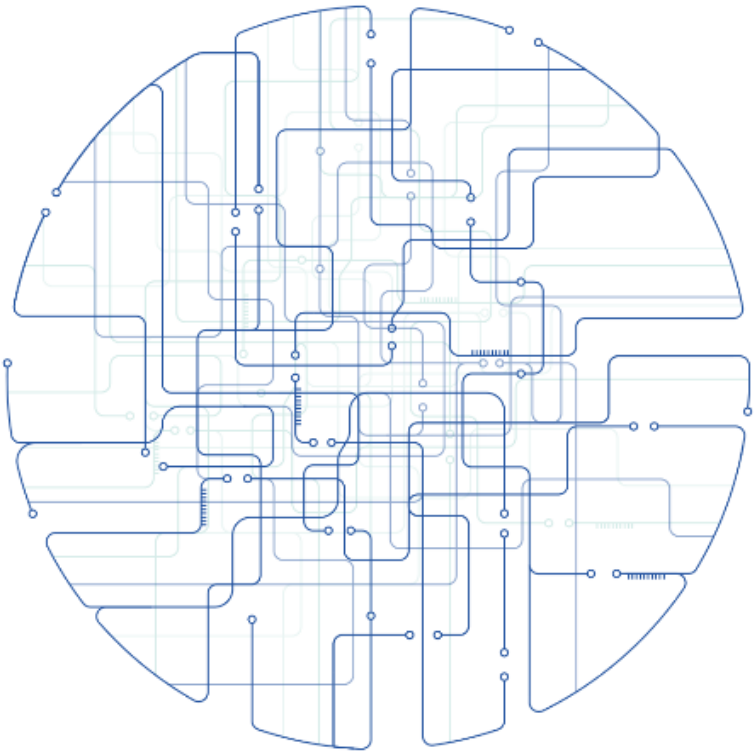


Terms of Reference

AI Programme Committee (AIPC)

2026-2030

AI Programme Committee (AIPC)

Terms of Reference

Date	03 July 2026
Version	1.0
Document Status	Final
Contributors	CIO Office
Access	Public
Revision Frequency	Every 12 months
Target Audience	Public

Table of Contents

1. Purpose and Scope 4
2. Governance Relationships 4
3. Functions and Membership 5
4. Roles and Responsibilities 6
   4.1 Chair 6
   4.2 Secretary and Finance Officer 6
   4.3 Members 6
5. Meeting Frequency and Working Modalities 7
6. Operating Practices and Operational Autonomy 7
7. Reporting, Documentation, and Communication 8
8. Review of Terms of Reference 8
9. Related Material 8
10. Document History 8

1. Purpose and Scope

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for overseeing CERN's Digital and Artificial Intelligence Strategy across all sectors of the Organisation, ensuring that AI development, deployment, and governance remain aligned with CERN's scientific mission and institutional values. The AI Programme Committee (AIPC) is CERN's principal coordination body for Artificial Intelligence, operating under the authority of the C4[1], chaired by the CIO, which defines the strategic direction, the priority engagements, and resource mobilisation. Scientific and operational autonomy remains with CERN's sectors, departments, and scientific collaborations; the AIPC establishes the framework within which their activities are coherently oriented, without governing their execution.

The AIPC's mandate encompasses the following activity domains:

AI Strategy stewardship. Maintaining, reviewing, and updating CERN's AI Strategy in response to technological evolution, changes in the research landscape, and CERN's evolving institutional priorities. Proposing major strategic revisions to the C4 for consideration and approval.

External engagement and representation. Establishing and maintaining high-level relationships with the European Commission, international funding bodies, and strategic industry partners on matters related to AI research, infrastructure, and policy, presenting CERN objectives and activities, through the representation mandate of the AIPC Chair and the domain expertise of the Committee members.

Scientific community relations. Engaging through its membership with high-level scientific community bodies and similar initiatives, on AI matters of shared strategic interest across scientific domains, with particular attention to complementarity, joint opportunities, and coherence at the programme level. This engagement is conducted in a spirit of partnership and with full respect for the autonomy of community governance structures.

