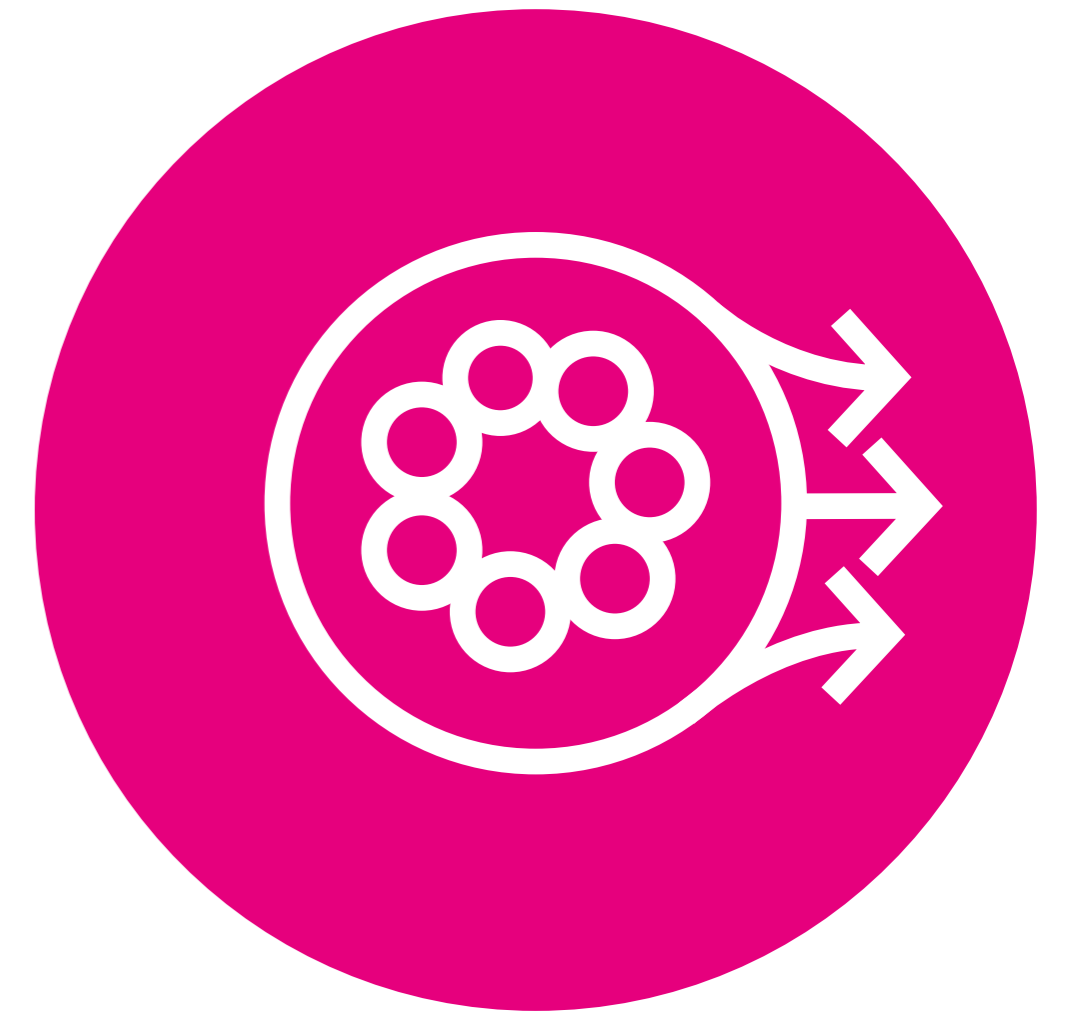


# Global Council: Purpose and Resource



## Keywords:

**#Purpose statement**

**#Global Council Budget**

**#Global Council staffing**

## Purpose

The Global Council<sup>1</sup> (GC) is the representative strategic body of the Wikimedia Movement. It empowers community participation in decision-making to better guide a coherent and visionary approach to advance free knowledge.

## Functions

### *Strategic Planning*<sup>2</sup>

The Global Council is responsible for the development of the Movement Strategy<sup>3</sup>] as well as communication about it within the Wikimedia Movement. The GC approves global strategy that enables the delivery of the Wikimedia vision and mission, including the Strategic Direction. It also develops, modifies, ratifies, and distributes the recommended annual global strategic priorities for the Wikimedia Movement.

