuing membership rights or public standing.

The membership year runs 12 months from the date of approval, not the calendar year. Renewal and any future fee obligations are calculated against that anniversary date, not a fixed calendar date.

15.2 Discovery and Application

Discovery occurs through ODA3 public communications, publications, website content, and community outreach. The application process is described in §6.

15.3 Onboarding

Approved applicants proceed to onboarding, which includes:

- Confirmation of membership category and applicable terms;
- Acknowledgment of the Code of Conduct (§13) and member responsibilities (§9);
- Provision of the current membership badge (year-dated, non-transferable) for authorized use;
- Confirmation of public listing preferences;
- Information on how to participate in available activities and opportunities.

For Corporate Members, onboarding includes registration of named representatives (§5).

15.4 Participation

Participation is the core of the Programme. Members are expected to engage constructively, contribute where possible, and comply with the Programme's principles and responsibilities. Participation opportunities vary by membership category and are described in §8. Members are not required to participate in all activities.

No minimum time commitment is required to maintain or renew membership (§9). Advancement or recognition based on contribution reflects the quality and relevance of participation, not hours logged.

15.5 Renewal

Membership is annual, calculated from the member's approval anniversary (§15.1).

Year-One Policy: All membership categories are complimentary, subject to the conditions described in §5. Year-One members do not need to renew during the initial year unless their status changes.

Subsequent Years: The Membership Secretariat will communicate renewal terms, including any applicable fees, at least 90 days before the renewal date. If a complimentary term is ending and a fee is being introduced, the renewal notice will state this plainly, along with the applicable timeline — consistent with the fee-transition protection in §8, there is no surprise billing.

Renewal Process:

1. Member receives notification of renewal terms and deadlines.
2. Member confirms intent to renew and provides any required updates to registration, profile, or (for Corporate Members) representative information.
3. Membership Secretariat reviews for continued eligibility and conduct compliance.

4. Membership is renewed, or the member is notified of any issues requiring resolution.

Renewal is opt-in, not automatic. Members who do not complete the renewal process by the deadline will have their membership lapse. Lapsed members may reapply, subject to §15.9.

What renewal confirms: continued eligibility for the member's category; accuracy of profile and (for Corporate Members) representative data; continued alignment with the Programme's principles and Code of Conduct; and agreement to any charter terms published under the Programme Revision Policy (§10) since the member's last renewal. Renewal does not imply endorsement of the member or their activities beyond continued participation in the Programme.

Corporate Membership remains with the organization throughout ordinary personnel changes, provided authorized representatives are kept current per §5.

15.6 Non-Renewal

Members may choose not to renew at the end of any term. No penalty applies, and former members are welcome to reapply.

Non-renewal may also be initiated by ODA3 where the member has not met responsibilities under §9; has materially misrepresented affiliation, qualifications, or participation; has violated the Code of Conduct (§13); or where continued participation would, in ODA3's reasonable judgment, compromise its independence, reputation, or mission. (Failure to complete renewal by the deadline results in lapse, as described in §15.5, rather than non-renewal for cause.)

Where non-renewal is initiated by ODA3 for conduct or compliance reasons, the member will be notified of the basis and given a reasonable opportunity to respond, except in cases of serious misconduct where immediate action is necessary.

15.7 Suspension

Suspension is a temporary measure, applied where a conduct concern is under investigation, a period of correction is warranted, or immediate action is necessary to protect ODA3's independence, reputation, or mission and termination would be disproportionate. ODA3 will communicate suspension outcomes privately, unless public clarification is necessary to correct material public misrepresentation.

Suspension may include suspension of benefits, removal from working groups or activities, suspension of public listing, and prohibition on membership mark use. Suspension pauses participation and benefits; it does not pause a member's underlying conduct, confidentiality, or conflict-of-interest obligations, which continue to apply throughout.

Suspension is time-limited and reviewed regularly. The member will be notified of the grounds, expected duration, and conditions for lifting it.

15.8 Termination

Termination ends the current membership, applied for serious or repeated Code of Conduct violations (§13), material misrepresentation, conduct that compromises ODA3's independence, reputation, or mission, or unresolved issues following suspension or notice.

Termination is a decision of the Membership Secretariat, with the Founder & Executive Director retaining final authority. Before termination, the member will be notified of the proposed action

and basis, and given a reasonable opportunity to respond, except in cases of serious misconduct where immediate action is necessary.