Strategic review. Reviewing and advising on AI initiatives, projects, and centrally-managed investments for alignment with the agreed AI Strategy. Escalating to the C4 whenever major strategic, institutional, or resource implications are identified.

Resource stewardship and impact reporting. Monitoring and reporting on the deployment of resources allocated to the AI programme by CERN and through external partnerships, and assessing the scientific, operational, and institutional impact produced. Ensuring that resource utilisation and programme outcomes are reported to the C4 through the annual strategic report and periodic programme reviews.

2. Governance Relationships

The AIPC operates within the institutional governance structure established by the CIO mandate and the CERN AI Strategy. Its relationships with other governance bodies are defined by complementarity of function: the AIPC holds responsibility for recommendations on CERN strategic direction and external positioning to the C4, while sectors, departments, and community bodies retain full responsibility for implementation and execution within their respective domains.

C4. The C4 is the steering committee chaired by the CIO and comprising department-head level representatives, providing institutional coordination across CERN's sectors and endorsing major strategic decisions related to the mandate of the CIO. The AIPC operates under its authority, submitting strategic recommendations and annual reports for consideration and approval. The C4 retains decision-making authority on major strategy revisions, significant resource commitments, and institutional policy changes.

Sector-level and community governance bodies. CERN's sectors, departments, and scientific collaborations retain full responsibility for proposing and executing AI activities within their domains. The AIPC, composed of experts from the different sectors and representing them, shares programme-level context and identifies areas of coherence or escalation, without issuing directives or intervening in their operational governance.

External bodies. The AIPC is designated as the institutional body supporting CERN's high-level engagement in AI and related technologies with external bodies providing collaboration and funding opportunities. It ensures that all such engagements are conducted from a consistent and well-prepared strategic position, and that outcomes are reported to the C4 as appropriate.

3. Functions and Membership

The AIPC membership is expected to cover the following areas:

- **Coordination:** Provide coordination of the AIPC, maintain relations between the Committee and other CERN and external bodies, and manage the reporting activities. Coordination is provided by the OCIO function responsible for CERN's AI strategy, which chairs the AIPC. This function is supported by a Secretary, responsible for administrative coordination and documentation, and a Finance Officer with financial and accounting expertise to support the Chair in monitoring resource usage and preparing the consolidated input to periodic reports.
- **AI for Research:** Cover AI priorities and activities in the research programme, including data analysis, simulation, and AI-driven research across experiments and scientific sectors, as well as provide the scientific interface and interaction with the broader scientific community. Expected to draw from the expertise of the Research and Computing departments.
- **AI for Accelerators and Engineering:** Cover AI priorities and activities in accelerator systems, engineering design, and related technical domains. Expected to draw from the expertise of the Accelerators Technology departments.
- **AI for Site Operations and Process Efficiency:** Cover AI adoption for site operations, infrastructure management, and institutional process efficiency across different Sectors. Expected to draw from the expertise of the Site Operations, Human Resources, Finance, and Stakeholders Relations departments.
- **Knowledge Transfer and Industrial/Societal Impact:** Cover AI-related technology transfer and the broader industrial, societal and economic impact of CERN's AI activities. Expected to draw from the expertise of the Technology Transfer and Innovation office.
- **Partnerships:** Cover strategic partnerships related to AI, with industry and other external partners, including ICT and technology partnerships. Expected to draw from the expertise of the OCIO.
- **AI Infrastructure:** Cover the development and operation of shared AI computing, data infrastructure, and enabling platforms. Expected to draw from the expertise of the IT Department.
- **AI Governance:** Cover the development and implementation of AI governance frameworks, including AI policies, normative standards, data privacy requirements, and engagement with legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to CERN's AI activities. Expected to draw from the expertise of the OCIO in collaboration with relevant CERN services.

The members must be selected to cover the competencies and areas of activity required for the Committee to fulfil its mandate at an appropriate level of seniority and with the delegated authority to represent their respective domain.