### *Administration of Wikimedia Movement Organizations and Communities*<sup>4</sup>

The GC functions to ensure proper standards are in place for the functioning of Wikimedia communities, affiliates, and hubs. To achieve this, the GC establishes and oversees processes for recognition/derecognition of affiliates and hubs, and simplifies access to resources (financial, human, knowledge, and others) for equitable empowerment of communities. The trademark licensing and contractual agreement components related to this process remains a responsibility of the Wikimedia Foundation.

A committee under the purview of the GC is responsible for managing and advising on the recognition or derecognition, compliance, and conflicts of affiliates and hubs. The committee ensures compliance with organizational standards and facilitates conflict resolution<sup>5</sup> to maintain collaborative and harmonious relationships within the Wikimedia Movement.

### *Technology Advancement*

The GC will establish a committee to provide advice to the Wikimedia Foundation, offering insights into the Wikimedia Movement's vision and priorities. The technical committee is established by the GC in collaboration with technical contributors.<sup>6</sup>

### *Resource Distribution*

The GC establishes standards and guidelines for the equitable distribution of funds within the movement that comply with the Principles of Decision-Making. Additionally, the GC is responsible for grantmaking to the communities and Movement Organizations, based on the allocated budget. This responsibility comes from the delegation of authority from the Wikimedia Foundation to the Global Council to be in charge of the role of distributing resources within the Wikimedia Movement.<sup>7</sup>

### *Support Structure*

#### *Advisors and Liaisons*

Advisors and liaisons are appointed to support the work of the GC and its committees based on the need for specialized knowledge and guidance. Advisors may be called upon to offer insights, recommendations, and assistance in addressing complex challenges and opportunities within the Wikimedia Movement.

The Wikimedia Foundation assigns staff<sup>8</sup> and other resources to support the GC's operations and help them function effectively.

<sup>1</sup> In line with the legal reviews the Charter received in 2023, the Global Council will initially not be set up as a legal entity.

<sup>2</sup> „Strategy“ is inclusive of major projects to change the Wikimedia brand.

<sup>3</sup> By keeping the Movement Strategy recommendations at the core of GC discussions related to planning and prioritization of strategic initiatives, resource allocation, and general decision-making.

<sup>4</sup> In this context, „administration“ refers to the management and oversight of the operational aspects of the Wikimedia Movement. It involves establishing and implementing processes, policies, and procedures to ensure the effective functioning of Wikimedia communities, affiliates, and hubs.

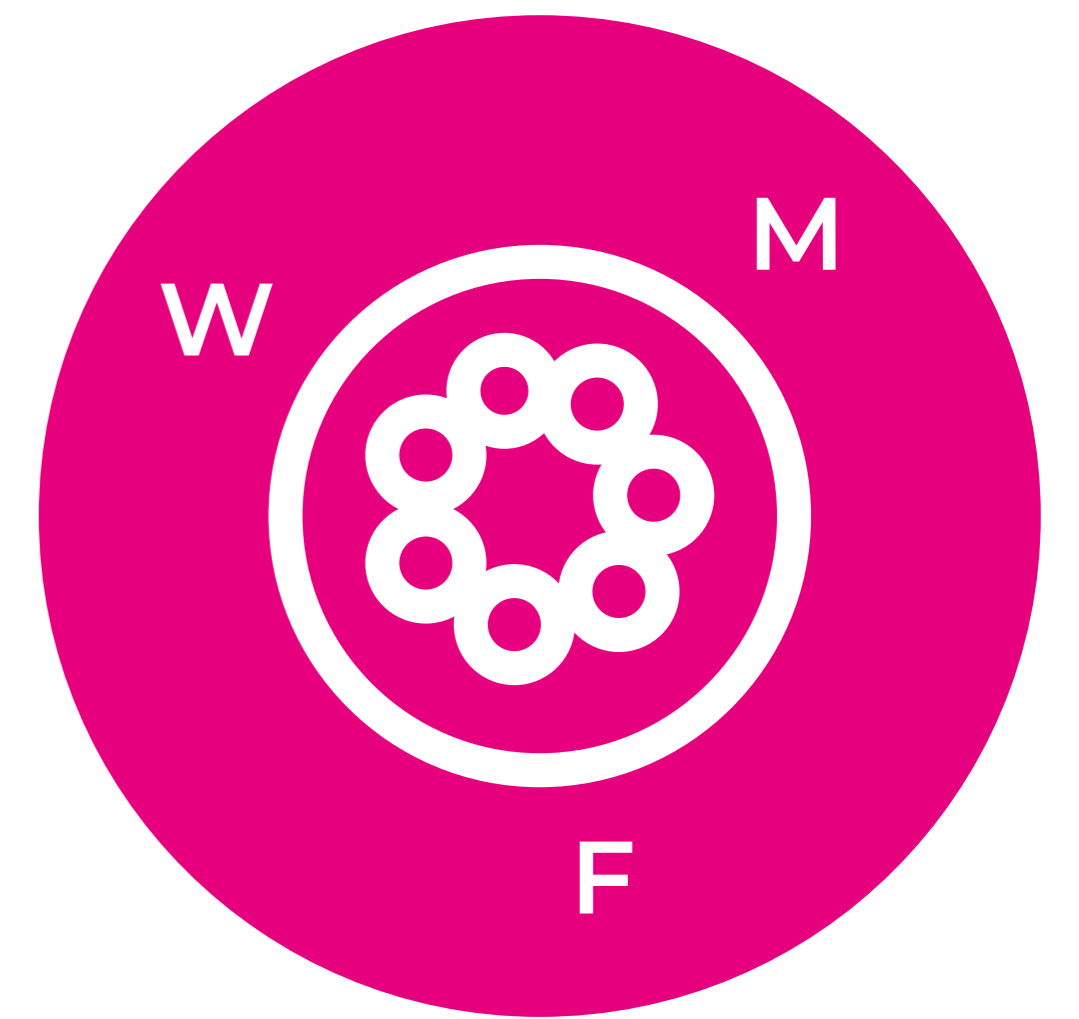
<sup>5</sup> The Global Council is responsible for establishing and managing processes to support conflict resolution between different Wikimedia Movement Organizations, including affiliates and hubs.