15.9 Reapplication After Termination or Lapse

Former members whose membership has lapsed or been terminated may reapply, subject to current admissions criteria and category availability, a review of the circumstances of the lapse or termination, satisfactory resolution of any outstanding conduct or compliance issues, and any fees applicable at the time. Reapplication following termination for conduct violations is at the sole discretion of the Membership Secretariat and requires a formal review; termination for serious misconduct may result in permanent ineligibility for reapplication.

15.10 Voluntary Exit

Members may exit at any time by notifying the Membership Secretariat. Voluntary exit is effective immediately upon notification. No refunds are applicable, consistent with the terms and conditions applicable at the time (and consistent with Year-One membership being complimentary).

15.11 What Survives Exit

The following obligations continue after membership ends, regardless of whether exit is voluntary, by lapse, or by termination:

- Immediate cessation of membership mark use, subject to the 30-day phase-out period for corporate digital and printed materials described in §13;
- Confidentiality obligations regarding any closed-session, draft-review, or other non-public materials the member was exposed to while active;
- Any intellectual property terms that applied to contributions made while the member was active (§14.1) continue to govern those specific contributions;
- The historical accuracy of the Founding Cohort register (§7), where applicable, is unaffected by a former member's subsequent exit — the register reflects historical recognition, not current status.

16. Frequently Asked Questions

This section addresses common questions about the ODA3 Membership Programme. Answers here summarize the governing sections of this charter; where more detail is needed, refer to the section cited.

General

Q1: What is the ODA3 Membership Programme?

A structured participation framework for individuals and organizations contributing to the advancement of operational AI assurance (§1).

Q2: Who is the Programme for?

Anyone with an interest in operational AI assurance. Categories exist for individuals (Affiliate, Practitioner, Student & Early-Career, Academic) and organizations (Corporate) (§5).

Q3: Why does ODA3 have a Membership Programme, and why now?

To create a structured pathway for participation in the development of the discipline, not just consumption of its publications (§1).

Q4: Is there a minimum time commitment?

No. No minimum time commitment is required to maintain or renew membership (§9, §15.4).

Boundaries: What Membership Is Not**Q5: Is ODA3 Membership a professional certification?**

No. Membership does not constitute certification of an individual's competence, an organization's compliance, or a product, service, or AI system (§3).

Q6: Does membership certify my organization's AI systems or governance practices?

No. See §3 and §14.4 — membership provides no assessment or audit authority.

Q7: Does membership imply that ODA3 endorses my company or products?

No. Membership recognizes participation; it does not imply endorsement (§2, §3).

Q8: Can I use the ODA3 logo, or say I am "ODA3 Certified" or "ODA3 Partner"?

Only the authorized year-dated membership badge, used per §13. "ODA3 Certified," "ODA3 Approved," "ODA3 Accredited," "ODA3 Endorsed," "ODA3 Verified," "ODA3 Partner," and "ODA3 Assessor" are prohibited representations (§13).

Q9: Does membership give me a vote in ODA3's governance or standards development?

No. No membership category, including Corporate, obtains the right to direct, approve, or influence ODA3's research or governance (§2, §10, §11).

Corporate and Organizational Membership**Q10: How does Corporate Membership differ from Individual Membership?**

Corporate Membership belongs to the approved organization, not an individual, and is exercised through named representatives registered with the Membership Secretariat (§5).

Q11: Is Corporate Membership invitation-only, or can we apply?

Organizations may apply; invitation is not required. Invitation-only status in Year One reflects capacity and cohort-quality, not permanent exclusion (§6).

Q12: How are Corporate applications evaluated?

Against five criteria: relevance, independence-principle alignment, absence of material conflicts, commitment to evidence-based participation, and demonstrated willingness to contribute constructively. Commercial size, market share, and purchasing power are explicitly excluded from review (§6).

Q13: If our application is declined or deferred, does that reflect badly on our technology or governance?

No. Deferral or decline reflects programme capacity and cohort balance, not an adverse assessment of the applicant, its products, services, or governance. Outcomes remain confidential (§6).

Q14: How many representatives can our organization register, and what if one leaves?

The specific limit is set in the application procedure. If a representative leaves, the organization registers a replacement; this does not require re-approval of the membership itself (§5).

Q15: Does Corporate Membership give us API access, integration support, or partner status?

No. These require a formal Partnership agreement, entirely separate from Membership (§14.3).

