



# Terms of Reference

GLOBAL BIM NETWORK  
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## 1. Introduction

This document describes the formation of a **Global BIM Network** of public sector representatives and multi-lateral organisations to increase the shared benefits from policies and programs which encourage the digitalisation of the global construction sector. It describes why a global network is needed, and defines the general direction of the Network's vision and goals; governance and structure; and likely areas of work during the first year of the Global Network.

## 2. Terms of Reference

This is an initial version the Global BIM Network terms of reference (ToR). Its purpose is to provide a general outline of the direction of the Network, its vision and goals; its areas of work; and how it might structure and organise.

The ToR is structured according to following themes in two parts:

- I. Purpose, Value Proposition and Vision (Sections 3, 3.2, 3.3)
- II. Governance and Structure (Section 4)

## 3. Purpose, Value Proposition and Vision

### 3.1 Purpose of the Network

The purpose of the Network is to 1) increase the impact of public infrastructure projects and investment for the public sector and multi-lateral organisations; and 2) to drive better outcomes for the end-users of the built environment by globalising the digital transformation of the construction sector.

As public policy makers, infrastructure owners and multi-lateral organisations, the network participants recognise the value that digitalisation, currently BIM and aligned with the ISO 19650 and other relevant international standards, brings to the construction sector and the delivery of the world's infrastructure. Introduced well, information management for the built environment can create a more open and competitive construction sector; one that delivers more efficiently, provides greater value and transparency to public procurement; it is inclusive of diversity, supportive of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and contributes to the effectiveness and performance of the public estate/built environment. Given these benefits, the network sees its role in advancing the digitalisation mission with an eye towards securing and sharing these benefits more widely.

### 3.2. Value proposition of the Network

The Global Network's value proposition is to deliver value in three distinct areas:

- i) directly to its members
- ii) indirectly to the public procurers, owners, suppliers, operators and maintainers of the built environment; and information technology suppliers
- iii) better outcomes and performance of the built environment for people

#### Direct value proposition to Network members

Members will benefit directly by connecting with new people with shared issues and difficulties or working on similar developments in different parts of the world. For example, connecting people in Latin America with counterparts with similar challenges in Europe or Asia, potentially speeding-up learning and adding value to the participating members.

Secondly, there is a growing body of information available to the public sector on the national, organisational or project level introduction of BIM; however, the current problem is knowing what there is, where it is located and how to access it. Therefore, signposting and organising information and making it easily accessible from anywhere will provide direct benefit to the Network's members. For example, being able to locate examples of document specifying BIM (as information management) in the procurement process; or to review how another country has developed a training course for its public procurer institutions. This inventory of reference materials will add value to members by aiding the adaptation and adoption of information and knowledge to their own specific contexts.

Thirdly, the sustainability and longevity of national and regional efforts will be enhanced by the Global Network. By increasing the number and scope of members to the Network it will likely provide a "self-reinforcing" effect towards the national members and public institutions. Including multi-lateral organisations also contributes legitimacy, confidence and a level of encouragement towards national public institutions. This building-up of critical mass of public sector and multi-lateral organisations provides peer-to-peer confidence to initiate and continue national digitalisation programmes (within the sector); and at the same time stimulates action at the national level by a natural "pull" effect encouraging action by national institutions.

#### Indirect benefits to Network members

An indirect benefit of the Network will be a multiplier effect. By building on the success of national and regional collaborations, the global network will be well positioned to amplify the messages of digital, based on open standards, to the Network's target audiences of other public procurers, asset owners, suppliers, operators and maintainers of the built environment sector.

In addition to reinforcing and amplifying signals to the market (and public procurement stakeholders), the global network will be able to attract a wider group of stakeholders, which in turn will elevate the message of the network. This indirect benefit will help to massify the message of existing initiatives, adding scale to those efforts while minimising the required effort of on any one individual participant.

As a network, the membership will be a stronger partner to the global information technology industry. Some of the individual members have a one-to-one relationship with the IT community. As a network of public sector stakeholders, members can present common requirements and encourage technology support for standards (e.g. data formats and processes, including ISO 19650 and other relevant international standards).

#### Better outcomes and impacts

In the long-term, the global network can help to drive better outcomes for the public estate; and enhance whole-life performance of the world's infrastructure in support of the UN SDGs and inclusive economic growth. The network will help to normalise and encourage the development and use of standards within the specification and use of digital within the construction sector and delivery of infrastructure.

