





Botswana Research and Education Network

## **Botswana Identity Federation Policy**



## Document Control

Role	Name	Title	Date	Signature
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Approved by	Tshepo Tsheko	Managing Director	01 April 2025	

*This work is based on the African Catch-All Federation Metadata Registration Practice Statement written by Alex Mwotil, Omo Oaiya, Mario Reale, and Eriko Porto, available at [www.eduid.africa/policies](http://www.eduid.africa/policies), used under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>. This document is licensed under Creative Commons CC BY 3.0 and acknowledges contributions from the UK Access Management Federation and the AConet Identity Federation*

## Revision Control

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
1.0	18 March 2025	Bofelo McFadden	Initial draft
2.0			

## Definitions and Terminology

<b>Attribute:</b>	User information defining roles or characteristics.
<b>Attribute Authority:</b>	Manages additional user attributes for a home organization.
<b>Authentication:</b>	Verifying a user's identity.
<b>Authorization:</b>	Determining access permissions for an authenticated user.
<b>Digital Identity:</b>	A unique set of user attributes managed by a home organization.
<b>End User:</b>	An individual (e.g., employee, researcher, or student) using a service.
<b>Federation:</b>	A network of organizations sharing identity data for secure access.
<b>Federation Operator:</b>	Manages authentication and authorization for federation members.
<b>Federation Member:</b>	An organization that adheres to federation policies.
<b>Home Organization:</b>	Manages digital identities for its members.
<b>Identity Management:</b>	Issuing and maintaining digital identities.
<b>Identity Provider (IdP):</b>	Authenticates users and shares credentials with service providers.
<b>Interfederation:</b>	Collaboration between federations for cross-access to services.
<b>Service Provider:</b>	Offers services and grants access based on authentication data

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## **1. Introduction**

An identity federation is a collective framework enabling organizations to securely share user identity information for collaboration and streamlined access to digital services. The Botswana Identity Federation is established to facilitate seamless identity verification among participating institutions, leveraging identity federation technologies to extend the usability of credentials issued by individual members. The federation policy outlines the obligations and rights of members and the federation operator, defining the operational framework for secure identity and access management.

## **2. Governance**

### **a. Governance and Roles**

Botswana Research and Education Network (BotsREN), serving as the governing body, is responsible for:

- Establishing and enforcing membership criteria.
- Reviewing and approving membership applications.
- Revoking membership if policy violations occur.
- Maintaining relationships with national and international organizations.
- Managing financial and policy matters relevant to the federation.

### **b. Obligations and Rights of the Federation Operator**

The federation operator ensures:

- Secure and efficient federation management.
- Technical and operational support for members.
- Testing and recommending identity management solutions.
- Engaging in international collaboration efforts.
- Ensuring compliance with relevant data protection laws.

Additionally, the federation operator has the right to:

- Temporarily suspend a member's technical operations if security is compromised.
- Publicly list federation members and their compliance status.
- Share necessary information about federation members where applicable.

### **c. Obligations and Rights of Federation Members**

Members must:

- Appoint an administrative contact for federation communications.
- Cooperate in resolving operational issues.
- Maintain secure IT systems and comply with technology requirements.
- Adhere to applicable data protection regulations.

If a member acts as a home organization, it must:

- Manage authentication credentials and digital identities.
- Provide an identity management practice statement.
- Ensure compliance with acceptable use policies.
- Operate a helpdesk for user support.



If a member functions as an attribute authority, it must:

- Assign and maintain accurate attribute values.
- Release attributes to service providers securely.

If a member operates as a service provider, it must:

- Determine and enforce access rights for end users.

### **3. Eligibility**

Membership eligibility is defined by BotsREN, aligning with institutional requirements. Details on eligibility criteria are provided on the official federation website.

## **4. Procedures**

### **a. How to Join**

- Organizations apply for membership by agreeing to the federation policy.
- The federation operator reviews applications and presents recommendations to the governing body.
- Approval or rejection is communicated to applicants.
- All members must comply with the federation policy.

### **b. How to Withdraw**

- Members can terminate their participation by submitting a written request.
- Termination results in the immediate deactivation of federation services.
- The federation operator may also terminate participation, ensuring an orderly transition before the official termination date.

## 5. Legal Conditions of Use

### a. Termination

- Members failing to comply with the policy may have their membership revoked.
- Policy violations trigger formal notices, followed by membership revocation if not addressed.
- Revocation immediately disables access to federation services.

### b. Liability and Indemnification

- The federation operator provides services on an "as-is" basis, with no liability for defects, losses, or damages.
- Members assume responsibility for reliance on federation-provided information.
- Liability exclusions apply except in cases of gross negligence or fraud.
- Members cannot claim damages due to service interruptions or related issues.
- Legal compliance remains the responsibility of each member.
- Interfederation agreements do not create legal obligations beyond this policy.

### c. Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution

Disputes concerning this Federation Policy shall be settled primarily through negotiation between the affected parties. If the issue cannot be resolved through negotiation within four (4) weeks from the date a written claim for negotiation was submitted by one party to the other, either party may escalate the matter.

Should negotiations fail, any unresolved disputes shall be submitted to the competent courts of the Republic of Botswana, specifically the High Court of Botswana, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

If any provision of this Federation Policy is deemed unenforceable or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

### d. Interfederation

To promote and facilitate collaboration across national and organizational boundaries, the Federation may engage in interfederation agreements with other federations. The administrative and technical aspects of such interfederation participation for specific technologies shall be described in the relevant Technology Profiles.

By participating in interfederation arrangements, Members acknowledge and accept that they may interact with entities governed by foreign laws and federation policies, which may differ significantly from those of this Federation. It is the responsibility of each Member to consult the policies of the foreign federations involved in such interactions, particularly in the event of disputes or concerns regarding behaviour of external entities.

**e. Amendment**

The Federation Operator reserves the right to amend this Federation Policy as necessary. All amendments must be reviewed and approved by the Federation's Governing Body prior to implementation.

Federation Members will be notified of any changes in writing at least ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of such amendments. This notification period allows for feedback and resolution of any concerns from the Federation Members before the changes are enforced.