

cOAlition S governance structure

cOAlition S was launched on 4 September 2018 as an informal coalition of organisations that have publicly expressed their intention to implement Plan S. In 2025, the coalition has defined a new **strategy plan** and **governance structure** to take its work on open access forward.

Governance Model

Under the governance model (see Fig.1), the Leaders Group and Executive Steering Group remain central to the coalition. A Secretariat supports the entire coalition, including the Expert Group and various Task Forces. While the revised structure preserves many core elements of the previous model, it introduces adjustments to address existing limitations and improve overall functionality, notably strengthening the connection between the different bodies by streamlining the overall structure.

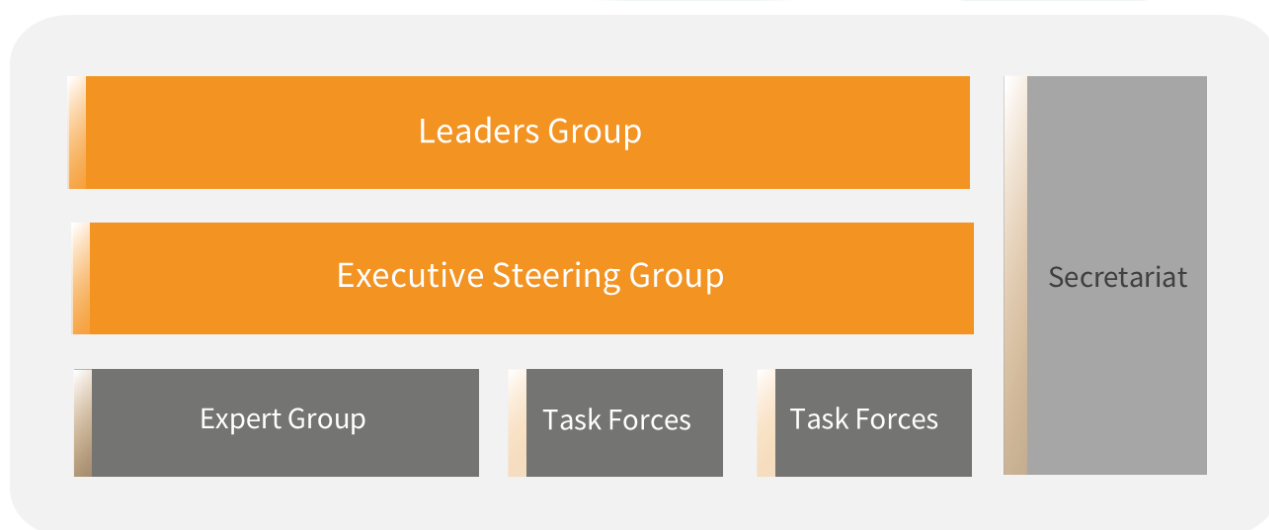


Fig. 1: cOAlition S governance structure

i. Leaders Group (LG)

The Leaders Group serves as the primary oversight body:

- Sets the coalition's strategic direction, ambition, strategic priorities, and objectives; approves implementation plans, taking into account timeline, resources and risks
- Elects the Chair and one Vice-Chair on the basis of the timeline of the strategy. The Chair and Vice-Chair work together on identifying strategic priorities and ways forward for the organisation, and propose them to the LG. They support each other and act as the main representatives on behalf of the coalition.
- Appoints the Director, usually for a renewable two-year term
- Oversees strategy monitoring and approves the budget and key appointments
- Delegates to the Executive Steering Group the day-to-day management of the coalition and receives a report in each meeting

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ii. Treasurer

- Elected from the Leaders Group
- Ensures financial oversight, transparency, and compliance
- Is a member of the Executive Steering Group
- Works closely with the Financial Manager

iii. Director

- Appointed by the Leaders Group
- Serves as the coalition's ambassador and spokesperson, articulating its shared strategic goals and principles
- Works with members to represent, articulate, and advance the coalition's shared strategy and objectives while fostering cohesion across diverse Open Access policy approaches
- Leads the work of the coalition's Secretariat that supports implementation of the coalition's workplan and budget and supervises its staff.

iv. Executive Steering Group (ESG)

Composed of:

- 7-9 representatives elected from cOAlition S membership for a two-year term, ensuring proportional representation of the different types of organisations (i.e. public and private). One ESG Member acts as the Chair, elected by the ESG and approved by the LG
- The Director of cOAlition S
- The Treasurer
- Optional co-opted members as needed (for example, external organisations or experts invited as Observers)

Responsible for:

- Executing strategy and managing timeline
- Proposing meeting agendas
- Approving and appointing Task Forces
- Overseeing and steering the execution of the work plan, prioritisation and finances
- Overseeing the cOAlition S Secretariat

The Chair of the LG may choose to attend meetings of the ESG, without voting rights.

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v. Secretariat

Identified via a public procurement call, promotes immediate open access and the work of members to expand the coalition's reach.

Functions

- Implements the Work Plan and manages the budget as approved by the Leaders Group
- Proposes and follows the Terms of Reference between the Host Secretariat and the organisations in the cOAlition through a Memorandum of Understanding
- Is led by the Director, who serves as a key operational figure that:
 - Plans and manages day-to-day activities and coordination across the ESG and LG.
 - Acts as a spokesperson for cOAlition S alongside the ESG.
 - Supports the bodies of the organisations, including Expert Groups, Ambassador Network or similar, as well as engagement with other stakeholder organisations.

Hosting and budget management

- The cOAlition S Secretariat is hosted by an external organisation or by a member of the coalition.
- The ESG and the host organisation agree upon the structure of human and technical resources, according to the yearly workplans. Normally, it includes a Director, a project manager, a communications manager and financial support.
- Funded by cOAlition S members via a multi-party MoU, the terms of which are reflected within the wider Terms of Reference of cOAlition S.
- Operates under a central budget approved annually by the LG.
- Reports to and is managed by the ESG.

vi. Expert Group

- Experts designated by cOAlition S members, who are responsible for the delivery of immediate open access within their respective organisations. Members may nominate multiple experts.
- Provides technical and strategic input to the ESG to ensure cOAlition S serves its members, e.g. by identifying trends and priorities
- Engages in information exchange and learning among members on the delivery of immediate open access
- Proposes the adoption of guidelines, policy positions, and other relevant actions
- Offers advice proactively or upon request from Task Forces or working groups

vii. Task Forces

- Formed and appointed by the ESG to handle specific strategic or operational priorities
- Membership drawn from ESG, LG, Expert Group and -where relevant- external stakeholders

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