Doing so, will enlarge the benefits to the public infrastructure sector. Examples of the expected benefits include, improved energy efficiency and resiliency of buildings and assets, optimisation of the whole-life cycle of infrastructure assets, reduction of material waste, targeting carbon neutrality and minimisation of costly errors.

In addition, the network will contribute to the encouragement of a highly skilled digital workforce, supportive of, and resulting in an improved image of the construction and infrastructure sector.

### 3.3. Vision of the Network

The Network needs a **simple, short and expansive vision statement** that captures its long-term destination that it is working towards. This vision statement will provide clarity to internal discussions and the Network's external stakeholders and beneficiaries. This is the starting point to frame the expansive vision of the Network, to be revisited in the next version of the ToR:

The vision of the network is to move towards a  
global digital built environment that delivers  
benefits for people and places

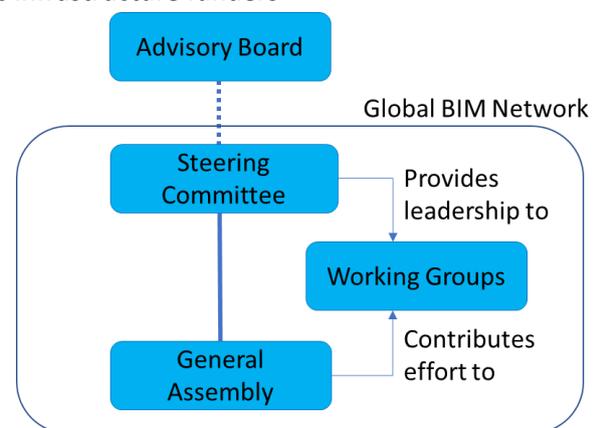
#### 4. Governance and Structure of the Network

The Network will further develop its governance (self-management) and organisational structure after March 2021. Below is an initial outline of the structure of the Network and considerations based on discussions before March 2021:

- Membership criteria – will be further defined in future versions of this ToR.
- Decision-making: how are decisions proposed, made and executed – will be further developed in future versions of this ToR.
- Secretariat function and project management: the UK team (CDBB on behalf of BEIS) are funded to provide the Secretariat and a limited project management team.

Five distinct groups within the Network are proposed:

1. Advisory Board: e.g. multi-lateral organisations and public infrastructure funders
2. Steering Committee: diversity of the network represented with approximately 12-15
3. Within the Steering Committee is the Chair, Project management and Secretariat Function: the UK is proposed (subject to funding and the support of the Network)
4. General Assembly: broad and diverse membership from the criteria to be defined (e.g. public sector or national appointed representative, or multi-lateral organisations)
5. Working Groups: working groups to be proposed by the Steering Committee, reviewed by the General Assembly and populated by either SC or GA, with leadership from the SC.



#### Groups of the Global Network internal and external structure

##### 1. Advisory Board

The Advisory Board (AB) is not within the Global Network, it performs an external oversight function, it offers ideas and recommendations to the Network; and lends its support for the mission of the Network. The AB is not a direct decision-maker within the Global Network.

##### 2. Steering Committee

The purpose of the Steering Committee (SC) is to develop recommendations for the Network’s direction, its workplan, composition and its governance. These recommendations should reflect the diversity of the Network and would be presented to the General Assembly for discussion.

The Steering Committee will:

- take input from the Advisory Board
- develop proposals and plans in support of the Network’s mission
- consult with the General Assembly (the wider public sector community)
- lead work groups, as agreed with the General Assembly

The SC should be comprised as follows:

### 2.1 Chair and Secretariat:

The role of the Chair is to:

- serve the internal and external needs of the Network
- represent the Network externally, not their host country
- oversee the secretariat and project management office to ensure proper functioning of the Network
- convene meetings of the Network
- be inclusive of different perspectives, cultures and diversity
- Chair the meetings of the Steering Committee and General Assembly
- Adam Matthews is confirmed as Chair of the Global BIM Network for the initial start-up phase of the Network (expected to be 18 months to 2 years)
- Alanna Gluck is confirmed as Delivery Lead for the Global BIM Network and will lead the Secretariat function

