1 Global End

People around the world benefit from increasing numbers of governing boards using principled, systematic approaches to achieve effective owner-accountable governance. The results produced are worth the investment of resources.

1.1 Advancing Governance Excellence

Governing boards and those interested in governance have a shared and evolving understanding of governance excellence.

1.1.1 Defining Governance Excellence

Governance excellence draws inspiration from an integrated system of principles, as exemplified by Policy Governance®, that aligns the organizational purpose with the intentions of those to whom the governing board owes its primary allegiance, and the interests of the community in which it operates.

1.2 Achieving Governance Excellence

Governing boards and those interested in governance have the awareness, knowledge and support they need to achieve excellence.

1.2.1 Awareness

They demonstrate awareness of principled, systematic, and accountable approaches.

1.2.2 Knowledge and Research

They readily reference a growing body of knowledge and research that supports advancing excellence.

1.2.3 Community Support

They engage with an inclusive community with which to share in order to advance governance excellence.

1.2.4 Expert Support

They obtain expertise and resources to assist them in achieving governance excellence from a body of qualified people.
2 Governance Process

The purpose of the board, on behalf of the proponents of good governance, who are committed to Policy Governance and other advanced, owner-accountable governance systems, is to see to it that the Association

(a) achieves appropriate results for appropriate persons at an appropriate cost, and

(b) avoids unacceptable actions and situations

2.1 Governing Style

The board will govern lawfully and consistently with the principles of Policy Governance, with an emphasis on:

(a) outward vision rather than internal preoccupation,

(b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints,

(c) clear distinction of board and executive roles, (even when the latter are performed by board members)

(d) collective rather than individual decisions,

(e) future rather than past or present, and

(f) proactivity rather than reactivity.

2.1.1 Group Responsibility

The board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The board will initiate policy, rather than merely reacting to others' proposals. The board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgement of the board, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the board as a body.

2.1.2 Written Policies

The board will direct, control and inspire the Association through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the board's values and perspectives. The board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term external impacts of the Association.

2.1.3 Board Discipline

The board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will observe them scrupulously while in force.

2.1.4 Board Development

Continual board development will include orientation of new board members in the board's governance process and periodic board discussion of process improvement.

2.1.4.1 Orientation of New Board Members

Orientation of new board members will include: an introduction to the organization, an introduction to board members and the CEO, an orientation to the governance model and governance processes.
2.1.4.2 Board’s Plan for Model Consistency

We believe that the spread of owner-accountable, principled, and systematic governance requires us to uphold standards of model consistency in all our activities and outputs and will seek to develop and sustain such standards in all our work.

Our plans are as follows:
1. All new board members to take PG 360 test and debrief missed answers with an experienced board member.
2. The board to forward its full policy set to the CEO each December (with notes identifying calendar-year amendments) for comment by the Consistency Framework Committee.
3. Samples of IPGA monitoring reports and related board minutes to be sent each December to the CEO for comment by the Consistency Framework Committee.

2.1.5 Fulfillment of Commitments

The board will allow no officer, individual or committee of the board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling its commitments.

2.2 Board Job Description

Specific job outputs of the board, as an informed agent of the ownership, are those that ensure appropriate organizational performance.

Accordingly, the board has direct responsibility to create:

2.2.1 Ownership to Organization Link

The link between the ownership and the operational organization.

2.2.2 Written Governing Policies

Written governing policies which address the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations.

2.2.2.1 Ends

Ends: Organizational products, impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients, and their relative worth (what good for which recipients at what cost).

2.2.2.2 Executive Limitations

Executive Limitations: Constraints on executive authority, which establish the prudence and ethics boundaries within which all executive activity and decisions must take place.

2.2.2.3 Governance Process

Governance Process: Specification of how the board conceives, carries out and monitors its own task.

2.2.2.4 Board-Management Delegation

How power is delegated and its proper use monitored; the authority and accountability of the CEO.
2.2.3 Organizational Performance

Assurance of effective organizational performance.

