

1. Purpose and Scope

This Governance & Ethics Charter defines the foundational principles, governance boundaries, and ethical safeguards that guide the development, application, and extension of the Symbiotic Value Orientation Competency Framework (SVOCF).

The Charter does not prescribe moral doctrines, cultural values, or ideological positions. Its purpose is to ensure that all SVOCF-aligned systems, certifications, assessments, and partnerships operate within a meta-neutral, accountable, and non-coercive governance framework, consistent with the positioning established in SVOCF-0.1.

This document applies to:

- all SVOCF official framework documents and derivative systems;
- all certification, assessment, and evaluation mechanisms claiming SVOCF alignment;
- all institutional partners, facilitators, assessors, and system developers.

2. Governance Philosophy

2.1 Meta-Neutral Governance Principle

SVOCF governance operates at a structural and procedural level. It does not promote, rank, or enforce any specific cultural, philosophical, political, or religious worldview.

Governance decisions are guided by system stability, risk containment, transparency, and long-term viability, rather than by normative value judgments or ideological alignment.

2.2 Separation of Framework and Execution

A core governance principle of SVOCF is the strict separation between:

- framework-level reference (conceptual architecture and meta-capacities), and
- execution-level implementation (certification, education, tools, and services).

Framework documents establish boundaries and reference logic, while execution systems remain optional, contextual, and revisable. No execution-level practice may redefine or override framework-level principles.

3. Ethical Positioning

3.1 Non-Prescriptive Ethics

SVOCF adopts a non-prescriptive ethical stance. It does not define what individuals or organisations ought to value, believe, or pursue.

Ethical evaluation within SVOCF focuses exclusively on:

- structural risk,
 - sustainability of practices,
 - presence or absence of regulatory and recovery mechanisms.
- Intentions, beliefs, or moral motivations are not subject to assessment.

3.2 Non-Coercion Principle

Participation in any SVOCF-aligned certification, assessment, or program must be voluntary.

SVOCF-aligned systems shall not:

- impose mandatory belief alignment;
- require ideological endorsement;
- restrict participation based on cultural or philosophical identity.

4. Bias Prevention and Safeguards

4.1 Cultural and Ideological Neutrality

All SVOCF documentation and practices must avoid:

- explicit or implicit cultural hierarchies;
- civilizational superiority claims;
- ideological framing of sustainability.

Terminology shall prioritise functional, system-oriented language that is translatable across cultural contexts without loss of meaning.

4.2 Assessment Boundary Rule

SVOCF-aligned assessments may evaluate:

- system configuration,
- capacity balance,
- deviation patterns,
- recovery and adaptation mechanisms.

They may not evaluate:

- moral worth,
- personal beliefs,
- cultural correctness,
- ideological compliance.

Any assessment output must be framed as developmental feedback, not judgment.

5. Accountability and Transparency

5.1 Role Clarity

All SVOCF-aligned initiatives must clearly distinguish the roles of:

- framework custodians,
- system designers,
- assessors,
- facilitators,
- participating individuals or organisations.

No single role may simultaneously control framework definition, assessment execution, and certification approval.

5.2 Documentation Transparency

Governance structures, assessment principles, and revision procedures must be publicly documented at an appropriate level of detail, consistent with SVOCF public and compliance documentation.

Opaque or discretionary decision-making mechanisms are not permitted within SVOCF-aligned certification systems.

6. Risk Management and Misuse Prevention

6.1 Prevention of Overreach

SVOCF shall not be used as:

- a tool for behavioural control;
- a mechanism for political or cultural influence;
- a substitute for legal, medical, or clinical authority.

Any application extending beyond evaluative or developmental guidance must be explicitly disclaimed.

6.2 Safeguards Against Misinterpretation

Where SVOCF concepts are translated, localised, or adapted, implementers must ensure that:

- meta-neutrality is preserved;
- no normative claims are introduced through translation;
- local adaptations are documented as contextual, not universal.

7. Review, Revision, and Oversight

7.1 Periodic Review

This Charter shall be reviewed periodically to ensure continued relevance, coherence with SVOCF framework documents, and adequacy of bias-prevention mechanisms.

Revisions shall be evolutionary, not retroactive, and versioned clearly.

7.2 Escalation and Redress

A formal process shall exist for:

- reporting governance or ethical concerns;
- reviewing alleged breaches of SVOCF principles;
- issuing corrective guidance or withdrawal of SVOCF alignment where necessary.

8. Relationship to Other SVOCF Documents

This Charter operates in conjunction with:

- SVOCF-0.1 Framework White Paper (conceptual and meta-level reference);
- SVOCF-0.3 Certification Architecture Overview (structural execution logic);
- Methodology-layer documents governing assessment, mapping, and evidence integrity.

In case of interpretive conflict, framework-level and governance documents take precedence over execution-level materials.

9. Concluding Statement

The SVOCF Governance & Ethics Charter establishes a protective boundary around the SVOCF ecosystem. Its function is not to moralise sustainability, but to ensure that sustainability-related assessment and development remain structurally sound, culturally non-coercive, and ethically restrained.

By maintaining governance clarity, bias safeguards, and accountability mechanisms, SVOCF seeks to remain a trusted reference framework capable of supporting diverse applications without imposing uniform values or ideologies.