Participation, Contribution, and Working Groups

Q16: How do I join a working group?

Working-group eligibility is a conditional opportunity, subject to relevance, capacity, conduct, and conflict screening (§8, §12).

Q17: If my team contributes to an ODA3 framework through a working group, does my company own the resulting IP?

No. Working-group participation does not grant ownership of ODA3 outputs unless expressly agreed in writing. ODA3 retains final editorial and methodological control (§12).

Q18: Will my company be recognized if our employees contribute?

Where an organization supports a named representative's dedicated contribution, ODA3 may recognize the organizational affiliation in publication metadata or contributor notes, subject to editorial standards (§8).

Q19: Can we build commercial products or consulting services based on ODA3 frameworks?

Yes, provided such products or services do not imply ODA3 endorsement, certification, or partnership (§3).

The Broader Ecosystem

Q20: What is the difference between Membership and the ODA3 Partnership Programme?

Membership is community participation; Partnership is operational collaboration and delivery, governed separately. Neither automatically grants the other (§14.3).

Q21: We want to integrate ODA3 assurance concepts into our platform. Is Corporate Membership enough?

No. Platform integration, product embedding, or joint go-to-market activity requires a formal Partnership agreement with its own safeguards (§14.3).

Q22: Does membership give discounted or priority access to the ODA3 Academy?

No. Membership and the Academy are distinct; one does not grant standing in the other (§14.2).

Q23: When ODA3 launches certification, will members get a fast-track or discount?

No. Membership does not reduce evidence requirements, shorten procedures, or confer discounts, unless a future certification programme separately and explicitly publishes such terms itself (§14.4).

Founding Cohort

Q24: What is the Founding Cohort, and is it a membership category?

An invitation-only recognition status for a limited first group contributing to the Programme's formation. It is not a membership category (§5, §7).

Q25: How large is the Founding Cohort, and when does it close?

Up to 30 participants, across individuals and organizations combined. It closes no later than 31 December 2026, or earlier at ODA3's discretion (§7).

Q26: Does Founding Cohort status confer ongoing rights?

No. It is permanent as historical recognition only, and does not carry forward governance, voting, fee-waiver, or certification advantage. Membership remains subject to annual renewal regardless (§7).

Q27: Will Founding Cohort members be publicly listed?

Organizations are listed by default in the published companion register. Individuals may request anonymity or opt out of public naming while retaining recognition privately (§7).

Lifecycle, Fees, and Operations

Q28: Is membership really free in Year One?

Yes — "complimentary" for approved members. No fee may be imposed during an active complimentary term (§7, §8).

Q29: How will I know when renewal is due, and will I be surprised by a bill?

Membership runs 12 months from approval. The Secretariat notifies members of renewal terms, including any fees, at least 90 days before the renewal date; any future fee introduction is published in advance, never mid-term (§15.5).

Q30: What happens if I don't renew?

Membership lapses. Lapsed members may reapply, subject to admissions criteria and fees current at that time (§15.5, §15.9).

Q31: Can ODA3 suspend or terminate my membership? What happens if I disagree with a decision?

Yes, for documented conduct or compliance reasons, following a proportionate, notified process (§13, §15.7, §15.8). No formal appeals mechanism is operational at launch (§4); this may be introduced as governance expands (§10).

Q32: If I leave or am terminated, what obligations survive?

Mark removal (with a 30-day corporate phase-out), confidentiality regarding non-public materials, and IP terms on past contributions all survive exit. The Founding Cohort register's historical accuracy is unaffected (§15.11).

Q33: Can I exit voluntarily at any time?

Yes, effective immediately upon notifying the Membership Secretariat. No refunds apply (membership is complimentary in Year One) (§15.10).

Q34: Can I reapply after lapsing or being terminated?

Yes, subject to review of circumstances and current admissions criteria; serious misconduct may result in permanent ineligibility to reapply (§15.9).

International Participation and Confidentiality

Q35: Is the Programme open internationally?

Yes, within the operational limits of a young institute (§2).

Q36: How is my application and member information handled?

Application outcomes and submitted information remain confidential, disclosed only to ODA3 personnel involved in review unless required by law or authorized by the applicant. Detailed data-handling practices are addressed in Appendix D (§6).

17. Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions

This appendix defines terms that carry specific operational or governance weight in this charter. Definitions apply for the purposes of this charter only.

