

**OPENID FOUNDATION  
LIAISON POLICY  
May 7, 2026**

**1. Introduction**

The OpenID Foundation (“**OIDF**”) is an international, non-profit, standards development organization. It is focused on creating, developing, adopting, and promoting the implementation of voluntary international open identity standards. OIDF’s mission is to lead the global community in creating identity standards that are secure, interoperable, and privacy-preserving.

OIDF’s work and deliverables benefit the OpenID community and the community at large. OIDF forms Liaison Relationships with organizations, such as other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and Governments to help advance the work of the Foundation and partner organization to benefit the community at large.

**2. Purpose**

This OpenID Foundation Liaison Policy (“**Liaison Policy**”) establishes the framework by which OIDF enters into, manages, and, where necessary, terminates formal Liaison Relationships with Liaison Partners, and explains the practices and procedures that govern the OIDF participants in those relationships.

**3. Applicability**

This Liaison Policy applies to the OIDF Liaison Committee, all OIDF Liaison Relationships, and all OIDF Liaison Representatives to Liaison Partners.

**4. Definitions**

Capitalized terms not defined in this Liaison Policy are defined in the OIDF Intellectual Property Rights Policy or the OIDF Process Document.

**Consensus:** means general agreement after reasonable consideration of relevant views. Consensus does not require unanimity.

**Internal Mirror Committee (IMC):** means a designated OIDF group, working group, community group, or ad hoc group used to coordinate OIDF stakeholder input for an external standards activity such as ISO work.

**Liaison Agreement:** A contract, memorandum of understanding, or equivalent instrument that documents the terms of a Liaison Relationship.

**Liaison Committee:** The OIDF committee established [by the Board of Directors??] and governed by this Policy to administer Liaison Relationships.

**Liaison Partner:** Any external standards development organization (SDO), governmental agency, Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO),

non-profit entity, or other organization with which ODF maintains a formal Liaison, MOU, or other recognized coordination relationship.

**Liaison Relationship:** A formally approved and documented arrangement with a Liaison Partner under which ODF and the Liaison Partner agree to exchange information, coordinate technical activities, and/or collaborate on standards development or other work efforts.

**Liaison Representative:** An individual designated by ODF to represent ODF and act as its primary point of contact with a specific Liaison Partner.

**ODF Position:** means a position, comment, statement, or negotiating direction that has been developed through the applicable ODF process and reflects ODF consensus or approved direction.

**Relevant Stakeholders:** means ODF working groups, community groups, contributors, members, staff, Board representatives, and other parties with a legitimate interest in the subject of the liaison.

## I. LIAISON COMMITTEE

### 5. Responsibilities of Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee is responsible for approving and overseeing all Liaison Relationships with Liaison Partners. This includes the responsibility to:

- Identify, evaluate, and approve prospective Liaison Partners;
- Develop and maintain standard criteria and procedures for liaison engagement;
- Ensure alignment of Liaison Partner activities with ODF's mission, policies, and applicable legal obligations;
- Oversee the negotiation and execution of Liaison Agreements on behalf of ODF;
- Appoint, instruct, and supervise Liaison Representatives;
- Oversee the performance and conduct of active Liaison Relationships;
- Periodically review existing Liaison Relationships for continued relevance and effectiveness, as well as utility and compliance;
- Report to the Board on the status of all Liaison Relationships at least annually; and
- Initiate suspension or termination procedures where a Liaison Relationship no longer serves ODF's interests or where a Liaison Partner has breached the terms of the applicable Liaison Agreement.
- The Liaison Committee should maintain written records of liaison approvals, objections, renewals, removals, and material decisions.

### 6. Liaison Committee Composition and Member Term

The Liaison Committee shall be composed of the current Executive Committee members, plus all current WG and CG co-chairs. If the liaison is strictly related to WG function, then the Committee Group co-chairs may share their views but will not count towards a consensus decision. The Liaison Committee may invite non-voting subject matter experts as needed but their views will not count towards a consensus decision. Persons holding

such positions are automatically added to the Liaison Committee upon their election or appointment to such role, and will be automatically removed from the Liaison Committee upon the expiration or termination of, or resignation from, their position.