<sup>6</sup> Technology decisions will be taken by the entities primarily dedicated to the delivery of products and technology services, along with the appropriate community-led movement body associated with the Global Council.

<sup>7</sup> The Global Council determines all aspects related to these responsibilities, in coordination with the Wikimedia Foundation. Such responsibilities can include i) setting funds dissemination policies, strategy, and standards for the movement, ii) setting regional, thematic, and other funding allocations, iii) determining movement-wide goals and metrics, and iv) reviewing global programmatic outcomes, among others determined by the Global Council.

<sup>8</sup> Staff will support GCA members in their need to actively participate in the GC. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting translations and providing support for physical accessibility of meeting venues.

# Global Council: Global Council and WMF



## Keywords:

#Respective areas of responsibility

#Cooperation

**The Global Council and Wikimedia Foundation are the highest governing bodies, both with their own specific purpose and responsibilities.**

### Structure of the Global Council

The Global Council is a forum where various perspectives can come together for the greater good, and it functions as a complementary body to the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia Movement Organizations.

### Responsibilities of the Wikimedia Foundation

The Foundation's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Operating the Wikimedia projects, which includes hosting, developing, and maintaining core software; setting Terms of Use and other broad movement-wide policies; running fundraising campaigns; any other actions to ensure that the projects are available and mission-aligned; and, respecting and supporting community autonomy and stakeholder needs,
- Supporting programmatic activities for the movement,
- 

- Legal obligations, including stewarding the brand, providing policies that allow projects to run, legislative compliance, addressing legal threats, and enhancing safety of volunteers.

### Areas of Collaboration between WMF and GC

#### *Administration of Wikimedia Movement Organizations and Communities*<sup>1</sup>

The GC functions to ensure proper standards are in place for the functioning of Wikimedia communities, affiliates, and hubs. To achieve this, the GC establishes and oversees processes for recognition/derecognition of affiliates and hubs, and simplifies access to resources (financial, human, knowledge, and others) for equitable empowerment of communities. The trademark licensing and contractual agreement components related to this process remains a responsibility of the **Wikimedia Foundation**.

A committee under the purview of the GC is responsible for managing and advising on the recognition or derecognition, compliance, and conflicts of affiliates and hubs. The committee ensures compliance with organizational standards and facilitates conflict resolution<sup>2</sup> to maintain collaborative and harmonious relationships within the Wikimedia Movement.