### 2.2 Regional network representatives:

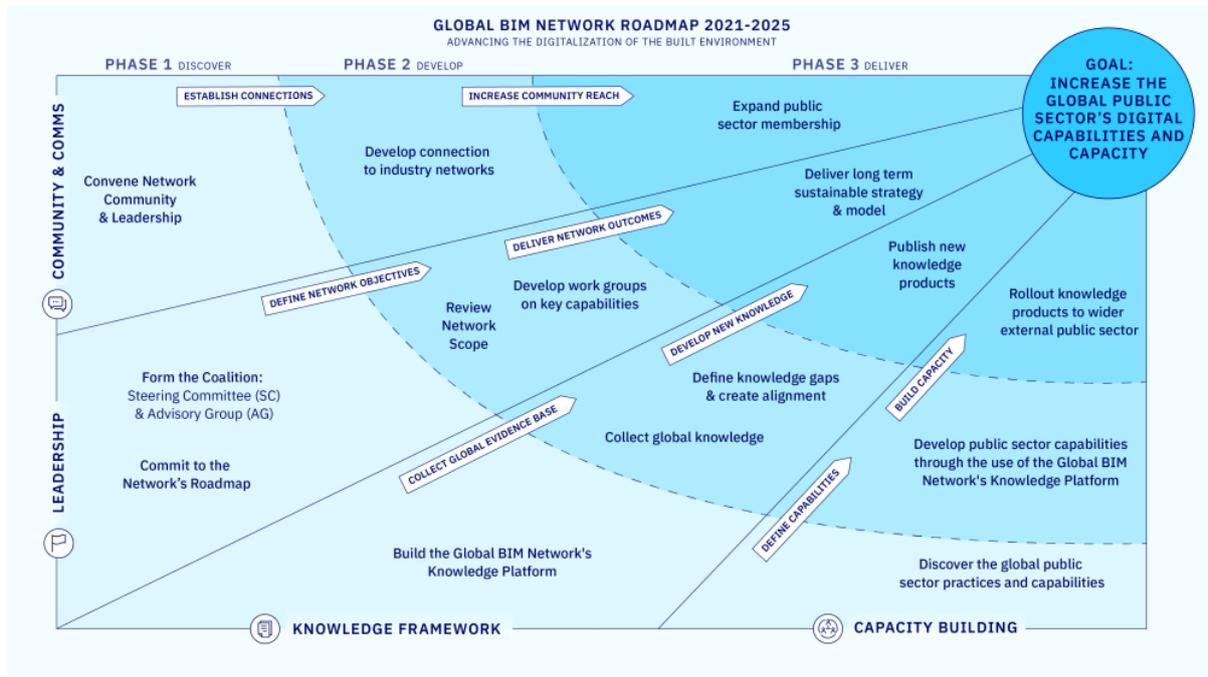
- one regional representative for each region that has a network
  - Europe (EU BIM Task Group) is confirmed to be represented by Souheil Soubra
  - Latin America (Red BIM de Gobiernos Latinoamericanos) is confirmed to be represented by Carolina Soto

### 2.3 Country representatives

- Between two and four country representatives for each region to represent country views
  - Americas: Chile and two from Red BIM de Gobiernos Latinoamericanos are confirmed
  - Europe: UK, France and Czechia are confirmed
  - Asia: Vietnam is confirmed
  - US: representation confirmed
- Country representatives would represent their country and in some cases their region; for instance, the participation of European countries will take place exclusively under the umbrella of the EU BIM Task Group. This means they will have a mandate from the EU BIM Task Group to represent this regional group and also bring their national perspective. Country representatives would encourage economies from their region to become members of the Global Network

## 5. Global BIM Network Roadmap 2021-2025

The Global BIM Network's strategic Roadmap outlines a vision and collaborative pathway for public sector leadership across the globe to promote the digitalisation of the built environment.



Launched at the Network's first General Assembly on 2 December 2021, the Global BIM Network's Roadmap 2021-2025 aims to support the digitalisation of the built environment for the public good. This initiative will promote public sector leadership efforts to collaborate with industry on the critical opportunity of digitalisation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and to drive inclusive growth through capacity building and knowledge transfer.

The Roadmap will provide a blueprint for all Network member, leadership and secretariat activities to 2025<sup>1</sup>

## 6. How to Join

The Network is for the public sector and by the public sector. Public sector representatives from across the world may join and participate in the Global BIM Network. Members will share knowledge and build best practice for the global public sector's use of digital innovation for the sustainable development of the world's infrastructure. Current membership consists of representatives from government ministries and agencies (economy, finance, construction, business and industry) and multilateral organisations. Individuals working in the private sector are welcome to access information and engage with the Global BIM Network.

Time and willingness to collaborate are the key commitments of the Global BIM Network at this time.

To express interest in joining the Global BIM Network, please contact the UK Secretariat at [international@cdbb.cam.ac.uk](mailto:international@cdbb.cam.ac.uk).

<sup>1</sup> Pending funding.