

Differences between *HUC Bylaws 2018* and *Amendments to the Bylaws 2025*

A supporting document for General Assembly Voting, April 2025

Prepared by the HUC Secretariat

Topics	HUC Bylaws 2018	Amendments to the Bylaws 2025
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND VOTING RIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Full</i> and <i>Associate Members</i> with voting rights • <i>Individual HUC Fellows</i> and <i>Affiliates</i> without voting rights <p>All members have equal rights of representation in the General Assembly, with each member having one representative and one alternative representative (focal persons). Each member is entitled to develop its own procedures for selecting its representative and alternative representative in the General Assembly.</p> <p>All members have equal nomination and voting rights, both Full and Associate Members, including voting on changes to HUC's membership, amendments to the HUC Charter and Bylaws, composition of the Steering Committee and any other matter brought to the attention of the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of all members, either present or via e-voting, with at least 50% of all members as a minimum quorum in the General Assembly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Institutional Members</i> – Hindu Kush Himalayan members & non-HKH members, with voting rights; • <i>Individual Members – Fellows</i> and <i>Affiliates</i>, with voting rights. <p>All members, institutional and individual, may participate in and lead the development and delivery of HUC programme activities.</p> <p>All members have equal rights of representation in the General Assembly. Each institutional member shall have one representative (head of institution) and one alternative representative (focal person). Each institutional member is entitled to develop its own procedures for selecting its representative and alternative representative in the General Assembly.</p> <p>All members have equal nomination and voting rights including voting on changes to HUC's membership, amendments to the HUC Charter and Bylaws, composition of the Executive Committee and any other matter brought to the attention of the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of all members, either present or via e-voting, with at least 50% of active members as a minimum quorum in the General Assembly.</p>
MEMBERSHIP VALIDITY	<p>The HUC membership is valid for six years renewable upon submission of written notice of renewing membership and providing an update on HUC achievements.</p>	<p>The HUC institutional membership is valid for so long as it is active, as evidenced by e-governance measures. The HUC individual membership is valid for so long as it is active, as evidenced by e-governance measures.</p> <p>The membership activeness is defined by the extent to which a member fulfills its obligations listed in 3.5. Members' activeness is measured by quantifiable and qualitative metrics, documented by a set of robust e-governance tools of the HUC Online Portal, administered</p>

		<p>by the Secretariat. Only active members can exercise their voting rights.</p> <p>Detailed guidance of quantifiable and qualitative parameters of membership activeness is to be developed and operationalized through a set of robust e-governance tools of the HUC Online Portal, administered by the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall inform membership applicants and existing members of these guidelines. The focal person of an institutional member and the Secretariat shall maintain frequent updates and appraise the institution's new leadership about HUC membership and activities. The Secretariat is responsible for keeping members frequently informed about their membership status and giving members a chance to secure their voting rights before voting.</p>
MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS	<p>Members are required to comply with HUC's reporting requirements, including detailed annual updates of the institutional profile on the HUC Online Portal.</p> <p>Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the General Assembly Meeting and Vice Chancellors' Forum and to take part in e-voting for membership.</p> <p>Associate members and better resourced full members are responsible for supporting their own participation at the Annual Meeting and other HUC events. In future, a HUC membership fee will be introduced.</p>	<p>3.5. All members are required to fulfil the following obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make active contributions to the development of HUC and its joint programmes among HUC member institutions and fellows/affiliates; • make active contributions to the development of HUC research, education, capacity, and knowledge dissemination in fair, inclusive, and regenerative development for the HKH; • pay annual membership fees and provide in-kind support, services, or material resources helpful to the operation and development of the HUC; • comply with HUC's reporting requirements, including frequent updates on the institutional or individual profile of the HUC Online Portal. • cast their votes in-person, by email, or through e-voting platforms on the Consortium's matters. <p>Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the HUC Congress, General Assembly Meeting, Vice Chancellors' Forum, (virtual) Townhall, and HUC Open Conferences.</p> <p>Non-HKH members and better-resourced HKH and individual members are responsible for supporting their own participation in the General Assembly Meeting and other HUC events.</p>
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	The HUC General Assembly provides strategic leadership for programme development. The General Assembly acts as a forum of consultation and cooperation for	4.1. There shall be a General Assembly of HUC, wherein each institutional member shall be presented by one delegate and individual members present on their own behalf.

