

GICDP Operational Framework v2.0

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Operational Framework of the Global Information Credibility and Digital Provenance Center (GICDP)

Proposed Thematic Chapter of the UNESCO MIL Alliance

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Initiated by: MIL Alliance member organizations from the Asia-Pacific region and international partners, inviting MIL Alliance members worldwide to join as co-founders.

I. Mandate and Mission

1.1 Mandate

The Global Information Credibility and Digital Provenance Center (GICDP) is a proposed Chapter of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance (MIL Alliance). It was first proposed by MIL Alliance member organizations from the Asia-Pacific region and international partners, and is now inviting selected MIL Alliance member institutions worldwide to join as founding members for its collective establishment. It focuses on information credibility certification and digital provenance.

Once established, the Center will operate as a dedicated horizontal structure within the MIL Alliance on the principles of member-led governance and equal collaboration. It brings together fact-checking organizations, media literacy institutions, technical standard-setting bodies, academic research institutions, digital policy observers, and civil society organizations to advance information credibility and digital literacy in the age of artificial intelligence.

Source: *MIL Alliance Strategic Action Plan Annex 3, Article 1, paragraph 3*

1.2 Mission

Anchored in digital provenance technology and advanced through media literacy education, the Center drives a global shift in the information ecosystem from *post-hoc* verification to pre-emptive certification, building supply-side infrastructure for trustworthy information.

- **Standards:** Promoting global adoption and localization of technical standards, including Content Credentials (C2PA), AI-generated content detection, and digital provenance frameworks.
- **Capacity:** Providing digital provenance tools and literacy training frameworks for media, educational institutions, and civil society worldwide.
- **Governance:** Establishing a multi-stakeholder governance framework for information credibility certification, ensuring technology serves information sovereignty and cultural diversity.
- **Network:** Building a globally distributed information credibility certification network enabling cross-regional and cross-lingual verification collaboration.
- **Policy:** Providing high-level policy research and professional support to UNESCO and the MIL Alliance in the fields of information credibility and digital provenance.

1.3 Common Interests and Characteristics

Members of this Chapter share the following common interests and characteristics per *Annex 3, Article 1, paragraph 4*:

- **Common theme:** Focus on information credibility and digital provenance within the broader media and information literacy framework.
- **Common goal:** Enhancing public awareness of AI-generated content, deepfakes, and automated disinformation.
- **Common audience:** Media professionals, educators, youth networks, and the general public.
- **Common methodology:** A combined approach of advanced technical tools, literacy education, and global standard-setting.
- **Institutional diversity:** Encompassing fact-checking organizations, MIL education institutions, technical developer communities, academic bodies, and civil society organizations.
- **Multilingualism and youth participation:** Addressing geographic imbalances in technology and standards development; supporting localization and multilingual adaptation of leading provenance tools and curricula; actively engaging young technical volunteers and young MIL practitioners in open-source development and content co-creation.

1.4 Language Policy

GICDP encourages the use of languages that best serve its members and local contexts, recognizing that multilingualism is essential to inclusive knowledge sharing and cultural diversity.

However, all official documents, Steering Committee proceedings, and Annual Updates to the Global Board shall be conducted in English to ensure consistency and accountability in Alliance reporting.

The Secretariat shall endeavor to provide translation or interpretation support for key materials where resources permit.

Source: *UNESCO MIL Alliance Chapter Guidelines Q&A, Question 11 — Multilingualism in Chapter operations*

II. Governance Structure

2.1 Governance Principles

- **Multi-stakeholder participation:** Engaging civil society, academia, technical communities, media, the private sector, and digital policy observers.
- **Openness and transparency:** Open membership onboarding, accessible working archives, and transparent decision-making procedures.
- **Consensus-first:** Major strategic decisions seek Rough Consensus; voting protocols are reserved as a mechanism of last resort.
- **Regional and demographic balance:** Steering Committee seats dynamically reflect geographic balance and stakeholder category diversity.
- **Annual activity assessment:** Member standing is tied directly to active project participation and annual milestone reporting compliance.
- **Alliance compliance:** Abiding by the MIL Alliance statutes, Chapter guidelines, and all overarching provisions of the Global Board.

2.2 Hierarchical Structure Overview

- **Oversight Body:** MIL Alliance Global Board (Approval / Oversight)
- └─ **Sovereign Body:** General Assembly (GA) (Annual plenary meeting of all full members)
 - └─ **Executive Body:** Steering Committee (SC) (5–10 core members)
 - └─ **Administrative Organ:** Secretariat (Led by Asia-Pacific initiating organization)
 - └─ **Electoral Organ:** Nomination Committee (Candidate review & slate formulation)
 - └─ **Execution Units:** Thematic Working Groups (WGs) (Project implementation)

Source: Annex 3, Article 5.1 — The Steering committee is the executive body of the Chapter, composed of 5 to 10 members.

