Charter - ISO 20022 Forum for Architects

1 Charter Purpose

The purpose of this charter is twofold: first, to outline the vision, objectives, conventions, membership, and commitments of "The ISO 20022 Forum for Architects" (hereafter "The Forum"), and second, to set clear expectations for members and other interested parties regarding the activities and outputs of The Forum.

By participating in the Forum, and by accessing Forum resources, participants agree to the principles and conventions outlined in this charter.

2 Forum Purpose

The Forum is a community of strategic financial services industry thinkers, collaborating to unlock the full potential of the ISO 20022 standard for our industry.

The Forum is a vehicle for architects and financial systems thinkers to participate in the ISO 20022 standard. Through The Forum, architects are able to explore, inform, and influence how ISO 20022 is published; helping ISO 20022 evolve into *the* standardised reference model for Finance.

3 Forum Vision

The Forum vision is that the ISO 20022 standard will evolve to be universally recognised and readily consumable as the authoritative standard reference model of the financial services industry, to the fullest practicable extent.

4 Forum Objectives

4.1 The Forum Strives to Make ISO 20022 More Authoritative

The Forum strives to make ISO 20022 more authoritative by defining what is needed to align and enrich the ISO 20022 standard. Our goal is to encourage the evolution of ISO 20022 into a complete and consistent model of the financial services industry.

To meet this objective, The Forum undertakes activities such as:
- The Forum identifies and documents gaps in the quality and coverage of ISO 20022 content, and for well-defined sets of use-cases, outlines how to fill those gaps.
- The Forum contributes our own expertise and content to open community efforts to improve the quality and coverage of ISO 20022 content.
- The Forum encourages ISO TC68, SWIFT, and other financial and non-financial standardisation bodies to ensure alignment with adjacent standardisation activities.
- The Forum contributes to efforts to define the meaning of "ISO 20022-compliant", for various classes of ISO 20022 users, and encourages the formation of an ISO 20022 certification function.

4.2 The Forum Strives to Make ISO 20022 More Usable

The Forum strives to improve the usability of ISO 20022 by better organising existing ISO 20022 content, and by confronting gaps in the tooling support for ISO 20022. Our goal is to make it possible for any industry stakeholder to understand and use ISO 20022 to meet their needs.

To meet this objective, The Forum undertakes activities such as:

- The Forum collaborates to better organise, document, and expose the existing ISO 20022 content, to make it possible for anyone to quickly understand and begin deriving value from it.
- The Forum identifies gaps in the quality and availability of ISO 20022 tooling, and develops user stories, use cases, and where necessary RFPs to document the features, tools, or products that must be commissioned to fill those gaps. The Forum uses these to bring third party providers into the market, or to motivate the work of commercial vendors and the open source tools community to develop better and more user-friendly ISO 20022 tooling.
- The Forum contributes our own expertise and code to open source community efforts to improve the quality of ISO 20022 tooling.

4.3 The Forum Strives to Increase Adoption of ISO 20022

The Forum strives to increase adoption of ISO 20022 by clearly expressing the value proposition of a single, authoritative standards platform for the financial services industry. Our goal is to encourage universal adoption of ISO 20022 as *the* standard model of financial services.

To meet this objective, The Forum undertakes activities such as:

- The Forum defines, in easily-digestible terms, for a variety of audience types, what ISO 20022 is and how its artefacts can be used to meet a variety of use cases.
- The Forum helps members provide education and strategic guidance to key stakeholders in their sponsoring organisations and broader networks.

5 Forum Framework and Conventions

5.1 General Principles

The Forum is named deliberately; it is a meeting place for the exchange of ideas and the alignment of opinions. It is not a provider of solutions, nor a vendor of expertise – nor is it intended to be a brand.

Members of The Forum contribute expertise freely and free-of-charge, in an open and collaborative spirit, to realise The Forum Vision.