	<p>the implementation of the HUC programmes through its members.</p> <p>The General Assembly serves as the highest governing and decision-making body of HUC and has primary responsibility for endorsing the recommendations of the Steering Committee on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approving new HUC members; • amending the HUC Charter and Bylaws; • appointing or dismissing members of the Steering Committee; • approving proposals for the hosting of the Secretariat; • initiating and overseeing programme development and delivery; • prioritizing academic programmes and interventions within the structure of the strategy; • establishing its rules and procedure; • dissolving the Himalayan University Consortium. 	<p>4.2. The HUC General Assembly provides strategic leadership for programme development. The General Assembly acts as a forum for consultation and cooperation for the implementation of the HUC programmes through its members.</p> <p>The General Assembly serves as the highest governing and decision-making body of HUC and has primary responsibility for endorsing the recommendations of the Executive Committee on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approving new institutional HUC members; • amending the HUC Charter and Bylaws; • appointing or dismissing members of the Executive Committee; • approving proposals for the hosting of the Secretariat; • initiating and overseeing programme development and delivery; • prioritizing academic programmes and interventions within the structure of the strategy; • establishing its rules and procedures; and • dissolving the Himalayan University Consortium.
OFFICERS OF GA	N/A	<p>4.2. The Officers of the General Assembly are the President, the two Vice Presidents, and the Secretary. The officers are elected by the General Assembly from slates of nominees prepared by the Executive Secretariat. Nominations may also be made by any member of the General Assembly at any meeting in which an election takes place. Candidates must come from the ranks of institutional representatives, alternate representatives (focal persons), individual fellows and affiliates. The president and Vice Presidents are elected for a three-year term, renewable once. The officers of the General Assembly are responsible for preparing action items for the Assembly and overseeing that decisions made by the GA are implemented.</p> <p>The President shall preside over the meetings of the General Assembly. The two Vice Presidents are authorized to act on behalf of the President whenever the President is unable to represent the HUC.</p> <p>The head of the Executive Secretariat, the Secretary General, shall serve as the GA Secretary. The GA Secretary participates in the preparations of GA proposals. Should the President and Vice President be unable to assume a duty, the GA Secretary is authorized to act on behalf of the President.</p>

<p>GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING AND VOTING</p>		<p>4.3. The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years physically or in a hybrid modality. Voting on Consortium’s matters takes place once a year by email or online.</p> <p>The GA meeting can be organized in such a way that a member is able to participate and use their full decision-making power during the meeting through online connection and other technical means, including e-mail, post-mail, and other communication platforms. Member voting rights and voting procedures at each GA meeting and annual e-voting are to be clearly explained to members at the time of joining and before each meeting and e-voting.</p> <p>Each institutional member is entitled to develop its own procedures for selecting its voting representative to the GA. Individual members secure their voting rights once having fulfilled all member responsibilities and duties as documented through e-governance tools of the HUC Online Portal.</p> <p>An extraordinary meeting of the GA will be organized when the GA so decides, or the Executive Committee considers it justified, or when at least one-tenth (1/10) of the members of the HUC provide in writing a demand to the Executive Committee that a specific matter must be handled.</p> <p>Decisions should ideally be made by consensus. In this respect, the officers have a particular responsibility to make a concerted effort to solicit the views of representatives who are unable to attend a GA and to incorporate their views into the consensus of the GA. Abstentions and absences do not represent a lack of consensus in this context. In the event that efforts to reach consensus fail, the GA makes decisions by a two-thirds majority vote, except in the elections where decisions are supported by more than half the votes cast. If votes are equal, the President will have the deciding vote, while in the elections a tie vote is resolved by the casting of lots.</p> <p>The President, Secretary General, and Chair of the Executive Committee are invited to the GA meetings as ex-officio (non-voting) members.</p>
<p>STEERING COMMITTEE/</p>	<p>The Steering Committee is elected and mandated by the General Assembly to formulate and recommend policies and</p>	<p>5.1. The Executive Committee is elected and mandated by the General Assembly to formulate and recommend policies and strategies to the General Assembly and has</p>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	<p>strategies to the General Assembly and has general responsibility for HUC's development and for its main priorities.</p> <p>The Steering Committee consists of elected individuals, numbering at least five and not more than eleven, including one representative from each of the eight HKH countries and two representatives from non-HKH members, but will always consist of an odd number of members.</p> <p>Each member of the Steering Committee serves a three-year term, renewable once, based on his/her performance and upon approval by members at the Annual Meeting.</p>	<p>general responsibility for HUC's development and for its main priorities.</p> <p>The Executive Committee consists of elected individuals, numbering at least seven and not more than thirteen, including one representative from each of the eight HKH countries, two representatives from non-HKH members, one representative from the hosting institution where applicable, one representative from early or mid-career cohorts, and one representative from Indigenous or tribal communities, but will always consist of an odd number of members. The EC shall aspire, whenever feasible, to achieve at least 40% female and 30% early-/mid-career representativeness.</p>
RESPONSIBILITIES OF SC/ EC	<p>The Steering Committee develops and recommends the strategic plan and major initiatives for the Consortium, and oversees the implementation of the strategic goals set by the General Assembly Meeting and the work of the focused project teams or committees. The SC develops and directs the annual work plan of the Consortium, including a clear timeframe for starting and completing each project undertaken by the teams or committees. The SC shall provide guidance and approve proposals, documents on procedures and action plans prepared by the Secretariat and task forces.</p> <p>The SC has the authority and primary responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic planning and setting institutional priorities; • organizational development and institutional accountability, including making recommendations on membership fees and other charges; • recommendation of new members to General Assembly for approval; • fundraising, finances, and budgeting for the Consortium's activities; • public and external relations; • drafting recommendations for amendments of HUC Bylaws and the HUC Charter. 	<p>The Executive Committee develops and recommends the strategic plan and major initiatives for the Consortium and oversees the implementation of the strategic goals set by the General Assembly Meeting and the work of the focused project teams or committees. The EC develops and directs the annual work plan of the Consortium, including a clear timeframe for starting and completing each project undertaken by the teams or committees. The EC shall provide guidance and approve proposals, documents on procedures and action plans prepared by the Secretariat and task forces.</p> <p>The EC has the authority and primary responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic planning and setting institutional priorities; • organizational development and institutional accountability, including making recommendations on membership fees and other charges; • recommendation of new institutional members to the General Assembly for approval; • fundraising, finances, and budgeting for the Consortium's activities; • public and external relations; • drafting recommendations for amendments to HUC Bylaws and the HUC Charter; • selecting and appointing the Secretariat's Executive Officer/ Director and overseeing induction and handover between outgoing and incoming Secretariat.

