

**Terms of Reference of the SDG OCF  
as approved by the Director-General on 19 September 2023****1 Scope****1.1 Technical Scope**

The use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) is experiencing an exponential growth to enable network programming and service provisioning in converged Telecom and IT networks.

The growing number and increased diversity of network APIs brings the need of a standardized framework to provide a consistent approach and ensure interoperability, security, and discoverability of APIs and services.

For that purpose, 3GPP SA6 group specified the Common API Framework (CAPIF) in Release 15, which has since been evolved in every following release to support a wider range of use cases. The main goal of CAPIF is to provide a unified and standardized northbound API management framework across different 3GPP functions.

CAPIF is considered a cornerstone in the realization of multi-vendor 5G, 6G and future networks, to allow the secure exposure of core network APIs to third party domains, but also to enable third parties to define and expose their own APIs in a unified way.

EU project EVOLVED-5G developed a framework to enable experimentation with CAPIF concepts such as:

- On-boarding and off-boarding API invokers,
- On-boarding API Providers (API Exposure Functions, API Publishing Functions and API Management Functions).
- Registering and releasing APIs that need to be exposed,
- API discovery by third party entities,
- Authorization and authentication.

**1.2 Purpose of SDG OCF**

SDG OpenCAPIF will develop a framework to enable experimentation with CAPIF concepts, building on the code seeds contributed by EVOLVED-5G. The group will aim for alignment and early validation of future releases of 3GPP specifications and to provide them with regular feedback.

SDG OpenCAPIF will collaborate with ETSI (and external) groups working on API specifications (ETSI ISG NFV, ZSM, MEC, TM Forum) providing them with a platform for experimentation and testing.

In combination with other software development initiatives at ETSI such as Open Source MANO, TeraFlowSDN, and OpenSlice, the code produced by SDG OpenCAPIF will enrich the offer of software components offered by ETSI to support future networks' standardization, validation, and testing.

SDG OpenCAPIF will support Plugtests, Hackfests and other testing events aiming to ensure standards validation and multi-vendor interoperability.

**1.3 Expected impact**

SDG OpenCAPIF will provide a valuable additional component to the current ETSI experimentation toolbox, complementing Open Source MANO, TeraFlowSDN, and OpenSlice. It will facilitate the integration and testing of commercial and open-source initiatives related to 5G, 6G and future networks APIs.



The group will seek for synergies and foster collaboration with other SDOs (like TM Forum, GSMA) and open-source initiatives, like the CAMARA and SYLVA projects from GSMA and Linux Foundation, working on API specifications and development. The main objective will be to ensure reuse of existing components, as well as alignment and prompt feedback to standardization.

### 2 Membership in SDG OCF

Membership in SDG OpenCAPIF is restricted to ETSI Full/Associate members and applicants for Full/Associate membership [hereafter "SDG OCF Member(s)"], who have signed the SDG OCF Agreement.

ETSI Observer members and non-members of ETSI [hereafter "SDG OCF Participant(s)"] may participate in SDG OpenCAPIF according to the rules as described in the ETSI Technical Working Procedures and the SDG OCF Detailed Working Procedures. Participation of SDG OCF Participants is subject to signature of the SDG OCF Agreement, and payment of a participation fee as described in the SDG OCF Agreement.

Individual Contributors may contribute to the project according to the rules as described in the ETSI Technical Working Procedures and the SDG OCF Detailed Working Procedures. Contribution is subject to the signature of the SDG OCF Individual Contributor Agreement.

### 3 SDG OCF Budget

At the time of creation of the group, no annual budget or costs are anticipated for SDG OCF Members and Participants, beyond the participation fees paid by SDG OCF Participants.

### 4 Participant Fee

SDG OCF Members are not required to pay a participation fee.

SDG OCF Participants shall pay to ETSI an annual participation fee. Participation fee for the first year is based on the date the SDG OCF Agreement is signed.

Participation fees are waived in the case of SMEs, Universities, Public Research Bodies and Users and Trade Associations.

The participation fee may be modified by a decision of the Director-General. The current participation fee is detailed in the SDG OCF Agreement and published in the ETSI Portal.

### 5 Licenses

#### 5.1 Contributor's License Agreement

Code contributed to SDG OpenCAPIF is done under terms compliant with the Apache 2.0 license. A Corporate Contributor's License Agreement (CCLA) is included in the SDG OCF Agreement. An individual Contributor's License Agreement (ICLA) is included in the Individual Contributor Agreement.

#### 5.2 Outbound License

Code published by SDG OpenCAPIF is made available under the Apache 2.0 license. Contributors retain copyright on their individual contribution. Software is distributed under an ETSI Copyright with acknowledgement of contributors' rights on their contributions.

#### 5.3 Documentation Copyright

Project documentation, when not covered by the outbound license, is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



### **5.4 Licensing-in policy**

SDG OCF Detailed Working Procedures will define which open source licenses are accepted when Contributors wish to reuse pre-existing open source components.

### **5.5 Trademark**

SDG OpenCAPIF can only be registered as a trademark by ETSI. The trademark SDG OpenCAPIF may only be used to identify and distribute the version of SDG OpenCAPIF edited and maintained by ETSI.

## **6 Term of Office of SDG OCF Chair**

The term of office of the SDG OpenCAPIF Chair is two (2) years.