2.3 Agenda Planning

To accomplish its job products with a governance style consistent with board policies, the board will follow an annual agenda which includes (a) timely re-exploration of owner perspectives and board policies (b) monitoring of policy according to an annual schedule, and c) continual board improvement through education, enriched input and deliberation.

2.3.1 Agendas Per Planning Cycle

Agendas for the board’s meetings are as per the annually agreed Board Planning Cycle.

2.3.2 Ad Hoc Issues

Ad hoc issues may be raised to the CGO by board members at any time.

2.3.3 Agenda Items Notice

Board members will notify the CGO in advance of the meeting if they wish additional items to be on the agenda.

2.4 CGO’s Role

The CGO assures the integrity of the board’s process and, secondarily, occasionally represents the board to outside parties.

Accordingly:

2.4.1 Assigned Result

The assigned result of the CGO’s job is that the board behaves consistently with its own rules and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization.

2.4.1.1 Meeting Content

Meeting discussion content will be on those issues which, according to board policy, clearly belong to the board to decide or monitor.

2.4.1.2 Deliberation Criteria

Deliberation will be fair, open, and thorough, but also timely, orderly, and kept to the point.

2.4.2 CGO Authority

The authority of the CGO consists in making decisions that fall within topics covered by board policies on Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation, with the exception of (a) employment or termination of a CEO and (b) where the board specifically delegates portions of this authority to others. The CGO is authorized to use any reasonable interpretation of the provisions in these policies.
2.4.2.1 Meeting Authority
The CGO is empowered to chair board meetings with all the commonly accepted power of that position (e.g. ruling and recognizing).

2.4.2.2 Authority Limits
The CGO has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the board within Ends and Executive Limitations policy areas. Therefore the CGO has no authority to supervise or direct the CEO.

2.4.2.3 Representing the Board
The CGO may represent the board to outside parties in announcing board-stated positions and in stating chair decisions and interpretations within his or her authority.

2.4.2.4 Delegation of Authority
The CGO may delegate his or her authority, but remains accountable for its use.

2.5 Secretary's Role
The Secretary assures the integrity and accuracy of the board's documents, including association bylaws, board policies, and minutes documenting board decisions and due diligence.

Therefore:

2.5.1 Secretary's Authority
The Secretary has authority to make any reasonable interpretation of the board's policies on these matters.

2.6 Board Member's Code of Conduct
The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as board members.

2.6.1 Loyalty
Board members must have loyalty to the ownership, unconflicted by loyalties to any particular constituency, other organizations, and any personal interest as a member of IPGA.

2.6.2 Exercise of Authority
Board members are accountable to exercise the authority and discharge the duties of their office honestly and in good faith. Board members shall exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

2.6.3 Conflict of Interest
Board members must avoid conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary duty.
2.6.3.1 Member Relationships
When the Board considers an issue about which a board member has a potential or perceived conflict of interest, that member will disclose the conflict and offer to withdraw from the discussion and vote.

2.6.3.2 Personal and Business Relationships
Board members will not allow personal or business relationships with the CEO or other board members to supersede or in any other way interfere with the business of the Association.

2.6.3.3 Disclosure of Business
There will be no self-dealing or business by a board member or immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings, children) with the organisation as a result of their position on the board. The only exception to this is when procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity, and equal access to otherwise "inside" information, and where there are no other acceptable resources available. Board members will annually disclose their involvements within the organization, with other organisations, with providers, or any associations which might be or might reasonably be seen as being a conflict.

2.6.3.4 Prior Disclosure
Prior to election to the IPGA board, a prospective board member shall be informed of this policy and complete the Conflict of Interest Declaration.

2.6.4 Individual Authority
Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over matters delegated to the CEO.

2.6.5 Confidentiality
Board members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.

2.6.6 Email Contact
Board members will be expected to maintain an accessible email account and be responsive. Board members shall notify the board if they will be out of email communication for a week or more.