5.2 Forum Membership

5.2.1 Membership Criteria

The Forum welcomes members who are:
- Architect profiles working for financial institutions, and
- Familiar with the ISO 20022 standard, and
- Available to make active contributions to the work of The Forum, and
- Willing to abide by the principles and conventions documented in this charter.

For architects who meet the above criteria, full membership and participation is otherwise open, informal, and entirely free of charge.

5.2.2 Employer Endorsement

Through their participation in The Forum, it is assumed that members have the endorsement of their employers to contribute their time and effort (and occasionally that of colleagues) as required, freely

and free-of-charge, in an open and collaborative spirit, to achieve the stated Forum Vision and Objectives.

5.2.3 Non-Member Participants

Other parties may be periodically invited by The Forum to add expertise for specific time- or outcome-bound work items. Such participation by invitation does not convey membership rights, and participation is limited to the scope and time of the invited work item.

5.2.4 Joining the Forum

Individuals wishing to join the Forum are invited to provide the following details to the Secretariat (A4ISO20022.Secretariat@swift.com):

1. Name of applicant
2. Role of applicant
3. Name of employing organisation
4. Details of ISO 20022 interest and experience.
5. Any other details relevant to the programme, such as the current ISO 20022-relevant priorities of the organisation.

5.2.5 Leaving the Forum

Membership is non-binding; participants who no longer perceive value in their participation may leave at any time by sending an email request to the secretariat, who will remove any access rights that may have been granted to the member, and remove the member from any subscribed mailing lists.

The secretariat reserves the right to periodically review membership and may remove members who no longer qualify according to the criteria above. Any removal decision may be appealed at any time.

5.3 Expert Working Groups

The Forum functions primarily through expert working groups, focusing on specific topics and deliverables. Working groups form to achieve specific objectives, and disband when the work is complete. Participants self-organise into whichever working groups they feel most qualified to add value to, or from which they feel that they or their organisations can gain the most benefit.

5.4 Meetings

The Forum is not a committee – Meetings are held informally and as-needed, and are typically scheduled within the scope of an expert working group – meeting participation is open to any participant who feels that they have something to contribute to the work item/s under discussion.

The Secretariat may occasionally schedule more general meetings to share status and encourage alignment across working groups, or to review the broader vision and objectives of The Forum.

5.4.1 Meeting Records

Notes of meetings are shared openly, but recorded according to Chatham House rules. I.e. Attendees and the organisations that they represent are recorded, but recorded observations and comments are not attributed to specific individuals.

5.5 Secretariat

The secretariat is responsible for administrative matters related to the publication of Forum activities and deliverables through appropriate digital infrastructure. The secretariat role is not fixed and can be rotated according to the wishes of The Forum.

At time of formation of The Forum, the Secretariat is held by the SWIFT Standards department and can be contacted via A4ISO20022.Secretariat@swift.com

5.6 Intellectual Property Rights

The Forum works in the collaborative space to develop open, free content for the benefit of the entire industry. In line with the terms of the ISO 20022 IPR policy, members grant third parties a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use any content that they contribute to the Forum.

5.7 Communications

The Forum may occasionally publish information in the form of documents, presentations, wikis, or other digital media, but its primary focus is on bringing architects and other stakeholders together to achieve The Forum Vision.

In this sense, The Forum is a brain, not a mouthpiece. If there is a need for members to communicate to a wider community, such communication will be made in members' own names and that of their sponsoring organisations.

Since The Forum itself does not have a quotable opinion, there is no foreseen need to develop a formal communications policy. Rather, the opinions of Forum members may be expressed as their own and/or that of their sponsoring organisations.

Members may also share their expertise or to express their opinions via Forum-hosted digital infrastructure (e.g. message boards, wikis, etc). In this case, members' opinions will be their own, and are not attributable to The Forum.

5.8 Governance

The Forum does not see a need for strong or formalised governance. Rather, decisions regarding Forum priorities will be made through open consultation with members about the priorities of their sponsoring organisations.

Dispute resolution will be managed through a general practice of agreeing to disagree, with the strength of polite, rational argument being a guiding principle for all members.