



International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA)

Terms of Reference

2024



Leverhulme Research Centre
for Forensic Science
LEVERHULME
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1. Introduction

The International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA) is a partnership between regional networks of forensic service providers. These autonomous networks represent forensic science laboratory management for their specific regions. IFSA leverages international collaboration and co-operation on strategic issues to realise quality forensic services worldwide and works with strategic partners to achieve this purpose.

2. Vision

Collaboration in forensic science for a safer world.

3. Mission

To provide strategic leadership and create opportunities for collaboration across the global forensic science community.

4. Goals and Objectives

- Develop strategies and activities that promote and enhance the use of quality forensic science
- Encourage the exchange of forensic science information between the member networks and stakeholders.
- Promote the establishment and strengthening of regional forensic science networks
- Collaborate strategically with other relevant international and regional organisations

5. Membership

There are two types of membership:

1. Regional Forensic Science Network
2. Strategic Partner



Regional Forensic Science Networks are international associations involving more than one country of at least fifteen (15) forensic science laboratories from defined geographical or language areas. Regional Forensic Science Networks have signed a Multilateral Partnership Agreement.

Strategic partners are well known and respected institutions, which are recognized by member Regional Forensic Science Networks as institutions that can add value to the vision, mission, goals and objectives of IFSA. Strategic partners are not obligated to sign the Multilateral Partnership Agreement.

Additionally, IFSA may collaborate with forensic science associations and organizations on specific projects and initiatives where those bodies are able to provide special or needed skills, data or other contributions. Official representatives of the forensic science groups may be invited to attend IFSA meetings or participate in other activities as determined by the IFSA Board.

6. Board

The IFSA Board is made up of official representatives from the Regional Forensic Science Network and Strategic Partner members.

Members of the Board will elect a Chair. The appointment will be for a term of two years. The term may be extended with the approval of the IFSA Board. The Chair position should rotate around the Regional Forensic Science Network members.

All members of the Board should act in accordance with the best interests of forensic science and to achieve the goals and objectives of IFSA.

7. Member Roles and Responsibilities

In pursuing its goals and objectives, IFSA recognizes the sovereignty of each of the participating networks.

- a. **Board** - The Board will provide leadership for the alliance, conduct annual review of the goals, objectives and rolling agenda issues and set targets that are aligned with the goals and objectives. These targets should be achievable, leading to a strengthening of partnerships and an enhancement of the quality and use of forensic science regionally and globally.

- b. Regional Forensic Science Network Members** - The networks contribute forensic science leadership perspectives from their respective regions with the aim of establishing a broader leadership outreach with a combined global experience. Each network will make arrangements to ensure that within IFSA there is continuity and maintenance of corporate knowledge. Network representatives provide a conduit to access the expertise, experience and support of the member agencies within their networks to assist in achieving the goals and objectives of IFSA.
- c. Strategic Partner Members** – Strategic partners are invited to join IFSA and the Board on a case by case basis. Strategic partners provide insight, advice and experience in regard to
- (i) the international use of forensic science,
 - (ii) the development of training and capacity building initiatives at regional and global levels,
 - (iii) the development and coordination of research, innovation and funding landscapes and
 - (iv) the exchange of information relating to the forensic disciplines.

8. Meetings

The IFSA Board will meet at least annually and on other occasions as opportunities arise. Meetings may be face-to-face or virtually. Where a member is not able to attend the meeting, they may send a proxy. The proxy should be a member of the Regional Forensic Science Network or Strategic Partner that they will be representing.

The Chair will set the agenda for the meeting in consultation with Board members. Papers for the meetings should be distributed electronically at least ten business days before the meeting. The Chair is also responsible for ensuring a record of the meeting is taken, including action items. The minutes and action items should be distributed electronically to members no later than ten business days following the meeting.

Decisions will be made based on consensus.