## **7. Quorum and Consensus in Liaison Committee**

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Liaison Committee then in office. Where possible, all decisions of the Committee, including approval of a Liaison Partner and approval of a Liaison Representative shall be made by consensus without formal vote. The Liaison Committee will have achieved a consensus decision to approve if there are no unresolved requests for further information and no objections to a proposal in the 15 day period.

Matters relating to a new Liaison Partner and the corresponding Liaison Representative may be discussed concurrently, but decisions on those matters must be taken separately for two reasons:

- Entering into a Liaison Relationship with a new Liaison Partner may be subject to having suitable people to represent OI DF in the relationship; and
- The Liaison Partner relationship may outlast the Liaison Representative appointment

## **II. LIAISON PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS**

### **8. Initiation of Liaison Proposals**

#### **8.1. Submission**

Proposals to establish a Liaison Relationship with an organization (a “**Liaison Proposal**”) should be submitted to the Liaison Committee in writing, and can be made by any WG/CG cochair, contributor, or participant, or by any senior OI DF staff member.

#### **8.2. Required Information**

Liaison Proposals should include the following information:

- Identity and description of the proposed Liaison Partner organization;
- Purpose, scope, and terms of the proposed Liaison Relationship;
- Expected OI DF benefits and risks;
- Effected WG and CG;
- Relevant stakeholders to be consulted;
- Anticipated outputs;
- IPR or confidentiality requirements or any other known legal, competition law, or political considerations;
- Expected resource commitments;
- Whether there is a staff support dependency and Board approval is required;
- The proposed Liaison Representative;
- And renewal or review timing of both Liaison and the Liaison Representative.

## **9. Liaison Committee Review of a Liaison Partner Organization**

### **9.1. Liaison Partner Qualification - Evaluation Criteria**

The Liaison Committee shall conduct appropriate due diligence regarding the prospective Liaison Partner, and shall evaluate the Liaison Proposal based on the following criteria:

- **Threshold Criteria:** No Liaison Relationship shall be approved unless the Liaison Committee determines that the prospective Liaison Partner satisfies all of the following threshold criteria:
  - **Mission Alignment:** The Liaison Partner's activities are reasonably related to OI DF's standards development mission and strategic objectives;
  - **Openness and Transparency:** The Liaison Partner operates in a manner consistent with principles of openness, balance, due process, and consensus;
  - **Independence:** The proposed relationship will preserve OI DF's independence and decision-making processes;
  - **Legal Standing:** The Liaison Partner is a legally constituted entity with the capacity to enter into binding or non-binding agreements;
  - **Good Standing:** The Liaison Partner has no outstanding material disputes, sanctions, or other issues that would render a liaison relationship contrary to the public interest or OI DF's reputation; and
  - **Reciprocal Value:** The proposed relationship would provide tangible benefits to OI DF, its members, or the standards community.
  - **Legal Risks:** The proposed relationship adequately addresses potential legal, antitrust, intellectual property, and confidentiality risks
- **Discretionary Criteria:** In addition to the threshold criteria, the Liaison Committee may consider additional discretionary factors in evaluating a proposed Liaison Relationship, including but not limited to:
  - The degree of technical overlap or complementarity between the parties' current and planned work programs;
  - The geographic scope and international recognition of the prospective Liaison Partner;
  - The availability of sufficient organizational resources (staff time, financial costs, travel) to support the relationship;
  - Whether OI DF already maintains relationships with bodies that would render the proposed relationship duplicative;
  - The expressed interest of one or more of the prospective Liaison Partner's Committees in pursuing coordinated work with OI DF;
  - Any relevant geopolitical, legal, or regulatory considerations; and
  - Whether the proposed Liaison Relationship could conflict with the terms or spirit of any existing Liaison Agreement.

## 9.2. Liaison Committee Review of a Liaison Partner Organization

Based on the results of its due diligence and evaluation criteria review, and such other information as it may request, the Liaison Committee shall approve or reject the Liaison Proposal via a consensus decision as per section 7.

