

# SOS terms beyond the Constitution

## Where and when do Self-Organising System terms vary?

Any person or group can organise autonomously and take action in the name and spirit of XR so long as the action fits within XR's principles and values. In this way, power is decentralised, meaning that there is no need to ask for permission from a central group or authority.

How groups organise is up to them, as long as it aligns with the Principles and Values (including "We are based on autonomy and decentralisation" and "We actively mitigate power"). There is no requirement to follow the [XR UK Constitution](#), but the advantage of doing so is that provides a set of agreements about how we distribute authority and decision-making across the movement. This provides clarity and transparency so that we do not lose time arguing about who has the right to make each decision.

Many groups — particularly Local Groups, Affinity Groups and some Community Groups — may feel that the full constitution is not appropriate for them. For example, they may not want to commit to having all the [Core Roles](#) in the constitution. But at the same time they may want to follow the basic 'pattern' of the Self-Organising System approach. (This also helps if, at a later date, the group circumstances change and it wants to sign up to the constitution.)

To support and enable this, the XR UK Hub uses the same basic structure of data for these groups, but uses different terms, as shown in the following table.

Signed up to the constitution	Not signed up
Mandate	Scope
Purpose	What this group/position is for

Signed up to the constitution	Not signed up
Role	Position
Accountability	Activity
Domain	Resources
External Coordinator	Connector
Internal Coordinator	Coordinator
Working Group, Circle, Sub-circle, Group, Team	Group, Team

Groups in the right hand column have not actually received a mandate from a broader circle. A mandate is how a circle or team distributes power and authority to its sub-circles. Groups on the right simply have their own authority under the Principles and Values (see top of page).

And because there is no mandate for the group, other groups cannot hold them 'accountable' for performing specific activities. So we replace 'Accountability' with 'Activity'. And so on.

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