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The GC establishes standards and guidelines for the equitable distribution of funds within the movement that comply with the Principles of Decision-Making. Additionally, the GC is responsible for grantmaking to the communities and Movement Organizations, based on the allocated budget. This responsibility comes from the delegation of authority **from the Wikimedia Foundation** to the Global Council to be in charge of the role of distributing resources within the Wikimedia Movement.<sup>3</sup>

### Technology Advancement

The GC will establish a committee to provide **advice to the Wikimedia Foundation**, offering insights into the Wikimedia Movement's vision and priorities. The technical committee is established by the GC in collaboration with technical contributors.<sup>4</sup>

### Support Structure

The **Wikimedia Foundation** assigns staff<sup>5</sup> and other resources to support the GC's operations and help them function effectively.

See also supplementary documentation:

#### Care Responsibility

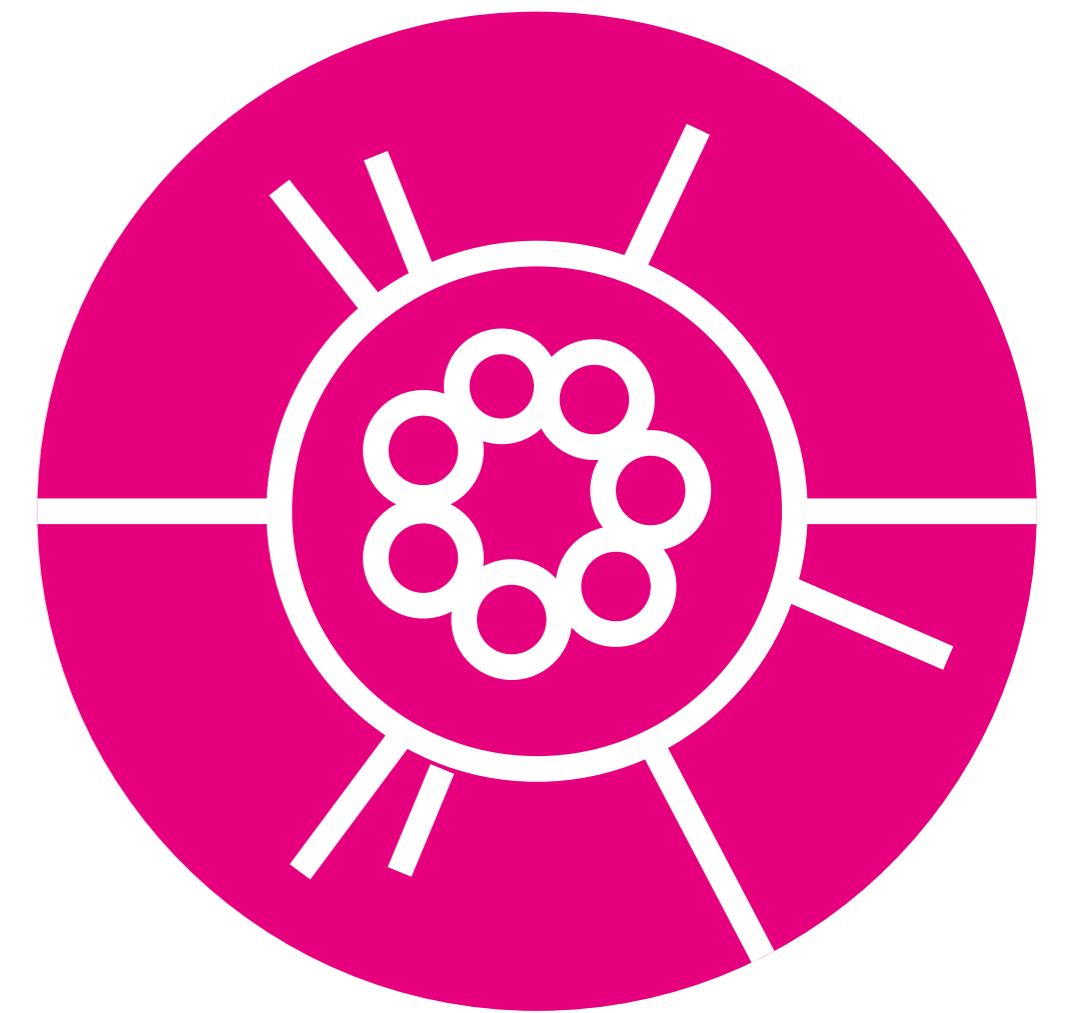


#### Dispute resolution function



- <sup>1</sup> In this context, „administration“ refers to the management and oversight of the operational aspects of the Wikimedia Movement. It involves establishing and implementing processes, policies, and procedures to ensure the effective functioning of Wikimedia communities, affiliates, and hubs.
- <sup>2</sup> The Global Council is responsible for establishing and managing processes to support conflict resolution between different Wikimedia Movement Organizations, including affiliates and hubs.
- <sup>3</sup> The Global Council determines all aspects related to these responsibilities, in coordination with the Wikimedia Foundation. Such responsibilities can include i) setting funds dissemination policies, strategy, and standards for the movement, ii) setting regional, thematic, and other funding allocations, iii) determining movement-wide goals and metrics, and iv) reviewing global programmatic outcomes, among others determined by the Global Council.
- <sup>4</sup> Technology decisions will be taken by the entities primarily dedicated to the delivery of products and technology services, along with the appropriate community-led movement body associated with the Global Council.
- <sup>5</sup> Staff will support GCA members in their need to actively participate in the GC. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting translations and providing support for physical accessibility of meeting venues.

# Global Council: Representation and Composition



## #Diversity

## #Membership

## #Global Council Assembly and Global Council Board

## #Number and distribution of seats

### Structure

The Global Council is a forum where various perspectives can come together for the greater good, and it functions as a complementary body to the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia Movement Organizations. The Global Council is elected and selected, using procedures that safeguard diversity, by and from communities across the movement. The Global Council is composed of the Global Council Assembly (GCA) and the Global Council Board (GCB) that are selected from the members of the GCA.

### Global Council Assembly

The Global Council Assembly (GCA) is the decision making body of the Global Council. Its members are selected, elected, or appointed to bring forward a diverse range of perspectives and experiences from the Wikimedia Movement as described in the Global Council Membership policy. Except as provided herein, the term of service for a GCA member shall be three years. GCA members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms (that is, six years). After having served any<sup>[1]</sup> consecutive two terms, they shall not be eligible for appointment to the GCA again until a period of at least 12 months has expired. The GCA is composed of at least 100 and at most 150 members.