<p>ELECTION OF SC/ EC</p>	<p>The members of the SC are elected by the General Assembly from slates of nominees collected by the Secretariat. All members of the General Assembly are eligible to nominate individuals to serve as SC member. Members’ representatives in an HKH country may establish, through consensus, a procedure to nominate a country representative through the country chapter. Considerations of gender balance, inclusiveness and geographical diversity should be taken into account in the nomination of SC members, with emphasis placed on women leadership.</p> <p>The Head of the Institution hosting the HUC Secretariat serves as the Chair of the Steering Committee, or depute his or her representative if unavailable for SC meetings. The Lead of the HUC Secretariat serves as the Member Secretary of the Steering Committee.</p>	<p>The members of the EC are elected by the General Assembly from slates of nominees collected by the Secretariat. All members of the General Assembly are eligible to nominate individuals to serve as EC members. Members’ representatives in an HKH country may establish, through consensus, a procedure to nominate a country representative through the country chapter. Considerations of gender balance, inclusiveness and geographical and academic disciplinary diversity should be taken into account in the nomination of EC members, with emphasis placed on women’s leadership. The EC shall aspire, whenever feasible, to have at least 40% female and 30% early-/mid-career representativeness.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be nominated from the thirteen EC members and confirmed through elections at the annual e-voting or GA Meeting. Once the EC Chairperson is confirmed, replacement of her/his seat must be sought through a standard process.</p> <p>Each member of the Executive Steering Committee and its Chairperson serves a four-year term, non-renewable. If any member seat, including that of the Chairperson, of the Executive Committee, falls vacant, the Executive Committee shall appoint the acting replacement for the remaining tenure.</p> <p>To ensure continuity of institutional memory, a proper handover document shall be prepared by an outgoing EC member and submitted to the Secretariat, who shall arrange interactions between outgoing and incoming EC members for a seamless transition.</p> <p>The Executive Officer/ Director of the HUC Secretariat serves as the ex-officio (non-voting) Member Secretary of the Executive Committee.</p>
<p>THE SECRETARIAT</p>	<p>The HUC Secretariat is responsible for administrative and financial operations and organizational tasks, and for providing support to HUC’s governance bodies. The Secretariat works closely with the Steering Committee on all matters pertaining to HUC administration. It supports the preparation for Steering Committee’s meetings and General Assembly Meetings and is present at the meetings of these bodies.</p>	<p>6.1. The HUC Executive Secretary (the Secretariat) is responsible for administrative and financial operations and organizational tasks, and for providing support to HUC’s governance bodies. The Secretariat works closely with the Executive Committee on all matters pertaining to HUC administration. It supports the preparation for Executive Committee’s meetings and General Assembly Meetings and is present at the meetings of these bodies.</p> <p>6.2. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Executive Secretary – Executive Officer/ Director – for a tenure of three (3) years. The performance of the</p>