2.6.7 Meeting Preparedness
Board members will be properly prepared for board meetings.

2.6.8 Authority of Decisions
Board members will respect the authority of the decisions of the Board.
2.7 Board Committee Principles

Standing or Ad hoc Committees will be used minimally in order to preserve the wholeness of the board’s work and in any case these groups shall not be used to interfere with delegation from the board to the CEO.

2.7.1 Committee Authority

Board Committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes.

2.7.2 Committee Function

Board Committees are to help the board to do its job, not to help the CEO do jobs that have been delegated.

2.8 Cost of Governance

The board will determine an annual budget for its own direct expenses associated with work done by the full board and any of its associated standing or ad hoc committees no later than 90 days prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.

2.8.1 Direct Expenses

Direct expenses are defined as the costs associated with making governance decisions e.g. meeting costs, board members’ expense reimbursement, external room hire, refreshments, legal advice, governance consultant fees, audit and other third-party monitoring of performance, ownership linkage mechanisms and orientation, training and education of board members.

2.8.1.1 Expense Reimbursement

Board members will be reimbursed for actual, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in their duties up to the amount allocated to them in the annual governance budget adopted by the board.

2.9 Linkage with Ownership

The Board governs The International Policy Governance Association in the interests of its moral ownership: the proponents of good governance who are committed to understanding and developing the principles of Policy Governance as defined by the most current published version of the Source Document. The Board is committed to actively linking with its ownership to provide accountability and to inform its policies.

2.9.1 Interaction with Owners

The Board will obtain owners’ values concerning Ends and Executive Limitations and will inform owners about the Board’s governance work.

2.10 Governance Evaluation

The board will monitor and regularly discuss its own process and performance, including a comparison of board activity and discipline with its Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation policies.
2.11 Governance Succession

In keeping with the board's commitment to excellence in governance, the board shall actively solicit for positions on the board, candidates who offer the membership a range of perspectives and backgrounds and who have characteristics that will enable them to govern effectively:

- understanding and commitment to the role of trustee, fidelity to the ownership and commitment to the general mission area
- propensity to think in terms of systems and context
- ability and eagerness to deal with values, vision and the long-term-ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation and abide by the intent of established policies
- willingness to share power in group process, and to delegate areas of decision-making to staff.

2.12 Board Committee Structure

A committee is a board committee only if its existence and charge come from the board, regardless whether board members sit on the committee. The only board committees are those which are set forth in this policy. Unless otherwise stated, a committee ceases to exist as soon as its task is complete.

2.12.1 IPGA Awards Committee

A. Product: Coordination of IPGA Award program. Submission of recommended award recipients for consideration of the board at its May meeting.

B. Authority: To incur costs of no more than $1,000 direct charges and no more than 10 hours of staff time.

3 Global Governance - Management Connection

The board's sole official connection to the operational organization, its achievements and conduct will be through a CEO, titled Chief Executive Officer.

3.1 Unity of Control

Only officially passed motions of the board that make or amend Executive Limitations or Ends policies are binding on the CEO.

Accordingly:

3.1.1 Authority of Individuals over the CEO

Decisions or instructions of individual board members, officers, or committees are not binding on the CEO except in rare instances when the board has specifically authorized such exercise of authority.

3.1.2 Requests for Information

In the case of board members or committees requesting information or assistance without board authorization, the CEO can refuse such requests that require, in the CEO's opinion, a material amount of staff time or funds or is disruptive.
3.2 Accountability of the CEO

The CEO is the board’s only link to operational achievement and conduct, so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the CEO.

Accordingly:

3.2.1 Board Authority over Staff

The board will never give instructions to persons who report directly or indirectly to the CEO.

3.2.2 Board Evaluation of Staff

The board will not evaluate, either formally or informally, any staff other than the CEO.

3.2.3 CEO Performance

The board will view CEO performance as identical to organizational performance, so that organizational accomplishment of board stated Ends and avoidance of board proscribed means will be viewed as successful CEO performance.