Term	Definition
Active	Membership state indicating current, in-good-standing participation (§15.1).
Affiliate Member	Membership category for general participation; no professional-relevance review (§5).
Conditional Opportunity	A participation opportunity dependent on relevance, capacity, conduct, and conflict screening; not a guaranteed entitlement (§8).
Corporate Member	Organizational membership category, exercised through named representatives (§5).
Founding Cohort	Invitation-only recognition status for the Programme's first formative group; not a membership category (§7).
Inactive/Lapsed	Membership state following failure to complete renewal by the deadline (§15.1, §15.5).
Membership Secretariat	The administrative body within ODA3 Institute responsible for day-to-day Programme operation (§10).
Named Representative	An individual registered by a Corporate Member to exercise participation rights on the organization's behalf (§5).
Serious Misconduct	Conduct warranting immediate action without prior notice-and-response, as distinct from ordinary Code of Conduct violations (§13, §15.7, §15.8).
Suspended	Temporary membership state pausing benefits and participation while conduct or compliance obligations continue to apply (§15.7).
Terminated	Membership state ending current participation; does not permanently bar reapplication except in cases of serious misconduct (§15.8, §15.9).
Year One	The initial operating period of the Programme, during which all categories are complimentary (§7, §8).

Appendix B: Application Review Criteria

This appendix summarizes the criteria against which applications are assessed, as referenced in §6.

B.1 General Principle. Admissions follow the "curated but welcoming" philosophy (§6): approval is based on relevance, conduct, alignment, and programme capacity — never prestige, size, or purchasing power.

B.2 Corporate Member Criteria. As set out in §6: relevance to operational AI assurance; willingness to operate within ODA3's independence principles; absence of material conflicts; commitment to respectful, evidence-based participation; demonstrated willingness to contribute constructively. Commercial size, market share, and purchasing power are explicitly excluded from review.

B.3 Individual Category Review. Practitioner and Academic Member applications are reviewed for professional or academic relevance to the individual's stated category. Affiliate applications are reviewed only for identity, conduct, and alignment, per §5. Student & Early-Career applications are reviewed for enrolment or early-career status per the operational discretion described in §5.

B.4 Operational Detail. Detailed benchmarks, scoring guidance, and review workflows are maintained internally by the Membership Secretariat (see §6 and the note under Appendix B in the internal Decision Register regarding future development into a standalone procedure document, e.g. MBP-OPS-001). Changes to this internal operational detail do not, by themselves, trigger a charter revision under §10 — only changes affecting the criteria or principles stated in the charter itself do.

Appendix C: Founding Cohort Operational Rules

This appendix sets out the rules of engagement for the Founding Cohort, as referenced in §7.

The inaugural Founding Cohort register — the list of names and organizations — is published as a standalone companion document, not within this appendix or this charter. This appendix governs the rules; the companion document governs the record.

C.1 Invitation. Founding Cohort participation is by invitation only. ODA3 identifies prospective invitees based on relevance and demonstrated or anticipated meaningful contribution to the Programme's formation.

C.2 Capacity. Up to 30 participants, across individuals and organizations combined. ODA3 may close the cohort at any number at or below this maximum and reserves the right to decline all invitations in a given period.

C.3 Deadline. The cohort closes no later than 31 December 2026, or earlier at ODA3's discretion if capacity is reached first.

C.4 Consent and Visibility. Acceptance of an invitation includes consent to be named in the published companion register. Organizations are listed by default. Individuals may request anonymization or opt out of public naming while retaining Founding Cohort recognition privately (§7).

C.5 "Meaningful Contribution." For the purposes of invitation, meaningful contribution may include substantive input to the Programme's initial design, early adoption of ODA3 frameworks

in a documented context, participation in formative discussions, or other engagement the Membership Secretariat determines materially supported the Programme's formation. This is an operational judgment, not a fixed checklist.

C.6 No Ongoing Rights. As stated in §7, Founding Cohort recognition is historical only. It does not carry forward governance, voting, fee-waiver, or certification rights, and membership itself remains subject to annual renewal regardless of Cohort status.

Appendix D: Data, Privacy, and Confidentiality

This appendix addresses the handling of application, member, representative, and participation information, as referenced throughout this charter (§6, §9, §15.11).

D.1 Scope. This appendix covers application data, member records, named-representative records, working-group and draft-review confidentiality, publication attribution, and cross-border participation.