2.3 General Assembly

- **Nature:** The highest sovereign decision-making body of the Chapter, attended by all full members.
- **Frequency:** At least once per fiscal year (typically convened concurrently during Global MIL Week).
- **Functions:** Deliberating annual work reports; electing Steering Committee members; amending Internal Rules; deciding on major strategic matters; deciding on the termination and dissolution of the Chapter (subject to Global Board approval).
- **Voting:** Each member organization exercises one vote on the principle of democratic governance. Ordinary resolutions pass by a simple majority of votes cast; amendments to Internal Rules, termination, and other structural decisions require a two-thirds majority.

Source: Annex 3, Article 5.4

2.4 Steering Committee (SC)

- **Nature:** The executive body, exercising day-to-day governance authority when the General Assembly is not in session.
- **Composition:** 5 to 10 members, **all elected by democratic vote** at the inaugural General Assembly of founding members. No seats shall be pre-allocated or reserved for any specific institution; all founding members enjoy equal eligibility under the composition principles below.
- **Tenure and adjustments:** Each member serves a 3-year term, renewable once for an additional consecutive term. Mid-term adjustments due to institutional changes are nominated by the SC through internal consultation and confirmed by the General Assembly.
- **Composition principles:**
 - *Geographic balance:* Equitable representation across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, and Oceania.
 - *Stakeholder balance:* Representation from civil society/fact-checking, MIL

- education/academia, technical communities, and media networks.
- *Global South priority: At least half (50%) of the seats shall be structurally held by institutions from the Global South.*
- *Gender balance: Pursuing structural gender parity across slates.*
- **Functions:**
 1. Ensuring day-to-day management and compliant operation of Chapter activities.
 2. Managing and processing applications for Chapter membership.
 3. Representing the Chapter vis-à-vis the MIL Alliance Global Board and Secretariat.
 4. Maintaining regular, transparent, and constructive communication with the Global Board and Secretariat.
 5. Preparing and submitting an annual update on the Chapter's activities to the Global Board **by 31 December** each year.
 6. Supervising the implementation of approved projects and developing long-term strategic plans and annual work programmes.
 7. Establishing working groups, launching ad hoc initiatives, and interpreting the Internal Rules.
- **Decision-making:** Rough Consensus is sought as a priority; where consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by simple majority vote; major matters require a two-thirds majority. Dissenting views on significant decisions shall be recorded transparently in the meeting minutes.
- **SC Member Procedures:**
 - *Renewal:* Members may be re-elected for one additional consecutive term (maximum 6 continuous years of service). After a break of at least one full term, former members may stand for re-election.
 - *Resignation:* A member wishing to resign shall provide 60 days' written notice to the SC Chair. The SC may, by simple majority, invite the next eligible candidate from the most recent election slate to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, subject to General Assembly ratification at the next session.
 - *Dismissal:* An SC member may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the full Steering Committee for: (a) serious violation of the Internal Rules or Alliance statutes; (b) sustained non-participation, defined as absence from three consecutive scheduled SC meetings without justified cause; or (c) conduct that brings the Chapter or the Alliance into disrepute. The dismissed member's institution shall be notified in writing, and the vacancy shall be filled per the interim replacement mechanism above.

Source: Annex 3, Article 5.2 (functions) + Article 7.2 (annual update) + UNESCO Chapter Guidelines Q&A Question 7 (SC member procedures)

2.5 Nomination Committee

- **Composition:** Three independent members, agreed upon by the founding cohort at the inaugural assembly.
- **Inaugural convening:** The inaugural Nomination Committee shall be convened by the lead initiating organization in coordination with the founding members, prior to the first General Assembly election. The initiating organization's role in convening the Nomination Committee is strictly administrative and does not confer authority to influence candidate selection or election outcomes.
- **Functions:** Issuing calls for candidates and conducting eligibility reviews for SC elections; ensuring candidate slates reflect geographic, stakeholder, and gender balance; submitting competitive slates with supporting rationales to the General Assembly (at least 2 candidates per open seat).

