DID Methods Working Group Operating Addendum

This Working Group Operating Charter extends the Scope and details the related requirements and operational processes important for the Working Group's operation. This document is not legally binding but once approved by the Working Group it provides additional requirements for the Working Group.

1. <u>Working Group Name</u>. **DID Methods Working Group**

2. <u>Core Principles</u>

2.1. Decentralized Identifiers as the Foundation

We are standardizing DID methods specifically for use with the Decentralized Identifier specification at W3C (https://www.w3.org/TR/did-core/). The DID Core specification and the surrounding family of DID specifications represent the foundation for our standardization efforts.

2.2. Broad Vision, Concrete Progress

This working group will focus on parallel short and long-term planning processes, with the goal of creating timely deliverables addressing both immediate needs and future-focused roadmaps.

2.3. Transparency, Community, and Implementation Driven Approach

This working group supports broader standardization of DID methods across many organizations. It is committed to transparency and informing broader efforts as follows:

- Determining the set of DID methods based on consensus approval, factoring in criteria listed in "Evaluation Criteria" below, and others to be decided by, and documented by, the group.
- Identifying and recommending categories for grouping of DID methods to facilitate cross-cutting standardization efforts.
- Work shall be done in coordination with DID Working Group, including DID Rubric, efforts
- Work shall also be done in coordination with the DIF Identifiers & Discovery Working Group and potentially leverage its work items
- Develop proposal for subsequent development of shared standards and testing mechanisms
- Contributing to external standards bodies (such as W3C, as described below) for further standardization where appropriate

2.4. Foster Ecosystem Collaboration

- Engage with standards groups and organizations interested in DID Method creation and standardization
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices across the community

2.5. Promote DID Adoption

- Increase confidence in DID technology through standardization
- Demonstrate practical applicability of DIDs across various use cases

3. <u>Operations and Duties</u>

3.1. Chair Selection

Chairs shall be elected by the members, with no more than four chairs serving at one time. Service shall be evaluated annually, with no maximum term.

3.2. Chair Duties

Chair duties shall include:

- Driving inclusivity, identifying consensus within the group, and recording decisions.
- Ensuring compliance with all DIF rules applicable to the group.
- Being a liaison between the group and all groups with which the group is coordinating.
- Organizing the smooth operation of the group.
- Ensuring the transparent operation of the group.
- Sharing monthly updates for the DIF newsletter to inform the community.

3.3 Infrastructure Provided by DIF

- Teleconferencing infrastructure
- Transcription for all meetings
- Audio recording for all meetings
- Scheduling and Announcements for group meetings
- Archival and public sharing of all transcriptions and audio recordings of all meetings
- A list of all participants that have signed the Intellectual Property Release agreements

4. Deliverables and Timeline

4.1. Framework
- The working group will establish and maintain a roadmap of deliverables with associated timeframes, with the expected deliverables upon WG formation listed below.
- Major deliverables will be reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.
- The group will aim to produce at least one significant deliverable (e.g., a DID method specification or a set of best practices) every six months.

4.2. Expected Deliverables

- Draft specifications for selected DID methods, which may include all of the following:
    - Conformance criteria
    - Test suites (developed under the Apache 2 license)
    - Interoperability guidelines
    - Security requirements
    - Privacy requirements
- Criteria for the DID methods to standardize
- Recommendations to assist standardization of DID methods more broadly

4.3. The group may:

- Upon approval of the WG, and the work item chairs, transfer in the Trust DID Web work item as a group deliverable
- Develop open source reference implementations, facilitating use of the standardized methods in multiple programming languages/environments
- Develop recommendations for updates to existing DID infrastructure (e.g., Universal Resolver)

4.4 Evaluation Criteria for DID Methods

When considering DID methods for standardization, the working group will identify and document criteria for the selection process, which *may* include one or more of the following as a starting point:

- Alignment with DID Core specification
- Interoperability with other DID methods
- Security and privacy features

- Scalability and performance
- Ease of implementation and use
- Community adoption and support
- Compliance with relevant regulations and best practices
- Diversity of the set of selected methods

5. Participation

1. The initial set of external organizations invited to participate includes: a. [W3C Community Credential Group (CCG)](#) b. [W3C DID Working Group](#) c. [Trust Over IP (TOIP)](#) d. [INATBA](#)
2. The WG chairs have the authority to extend this offer of participation to additional organizations beyond those initially listed.
3. Participants from all included organizations are considered full participants, including eligibility for chair roles within the working group.
4. Participants from included organizations may join the WG without additional fees, provided they sign agreements adhering to the specified intellectual property terms.
5. All aspects of participation, including the initial list of organizations, extensions to additional organizations, and participant rights, are subject to potential override by the DIF Steering Committee at their discretion.

6. Additional Activities

This group will additionally perform the following activities, which are essential to the goal of promoting broader DID method standardization.

- Support creation of a new W3C DID Methods Working Group (and other standards org groups TBD)
- Contribution of method specifications to external standards bodies (such as W3C) for further standardization where appropriate.

7. Collaboration and Communication

- The working group will coordinate with the DID Traits work item.
- The working group will actively engage with the broader decentralized identity community to gather feedback, share progress, and promote adoption of standardized DID methods.
- Regular updates on the working group's progress will be shared through appropriate channels, including but not limited to the DIF newsletter, working group meetings, and relevant industry events.