At least one Global Council meeting shall be held annually and within six months of the end of the fiscal year, unless an extension of this period is

granted by the GCA. At this Global Council meeting, the Global Council Board shall present its annual report on the affairs of the Global Council and the carried out activities. It submits the activities with an explanation to the meeting for approval.

Decision-making process at the GCA:

- All decisions shall be made by an absolute majority of the votes cast. If the votes are tied on matters, the proposal is rejected.
- If in an election between more than two persons no one obtains an absolute majority, a further vote shall be taken between the two persons who received the greatest number of votes, if necessary after an interim vote.
- A resolution may also be adopted outside of a meeting with the written approval of a majority of all GC members entitled to vote, and shall have the same force as a resolution of the General Assembly meeting, provided it has been passed with the prior knowledge of the board.

The responsibilities of the GCA include:

1. Making high-level decisions within the scope of the GC's purpose and functions
2. Holding the GCB accountable for their work
3. Taking seat in the GC's subcommittees

### Global Council Board

The GC Board (GCB) shall be in charge of coordinating<sup>1</sup> and representing the Global Council, and for this, derives its mandates from the GCA decisions. The GCB is authorized to further decide on the activities in order to carry out these decisions.

The GCB is selected, elected or appointed by and from the GCA members following the process laid out in the Global Council Membership policy. The GCB is composed of at least 5 and at most 15 members.

The term of office for a GCB member shall be three years. Each GCB member will serve until the expiration of their term and until their successor has been appointed and qualified, or until their earlier resignation, removal from office, or death. After having served any<sup>2</sup> consecutive two terms, they shall not be eligible for appointment to the GCB again until a period of at least 18 months has expired.

The responsibilities of the GCB include:

1. Drafting the initial Wikimedia Movement strategic plan, subject to approval by the GCA, as part of its strategic planning function,
2. Supervising and overseeing the processes of electing, selecting or appointing members to the GCA,
3. Serving as the representative of the GC in stakeholder engagement activities,

4. Coordinating the annual GC meeting,
5. Maintaining accountability for the execution of the functions of the Global Council, encompassing both the GCA and the GCB.

### Committees of the Global Council

The Global Council Board decides on committees and their membership. Each committee will have the majority of its members drawn from the GCA. Committees may appoint additional members who are not members of the GCA.

Committee members who are not members of the GCA may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms of three years each (that is, six years). After having served any<sup>[14]</sup> consecutive two terms, they shall not be eligible for appointment to the GCA again until a period of at least 12 months has expired.