Members are expected to engage actively in the Committee's work beyond attending meeting sessions. Depending on the scope of agenda items and activities, the Chair will draw on their participation, expertise, and sectoral engagement to elaborate recommendations, represent the AIPC at relevant forums, or lead the assessment of activities in their area of responsibility.

Membership is reviewed annually by the C4 to ensure that strategic expertise, sectoral balance, and external engagement capacity remain appropriate to the Committee's evolving mandate.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Chair

- The Chair of the AIPC provides the Coordination function and has the responsibility of preparing and approving agendas, discussing strategic directions, presenting funding and collaboration opportunities for assessment, fostering coherence between AIPC activities and CERN's broader institutional strategy and governance, and submitting recommendations and escalations to the C4.
- Represents CERN's institutional position on AI strategy, governance, and external partnerships at governance and policy-facing engagements. This representation concerns CERN's institutional AI positioning and does not extend to the scientific or technical direction of the sectors, departments, and collaborations, which they continue to represent in their own right. The Chair is supported in this function by the other members of the AIPC, who may be called to represent CERN in their respective domains.
- Monitors resource deployment and produces impact reports across the AI programme, supported by the Finance Officer and by the other Committee members.
- Draws on the expertise and sectoral engagement of permanent members, involving them as appropriate in representing the AIPC at specific forums and coordination bodies, elaborating recommendations, or leading the assessment of activities in their area of responsibility.

4.2 Secretary and Finance Officer

- Manage meeting logistics, agendas, and documentation.
- Circulate meeting records and track agreed action items.
- Maintain the AIPC's document archive and formal correspondence.
- Collect and consolidate information about resource allocation and usage as input to periodic reports.

4.3 Members

- Contribute strategic expertise and domain perspective to Committee deliberations.
- Engage with relevant external communities and stakeholders as part of the AIPC's external engagement mandate.
- Support the preparation of strategic reports, positions, and recommendations.
- Act as designated sponsor for task forces (see Section 5) established in their area of responsibility, overseeing the work and reporting progress and outcomes to the Committee.
- Keep the AIPC informed of activities and priorities in their respective domains and vice versa, and ensure that relevant developments, opportunities, and concerns from those domains are reflected in Committee deliberations.

Alternates for the AI PC members will also be identified to replace the members in case of unavailability and ensure regular execution of the meeting and agreed actions.