2.6 Secretariat

- **Arrangement:** Administrative functions of the Secretariat are voluntarily assumed by the lead initiating organization from the Asia-Pacific region (or a designated founding institution) to ensure the sustained and stable operation of the Center.
- **Head:** Secretary-General, appointed directly by the Steering Committee.
- **Chief Liaison Officer:** The Secretary-General serves as the official point of liaison between the Center, the UNESCO MIL Alliance Secretariat, and the Global Board.
- **Key responsibilities:** Day-to-day operations and administration; implementing Steering Committee decisions; coordinating working group activities; organizing General Assembly meetings; compiling outputs from all working groups into the Chapter Annual Update and submitting it to the Global Board **by 31 December** each year.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 7.2*

2.7 Internal Communication Mechanisms

The Chapter shall establish and maintain the following internal communication arrangements to ensure transparency and effective coordination between members and between members and the Steering Committee:

- **Regular SC meetings:** Monthly during the first year of operation; quarterly thereafter, or as needed. Meeting minutes shall be circulated to all members within 14 calendar days.
- **Secure email distribution lists:** Maintained by the Secretariat for official Chapter communications to all members.
- **Shared document repository:** A central, access-controlled digital repository for working documents, meeting minutes, annual reports, and Internal Rules, accessible to all members.
- **Annual General Assembly meeting:** Convened at least once per year, with a minimum of 30 days' advance notice to all members, including a draft agenda.
- **Documentation and disclosure:** Key decisions, election results, and membership changes shall be documented and disclosed to all members within 14 calendar days.

Source: *UNESCO MIL Alliance Chapter Guidelines Q&A, Question 7 — Arrangements for internal communication between Chapter members and with the Steering Committee*

2.8 Adoption and Amendment of Internal Rules

This Operational Framework constitutes the Internal Rules of the Chapter. It is adopted and amended through the following procedures:

- **Initial adoption:** Approved by the General Assembly of founding members → submitted to the MIL Alliance Global Board for approval → enters into force upon approval by a simple majority of the Global Board.
- **Amendment:** Amendment proposals tabled by the Steering Committee (founding members may table proposals individually; full members require co-sponsorship by at least 3 member organizations) → voted on by the General Assembly and passed by a simple majority → submitted to the MIL Alliance Global Board for approval and final verification.
- **Founding Member Protection Lock:** Provided that any amendment directly affecting the core technical neutrality line (Clause 5.5) or the constitutional status and prerogatives of Founding Members shall require the concurrent consent of a separate majority of the Founding Roster, in addition to the standard General Assembly vote.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 5.4 + Article 5.5*

III. Membership System

3.1 Basic Criterion: MIL Alliance Membership

All full members of GICDP (organizations or individuals) must first be officially registered members of the UNESCO MIL Alliance.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 4.2*

For non-Alliance entities, the Center Secretariat stands ready to assist them in applying for MIL Alliance membership first, or they may participate in specific collaborative initiatives as “partner organizations.”

3.2 Founding Members

Founding Members refer to the first cohort of member organizations that participate in the preparatory phase and sign the founding roster prior to formal approval of the Chapter. They enjoy permanent historical attribution within the Center.

- **Target size:** No fewer than 10 member organizations as co-founders.
- **Compliance note:** Per *Annex 3, Article 2.1(a)*, the minimum threshold for establishing a Chapter is at least 10 members. The *Chapter Formation Manual* further clarifies that a Chapter established solely by organizational members must consist of at least 8 organizational members. With 10+ organizational co-founders, the Center satisfies the compliance requirements of both guiding documents simultaneously.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 2.1(a) + Chapter Formation Manual, Minimum Membership Requirements*

3.3 Membership Categories and Rights

Category	Description	Core Rights & Privileges
Founding Members	MIL organizational members that participate in preparatory work and co-sign the founding application.	Full Chapter rights + priority eligibility for inaugural SC seats (see Clause 2.4) + permanent historical attribution in the <i>Founding Chronicle</i> + individual right to propose Internal Rule amendments + priority right to initiate and chair thematic working groups + right to co-host official sub-forums during Global MIL Week.
Full Members	MIL organizational or individual members that join after approval.	Democratic voting and eligibility rights + voluntary participation in working groups + shared access to internal open-source resources and toolkits.
Partner Organizations	Non-MIL Alliance entities that participate through direct project cooperation.	Joint project attribution + technical collaboration privileges + invitations to participate in specific initiatives (non-voting status).

3.4 Admission Criteria and Procedures

- **Organizational admission criteria:** Must be a formal Member Organization of the MIL Alliance; focused on information credibility, media literacy, or digital provenance systems; possessing a stable organizational structure and regional influence; fully endorsing the mission and Internal Rules of the Center.
- **Admission procedure:** Submission of application form → preliminary review by the Secretariat (verification of MIL Alliance membership status) → review and approval by the Steering Committee → public notice period (14 calendar days) → formal admission and filing with the Alliance Secretariat.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 4.4 — Chapter membership applications are managed by the Steering Committee*

3.5 Member Autonomy

Members retain full autonomy in managing their own programmes, partnerships, and activities. Participation in GICDP does not affect the independence of member organizations, nor does it impose any obligation on members to align their other activities with the Chapter's positions or outputs.