See also supplementary documentation:

Membership policy for the Global Council



<sup>1</sup> The GCB is the body tasked with making sure the processes within the GC are running according to plans and timelines; they coordinate with others where and when necessary, manage an overview of the functioning of the GC, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Any as in by selection, election, or appointment.

# Affiliates and Hubs: Purpose

## Keywords:

#Purpose

#Mandate

#Community representation

#Affiliate Budget(s)

## Wikimedia Movement Organizations

Wikimedia Movement Organizations are organized groups that exist to create conditions for open and free knowledge to flourish in a given geographic or thematic context. Wikimedia Movement Organizations are in line with the Wikimedia Movement's mission, and include Wikimedia affiliates, hubs, and other groups that have been formally recognized by the Global Council<sup>1</sup> or through its appointed committee.

There are four different types of Wikimedia Movement Organizations:

- Wikimedia Chapters with a specified national coverage.
- Thematic Organizations that have a global or cross-regional coverage but in a distinct theme.
- User Groups that can be organized by region or theme.
- Hubs that can be organized by region or theme.<sup>2</sup>

Wikimedia Movement Organizations are a key way in which communities can organize within the movement for delivery of activities and partnerships. Professional involvement at all levels in the Wikimedia Movement is intended to support the free knowledge mission of each organization that employs professionals. Most often, this is done by amplifying and supporting the work of volunteers.

## Governance

Composition and governance of a Wikimedia Movement Organization is open for the body itself to decide, depending on the context and needs within which it operates. The decision-maker is an organization's board or a similar body, accountable to the group that they represent—for example, its membership body.



See also supplementary documentation :

Movement Organization Membership Policy



Future Affiliate Landscape



Care Responsibility



<sup>1</sup> Prior to the start of and transition period of the Global Council, Wikimedia Movement Organizations are recognized by the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees.

<sup>2</sup> This Charter sees Language Hubs as a form of Thematic Hub.

# Affiliates and Hubs: Rights, responsibilities, roles and types



## Keywords:

**#Types of affiliates**

**#Affiliate strategy/landscape**

**#Movement growth**

**#Sustainability**

## Responsibilities

Wikimedia Movement Organizations are each responsible for:

- promoting the sustainability of communities that the membership body supports,
- facilitating inclusion, equity, and diversity within their community,
- upholding the Universal Code of Conduct, and
- developing partnerships and collaborations within their areas of interest.

Wikimedia Movement Organizations are accountable for making their work and activities visible by providing publicly accessible reporting. Wikimedia Movement Organizations may choose to develop their financial sustainability through additional revenue generation, coordinating such efforts with other Movement Organizations when necessary.

The Global Council needs to consult an already existing Movement Organization when there are proposals for new Movement Organizations in the same area of operation (theme or region) as well as on issues regarding the movement's structure and governance.

See also supplementary documentation:

Future Affiliate Landscape



Care Responsibility



## Hubs

Hubs: definition and scope of work



Hubs: revised piloting guideline



Hubs: revenue generation and funds distribution guidelines



# Affiliates and Hubs: Collaborations and Capacity Building



## Keywords:

**#Collaboration**

**#Learning and peer support**

**#Decentralization**

**#Capacity building**

## Responsibilities

Wikimedia Movement Organizations are each responsible for:

- .....
- .....
- .....
- developing partnerships and collaborations within their areas of interest.

See also Wikimedia Summit Purpose 2



See also Capacity Exchange



See also supplementary documentation:

Future Affiliate Landscape



# Financial resources: Resource development (fundraising)

## Keywords:

**#Revenue diversification**

**#Revenue growth**

**#Capacity building for fundraising**

**#Fundraising policy**

Wikimedia Movement Organizations may choose to develop their financial sustainability through additional revenue generation, coordinating such efforts with other Movement Organizations when necessary.

