

NIEMOpen Business Architecture Committee (NBAC) Technical Steering Committee (TSC) Harmonization Sub- Committee Governance

This document amplifies the [OASIS Open Project Lightweight Rules](#), [NIEMOpen Charter](#) document [and NBAC TSC Governance Document](#). It incorporates all provisions of those documents. In case of conflict, the parent documents control.

The Harmonization Sub-Committee Governance is a living document, reviewed periodically, and based on inputs from the Harmonization Community-of-Interest.

Date DD MM YYYY	Version	Description

This document changes infrequently by the process defined in Section 7.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Harmonization Sub-Committee was established under the auspices of OASIS Open Project and the NIEMOpen Business Architecture Committee Technical Steering Committee (NBAC TSC) in January 2023 to support core and cross-domain harmonization. This Sub-Committee Governance Document describes the Sub-Committee's business focus, scope, and governance structure.

1.2 Scope

The Harmonization Sub-Committee Governance Document describes the Sub-Committee's business focus, scope, and governance structure. The Governance Document should be

referenced alongside the Harmonization Sub-Committee's processes and procedures for managing and executing Sub-Committee activities.

1.3 Intended Audience

The intended audience for this document is the Harmonization Sub-Committee's stakeholders and Domain Space Sub-Committees' representatives, as well as NBAC TSC.

1.4 Reference Documents

The following is a list of reference documents to assist in the establishment and maintenance of the Harmonization Sub-Committee:

- OASIS Open Project Lightweight Rules
- NIEMOpen Charter
- NIEMOpen Business Architecture Committee Technical Steering Committee (NBAC TSC) Governance Document (REV 1)
- (DRAFT) Sub-Committee Manual (In development).

2 Sub-Committee Overview

2.1 Sub-Committee Business Objective

Harmonization is an ongoing process to improve the quality of the NIEM model. The objective of data harmonization is to eliminate redundancies and duplication between domains and between domains and core.

2.2 Sub-Committee Scope

The Harmonization Sub-Committee manages model harmonization and is the conduit for accepting new model content for consideration within NIEMOpen. Harmonization is an ongoing process to improve the quality of the NIEM model. It reduces semantic overlap, improves consistency of modeling, naming and definitions, and incorporates new and changing requirements (new Domain Spaces, updated content). The harmonization process integrates these new requirements while still ensuring data elements exist only once in the model. There are two types of harmonization, cross-domain harmonization (addresses overlap across multiple model Domain Spaces) and core harmonization (addresses overlap and quality issues across Core and model Domain Spaces) (Figure 1.).

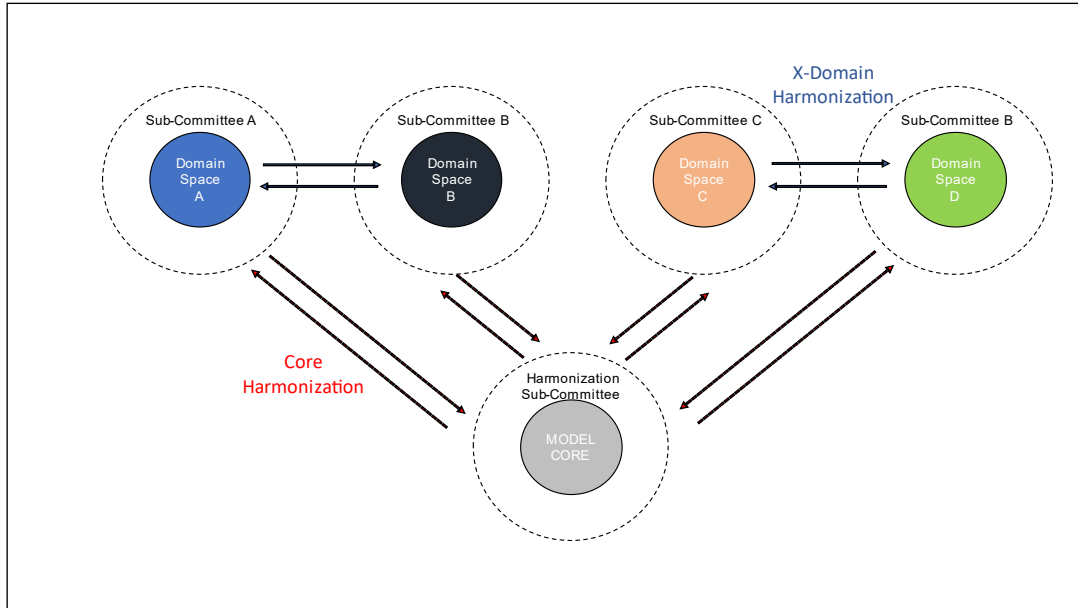


Figure 1 X-Domain & Core Harmonization

2.3 Sub-Committee Community of Interest

Since model harmonization is a key process of the NIEMOpen OASIS Standard implementation, stakeholders include NIEMOpen sponsoring organizations, the NIEMOpen Project Governing Board, Technical Steering Committees, and members/NIEMOpen Community-of-Interest. It is of particular interest to the NBAC TSC Domain Space Sub-Committees that manage respective domain space model content and contributions to model core. As such, agencies/organizations at the Federal, state, local, tribal, industry, and international levels are all part of the Sub-Committee community of interest?

