***Updating the Open Data Charter Principles – Expert Group participant***

***Introduction***

This document comprises the terms of reference for three Expert Groups being established by the Open Data Charter with support from the Implementation Working Group (IWG) to contribute their expertise on a voluntary basis to the review of the [Open Data Charter](https://opendatacharter.net/)’s six Principles between June and September 2018. The overall expected time commitment is 2-3 days, comprised of document review and drafting recommendations, interspersed with 2-3 virtual meetings.

The Expert Groups will play a crucial role in contributing to the refreshing of a widely-adopted international normative standard that sets a high bar for its 60+ signatory governments around the world that are committed to opening up their data to promote greater transparency, openness, accountability and inclusion. Engagement with this process offers a unique opportunity to influence how governments worldwide are shaping their open data policies and the direction that the Charter will take over the next few years.

***Background***

The Open Data Charter is a collaboration between governments and experts working to open up data. It was founded in 2015 around six principles for how governments should be publishing information. The aspiration was that data should be open by default, timely and interoperable. More than 60 governments and organisations have now joined the movement. To ensure the Open Data Charter principles meet the expectations of adopting governments, the IWG will work with the Charter team to review and refresh the principles between April and September 2018. The revision process will review the existing six Charter principles:

1. Open by Default;
2. Timely and Comprehensive;
3. Accessible and Usable;
4. Comparable and Interoperable;
5. For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement;
6. For Inclusive Development and Innovation;

through the prism of four emerging areas:

* Publishing open data with purpose;
* Data privacy and protection;
* Building open data architectures; and
* Openness in AI systems.

The review process is comprised of three key stages:

1. A global consultation process to retrieve feedback from stakeholders with an interest in open data issues to inform the review;
2. The establishment of three ad hoc Expert Groups to consider the feedback received through the consultation process and develop recommendations for the IWG and Charter secretariat to review at the 2018 International Open Data Conference in Argentina; and
3. The presentation of final recommendations for approval of the Charter Advisory Board.

This TOR refers to stage 2 specifically.

***Objective***

The intended objective of establishing three Expert Groups is to leverage the specialist knowledge and expertise of a wide range of individuals who have a proven passion for, and commitment to, the aims and objectives of the open data community and Charter principles. The Expert Groups will play a key mediatory role in informing what amendments should be made to the Charter’s existing principles.

***Organisation of work***

The work of the Expert Groups shall be coordinated and led by the Chairs of the three Groups:

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| **Thematic Area/Groups** | **Co-Chairs** |
| Group 1: Open by Default | Helen Darbishire (Access Info), Jose M. Alonso (Web Foundation) |
| Group 2: Data Infrastructure | Barbara Ubaldi (OECD), Sander van der Waal (OKFN) |
| Group 3: Publication with Purpose | Martin Alalu (Buenos Aires Province Government), Cathie Woteki (Professor, Iowa State University) |

Each Group shall be comprised of 8-12 experts, selected by Group Co-Chairs with input and support from the Open Data Charter and its Implementation Working Group. Expert groups will be provided with structured information extracted from the global consultation and organised by thematic area (see attached reporting template). This will be used to frame and guide their deliberative process.

***Required Outputs***

The main output expected from each Group shall be an actionable list of recommendations (from suggested textual amendments upwards) to their target Principle (see Areas of Focus below); to be produced no later than **31 August 2018**. The Group’s will also be encouraged to issue a brief 1-2-page summary of the process they undertook, highlighting any areas of contention, specific points or responses to particular comments received during the consultation process.

***Expected Duration, Timeline and Time Commitment***

The Expert Groups will form in June 2018 at the completion of the consultation phase and will disband in September following the [International Open Data Conference](https://www.opendatacon.org/) (IODC) that will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 27-28 September 2018. The Expert Groups will convene virtually 2-3 times during this time. An overall time commitment of 2-3 days is envisaged from each member spread out over a 3-month period.

***Support & Contact Details***

This process is being coordinated by Natalia Carfi, Deputy Director of the Open Data Charter ([nati@opendatacharter.org](mailto:nati@opendatacharter.org)) with support from Tom Orrell, Founder of the DataReady Initiative ([tom@dataready.org](mailto:tom@dataready.org)). All questions should be directed to them and/or Expert Group Co-Chairs.

***Suggested Schedule***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Suggested activity breakdown and organisation (at discretion of Group Chairs)** | **June** | **July** | **Aug** | **Sept** |
| Formally convene each Group |  |  |  |  |
| Hold initial call to launch process (discuss responsibilities, consider inputs received, divide tasks, etc.) |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct first round of comment reviews and compile suggestions |  |  |  |  |
| Reconvene group virtually to assess progress and agree next steps |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct second round of comment reviews and compile suggestions |  |  |  |  |
| Reconvene group virtually and agree final suggestions |  |  |  |  |
| Chairs to compile all suggestions and produce 1-2 page summary of process (areas of contention, specific points or responses to particular comments) |  |  |  |  |
| Group recommendations considered at the IODC |  |  |  |  |

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| **Areas of focus** | | |
| **Expert Group 1: Open by Default (Principle 1)** | **Expert Group 2: Data Infrastructure issues (Principles 2, 3, 4)** | **Expert Group 3: Publishing with Purpose (Principles 5, 6)** |
| This Group will bring together experts that have data governance, protection of privacy and/or public policy skills.  The Group will seek to better understand how governments can work to become open by default **(Principle 1)**. A presumption of publication for all needs to be prioritised with a focus on publishing with purpose and balanced with proper measures to safeguard privacy. Governments need to justify data that is kept closed, for example for security or data protection reasons. To make this work, citizens must also feel confident that open data will not compromise their right to privacy. | This Group will bring together a mixture of technical experts to address how technologies, standards and formats can improve the usability of open data.  Timely and Comprehensive open data **(Principle 2)** is only valuable if it is relevant. Getting information published quickly and in a comprehensive way is central to its potential for success. To the extent possible, governments should provide data in its original, unmodified form.  Accessible and Usable open data **(Principle 3)** requires ensuring that data is machine-readable and easy to find. Portals are one way of achieving this but it is also important to think about the user experience of those accessing data, including the file formats that information is provided in. Data should be free of charge and published under an open license, for example a Creative Commons license.  Comparable and Interoperable open data **(Principle 4)** has a multiplier effect. The more quality datasets that are accessible, and the easier it is for them to talk to each other, the more potential value can be extracted from them. Commonly agreed data standards play a crucial role in making this happen. | This Group will bring together data users, civic innovation and development-focussed groups.  Open data for Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement **(Principle 5)** has the capacity to let citizens (and others in government) have a better idea of what officials and politicians are doing. This transparency can improve public services and help hold governments to account.  Open data for Inclusive Development and Innovation **(Principle 6)** can help spur inclusive economic development. For example, greater access to data can help make farming more efficient, or it can be used to tackle climate change. Finally, we often think of open data as just being about improving government performance but there is a whole universe out there of entrepreneurs making money out of innovations driven by open data. |