D.2 No Sale or Trade of Data. ODA3 does not sell, rent, or trade member or applicant data to third parties. Data is used strictly for Programme administration, communications, and governance.

D.3 Application Information. Information supplied in applications is collected for eligibility review, category assignment, and administration, and is processed in accordance with applicable data protection law. Application outcomes and submitted information remain confidential, disclosed only to ODA3 personnel involved in review, unless required by law or authorized by the applicant (§6).

D.4 Member and Representative Records. Member and named-representative information is maintained by the Membership Secretariat for administration, communications, benefit provision, the optional public listing, and the annual programme activity summary (§8). It is retained for the duration of membership and a reasonable period thereafter for audit, legal, and historical purposes.

D.5 Working-Group and Draft-Review Confidentiality. Contributions and materials shared in closed sessions, working groups, or draft reviews are subject to the confidentiality terms communicated for that specific activity (§9, §14.1). Members are responsible for not submitting proprietary, classified, or otherwise highly sensitive third-party data into ODA3 feedback channels or working groups; ODA3 does not undertake to protect information beyond what participants themselves choose to disclose.

D.6 Publication Attribution. Contributor and organizational acknowledgement in publications follows §8 and Appendix E, and is subject to editorial standards regardless of the underlying confidentiality of the contribution process.

D.7 Cross-Border Participation. The Programme is open to international participants (§2). Data is processed in accordance with applicable data protection law in the relevant jurisdictions; specific cross-border transfer mechanisms are addressed operationally and are not detailed in this charter.

D.8 Access, Correction, and Deletion. Applicants and members may request correction of inaccurate information or deletion of their data, subject to legal and operational constraints (including retention needed for audit or historical accuracy, such as the Founding Cohort register per §15.11). Requests should be directed to the Membership Secretariat.

Appendix E: Intellectual Property and Contributor Terms

This appendix addresses intellectual property and contribution terms, as referenced in §8, §12, §14.1, and §15.11.

E.1 Ownership. ODA3 retains final editorial and methodological control over all publications, frameworks, and other outputs. Contributors do not acquire ownership of, or licensing rights to, ODA3 frameworks, methodologies, or evidence standards, unless expressly agreed in a separate written instrument.

E.2 License Grant. By submitting feedback, draft comments, or working-group contributions, a member grants ODA3 a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use, incorporate, adapt, and publish that contribution as part of ODA3's outputs. This license does not require ODA3 to use any given contribution, and does not obligate ODA3 to any specific form of acknowledgement beyond what is described in §8 and E.3 below.

E.3 Acknowledgement. Contributors may be acknowledged by name where their contribution meets published thresholds and editorial standards. Where an organization supports a named representative's dedicated contribution, ODA3 may recognize the organizational affiliation in publication metadata or contributor notes, subject to the same editorial standards (§8).

E.4 Member's Own Use. Members retain the right to use their own original contributions for their own internal or commercial purposes, provided such use does not imply ODA3 endorsement, certification, or partnership (§3, E.5). This does not create joint ownership of the ODA3 output that incorporated the contribution, and does not restrict ODA3's own use of it under E.2.

E.5 Commercial Products. Consistent with §3, this charter does not restrict members from developing or selling their own commercial products or services designed to help their customers meet ODA3 frameworks, provided such products or services do not imply ODA3 endorsement, certification, or partnership.

E.6 Survival. Intellectual property terms that applied to a contribution made while a member was active continue to govern that specific contribution after membership ends (§15.11).

Appendix F: Future Development

This appendix is a brief, non-committal reference to elements under consideration for future years. It creates no obligation and no entitlement. Consistent with §4 (Notably Absent at Launch) and §10 (Intended Future Governance), the following are not operational at launch and are not committed to a timeline: a formal Fellowship process; regional chapters; an independent appeals mechanism; a member-elected advisory body or committee; a published detailed sanctions procedure (§13); a standalone published application review procedure (Appendix B); and a Public-Interest Observer or similar regulator-facing participation status.

Any introduction of these or other elements will be governed by the Programme Revision Policy (§10) and will not apply retroactively to existing members' terms without their own renewal or explicit agreement.

F.1 Revision Record. This charter is subject to the Programme Revision Policy (§10). A record of revisions — version, date, revision type, and summary of substantive changes — is maintained as part of the Programme's internal records and will be reflected in this charter's metadata block at each publication.

Version	Date	Revision Type	Summary
1.0	[Date]	Major	Initial publication