2.4 Sub-Committee Goals

Facilitate the harmonization between Core and Domain Space model content in support of updating NIEMOpen model versions.

3 Sub-Committee Governance Structure

The Harmonization Sub-Committee's organization structure, including the member roles designated to carry-out all governance activities, is described below.

3.1 Overall Sub-Committee Governance Structure

The Harmonization Sub-Committee resides under the NBAC TSC (Figure 3.).

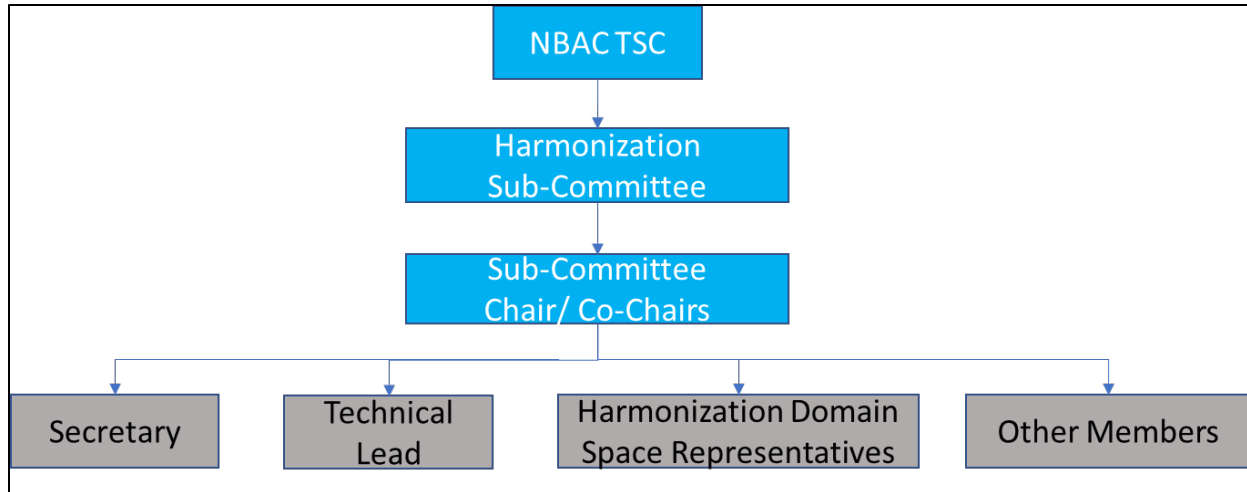


Figure 2: Harmonization Sub-Committee Organization

3.2 Sub-Committee Governance and NBAC TSC Relationship

The NIEMOpen Business Architecture Committee Technical Steering committee (NBAC TSC) is the central authority in a federated governance model where NBAC TSC will interact with Sub-Committee governance groups, providing coordination, policy and technical direction while allowing each Sub-Committee governance group to retain relative autonomy in governing its Sub-Committee while interacting directly with its own community of interest (COI). Any disputes between NBAC TSC authority and its Sub-Committees are elevated to the NIEMOpen Project Governing Board.

3.3 Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

3.3.1 Sub-Committee Co-Chair Responsibilities

The NBAC TSC Governance Document defines the expectations and responsibilities of NIEMOpen Chair/Co-Chairs as follows:

The Harmonization Sub-Committee Chair/Co-Chairs shall:

- Appoint Sub-Committee voting members (2 maximum). Voting members should be
 - Experienced with NIEMOpen
 - Familiar with harmonization and model cycle processes
 - Understand OASIS Open Project Lightweight Rules and NIEMOpen governance
- Approve membership and schedule meetings
- Draft, publish, and maintain procedures for Sub-Committee
- Lead Domain Space content harmonization and reconciliation activities supporting the NIEM version publication cycle
- Provide support to the NBAC TSC
- Provide support to the NIEMOpen Technical Architecture Committee (NTAC) TSC
- Maintain a roster and mailing list
- Attend TSC meetings or provide a temporary proxy

- Participate in voting in a timely fashion
- Provide updates to the NBAC TSC

3.4 Sub-Committee Governance

3.4.1 Committee Membership

- The Harmonization Sub-Committee must always have a Chair or two Co-chairs. The Subcommittee Chair or Co-chairs are appointed by the NBAC TSC Chair/Co-Chairs and serve renewable terms.
- The NBAC TSC delegates the appointment of other Harmonization Subcommittee members to the Subcommittee. Sub-Committee NBAC TSC Voting members are appointed and serve at the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair(s), ordinarily for a 2-year renewable term.
- Harmonization Sub-Committee members are appointed by their respective Domain Space Sub-Committees. For inactive Domain Space Sub-Committees, the conservator appoints members as needed.
- Subcommittee observers may be admitted to any meeting at the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair(s).