Source: *UNESCO MIL Alliance Chapter Guidelines Q&A, Question 9 — Member autonomy in Chapter participation*

3.6 Funding and Resource Principles

To facilitate maximum global inclusivity and cross-border digital collaboration, the Center

adopts a voluntary contribution framework. Participation in the preparatory phase and standard membership are exempt from mandatory annual dues.

- **Member Obligations:** Active participation in Center activities, safeguarding the Center’s public reputation, and structural alignment with the Alliance statutes.
- **Operating principle:** Light administrative obligations, strong technical collaboration.

3.7 Withdrawal and Expulsion

- Voluntary withdrawal requires 30 days’ formal written notice to the Secretariat.
- Serious ethical violations or structural harm to the Center’s interests may result in expulsion by a two-thirds majority of the Steering Committee. All significant membership changes shall be reported to the Global Board for the record. Written notification of expulsion shall be provided to the affected member and to the Global Board within 14 calendar days.

IV. Working Group Mechanism

Working Groups (WGs) are the core units of Chapter operations and output delivery. Standing working groups are established by the SC. Each working group elects its own Chair, subject to formal ratification by the Steering Committee, and submits an annual deliverables report to the SC for compilation into the Chapter Annual Update.

WG No.	Working Group Name	Core Responsibilities
WG1	Technical Standards and Tools	Promotion of Content Credentials (C2PA) standards; objective evaluation of AI-generated content detection tools; collaborative open-source provenance technology R&D.
WG2	Certification Framework Research	Research on technical information credibility certification frameworks; design of institutional evaluation systems; development of professional provenance competency standards.
WG3	Media Literacy and Education	Digital provenance literacy curriculum development; teacher training models for schools and libraries; building multilingual educational resource repositories.
WG4	Policy and Governance	Frontier digital governance policy research; research on cross-border data flows and digital trust sovereignty ethics.
WG5	Membership and Regional Development	Recruitment and support of Global South members; regional node coordination; localization adaptation of leading tools and curricula.

V. Core Work Areas and Non-Interference Technical Red Line

- **5.1 Standards and Technology:** Promoting the adoption of international standards such as Content Credentials; conducting objective evaluations of AI-generated content

- detection tools; building an open-source provenance tool repository.
 - **5.2 Literacy and Education:** Developing digital provenance educational resources and delivering localized capacity-building training for media professionals, educators, and youth networks.
 - **5.3 Research and Advocacy:** Publishing annual research reports and indices; advancing frontier infrastructure issues at multilateral fora including UNESCO and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
 - **5.4 Certification and Evaluation:** Focusing on technical provenance metrics; researching and advancing technical compliance evaluation of “trusted content credentials” in digital media, news publishing, and information ecosystem contexts; exploring open-source applications of third-party cryptographic anti-counterfeiting tools in disinformation identification.
 - **5.5 [Objectivity and Neutrality Red Line Clause]: All technical certifications, metric evaluations, and competency assessments conducted by the Center shall be strictly based on objective technical indicators and operational process specifications. The Center shall never conduct any political, ideological, or value-based qualitative assessment of any media organization, content publisher, or sovereign product, nor shall it adopt or validate third-party indices harboring such non-technical biases.**
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VI. Transition Arrangements and First-Year Work Plan

6.1 Transitional Governance Arrangements

To ensure an orderly transition from the preparatory phase to full Chapter operations:

- **Inaugural General Assembly:** Upon approval of this Framework by the MIL Alliance Global Board, the lead initiating organization shall convene the inaugural General Assembly of founding members within 90 calendar days.
- **Agenda of the Inaugural General Assembly:**
 1. Formal adoption of this Operational Framework as the Internal Rules of the Chapter;
 2. Democratic election of all Steering Committee members (5-10 members) through confidential ballot, with each founding member organization exercising one vote;
 3. Agreement on the composition of the three-member Nomination Committee for future election cycles;
 4. Adoption of the first-year work programme and budget outline;
 5. Any other organizational matters as proposed by the founding members.
- **Recognition of initiating contributions:** The founding members acknowledge and recognize the substantive contributions of the initiating organizations in conceiving, designing, and mobilizing the establishment of the Center. This recognition is recorded in the *Founding Chronicle* and does not confer additional governance privileges beyond those enumerated in these Internal Rules.
- **Priority eligibility for inaugural SC:** Per Clause 3.3, all founding members — including the initiating organizations — enjoy priority eligibility for election to the inaugural Steering Committee. The Nomination Committee shall ensure that candidate slates for the inaugural election reflect the geographic, stakeholder, and gender balance requirements set out in Clause 2.4.