## **Glossary Term: Revenue generation**

Revenue generation is the process of obtaining funds to support one or more aspects of the movement. Some examples of revenue generation are:

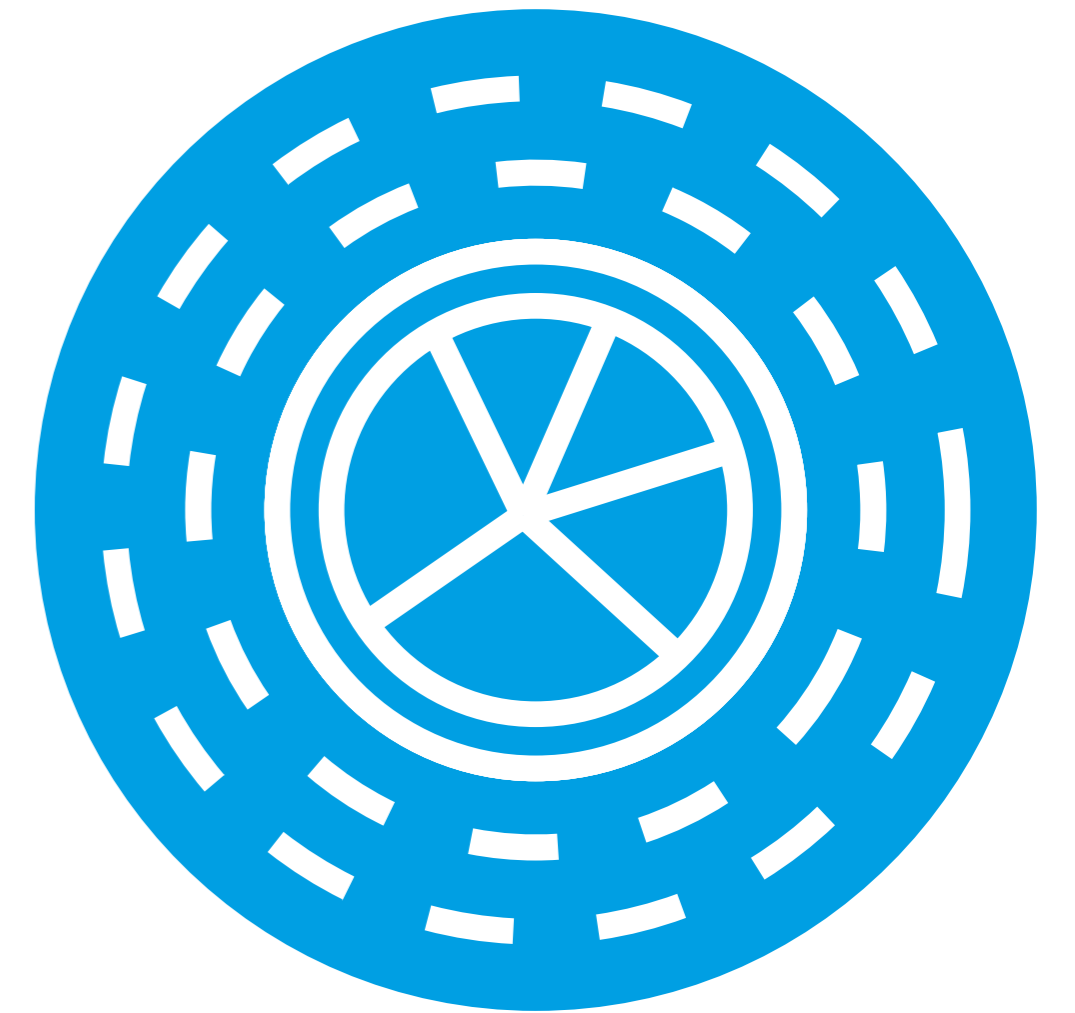
- fundraising,
  - Including grants provided by third parties (unrestricted or to support specific objectives), major gifts, or fundraising events,
- membership fees for affiliates

Related to revenue generation is “donation-in-kind,” when an organization or individual provides services and/or physical items without charge, or by charging a discounted fee. Examples can include:

- meeting rooms or office space,
- internet access, and
- free access to archival material.