3.4.2 Committee Decisions

For most decisions, the Sub-Committee operates by [lazy consensus](#) with the following decisions made by agreement of the NBAC Chair/Co-Chairs:

- Appointment of Sub-Committee Chair/Co-Chairs
- Any allocation of Sub-Committee resources with exception of volunteer activities sponsored by the Harmonization Sub-Committee.

All substantive changes in Sub-Committee governance require concurrence of NBAC TSC Chair/Co-Chairs.

4 Harmonization Process

The harmonization process involves the following major steps (Figure 3.):

- Identify and submit potential issues
 - Anyone can submit potential issues to the issue tracker in the [niemopen/niem-model](#) repo on GitHub
 - Harmonization Technical Lead performs reviews to identify new issues based on commonly used terms, quality assurance checks
- **Initial pass**
 - Harmonization Technical Lead provides additional background information and potential options for a solution
- **Discussion and recommendation**
 - Harmonization Sub-Committee meets to review issues and decide on recommendations

- **Recommended changes are staged and reviewed**
 - Harmonization Technical Lead stages changes to the model / schemas and submits a niem-model pull request
 - Harmonization Sub-Committee confirms changes staged in the pull request
- **Recommendations are approved (via lazy consensus) or sent back for further work**
 - Harmonization Technical Lead summarizes upcoming issues and recommendations on the monthly NBAC TSC meetings
 - Harmonization Technical Lead emails the NBAC mailing list with details and deadline to solicit feedback or objections
 - Harmonization Technical Lead moves issues with feedback / objections back to the Harmonization Sub-Committee
- **Model updates are finalized**
 - Harmonization Technical Lead accepts the approved issue's pull request and finalizes the changes.
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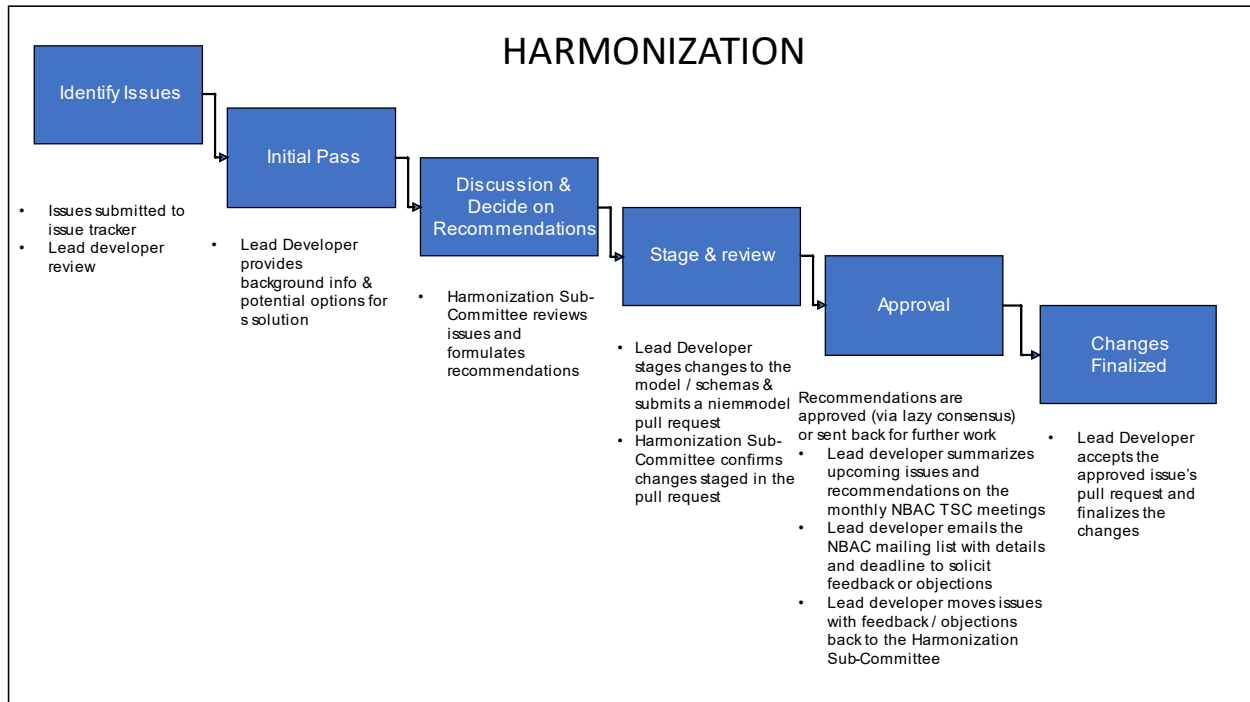


Figure 3. Harmonization Process

5 Deliverables

- Issue summaries and recommendations for NBAC TSC review and approval
- Pull request and final changes

6 Resources

Harmonization resources include:

- [niemopen/niem-model GitHub repo](https://github.com/niemopen/niem-model)



- Contains NIEM model schemas and documentation
 - NIEM 1.0 – NIEM 5.2 already added as contributions
- [Issue list](#) on niem-model repo
- [Project board](#) on niem-model repo
- [Mailing list](#)

7 Updating Governance

All substantive changes in Sub-Committee governance require concurrence of NBAC TSC Chair/Co-Chairs.