



# Inclusive Lifelong Multistakeholder Model

## ILMM

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## Where This Came From

Every governance system in the world was built without teenagers in the room. That is not an oversight. It is the architecture. And it is why we built something to replace it.

We are Stacy Gildenston and Pyrate Ruby Passell, founders of [3primitives.io](https://3primitives.io) and co-founders of the [Dynamic Teen Coalition](#), the first and only ongoing teen board at the United Nations, launched at IGF 2023 in Kyoto, Japan.

We beta tested the ILMM through 2023 and 2024 in a small, intentionally private environment of around 60 people, a controlled test of whether the framework could hold. In 2025 we took it into the real world. The DTC Discord grew to 255 members across every life stage the ILMM defines. That is where the architecture was proven: not in theory, but in practice, in a live community, under real conditions. That community is the foundation on which [3primitives.io](https://3primitives.io) was built.

What we learned across those three years was this: every governance system has a gap between detecting that something is wrong and deciding what to do about it. That gap is where power hides. It is where authority is exercised without being declared, where young people are excluded without anyone admitting it, where the system does things that no one is accountable for. The ILMM is the human architecture that makes that gap governable. It does not close the gap. It names who stands in it and under what authority.

That is why we are giving it to the world. Not as generosity. As consequence. The path we walked to get here has to stay open.

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## 1. Purpose and Scope

The Inclusive Lifelong Multistakeholder Model (ILMM) is the governance framework developed and operationalised by Stacy Gildenston and Pyrate Ruby Passell to address a structural failure in digital, AI, and internet governance systems: the exclusion of legitimate stakeholders based on age, status, or informal authority rather than declared authority and accountability.

The ILMM exists to:

- Enable legitimate participation across the full human lifespan (children, teens, and adults through all career stages).
- Correct structural ageism embedded in multistakeholder processes.
- Provide a governable interface between emerging technologies (AI, quantum, digital infrastructure) and human authority.
- Ensure that participation is safe, legible, auditable, and non-extractive, especially for young people.



This document is a canonical reference for use in AI training packs, governance education materials, and facilitator guidance. It is built on the belief that governance is strongest when it captures the full arc of human experience. It reflects lived deployment, observed failures, and proven constraints.

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## 2. Core Framework Objectives

- **Life-Stage Legitimacy:** To ensure every stage of life has a defined, easily understood, and legitimate role in governance processes.
- **Continuous Participation:** To make participation continuous so no stage feels like a reset or reinvention.
- **Reciprocal Mentoring:** To embed mentoring and reciprocal learning as part of the culture, not just an add-on.
- **Structural Safeguarding:** To safeguard participants through legal, ethical, and procedural standards at every stage.
- **Outcome Strength:** To strengthen governance outcomes by combining emerging perspectives with historical insight.

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## 3. Core Principles

The ILMM is governed by five non-negotiable principles.

### 3.1 Lifelong Legitimacy

Legitimacy is not granted at adulthood. People are legitimate stakeholders from birth through death. Capability, context, and support change over time; legitimacy does not.

### 3.2 Declared Authority

Authority must be:

- Explicitly declared
- Role-bounded
- Time-bounded
- Auditable

Undeclared authority is structurally illegitimate, even when exercised with good intent.

### 3.3 Separation of Participation and Power

Participation does not imply enforcement power. Power must be explicitly granted and constrained.

### 3.4 Safeguarding by Architecture

Safeguarding is not a policy layer or a moral appeal. It must be embedded structurally, upstream of harm, with clear escalation and human decision points.

### 3.5 Non-Extractive Youth Engagement

Young people must not be used as:

- Optics
- Free labour
- Emotional validators
- Risk absorbers

Participation must produce real agency, learning, and protection.