3.3 Delegation to the CEO

The board will instruct the CEO through written policies which prescribe the organizational Ends to be achieved, and describe organizational situations and actions to be avoided, allowing the CEO to use any reasonable interpretation of these policies.

Accordingly:

3.3.1 Ends Instructions to CEO

The board will develop policies instructing the CEO to achieve specified results, for specified recipients at a specified relationship between cost and results. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, and will be called Ends policies. All issues that are not Ends issues as defined above are Means issues.

3.3.2 Board Proscription of CEO Means

The board will develop policies that limit the latitude the CEO may exercise in choosing the organizational means. These limiting policies will describe those practices, activities, decisions and circumstances that would be unacceptable to the board, even if they were to be effective. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels; they will be called Executive Limitations policies. The board will never prescribe organizational means of the CEO.

a. Below the global level, a single limitation at any given level does not limit the scope of any foregoing level.
b. Below the global level, the aggregate of limitations on a given level may embrace the scope of the foregoing level, but only if justified by the CEO to the board’s satisfaction.
3.3.3 Any Reasonable Interpretation

As long as the CEO uses any reasonable interpretation of the board’s Ends and Executive Limitations policies, the CEO is authorized to establish all further policies, make all decisions, take all actions, establish all practices and develop all activities. Such decisions of the CEO shall have full force and authority as if decided by the board.

3.3.4 Respect and Support for CEO Choices

The board may change its Ends and Executive Limitations policies, thereby shifting the boundary between board and CEO domains. By doing so, the board changes the latitude of choice given to the CEO. But as long as any particular delegation is in place, the board will respect and support the CEO's choices.

3.4 Monitoring CEO Performance

Systematic and rigorous monitoring of CEO performance will be solely against the board’s required CEO job outputs: organizational accomplishment of any reasonable interpretation of board policies on Ends and organizational operation within the boundaries established in board policies on Executive Limitations, reasonably interpreted.

Accordingly:

3.4.1 Relevant Information

Monitoring is simply to determine whether or not expectations expressed in board policies have been met. Information that does not disclose this will not be considered to be monitoring information and will not be considered by the board to be a part of the monitoring report.

3.4.2 CEO Interpretations

The board will obtain disclosure about the CEO’s interpretations of the board policy being monitored from the CEO himself or herself, including as part of the interpretation: a) an operational definition of accomplishment of board Ends policies or compliance with the Executive Limitation policy being monitored, and b) a rationale or justification for the operational definition.

3.4.3 Board Sources of Monitoring Data

The board will obtain data disclosing whether or not the CEO’s interpretations have been accomplished using one or more of three methods: (a) by internal report, in which the CEO discloses the data to the board; (b) by external report, in which an external, disinterested third party selected by the board collects the data; and (c) by direct inspection, in which data are collected by the board, a designated board member or by designated board members.

3.4.4 Reasonableness of Interpretation

In every case, the board will determine: (a) the reasonableness of the CEO’s interpretations, using a “reasonable person test” rather than with interpretations favored by board members or the board as a whole. The board is the final arbiter of reasonableness. The board will also assess: (b) whether data demonstrate the accomplishment of the interpretation.
3.4.5 Monitoring Schedule

All policies that instruct the CEO will be monitored at a frequency and by a method chosen by the board. The board can monitor any policy at any time by any method, but will normally use a routine schedule.

'Yearly Monitoring Schedule'.

See attachment

3.5 Executive Compensation

The Board shall hire a CEO

3.5.1 Executive Compensation

If the CEO substantially achieves Ends and complies with Executive Limitations, and there is a year-end surplus, the Board will consider a year-end honorarium

3.5.1.1 Executive Compensation

Until the long-term reserve achieves the board-approved value of six months of operating expenses (approximately $25,000), the Board shall consider a year-end CEO honorarium of a value up to 25% of the achieved surplus.

4 Global Executive Constraint

The CEO will not cause or allow any organizational practice, activity, decision, or circumstance which is either unlawful, imprudent, unethical or insensitive to the international nature of the association.