6.2 First-Year Work Plan

Preparatory Phase (Prior to Application Submission)

- **Consolidating Co-founders:** Recruiting and confirming no fewer than 10 MIL Alliance member organizations globally, and completing the signing of the Founding Roster.
- **Preparatory Technical Scoping:** Initiating preliminary technical consultations and framework design across the five working group domains with founding partners, ensuring swift project activation.
- **Finalizing and Submitting Application Materials:** Formally submitting the complete application package and the draft Internal Rules to the MIL Alliance Secretariat.
- **Review Timeline:** Applications are routed through the MIL Alliance Global Board via official tracks; operational frameworks are parallelly advanced during the processing timeline.

Launch Phase (First Quarter After Approval)

- Convening the inaugural online General Assembly of founding members within 90 days of approval, electing the first Steering Committee through democratic vote, and formally adopting the finalized Internal Rules.
- Establishing the initial five standing working groups (WGs) and opening the generalized membership application channel.

Implementation Phase (Second to Third Quarter After Approval)

- Publishing the first *Global AI Detection Tools and Digital Provenance Technology Objective Evaluation Report*.
- Launching the first phase of localized “digital provenance literacy” cooperative training in priority regions including Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, in partnership with founding member organizations; advancing multi-regional implementation of content credentials standards.

Annual Review and Multilateral Engagement

- **Official Annual Report:** Completing the Annual Update and submitting it to the Global Board **by 31 December** each year. The first Annual Update shall cover the period from Chapter approval to 31 December 2026.
- **Multilateral Visibility:** Fully aligning with the decentralized and participatory approach of UNESCO Global MIL Week; co-organizing an official GICDP parallel forum with member institutions, and launching the annual *Global Information Credibility Report*.

Source: *The 2026 Global MIL Week adopts a “decentralized and participatory approach” per the official UNESCO page. Annual reporting deadline per UNESCO Chapter Guidelines Q&A, Question 8.*

VII. Finance, Operations, and Brand Compliance

7.1 Funding Sources and Independence Principle

The Center maintains absolute financial transparency. The annual financial report is disclosed to all members and submitted together with the Annual Update.

Funding Category	Operational and Neutrality Safeguards
Project Grants & Donations	Accepting non-restrictive voluntary contributions from foundations, international organizations, and multilateral government sources.
Training & Services	Generating non-profit service revenue through high-quality training and technical evaluation services under non-profit pricing schemes.
Corporate Sponsorship	Corporate sponsorship from technology companies is subject to rigorous neutrality assessment. No political or commercial exclusivity conditions may be attached, and corporate sponsors shall hold no voting rights within governance bodies or technical evaluation processes. Technical standard neutrality must not be compromised.

7.2 Operating Model

- **Network-Based Organization:** Primarily distributed online collaboration frameworks to minimize administrative overhead and maximize output efficiency.
- **Co-Founder Co-Governance:** The Secretariat provides administrative support, while professional affairs are led by working groups on a voluntary basis, forming a healthy

ecosystem of equal co-governance among multiple initiating entities.

7.3 Brand Compliance and Communication Standards

To safeguard the technical neutrality and independent evaluation mechanism of the Center, all member institutions shall adhere to the following communication standards:

- **Official Designation:** The Center operates as a thematic chapter under the UNESCO MIL Alliance framework. The full official name shall be rendered as *Global Information Credibility and Digital Provenance Center, A Chapter of the MIL Alliance*.
- **Logo and Visual Identity:** The Chapter has its own independently designed visual identity. Use of the UNESCO name and logo shall follow MIL Alliance guidelines and require appropriate authorization as stipulated in *Annex 3, Article 6.2* to avoid misconstruing the Center's independent technical evaluation as an administrative endorsement.

Source: *Annex 3, Article 6.1 & Article 6.2*

Note: This Operational Framework (v2.0) is developed in accordance with the UNESCO MIL Alliance Strategic Action Plan Annex 3, the Chapter Formation Manual, and the Chapter Guidelines Q&A (July 2026). All provisions have been reviewed for compliance with UNESCO requirements regarding democratic governance (Q6), Steering Committee member procedures (Q7), annual reporting timelines (Q8), member autonomy (Q9), and language policy (Q11). It shall be finalized following multilateral deliberation by founding members and formally submitted to the MIL Alliance Global Board for approval.