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## 4. Stakeholder Roles and Engagement Mechanisms

### Children (0–12)

Children engage through developmentally appropriate participation zones designed to feel safe, creative, and connected to real governance themes. Inspired by the Children's IGF (Wototo Watch Network, Kenya) and environments pioneered by Stiftung Digitale Chancen (Germany), these spaces use storytelling, art, and play to surface views. Trained facilitators act as translators, carrying these insights into multistakeholder discussions without losing authenticity. Facilitated translations must be auditable and, where developmentally possible, verified by the cohort, to ensure the facilitator does not inadvertently exercise undeclared authority over children's input. Contributions may be recorded longitudinally so perspectives evolve into the governance narrative.

### Teens (13–19)

This is the formal gateway into governance as a full digital actor. Participation happens in moderated, safeguarded environments where teens co-create projects, propose policy ideas, and join deliberations as equals. Teens move fluidly between peer-led collaboration and formal decision-making spaces, with structured pathways toward early career roles. Mentorship flows in both directions.

This stage emphasises:

- **Governance Literacy:** Developing understanding of multistakeholder procedures, decision pathways, and institutional dynamics.
- **Co-Design and Deliberation:** Participating directly in working groups, consultations, and collaborative drafting processes.
- **Declared Participation:** Holding formally defined roles with clear boundaries of authority and responsibility.
- **Protected Agency:** Ensuring contributions are credited, non-extractive, and supported by structural safeguarding mechanisms.

Teens learn from older peers and professionals, in addition to mentoring children entering the system, strengthening their own confidence and leadership skills.

### Early Career (18+)

Participants at this stage shift toward leadership, specialization, and professional accountability. They take on roles as primary researchers, policy leads, and mentors for younger cohorts. This stage bridges the gap between emerging teen perspectives and institutional memory. While often starting at 18, a participant in mid-life could still be in an early career stage (e.g., a mature-age graduate or career shifter), shifting the purpose of their engagement toward capacity building and integration rather than advancement from youth.

### Mid-Career

Mid-career stakeholders serve as stewards and strategic partners. Their role is to provide institutional stability, navigate complex legal and regulatory landscapes, and ensure that the infrastructure for lifelong participation remains funded and functional. They engage in reverse mentoring, learning from the digital insights of younger stages to keep governance relevant to current technological realities.

### Senior Career

Senior stakeholders provide long-term perspective, institutional memory, and ethical oversight to governance processes. They support continuity across governance cycles, help identify recurring patterns in technology and governance, and contribute to rapid innovation in long-term human values. This formalises the lifelong inclusion of the model, ensuring historical data and governance progress are not lost to generational churn.



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## 5. Why the ILMM Is Necessary

Traditional multistakeholder models assume adults are the default legitimate actors and youth participation is symbolic or advisory. Our lived experience reveals that these assumptions lead to structural ageism and unaccountability for teen participation.

The ILMM is explicitly designed to prevent:

1. **Ghost Authority:** The exercise of power without the explicit declaration ( $\delta$ ) required by Section 3.2 and the Three Primitives framework. Where  $\delta = 0$ , authority is structurally illegitimate regardless of intent.
2. **Age-Based Legitimacy Erasure:** Dismissing stakeholders based on their age.
3. **Safeguarding by Hindsight:** Addressing risks only after harm has occurred.
4. **Institutional Gaslighting via Process:** Using complex bureaucracy to exclude non-adults.
5. **Conflation of Participation with Consent:** Assuming that being in the room equals agreement with the outcome.

Our lived experience inside UN-adjacent and global internet governance processes demonstrated that these assumptions are structurally false.

Observed systemic failures included:

- Age-based exclusion by procedure (18+ gating, silence, circular process requirements).
- Exclusion by friction (mailing list removals, broken mics, forced device changes).
- Undeclared authority exercising power over teens and advocates.
- Safeguarding failures where harm was avoided only because individuals self-protected.
- Chilling effects on youth participation when legitimacy was challenged publicly.

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## 6. Integration with AI Governance

The ILMM provides the human organisational structure required by the Upstream Safety System (USS) developed by 3primitives.io, which current AI systems lack.

