

Differences between *HUC Charter 2015* and *HUC Charter 2025*

A supporting document for General Assembly Voting, April 2025

Prepared by the HUC Secretariat

Topics	HUC Charter 2015	HUC Charter 2025
VISION	To support sustainable mountain development in the HKH, in balance with the interests of surrounding lowlands, and to contribute to global knowledge through collaborative research, education, and training.	A peaceful, resilient, inclusive, just, and regenerative Hindu Kush Himalaya where individuals, communities, and nations make knowledge-based and ethical decisions for life betterment, culture preservation, and environment regenerability.
MISSION	To establish an effective network of universities in the HKH, in collaboration with academic, research and knowledge exchange institutions both within and outside the region, to engage top-notch professionals who can undertake high-quality research, education, teaching, and knowledge dissemination.	To co-create, together with stakeholders, knowledge and build competencies to address local and global challenges pertinent to the Hindu Kush Himalayan peoples and societies by providing unique education, research, and innovation opportunities through collaboration within a self-reliant and future-fit network of institutional and individual members.
OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have an effective structure for networking and collaboration at the regional (HKH) and sub-regional level. 2. To undertake research and knowledge exchange activities to support SMD in HKH and contribute to global knowledge. 3. To collaborate on education and training activities to develop skills, knowledge, and human capital to support SMD in the HKH. 4. To foster regional collaboration and cooperation on SMD; and 5. To link local, regional, and global knowledge systems to support SMD in the HKH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have an effective structure for networking and collaboration at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels. 2. To undertake research and knowledge exchange activities to support the regenerative and meaningful futures of communities and nations in HKH and contribute to global knowledge. 3. To collaborate on education and training activities to develop knowledge, competencies, and human capital to support knowledge-based decision-making for the regenerative futures of the HKH. 4. To foster regional collaboration and cooperation on meaningful regenerability of mountains and mountain communities; 5. To link local, regional, and global knowledge systems to support regenerative futures of HKH; 6. To safeguard Indigenous mountain knowledge at a time when Indigenous communities, the primary stewards of the environment, are under increased threat; and 7. To empower youths with knowledge, competencies, and ethics to secure gainful and meaningful employment and serve as custodians of tangible and intangible cultural and geo- and biological heritage of their own community.

CORE VALUES	N/A	Nine (9) core values: - Mountain focus ; - Academic excellence ; - Inclusive ; - Respectful ; - Collaborative ; - Ethical ; - Open ; - Influential ; and – Self-reliant .
FUNCTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on key topics in SMD in the HKH, leading to increased knowledge that informs the other functions, including scholarships and other mechanisms that enable students and/or staff at one HUC member institution to undertake research with/at another. 2. Education, including upgrading of existing curricula (from individual modules to entire degrees), joint development and delivery of new courses (e.g., field courses, face-to-face, blended delivery using ICT); 3. Training and capacity building, including student and staff exchange, and summer schools and other short courses for diverse audiences, e.g., academic (scientific knowledge and methodologies), managers, policy makers. 4. Knowledge dissemination and exchange, including a website, publications for various audiences (e.g., papers for peer-reviewed journals, reports, policy briefs), workshops, and conferences 5. Resource mobilization, both in-kind and financial, from members and other sources, to ensure the implementation of the other functions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene the General Assembly of HUC and establish and operate an Executive Committee to deliberate and decide on HUC governance, management, work programme, progress, finances, policies, strategies, reforms, amendments of the Charter, amendments of the Bylaws, dissolution of the Consortium, and other related matters; 2. Develop, implement, monitor, and report on vision, strategy, policies, operational plans, and collective actions of HUC; 3. Initiate, collaborate, and coordinate scientific and scholarly research projects and programmes and innovation activities on topics relevant to the peoples, societies, and environment in the HKH and its adjoining areas. 4. Jointly design and execute education programmes, upgrade existing and design and deliver new curricula (from individual modules to entire degrees) and programmes, including field courses, face-to-face, blended delivery using ICT, accredited and certificate programmes, and professional development and executive training programmes; 5. Organize, participate, and support training and capacity-building programmes, including student and staff exchange, summer schools and other short courses for diverse audiences, e.g., academic (scientific knowledge and methodologies), professionals, managers, executives, civil servants, and policy-makers. 6. Organize, co-host and/or sponsor scientific, scholarly, policy-related conferences, workshops, dialogues, meetings, seminars, symposia, webinars, online discussions and other events in pursuit of the HUC's objectives; 7. Develop and implement knowledge dissemination and exchange and necessary platforms and tools, processes and ICTs, including websites, databases, social media tools, scientific publications, and other communication and knowledge products catering to various audiences; 8. Mobilize, generate, and manage necessary financial, human, and partnership resources for effective management and governance of HUC; and 9. Provide priority support in geographically remote and/or underserved communities for developing competencies, capacities, and resources, ensuring

		equitable access to quality education and capacity development.
APPROACH	The HUC structure comprises its member institutions, secretariat, and a steering group, as well as an open-ended array of focused project teams from the member institutions. The HUC represents a consensual alliance or consortium of organizations with a common vision, not a contracted or legally bound entity.	<p>The HUC structure comprises its institutional and individual members, a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, and an Executive Secretary (Secretariat). The HUC represents a membership-based, consensual alliance built on a common vision and a set of shared values, not a contracted or legally bound entity.</p> <p>HUC shall have a lean administrative structure with regionally and globally distributive leadership. It abides by principles of integrity and transparency and actively transitions toward e-governance, optimizing the use of ITC advancements and demonstrating the ethics of care in all aspects of its operations.</p>
ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES	N/A	<p>The HUC operates as a cooperation forum between universities, higher education institutions, research institutes and other knowledge organisations and individual members in matters concerning the HKH. The Consortium fosters mindful socio-economic development and well-being of peoples, communities, geo- and ecosystems of the HKH and the safeguarding of Planetary health by strengthening in-country, regional, and international collaboration among its members. The Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creates shared knowledge, competencies, and resources; • creates shared education and research initiatives; • connects Indigenous and local knowledge systems with modern sciences; • partners with upstream and downstream communities and underserved populations to respond to their educational and life-enhancing aspirations; • facilitates dialogue across different sectors and sub-regions and between the HKH and other mountain or climate-change impacted regions in the world; • engages policymakers and informs policy formulation and implementation processes; • engages the public, shares mountain experiences, and promotes mountain perspectives and cultures in HKH countries and outside of the region; and • partners with other education, science, research, and policy-oriented organisations that share the HUC's vision and mission.
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND VOTING RIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Full and Associate Members</i> with voting rights • <i>Individual HUC Fellows and Affiliates</i> without voting rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Institutional Members</i> – Hindu Kush Himalayan members & non-HKH members, with voting rights; • <i>Individual Members</i> – <i>Fellows and Affiliates</i>, with voting rights.

MEMBERSHIP VALIDITY	Membership is valid for 6 years renewable upon written notice	Membership is valid insofar as the member fulfils its/ her/ his duties and obligations, which are monitored by a robust system of e-governance tools on the HUC Online Portal under the care of the Secretariat.
THE SECRETARIAT	<p>The Secretariat is hosted by ICIMOD.</p> <p>At present, ICIMOD acts as the secretariat of the HUC, collaborating with HUC members to operate and further develop the HUC. Over time this can be changed, and the secretariat may move to other organizations.</p>	The location of the HUC Secretariat shall be in one of the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries where stable and enabling conditions for international cooperation and mobility exist, with an intergovernmental or international organization as the host.
TOTAL WORDCOUNT	1869	5063