



Terms of Reference for Thematic Groups

Purpose and Scope

The Articles of Incorporation of the Society state that its purpose is “to provide for its membership a link with fellow members throughout the world and to organize desirable social, fraternal, educational, humanitarian and other similar activities.” In furtherance of this mission, the Society provides opportunities for lifelong learning, including seminars, knowledge sharing and professional engagement with the WBG sectors and practice groups and other specialized agencies in relevant technical and operational areas. Currently, the Society has twelve Thematic Groups (TGs), which organize and host seminars and professional meetings with guest speakers and disseminate relevant professional publications and online materials to their members. These terms of reference summarize the main activities of the TGs, describe their organizational and operating modalities, and clarify their management arrangements.

Core Activities

The generic terms of reference of the Thematic Groups include the following activities which may be customized by individual TGs, as per their needs and priorities:

- Organize specialized seminars and events to promote knowledge sharing and alumni engagement
- Connect its members with fellow alumni and WBG counterparts
- Curate and disseminate information to help TG members stay informed about news and evidence-based lessons from WBG counterparts and other relevant professional entities
- Contribute member-authored blogs for outreach beyond the TGs.

TGs may tailor these generic terms of reference or expand upon them based on their specific priorities, needs and partnership possibilities.

Operating Modality

The TGs operate autonomously and are supported by the Society’s office staff in scheduling events by coordinating TG and other Society activities via the Events Calendar, booking seminar rooms, posting event announcements, and making videoconferencing

arrangements for virtual or hybrid meetings. The TGs are responsible for organizing their seminars/events, submitting the text for event announcements, and managing the seminars and presentations during their seminars/events. TGs may request assistance from the Society to arrange practice sessions in advance or to set up the equipment for the seminars.

The TG leadership team is responsible for submitting material for their webpages using the appropriate forms and formats and may produce summaries or minutes of their seminars and events for TG members. The office staff posts recordings and presentation materials on TG webpages, while the IMT team is responsible for managing the website, including individual TG pages.

The Board provides a small annual budget from its core funds to support TG activities. This budget may be used to facilitate seminars/events and cover costs related to external speakers. The budget will not cover speaker fees, although, in exceptional circumstances, it may cover ancillary costs and/or domestic travel for speakers, especially for events associated with the 1818 Society Annual Meetings.

TG Management and Tenure

Each TG is led by a TG chair or co-chairs who are appointed by the President of the Society. TG chairs may or may not be members of the 1818 Society Board. Additional co-chairs may be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the TG chair. The normal tenure of a TG chair or co-chair is four years but may be extended for a second four-year term as per business needs.

To ensure smooth succession, TG chairs and co-chairs are encouraged to start identifying potential successors a year ahead of the end of their tenure, either from the TG membership or from the pool of new retirees. They may consult with their membership and put forward their recommendations to the President, or they may request the President's assistance in identifying successors.

The tenure of a TG chair or co-chair will normally be subject to a maximum of eight years. If no successor has been put forward by the incumbent chair or co-chairs, the President may appoint their successors directly at the conclusion of their 8-year tenure.

Date of Effectiveness

These Terms of Reference of Thematic Groups shall become effective on the first day of the month following approval by the Board, as recorded in the Board minutes—namely, March 1, 2026.