

ART Board Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2026

ART Board members: L. Ruiz, F. Seymour, P. Umunay, R. Fosuah Adjei, P. Dolma Sherpa

ART Secretariat: C. Magerkurth, J. Bloom

Absent: J. Verdieck, C. Voigt, B. Bumpers

ART Board members held an optional virtual meeting on July 29, 2026. The meeting was mainly focused on reviewing the TREES validation and verification process as described in the TREES Validation and Verification Standard, Version 2.0 (TVVS, v2.0) as well as the underlying ISO Standards requirements. This meeting served as a refresher ahead of more in-depth discussions on possible revisions to the TVVS, v2.0.

1. Introductions

INFORMATION

The Secretariat welcomed the Board and previewed the meeting's agenda.

2. TREES Validation and Verification Standard

INFORMATION

The Secretariat walked the Board through Validation and Verification Body (VVB) approvals and accreditation and the steps of the validation and verification process, briefly summarized experiences to date, and signaled possible areas of revisions in TVVS, v3.0.

DISCUSSION

- The Board asked clarifying questions regarding the VVB's required level of assurance for validation and verification, IAF accreditation and oversight of the VVBs, and risk assessment development to inform the validation and verification planning.
- The Board suggested developing a guidance document to assist Participants with the VVB contracting process, allowing ART to share lessons learned without becoming involved in individual negotiations. The Board also suggested developing a contract template to assist with VVB selection and discussed whether this could be a role that ART could play.
- The Board suggested setting a time limit for the validation and verification process and discussed pros and cons to this approach.
- The Board requested a future meeting to discuss lessons learned from the validation and verification processes of first generation of TREES Participants.

- The Board suggested setting validation and verification performance standards for each stakeholder: the government, the VVB, and the Secretariat.
- The Board discussed the policies in place to ensure that safeguards were being properly implemented and enforced, and the efforts being made to provide guidance and resources to IPLCs and other on-the-ground stakeholders on the validation and verification process.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Action item: The Secretariat will consider developing a guidance document to assist Participants with the contracting process.

Action item: The Secretariat will schedule an optional Board meeting to discuss lessons learned from the validation and verification processes before August 14th.

3. Closing and Next Steps

INFORMATION

The Secretariat thanked the Board and the meeting was adjourned.