- Liaison Committee Review Responses
  - Comment = Request for more information from proposers/ WG/CG cochairs as appropriate
  - Approve = Email to Liaison Committee mailing list (e.g. +1 to lc email on the proposal) or verbal confirmation in a minuted meeting. (openid-lc@lists.openid.net)
  - Object = Object to the Liaison Committee mailing list or in a LC minuted meeting, and an object vote must include rationale as relates to the Liaison Policy, Charter of the WG/CG, and or the OI DF Mission and Vision.
- Decision timeframe. Timebox on 15 days from proposal to decision. If consensus is not achieved, the proposal may be revised once and resubmitted for another 15 day period.
  - If consensus cannot be reached after the second review period, the proposal should be closed, escalated to the Board, or handled under an appeals/dispute process identified by the Liaison Committee.
  - For ISO-related liaisons, OI DF should be prepared to describe its stakeholder engagement and consensus process to ISO and make the description available to relevant stakeholders on request.
- All decisions of the Liaison Committee are final unless there's a dependency on staff resourcing. Since the Board has delegated some funding discretion to the Executive Committee(EC), if the level of staff commitment to the liaison role is at or below the EC discretion limits, then the EC may make the staff liaison assignment decision on the Board's behalf. In those instances, the Liaison Committee decision is conditional on Board approval. Since the Board has delegated some funding discretion to the Executive Committee(EC), if the level of staff commitment to the liaison role is at or below the EC discretion limits, then the EC may make the staff liaison assignment decision on the Board's behalf. If Board approval is not secured then an alternate Liaison Representative must be identified.

## 10. Liaison Agreement Requirements

Following a decision to approve a Liaison Relationship, the the Executive Director shall, in consultation with legal counsel if necessary, document the terms of the Liaison Relationship by entering into a written Liaison Agreement with the Liaison Partner, which should address the relevant issues, including but not limited to:

- Scope and objectives of the Liaison Relationship;
- Roles and responsibilities of each party;
- Information-sharing protocols and confidentiality obligations, if any;

- Intellectual property considerations;
- Data protection and information security;
- Use of names, trademarks, and branding;
- Term and termination provisions;
- Compliance with applicable laws and organizational policies.

In addition, any potential contribution to ODF specifications or CG deliverables by the Liaison Partner must be covered by a suitable IPR agreement signed by the Liaison Partner – i.e., the WG Contribution Agreement, CG Participation Agreement, or an alternative bilateral agreement that meets legal requirements for ODF per ODF Counsel.

## **11. Management of Liaison Relationship Lifecycles**

### **11.1. Termination of the Liaison Partner**

Liaison Relationships terminate in accordance with the terms of the Liaison Agreement. If a Liaison Relationship reaches its natural conclusion prior to its expiration under the Liaison Agreement, it should be terminated officially in accordance with that Agreement. In either case it should be noted in the relationship archive.

### **11.2. Dormant Status**

If a Liaison Relationship covered by a valid unexpired Liaison Agreement transactions into a dormant status, that relationship may continue to be maintained unless there are objections from the Liaison Committee. Such dormant Liaison Relationships are beneficial when unknown but future work may arise, and having an existing Liaison Agreement in place that has not been terminated could still be mutually beneficial.

### **11.3. Periodic Renewing Agreements**

For Liaison Agreements that provide a periodic renewal, this will be tracked in the master list of ODF liaisons, and a suitable trigger for staff/liaisons to refresh will be generated.

### **11.4. Process to Remove a Liaison Partner**

Either ODF or the Liaison Partner may initiate the process to terminate a current or dormant Liaison Relationship in accordance with the terms of the Liaison Agreement. In such case ODF must:

- Notify the Liaison Partner of the termination (if initiated by ODF)
- Archive the Liaison Agreement material
- Remove any Liaison Partner logo from the ODF website
- Inform the Liaison Representative and any related WG/CGs that the termination is in effect (related issues can be closed)

## **III. LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES**

### **12. Appointment of Liaison Representative**

A Liaison Representative is appointed by ODF through Liaison Committee consensus, not elected by default. If a liaison partner requires a different selection method, the proposal must identify that requirement.

Appointment shall be confirmed in writing by a member of the Liaison Committee or an OI DF senior staff member.

### **12.1. Liaison Committee Review of a Liaison Representative Appointment**

- **Proposal.** A Liaison Representative proposal should identify:
  - the candidate;
  - relevant technical expertise;
  - relationship to affected WG/CGs;
  - employer/entity affiliation;
  - any conflict or independence concern;
  - expected time commitment;
  - language/meeting skills where relevant;
  - ability to represent OI DF consensus;
  - and any need for periodic renewal.
  