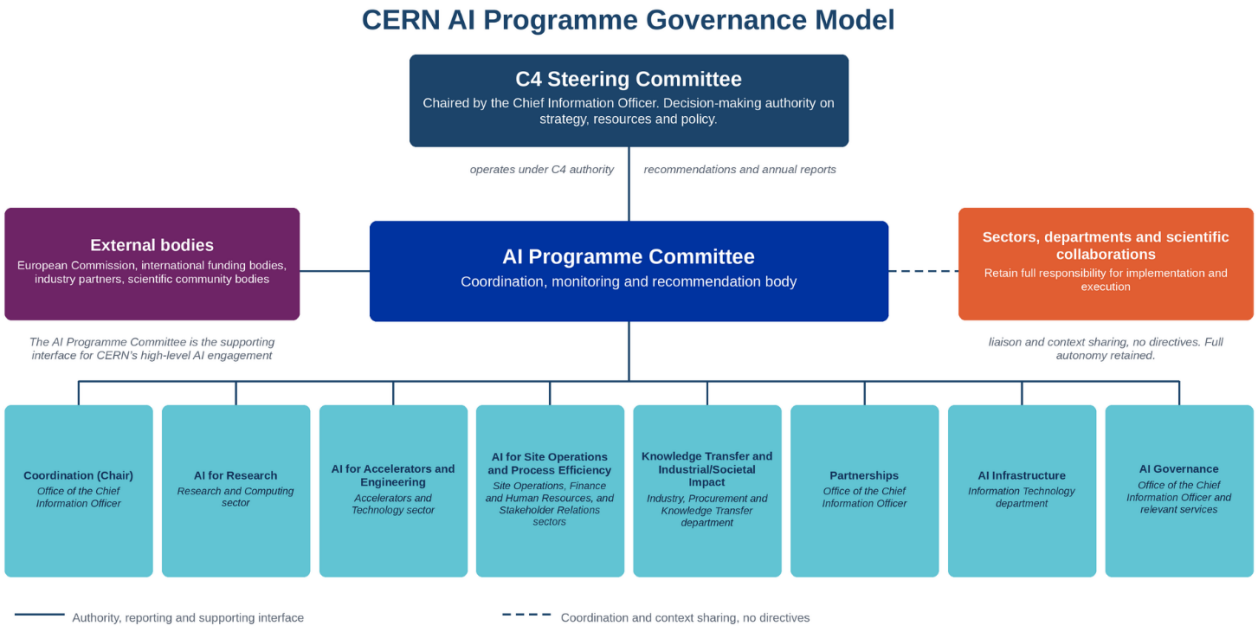


Figure 1. AIPC governance model

5. Meeting Frequency and Working Modalities

Plenary meetings are held monthly during the first [six] months. The frequency will then be assessed and a decision on reducing or increasing will be taken based on the experience of the first six months. The Chair may convene extraordinary meetings for urgent matters requiring collective deliberation or decision outside the regular schedule, especially at beginning of the implementation activities.

Time-limited task forces may be established if deemed necessary for specific scoped activities, such as preparing strategic positioning statements, defining recommendations for policies, or developing a recommendation for the C4. Each operates under the sponsorship of the relevant permanent member, who oversees the work and reports progress to the Committee. Task forces are dissolved on completion of their mandated deliverable, subject to Committee endorsement.

Plenary meetings require the participation of a majority of members (or their alternates in case of a member unavailability), including the Chair or a designated representative.

6. Operating Practices and Operational Autonomy

Decision-making authority rests with the C4. The AIPC is a monitoring, coordination and recommendation body: it develops proposals, recommendations and resolutions for the C4 and does not itself take formal decisions. Matters requiring institutional approval, including major revisions to the AI Strategy, significant new resource commitments, and changes to institutional policy or governance frameworks, are referred to the C4 for decision.

Within the scope of its agreed objectives and without prejudice to C4 authority, the AIPC retains operational autonomy to:

- Define messages and scope for CERN's participation in high-level external events, forums, and AI discussions.
- Initiate and manage information exchange with external partners and funding bodies.
- Perform strategic reviews of AI projects and activities for alignment assessment.
- Establish time-limited task forces and define their mandates, composition, and sponsorship.
- Issue strategic positions and communications on behalf of CERN's AI programme, within the framework approved by the C4.

The AIPC works by consensus. It expresses its conclusions as proposals, recommendations, resolutions, or other appropriate actions, recorded in the minutes together with any divergent views. Where consensus cannot be reached, or a matter exceeds the Committee's remit, it is referred to the C4 for decision.

7. Reporting, Documentation, and Communication

Meeting records are circulated to all members within five working days of each meeting and approved within 2 weeks.

An annual strategic report is submitted to CERN management. The report summarises the Committee's activities, strategic assessments, external engagements, and recommendations for the period ahead. It is prepared by the Chair, reviewed by AIPC members, and submitted following endorsement by the Committee.

Outputs from task forces are documented and submitted to the AIPC for formal endorsement before wider distribution or external use.

The AIPC will also produce regular communication material for the CERN community to keep them informed of ongoing activities and outcomes. The messages will be managed in collaboration with the C4 and the CERN communications experts.

8. Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference enter into force upon approval by the CIO, following consultation with the Management Board and the Executive Board, and shall be reviewed annually, or when significant governance, strategic, or organisational changes make an earlier revision appropriate. Proposed revisions are prepared by the Chair, endorsed by the AIPC, and submitted to the CIO for approval.

9. Related Material

	Description	Reference
1	OCIO Mandate	https://repository.cern/records/1ykw3-zkk21
2	CERN AI Strategy	https://repository.cern/records/zw9za-jqv67
3	CERN AI Implementation and Resource Plan 2026-2030	https://repository.cern/records/r9fk2-bcp56

10. Document History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	03 July 2026	Final public release version

CERN
CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Office of the Chief Information Officer
https://cio.cern.ch/