## **Note from the supplementary documentation:**

**The Global Council is expected to come up with a fundraising policy that applies to all movement bodies.**

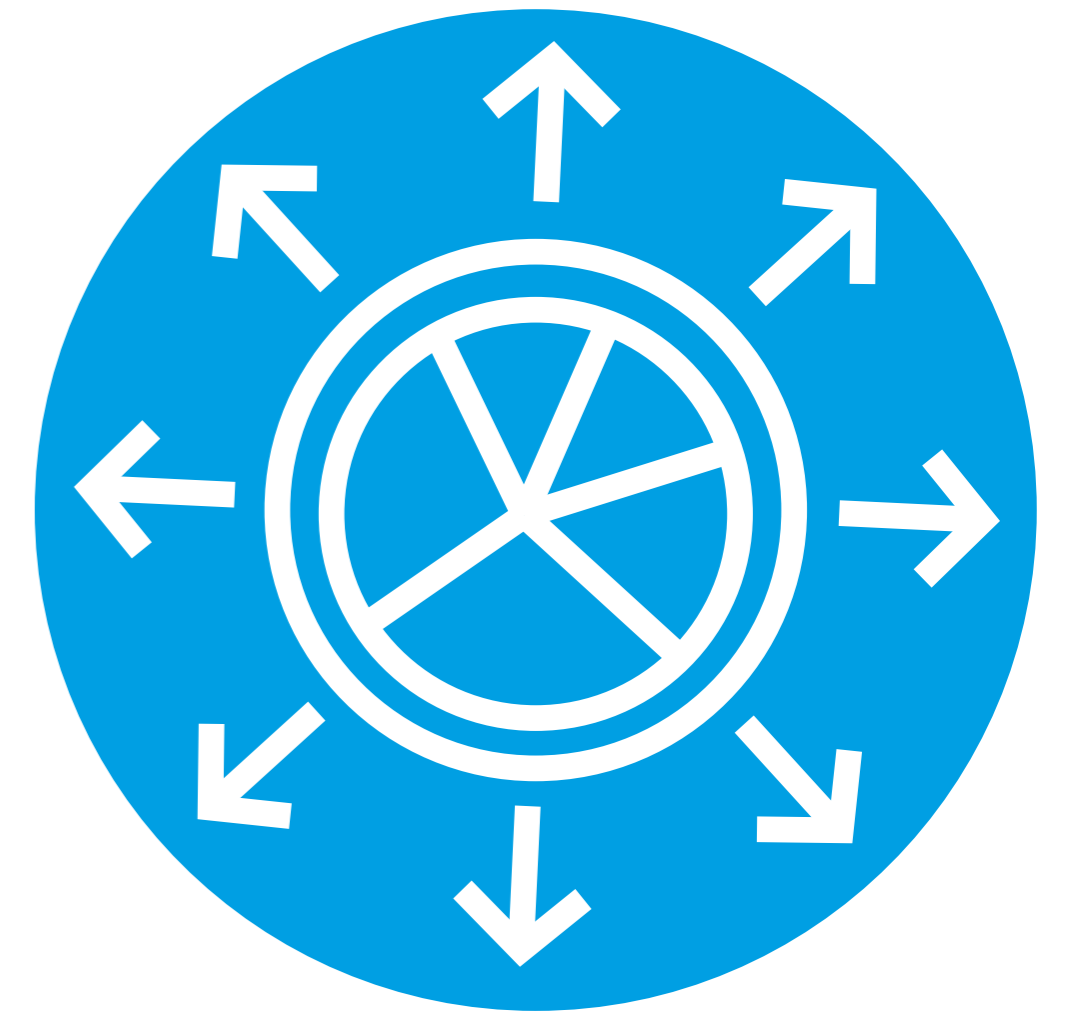


See also supplementary documentation:

Hubs: revenue generation and funds distribution guidelines



# Financial resources: Resource distribution



## Keywords:

**#Geographic distribution**

**#Decision-making about funding**

**#Global budget]**

### From GC Functions: Resource Distribution

The GC establishes standards and guidelines for the equitable distribution of funds within the movement that comply with the Principles of Decision-Making. Additionally, the GC is responsible for grantmaking to the communities and Movement Organizations, based on the allocated budget. This responsibility comes from the delegation of authority from the Wikimedia Foundation to the Global Council to be in charge of the role of distributing resources within the Wikimedia Movement.<sup>1</sup>

### From the Glossary: Resources

Resources are a stock or supply of money, materials, staff, knowledge, and other assets that can be drawn on by a person or organization in order to function effectively.

In the case of the Wikimedia movement, resources include:

- monetary assets obtained by revenue generation,
- people (including their time, effort, and capacity; the very large number of volunteers who drive the movement; and, the small number of paid staff who support the volunteers),
- the reputation of the Wikimedia movement and its projects and activities as a source of knowledge made available to the world freely and openly,
- the content of the Wikimedia projects as developed and managed by volunteers,
- the physical storage that contains the software and the content of the Wikimedia projects, and
- the educational and informational documentation to support the projects and other movement activities.

See also supplementary documentation

Principles of Decision Making



Hubs: revenue generation and funds distribution guidelines



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