

## **GNA-G Leadership Team Terms of Reference**

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Authors: GNA-G Leadership Team  
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### **Purpose of the GNA-G**

The Global Network Advancement Group (GNA-G) is a collaboration that provides a platform for R&E Networks to work together on the global network interconnect aspects of the Global Research and Education Network (GREN). The GNA-G has been established to facilitate an open, transparent and efficient platform to discuss and advance the global interconnect and associated services designed to meet the needs and address the challenges faced by the global research and education community. The oversight of the GNA-G is done by the GNA-G Leadership Team (LT).

The work of the GNA-G consists of gatherings, either physical or online, and work carried out in specific areas by several Working Groups (WGs). The long-term evolution of GNA-G is determined by the participants in GNA-G. The LT takes the input from the GNA-G Community in order to

- develop the strategy, work programme, and communications plan for the GNA-G;
- organise and determine the agenda of the gatherings;
- start and close WGs; and help plan, guide and synergize the work of the WGs in the context of the overall GNA-G work programme.

### **Formal Status**

GNA-G is the name of a collaborative technical and creative community effort serving the R&E Network organizations, science collaborations and the broader research and education communities from around the world. GNA-G is a virtual organization and does not have any legal status.

### **Financial considerations**

GNA-G operates without a budget, which means there are no direct financial considerations. R&E Network employees and other members active in the GNA-G bear their own cost for time and travel. The website, the mailing lists, etc., and the time and travel cost of the LT Members are made available in kind, for the greater benefit of the GNA-G, by the respective organizations or individual members.

## Governance

The central decision-making body within GNA-G is the GNA-G LT. The LT is the committee responsible for making and coordinating decisions on behalf of the GNA-G Community, according to the conditions set forth in these Terms of Reference as well as any Regulations established by prior decisions of the LT.

The LT strives to make decisions by consensus. As well described in [RFC 7282](#), the “lack of disagreement is more important than agreement”. Where consensus in the LT is unable to be reached, voting on a topic may occur in the LT.

The LT has a minimum of three, and a maximum of nine natural persons (in short: LT Members) of which one person will be appointed as chairman (in short: LT Chair), by the LT Members. LT Members are elected to 48 month terms according to the procedure set out in these Terms of Reference.

LT Members are permitted to seek office for a maximum of two consecutive terms. After the two consecutive terms, at least 24 months of not being on the LT is mandatory after which this person could be nominated again. This provides a balance between continuity, equal opportunities and renewal of qualities and competences.

The LT determines the structure and processes inside the GNA-G, and is responsible for maintaining its Terms of Reference and Regulations. The LT is free to make or revise any decision, taking into consideration applicable law as well as any immutable conditions previously established within the Terms of Reference or Regulations, and relevant input from the GNA-G community.

In order to efficiently fulfil its tasks, the LT may establish specialized committees and taskforces, as well as assign named roles to qualified individuals to provide advice and assistance on specific issues. The associated qualifications, tasks and responsibilities shall be formalised by publication as part of the Regulations of the GNA-G.

The LT (and any person, group or organisation mandated by the LT on its behalf) must act in good faith and in the common interest of the GNA-G community and the wider R&E Network user community. If significant harm to the GNA-G has been committed by any LT Member, he or she may be removed from the LT by a simple majority vote of the rest of the LT.

The LT shall hold regular videoconferences which are usually held biweekly, along with in-person meetings at suitable venues when possible. The LT shall convene offline or online meetings with the GNA-G community which are held typically every three (3) months, and at least three times per year.

## **Voting procedure within the LT**

Any two LT Members may jointly organise a vote of the LT on any subject, after which a notification shall be sent out by email to each LT Member detailing the proposed action and the deadline.

Each LT Member is entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote. Voting happens through an electronic voting system, by email vote or by a quorate (online) meeting. A quorum is reached when all LT Members are either (tele)present, have appointed a proxy or have indicated they will abstain from voting.

It is the responsibility of each LT Member to maintain valid contact details for communication within the LT. When a LT Member does not respond to multiple communication requests or invitations to vote for a period of one month across at least two different channels, he or she is removed from the quorum count until contact is restored.

Regular decisions of the LT are taken by a simple majority. Any amendment to these Terms of Reference requires a consensus of the entire LT minus one LT Member. In all cases, the LT Chair casts the deciding vote in case of a tie.

Each LT Member agrees to use their best efforts to resolve disputes in an informal manner.

## **Integrity**

All LT Members (as well as any person the LT has delegated tasks and/or responsibilities to) are understood to act as fiduciaries with regard to the work carried out within the GNA-G Community, ensuring that all outcomes are to the benefit of the Community. Their duties include, but are not limited to, the fiduciary duty of care and the fiduciary duty of loyalty.

LT Members should not receive any personal benefit as a result of a pending decision; he or she is required to explain the circumstances and avoid taking any part in the decision.

Any conflict of interest or apparent conflict of interest between the GNA-G and individual LT Members must be avoided. LT Members undertake to declare any interest in any item under discussion and may be invited by the Chair to withdraw from discussions when business concerning their personal interests or the interests of natural or legal persons close to them is being dealt with. LT Members must heed such an invitation and at the very least, abstain from voting.

Decisions involving activities under which one or more LT Members could have conflicts of interest that are of material significance to the GNA-G Programme and/or to the relevant LT Member(s) require the approval of the entire LT minus the LT Members(s) with a conflict of interest.

## Election of LT Members

The following rules are followed to refresh the LT membership (loosely based on [RFC 2727](#)):

- In October of every calendar year, a Nominating Committee (NomCom) consisting of volunteers from the GNA-G Community, will be formed. There is no maximum number of NomCom Members. A maximum of one NomCom member per organization participating in the GNA-G is permitted.
- The NomCom Chair will decide whether the NomCom will be required to select additional LT members in that year.
- The task of the NomCom is to nominate Candidates to serve on the LT. A member of the NomCom cannot be a Candidate.
- Any member of the GNA-G Community may nominate any member of the GNA-G Community for any open position and a self-nomination is permitted. When nominating, two items are considered important:
  - Qualifications, e.g. technical competence or organizational skills.
  - Diversity; the NomCom is tasked to explicitly take this into account.
  - Enthusiasm & availability; that the candidate is willing and able to participate and drive development of GNA-G.
- A nomination is only complete when it is supported by at least one other member from the community, from a different organization than the nominee.
- In November, the NomCom will announce the accepted Candidates to the GNA-G Community, and will solicit comments on the Candidates from the GNA-G Community within two weeks after the announcement of the accepted Candidates.
- In December, the NomCom will decide among themselves, by consensus or by voting, which Candidates are elected into the LT. The result of this election will be disclosed to the GNA-G Community.

If a LT member wishes to step down from the LT, they can do so by communicating to the LT Chair their intent and the date they wish to step down.

The current members of the LT and the end date of their respective terms shall be published on the GNA-G website.

## Diversity statement

The GNA-G is inclusive, and the LT strives to reflect this, and foster this. We celebrate multiple approaches and points of view, and we believe diversity drives innovation. Organisations that are diverse in age, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, and perspective are proven to be better organisations<sup>1</sup>. The GNA-G benefits from a diverse LT.

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<sup>1</sup> For the full GNA-G Diversity Statement, see the GNA-G Website.

Agreed on 1 January 2025 by:

LT Chair David Wilde (AARNet)  
LT Member Harvey Newman (Caltech)  
LT Member Ivana Golub (PSNC)  
LT Member Buseung Cho (KISTI)  
LT Member Alex Moura (KAUST)