The Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) is a participatory, member-driven and inclusive platform seeking innovative diplomatic solutions that go beyond traditional politics. With the support of partners from both the private and public sector, GDL members work all over the world on self-initiated, collaborative projects involving a range of complex and diverse topics in the realm of diplomacy.

**About GDL**

The Advisory Council (AC) is the primary decision-making entity of the GDL. It is composed of one representative of each partner institution, the EAC, the Dean, and the Secretariat. The AC meets at least twice a year and is tasked to conceptualise and shape the future of the platform. Core responsibilities are:

- Selection of new members by vote.
- Selection of established members to participate in working groups through standard anonymous voting process.
- Decisions on community development through voting and deliberation.

**Members**

Members are distinguished members of society who engage with urgent problems in their respective fields, recruited exclusively from the networks of the GDL Leading Partners.

Member-driven means that the network is self-managed. Members create, steer and implement. This concept implies commonality, self-regulation and horizontality. Members can also take on an active role in finding and establishing new partners for the GDL.

**The Dean**

(Dirk Brengelmann) is a mentor for the members and brings his experience to the table in the AC as well as in Labs and Events.

Located at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, the GDL Secretariat is tasked with the frictionless and ongoing cooperation between all actors. It focuses on the creation and incubation of opportunities for its members and partners and, coordinates and monitors all ongoing processes. It acts as sparring partner and institutional memory of the GDL. It takes on administrative tasks and ensures that standards and guidelines are complied with.

**Selection and Decision Making Process**

- Selection of the new members by vote.
- Selection of established members to participate in working groups through standard anonymous voting process.
- Decisions on community development through voting and deliberation.

**Collaboration and the Work in Committees**

The EAC is the primary decision-making entity of the GDL. It is composed of one representative of each partner institution, the EAC, the Dean and the Secretariat. The EAC is tasked with decision-making privileges on behalf of the Members, as well as responsibilities.

- Interests of GDL members vis-à-vis other actors are primarily represented by four Elected Members of the Advisory Council (EAC). EAC are selected for a two-year long term through general voting on an application basis and are tasked with decision-making privileges on behalf of the Members, as well as responsibilities.

**Private-Public Partnership**

The GDL works in several ways with local capacities:

- Hosts are persons or organisations, selected from within the network, responsible for establishing local partnerships, exploring the logistical possibilities on the ground, and identifying the potential Challenge Holder, before and during a Lab.
- Challenge Holders are institutions that provide the challenge for the year’s curriculum, while a challenge is defined to be a problem or a set of problems that infringes the Challenge Holder’s ability to work or that responds to local needs of the community.
- GDL members often team-up with Local Partners alongside the expert advisors to gain the full picture of the scope that the challenge presents and hence, produce comprehensive outcomes together.