- **Before Approval.** Relevant WG/CG cochairs and stakeholders should have a fair opportunity to comment on the appointment, especially where the liaison affects ISO work or another formal SDO process.
  
- **Where More than one Qualified Candidate is Available.** The Liaison Committee should consider technical expertise, ability to represent the OI DF consensus position, continuity, stakeholder confidence, conflict considerations, and fair opportunity to serve.
  
- **Entity Affiliation.** If the entity affiliation of the Liaison Representatives is identified as a material consideration in the proposal for the role or in the maintenance of the role, such that any changes to the individuals entity affiliation will trigger suitable lifecycle steps, then that designation needs to be made in the proposal.
  
- **Review Responses**
  - Comment - Request for more information from proposers/ WG cochairs as appropriate
  - Approval - Email to Liaison Committee mailing list (e.g. +1 to lc email on the proposal) or verbal confirmation in a minuted meeting
  - Object - Object to the Liaison Committee mailing list or in a LC minuted meeting, and down vote must include rationale as relates to the Liaison Policy.

### **12.2. Liaison Representative Qualifications**

- **Qualifying OI DF Roles.** The individual proposed for the Liaison Representative role may be an OI DF WG Contributor, CG Participant, OI DF, staff, or other qualified individuals approved by the Committee.
  
- **Skills, Knowledge, and Understanding.** The individual proposed for the Liaison Representative role must have an adequate technical understanding of OI DF specs and ways of working, and an adequate understanding of the specific Liaison Partner context and MUST respect their process and product.

- **Representing OIDF Position:** Liaison Representatives must be able to distinguish personal, employer, and OIDF positions, and MUST represent only OIDF positions when acting in the liaison role.
- In individual cases, the Liaison Committee may:
  - impose a higher standard for what is considered an "adequate" technical understanding of specs and ways of working in the cases where it concludes that the Liaison role for the specific Liaison Partner involved requires material additional political and/or technical skills;
  - accept a lower standard for what is considered an "adequate" technical understanding of specs and ways of working in the cases where it concludes that a lower standard is acceptable for the Liaison role for the particular Liaison Partner involved;

If the individual proposed for the Liaison Representative lacks adequate skills, knowledge, or understanding of the OIDF or Liaison Partner context, they may still be considered for the Liaison role if the Liaison Committee recognizes that:

- the Liaison role for the specific Liaison Partner involved provides an ideal opportunity for development of skills and experience to mature as a contributor and participant within the OIDF foundation and Liaison Partner organizations, and
  - The individual has the ability to develop the mastery required at the pace required to be able to function effectively as a liaison (e.g. within a reasonable period, such as 3-6 months which may vary based on lifecycle of work at the Liaison Partner organization)
- **Good Standing.** The individual proposed for the Liaison Representative role must be in good standing from a Code of Conduct point of view with both OIDF and the Liaison Partner organization
  - **Ability to Commit Time.** Individual understands that the liaison role is an important role of service to both the OIDF and the partner organization, and if the individual is unable to consistently support the role then review may be required and a new liaison identified

### 13. **Responsibilities of Liaison Representative**

#### 13.1. **General Responsibilities**

Each Liaison Representative shall:

- Serve as the primary point of contact between OIDF and the Liaison Partner;
- Attend or participate in meetings, working groups, and other activities of the Liaison Partner as authorized and as resources permit;
- Represent OIDF's approved or consensus position and not a personal or employer position when acting as Liaison Representative.
- Consult relevant WG/CGs and stakeholders before submitting material comments, positions, or statements to the liaison partner, potentially coordinating with other WGs.

- Speak with one voice with other OIDF delegates or experts once OIDF has reached a consensus position.
- Avoid submitting redundant or contradictory comments as OIDF comments.
- Keep relevant OIDF WG/CGs, staff, and the Liaison Committee informed of material developments, deadlines, meetings, and risks delivering reports as required.
- Report back after material liaison meetings or decisions, including decisions taken, action items, and any issues requiring OIDF input.
- Respect confidentiality, IPR, antitrust/competition, Code of Conduct, and partner organization rules applicable to the liaison.
- Disclose changes in affiliation, conflicts, availability, or circumstances that may affect ability to serve.
- Maintain or provide records of material liaison submissions, reports, and decisions for the OIDF liaison archive.
- Promptly notify the Liaison Committee of any actual or potential conflict of interest, breach of the liaison agreement by the Liaison Partner, or other matter that may materially affect the relationship.

