



NGMN Alliance e.V. Participation Guidelines

17-08-2020

The NGMN Alliance e.V. (“NGMN Alliance”, “NGMN”) has been established to provide a platform for innovation and to expand the communication experience by providing a truly integrated and cohesively managed delivery platform for the seamless and affordable introduction of mobile broadband communications.

The objective of the NGMN Alliance is to advance the commercial success of mobile broadband communications and to ensure a successful cycle of investment, innovation and adoption of services that would benefit the end user as well as all other members of the mobile ecosystem.

Furthermore, its objective is to ensure that the functionality and performance of next generation mobile network infrastructure, service platforms and devices will meet the requirements of operators and, ultimately, will satisfy end users’ demand and expectations.

The NGMN Alliance will drive and guide the development of all future mobile broadband technology enhancements. In particular, it develops a set of requirements to enhance the ability of mobile network operators in offering cost-effective mobile broadband communications by:

- i. Establishing clear performance targets, fundamental requirements, operator specific requirements and deployment scenarios;
- ii. Guiding or contributing to the activities of infrastructure, device, solution and application developers and standardisation bodies and other stakeholders; and
- iii. Involving all existing and potential new partners (mobile network operators, suppliers, technology providers, research institutions) and interested stakeholders like standards bodies (SDOs) as cooperation partners.

NGMN Alliance is committed to gathering the views of all interested stakeholders in the telecommunications ecosystem in an open and transparent process to realise its ambition to develop and implement these requirements. Participation in NGMN Alliance is limited to two categories of stakeholder, Members and Participants. Participants are further sub-divided into two categories, Contributors and Advisors.

In pursuing its objectives, NGMN Alliance will launch various activities, e.g. special initiatives, projects, work streams or task forces. In making decisions and setting any further rules and procedures relating to these activities, the NGMN Alliance Board adopts the following principles:

1. NGMN is an inclusive organisation that values the contributions made by both its Members and Participants in achieving its goals and objectives. Therefore, all Members and Participants shall be entitled to make contributions to activities of NGMN by, at least, receiving and being given the opportunity to submit comments on NGMN deliverables, proposals and/or requirements before a decision on the relevant matter will be taken.
2. In order for NGMN's objectives to be realised, it must produce realistic deliverables on time so that the results can be presented to standardisation organisations, to technology providers and to manufacturers to enable these parties to deliver in time to mobile network operators what they require for the envisaged services to be offered to customers.
3. As stated in NGMN's Constitution, any activity, e.g. initiative, project, work-stream or task force will be created by the direction of the NGMN Board. Each activity shall have a leader, who will be responsible for the coordination of the efforts and outputs of that activity. Each activity will offer Members, Contributors and Advisors with relevant expertise in the subject matter the opportunity to contribute to these activities.
4. All Members and Participants shall be able to propose new activities or amendments to existing activities for any activity at any time, provided that the proposal falls within the scope of the NGMN work programme. All new activities must ultimately be submitted to the NGMN Board for approval including a delivery plan, detailing *inter alia* required resources, tasks, timelines and targets of the proposed activity. Following any significant amendment to the delivery plan, it must be re-submitted to the NGMN Board for approval.
5. Each delivery plan will identify those Members and Participants who have committed to provide resources. Those who have not committed such resources will still be entitled, at appropriate times or upon achievement of certain milestones, to receive relevant documentation and provide input and feedback on the activity.
6. All deliverables, proposals and/or requirements produced by any activity will be subject to initial review by the Strategy and Programme Committee, which consists of Members, to ensure, *inter alia*, quality of deliverables and consistency with NGMN's scope and objectives.
7. The final decision on such deliverables, proposals and/or requirements shall be taken by the NGMN Board, taking into account the views of all Members and Participants (including any dissenting Members or Participants). In any such decision, the NGMN Board will include a clear statement setting out the reasons for its decision in accordance with NGMN's objectives and scope.
8. Initiatives, projects, work-streams or task forces will, so far as it is possible to do so, seek to work and, in particular, formulate their deliverables, proposals and/or requirements by consensus¹ of all Members and Participants within that activity.
9. Members and Participants agree that all contributions to NGMN activities as described above will be subject to fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) licensing terms and conditions.

As stated, there shall be two distinct categories of Participants – Contributors and Advisors. Admission as an Advisor shall be reserved to academic institutions, non-industry affiliated research institutes and, at the NGMN Board's discretion, other non-profit making organisations. Admission as a Contributor shall be open to any commercial or trading entities, which, in the opinion of the NGMN Board, have a relevant interest in and commitment to the scope and objectives of NGMN. The rights of Contributors and Advisors – as detailed in this document – can be summarized as follows:

- Contributors and Advisors shall have the right to fully participate in any activity of NGMN, subject to Board discretion, and shall in particular participate in the NGMN Forum, which is specifically designed to enable full engagement with the Contributors at a delivery/proposal/requirement approval level.
- Contributors and Advisors may raise proposals for new activities or amendments to existing activities, and may volunteer to lead projects within activities, subject to NGMN Board approval.
- Contributors and Advisors will be entitled to review and comment on the draft deliverables of any activity.
- Contributors and Advisors will be named in relevant press releases and on the NGMN website.

The above-mentioned rights will ensure that key eco-system partners have the opportunity to play a significant role in the activities of NGMN and also have full public visibility.

ⁱ The interpretation of “consensus” is based on the 3GPP Working Procedures Document (Annex A, Definitions, Version 29-10-2012): “General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interest and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. (Note: consensus need not imply unanimity).”
(<http://www.3gpp.org/specifications-groups/working-procedures>)