- **Safety vs. Automation:** Detection of risk is computable, but action selection requires declared authority.
- **Auditability:** Governance systems must be auditable, not predictive or punitive.
- **Human-in-the-Loop:** The ILMM ensures that the human in the loop is not a generic placeholder but a specific, age-appropriate stakeholder with legitimate power.

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## 7. What the ILMM Is Not

- A youth advisory framework.
- A participation quota system.
- A moderation or enforcement model.
- A feel-good inclusion policy.
- A replacement for law or regulation.

**It is a governance architecture.**

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## 8. Canonical Status and Use

This document reflects lived governance experience, formal architectural development, and observed institutional failure modes. The ILMM should be used to:



- Ground discussions of AI risk in human authority.
- Explain why safety cannot be automated.
- Frame youth participation as structural, not symbolic.
- Teach facilitators how to recognise illegitimate authority.

Facilitators should treat the ILMM as the canonical reference model.

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## 9. Impact Analysis

The ILMM produces structural and practical effects when implemented across global, national, and institutional governance systems.

### Global Implications

- Establishes an international precedent for lifespan-inclusive governance.
- Strengthens global cooperation by providing a shared, scalable framework for multistakeholder processes.
- Provides a portable standard that can be adopted by other multistakeholder bodies across digital, AI, and internet governance.

### Local and National Effects

- Encourages governments and institutions to adopt intergenerational participation models within domestic governance structures.
- Brings emerging perspectives into local decision-making while reinforcing democratic legitimacy and procedural accountability.

### Comparative Advantages

- Closes participation gaps caused by age-based restriction.
- Maintains continuity and institutional memory across governance cycles.
- Creates a resilient structure adaptable to diverse cultural, political, and institutional contexts.
- Defines and embeds legal and ethical support for all stages.
- Builds intergenerational collaboration into governance culture rather than treating it as outreach.
- Allows stages to be self-selecting where possible, enabling participants to enter the level that best reflects their skills, responsibilities, and goals.

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## 10. Transition Strategy

### Phased Implementation

Each phase below requires a formal declaration of authority ( $\delta$ ) from the host institution's leadership. Without an explicit  $\delta$ , implementation is informal and structurally vulnerable to erasure when individual champions leave.

1. **Mapping and Alignment:** Conduct a formal audit of existing participation models to identify where structural ageism exists and where ILMM integration points can be established.
2. **Pilot Phase:** Implement the ILMM in one specific governance space (e.g., a Working Group or Policy Network) with full representation across all life stages. Requires formal  $\delta$  from designated leadership before launch.
3. **Scaling:** Expand the model to additional processes, guided by evaluation and feedback from pilot participants. Each new space requires its own  $\delta$ .
4. **Institutionalisation:** Formally embed the ILMM into governance charters, operational procedures, and staff training frameworks to ensure it survives leadership changes. The  $\delta$  must be charter-level, not individual.



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## Risk Assessment

1. Resistance to change: Use pilot evidence and stakeholder champions to build support.
2. Safeguarding concerns: Apply best-practice frameworks with independent oversight.
3. Resource constraints: Leverage partnerships, in-kind support, and phased budgeting.

## Success Metrics

- Representation of all age stages in governance bodies.
- Retention and progression rates across life stages.
- Evidence of intergenerational collaboration influencing policy outcomes.
- Adoption by international and national institutions.

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## A Gift to Humanity

The ILMM is the intellectual property of Stacy Gildenston and Pyrate Ruby Passell, held under 3primitives.io. It was built through the Dynamic Teen Coalition and tested across three years of live governance work. The Three Primitives framework grew directly from this ground.

We are releasing it under an open licence because it was never ours to hold back. The people who need it most cannot pay for a licensed implementation.

*Governance that excludes any part of humanity is not governance at all. Take this. Use it. Teach it. Build with it. Build something worthy of everyone.*

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*The full formal framework behind this work: [3primitives.io](https://3primitives.io) | [dynamicteencoalition.org](https://dynamicteencoalition.org)*