4.1 Emergency CEO Succession

In order to protect the organization from sudden loss of CEO services, the CEO will not allow the board to be without the information needed to operate the organisation.

4.2 Asset Protection

The CEO will not cause or allow corporate assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or unnecessarily risked.

The CEO will not:

4.2.1 Controls on Funds

Handle funds and financial transactions in a manner that does not safeguard IPGA assets or is not in alignment with common accounting practice regarding internal controls.

4.2.2 Intellectual Property Protection

Allow intellectual property, information and files to be exposed to loss or significant damage.
4.2.3 Credibility & Public Image
Endanger the Association's public image, credibility, or its ability to accomplish Ends.

4.2.3.1 Portrayal of Referral Services
Portray IPGA referral services as IPGA recommendations.

4.2.3.2 Certification
Allow Association materials or programs to promise or certify professional competence

4.2.3.3 Service mark and copyright infringement
Cause or allow infringement upon service marks or copyrights in Association materials and presentations.

4.2.4 Board Insurance
Shall not allow the board and its members to be without adequate insurance.

4.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
Planning that allocates resources in a way that deviates materially from Board-stated ends priorities, or risks fiscal jeopardy, or risks the longer-term ability of the organization to achieve Ends.

The CEO will not allow budgeting that:

4.3.1 Credible Projections
Allow financial planning for the financial year or any part of the financial year that omits credible, conservative projection of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of planning assumptions.

4.3.2 Board Funding
Provides less for board prerogatives during the year than is set forth in the Cost of Governance policy.

4.4 Financial Conditions and Activities
With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the CEO shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in Ends policies.

Therefore, the CEO may not:

4.4.1 Payment of debts
Not allow the untimely payment of debts.

4.4.2 Government Payments
Allow tax payments or other government ordered payments or reports to be overdue or inaccurately filed.
4.4.3 Long Term Reserves
Allow the organization to hold less than a prudent level of long-term (uncommitted) financial reserves.

4.4.4 Surplus and Loss
Allow there to be a material loss over a fiscal year.

4.5 Communication and Support to the Board
The CEO will not permit the board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work.

4.5.1 Monitoring Report Format
Neglect to submit monitoring reports required in the schedule appended to the board in Governance-Management Connection policy “Monitoring CEO Performance” in a timely, accurate and understandable fashion. Monitoring reports should directly address the provisions of the board policies being monitored, and provide for each policy:
a) the CEO's interpretation rendered in the form of an operational definition, b) any justification the CEO wishes the board to consider in assessing the reasonability of the interpretation, and c) data regarding compliance with the interpretation.

4.5.2 Board Policy Compliance
Allow the board to be unaware of any actual or anticipated noncompliance with any Ends or Executive Limitations policy, regardless of the board’s monitoring schedule.

4.5.3 Board Information Exceptions
Let the board be unaware of relevant incidental information including information needed for board decisions, anticipated media coverage, threatened or pending lawsuits, changes to the Association Management contract, material internal changes, and important industry trends or environmental scanning.

4.5.3.1 Financial Information Exceptions
Shall not allow the board to be unaware of current financial conditions of the association

4.5.4 Board Own Non-Compliance Reporting
Let the board be unaware if, in the CEO’s opinion, the board is not in compliance with its own policies on Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation, particularly in the case of board behavior that is detrimental to the work relationship between the board and the CEO.

4.6 Treatment of People
With respect to the treatment of people, the CEO will not allow conditions that are unfair, intrusive, untimely, disrespectful or lacking in confidentiality. Therefore, the CEO may not:
4.6.1 Fair Consultant Referrals
Deal with requests for consultant services in a manner that could be construed as favoritism or as a conflict of interest.

4.6.2 Whistleblower
Permit members and others to be without a mechanism for anonymous and confidential reporting of alleged or suspected improper activities, without fear of retaliation.

4.6.3 Competition with Members
Allow the association to inappropriately compete with its members.

4.7 Data Protection
The CEO shall not use methods of collecting, reviewing, transmitting, or storing information that fail to protect against improper access and use.