### 13.2. Formal SDO Liaison Requirements Including ISO

The following are additional obligations for these specific relationships.

Topic	Proposed Requirement
Stakeholder engagement	OIDF should identify relevant stakeholders for the ISO activity and provide timely information so they have a fair opportunity to provide input.
Consensus comments	OIDF comments to ISO should reflect consensus or approved OIDF direction, not an unfiltered compilation of inconsistent comments.
Process transparency	OIDF should be able to describe how it develops liaison positions and make that description available to relevant stakeholders on request.
Representative selection	Delegates and experts should be selected through OIDF based on expertise, ability to represent OIDF, engagement in the relevant work, and fair consideration of interested stakeholders.
Preparation	OIDF representatives should be briefed on OIDF consensus comments, applicable ISO or

	partner procedures, meeting materials, and negotiating flexibility before meetings.
Reporting back	OIDF representatives should report regularly to the relevant WG/CG, staff, or Liaison Committee on progress and outcomes.
Dispute handling	Where consensus cannot be reached or a fundamental objection remains, OIDF should have a path for escalation, appeal, or Board consideration.
Mirror process	For significant ISO activity, OIDF should designate an existing WG/CG or create an ad hoc IMC-like group to coordinate stakeholder input, maintain records, and review participation balance.

#### 14. **Lifecycle of the Liaison Representative**

- **Good Standing.** Liaison Representatives must remain in good standing with OIDF as a contributor or participant for all the WG/CGs relevant to the Liaison role, either as an individual or a member of a Legal Entity agreement.
- **Entity Affiliation.** If the Liaison Representative’s entity affiliation is a material consideration for the role:
  - it will be designated as such in the Liaison Proposal
  - subsequent changes to the individual’s entity affiliation will trigger appropriate lifecycle steps to renew the appointment of the Liaison Representative independent of their prior affiliation or replacement of that role where appropriate
    - automatic termination of the Liaison Representative role
    - renewed proposal to the Liaison Committee for the Liaison Representative to continue
- **Periodic Renewal.** At least annually, or at the renewal interval stated in the appointment, the Liaison Committee should confirm whether the liaison remains active, the representative remains appropriate, and reporting obligations are being met.
- **Inactive or Inconsistent Performance.** If an individual acting as the Liaison Representative should become inactive or inconsistent in the fulfilment of their role:
  - Any contributor or staff from either organization may alert a relevant WG or CG cochair or OIDF of a potential issue of inactivity or inconsistent support;
  - The Liaison Committee and the Liaison Representative involved will be informed by OIDF staff that their role will be concluded, and the Liaison Representative removal steps will be followed

- o Staff and relevant WG/CG cochairs will initiate search for a replacement Liaison Representative identified who is able to sustain the responsibilities of the role
- o **Inactive** is defined as an expended period of ~3+ weeks (e.g. no longer attending Liaison Partner meetings, no longer briefing relevant WG/CG, no longer submitting liaison materials to the Liaison Partner organization), and prompting from cochairs or staff does not promptly restore the engagement;
- o **Inconsistent** is defined as inconsistent completion of liaison statements, incomplete updates to ODF or Liaison Partner WGs or CGs where required to fulfil the role, failure to take timely action to address material issues (e.g. on specs or Liaison Relationship support), and prompting from cochairs or staff does not promptly restore the engagement
- **Code of Conduct Violations.** If the Liaison Representative violates or is suspected of violating the code of conduct of ODF or the Liaison Partner organization:
  - o Code of Conduct violations that occur in a Liaison Partner organization should be addressed within the Liaison Partner organization based on that organization’s policy and procedures. An outlier situation may be whereby the violation was so egregious that the Liaison Partner organization has requested ODF address directly.
  - o Any violations occurring within ODF are subject to the ODF Code of Conduct Policy and documented procedures.

In either case, violations may lead to termination of the Liaison Representative position, and suspected violations may lead to immediate suspension of the role pending further investigation in line with the Code of Conduct Policy

## 15. Questions

Any questions regarding this Liaison Policy can be directed to [help@oidf.org](mailto:help@oidf.org).