

GDL Member Charter

GDL Essentials

The GDL works to explore and re-define the role and challenges of diplomacy, while advancing its transformative function through its cross-sectoral community. Facing complex global challenges, GDL members advocate more inclusivity, social responsibility and mutual respect stretching beyond traditional politics.

The GDL and its Charter

The GDL brings together international professionals from various fields to explore new methods and tools of diplomacy, communication and interaction for a responsible and sustainable global future.

The GDL is a member-driven network. All members work on a pro-bono basis, feeding in their expertise, knowledge and experience, embodying an intrinsic motivation to undertake collaborative work in various sectors. The GDL is not an organisation, but a well-organised network and is representative of its members, that go out of their comfort zone to work together on new and challenging topics.

The GDL takes into account cultural, ethical and behavioural differences, and stands for equal rights and opportunities, tolerance and openness. The GDL empowers its members to explore new methodologies. Its approach is rooted in inclusion, participation, dialogue and discussion-based resolutions.

This Member Charter presents the set of activities, values and beliefs that bring together an energised group of individuals who are helping build a more resilient, compassionate and sustainable world.

The Member Charter is aimed at the current and future members of the GDL and the partner organisations that are working with the GDL.

All current members agree to the content of this Charter. The Charter will be part of the Welcome Package for new members. By joining the GDL and participating in their first GDL event, members abide by the Charter.

Our ideals

We build collaboration

Networking
Empowering
Respectful

The GDL network is supported by its leading partners, who contribute to the daily work and nominate their own alumni for membership. Our leading partners invite GDL members to be part of their own respective networks.

The GDL builds networks between its members, between the members and its partners, as well as with the organisations it cooperates with in the context of its Labs and other projects. These networks rely on mutual trust and open dialogue. All members see each other as equal participants in a shared undertaking.

- Every member is encouraged to participate in GDL governance and strategy and to promote the GDL's activities within their professional networks.
- The GDL empowers its members and partner organisations by insemminating and advocating knowledge sharing, capacity building, openness, inclusion and best practices in a networked environment.
- Individual commitment of every single member, combined with support from the GDL network, translates ideas into concrete action.

We change diplomacy:

- We believe in capacity building, further training and coordinated and harmonious efforts to work on global challenges for the public good in a community set-up, both within and outside the network.
- The GDL works to change the face of diplomacy by introducing more inclusive formats via its Labs and projects. The GDL works with individuals and organisations in order to come up with fitting and locally specific solutions for the situation at hand.
- The Labs take place during a limited time, but focuses on creating long-term sustainable impact on the ground, as well as fostering lasting networks among all participants.
- The Labs and a variety of other formats that the GDL participates in (e.g. Bled Strategic Forum, Falling Walls Lab) serve also as platforms to carry the vision of a more inclusive diplomacy into the world.

Inclusive
Selfcritical
Diverse

We make uncertainty productive:

Creative
Flexible
Enthusiastic

- The GDL is aware that there are no pre-established answers to the questions it addresses. Thus, the GDL builds on dialogue and on establishing conversations to forge a new path toward the future of diplomacy. The GDL transcends national and other boundaries and encourages all participants in its formats to work together towards a common goal.
- The work of the GDL is interdisciplinary and allows everyone to feed in their experiences and skills. GDL also encourages its members to unlearn stereotypes and to develop creative approaches for complex problems through a multi-stakeholder process.
- GDL members perceive social and political challenges in a larger context. We use our knowledge, networks and influence to deliberately work for a better world, guided by a deep respect for other people, their background, identity, culture and dignity.

We strive for sustainability

- The GDL is building a community of experts and we engage with our members in ways that facilitate sustainability of our efforts as members contribute their time, knowledge and expertise and gain via collaborative efforts.
- GDL members strive for financial sustainability and offer expertise to the partners and institutions it is associated with.
- GDL events always collaborate with partners who commit to sustainability (catering, logistics, locations, artists).

Green
Sustainable
Transparent

How we GDL

The main language used in the GDL is English. We encourage all members to share their contributions in English so that the majority of users can understand and benefit from our collective knowledge and experience.

Language

Anti Harrassment

The GDL stands against any form of verbal, visual, sexual and/or physical harassment. This includes derogatory language, racial slurs, personal insults, expressions of intolerance, the placement of discriminatory symbols etc., both online and offline.

GDL does not tolerate the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, including the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favours. The EAC is the first point of contact for any person witnessing or experiencing harassment.

The GDL works on the philosophy of 'agree to disagree' as part of its decision-making process and encourages freedom of speech, asking questions and presenting opinions.

Decision making

Data Privacy

The GDL is bound by the GDPR laws of the European Union (EU) and protects the data and privacy of all members.

In the case of a conflict of interest, the GDL asks that its members and partners behave fairly and reasonably. Members are to lay open all instances of conflict of interest to the EAC when unsure how to proceed.

Conflict of interest

Charter Review

The Member Charter is owned by the members. The members have the opportunity for regular updates of the document to make it fit to the GDL's objectives and goals. The Charter is reviewed every two years. The Charter is part of the welcome package for new members.

Member commitment

As a member-driven network, the GDL expects its members to be committed and make regular contributions. This can take the form of participation in events, contributing knowledge and ideas in a variety of formats from organising or moderating workshops, to writing blog entries, participating in working groups, in evaluations and polls, etc. Every member chooses to commit according to their own schedule and bears in mind the network's reliance on commitments made. If a member cannot commit any time to the GDL for an extended period of time they will inform the EAC about this fact.

The GDL inspires its members to work together towards a peaceful, just and sustainable future.

Through our activities, we aim to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Culture of Sustainability

Appreciative collaboration

We are respectful of each other's time. We work through issues on our own before we take them to the community for help, and when we get help, we give back as well. When we are unsure, we ask for help from fellow members. Due to the network's non-hierarchical set-up, all members of GDL share the same rights independent of their background.

When we disagree, we consult others and explore perspectives through discussion and healthy debate. It is important to us members that we resolve disagreements and differing views constructively and with the help of the GDL community and community processes. In a disagreement, the focus remains on the topic, without making personal comments. Community members should feel empowered to be Active Bystanders to call out bad behaviour and step in to help resolve issues without allowing matters to escalate. In such conflicts the EAC is able to provide mediation support.

Conflict resolution