	<p>The Secretariat is provided as an in-kind contribution by or through the good offices of one or more HUC members. The ICIMOD continues to host and provide operational costs for the Secretariat. It is led by a fulltime Secretariat Lead, with the assistance of a Programme Associate. Members may contribute short or long term staff to the Secretariat to carry out administrative or research work sponsored by the HUC or its members.</p>	<p>Executive Secretary shall be periodically assessed by the Executive Committee and if found satisfactory, the appointment of Executive Secretary may be renewed no more than twice.</p>
<p>SECRETARIAT'S TASKS</p>	<p>The Secretariat's tasks are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report to the Steering Committee and presents annual plans and budgets to the Steering Committee for discussion and approval; • maintain a membership registry; • serve as first point of contact for potential new members; • oversee preparations and provide secretarial functions for all SC and General Assembly meetings, and keep and distribute minutes of actions taken in those meetings; • maintain and keep adequate and correct accounts of the activities of the HUC Secretariat and report on overall HUC financial activities; • register and report on all activities carried out under the sponsorship of HUC on an annual basis; • manage and upkeep the HUC Online Portal; • perform other duties prescribed by the General Assembly and the Steering Committee. 	<p>6.3. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day administrative activities of the HUC and for providing support to the HUC's governance bodies. The Secretariat works closely with the President on all matters pertaining to the HUC administration and is accountable to the President.</p> <p>Under the terms of a renewable agreement negotiated by the President on behalf of HUC and the appropriate officials of the host institution(s), the HUC Secretariat is empowered on behalf of the HUC to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a membership registry and documentation of membership status and voting rights; • serve as the first point of contact for potential new members; • solicit nominations for EC members and GA Officers and facilitate induction and handover between outgoing and incoming officers to ensure seamless transition and retention of institutional memory; • oversee preparations and provide secretarial functions for all EC and General Assembly meetings, and keep and distribute minutes of actions taken in those meetings; • oversee overall delivery on a) HUC programmes and projects; b) design of policies, strategies and annual operational plans; c) knowledge exchange, capacity development, and partnership events and meetings; d) human resource development and management; and c) public relationship. • report to the Executive Committee and present annual plans and budgets to the Executive Committee for discussion and approval; • register and report on all activities carried out under the sponsorship of HUC on an annual basis; • mobilise and manage the financial resources of the HUC, in particular, but not limited to, collect annual membership fees and receive any other financial contributions, utilise funds and make payment in

		<p>accordance with approved income expenditure budgetary plan, maintain and keep adequate and correct accounts of the activities of the HUC Secretariat and report on overall HUC financial activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● document and publish the HUC Newsletter, event proceedings and technical and policy reports; ● manage and upkeep the HUC Online Portal and HUC social media handles; ● line manage staff of the Secretariat, conduct their annual performance appraisal, and ensure recruitments or replacements of core and project staff as and when approved by the Executive Committee; ● sign or authorize legal, financial, contractual employment and procurement documents and agreements and take due responsibility for any mismanagement, miscarriage, and neglect of due diligence as and if involved in exercising such power, and as provided under appropriate rules and regulations; and ● perform other duties prescribed by the General Assembly, Executive Committee, and the President.
<p>HOST AND LOCATION OF SECRETARIAT</p>	<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>	<p>6.2. The resource for the operation of the Secretariat is provided as an in-kind contribution by or through the good offices of one or more HUC institutional members and international or inter-governmental organizations deemed appropriate. 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. Members may contribute short or long-term staff to the Secretariat to carry out administrative or research work sponsored by the HUC or its members.</p> <p>Any shift in the physical location of the Secretariat shall take place on the basis of an agreement negotiated by the President on behalf of the HUC and the appropriate officials of the relevant institutions. The host of the HUC Secretariat should notify the HUC twelve months before ending its role as host to allow time for a smooth transition to another host.</p>
<p>COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES</p>	<p>The Steering Committee may appoint standing advisory committee and temporary task forces to facilitate communication and the work of the Consortium. Members will</p>	<p>7.1. The Executive Committee may appoint a standing advisory committee and temporary task forces to facilitate communication and the work of the Consortium. Membership of these bodies shall be</p>

	<p>typically, though not universally, include a representative from each of the member universities. Each advisory committee includes a SC representative who acts as a liaison between the advisory committee and the SC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Working Groups • Country Chapters 	<p>representative of all membership categories, types, and clusters of the Consortium. Each advisory committee includes an EC representative who acts as a liaison between the advisory committee and the EC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic and Cross-Cutting Workgroups • Country Chapters • Trustee Council
RULES AND REGULATIONS	N/A	<p>General rules of procedure, financial management procedures, and regulations shall be prepared, modified and proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Modifications to the rules, procedures, and regulations shall be adopted by the simple majority vote of more than half of the votes cast at any meeting of the General Assembly or annual e-voting.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances due to fast-developing or emergency situations that may put the existence of the Consortium at risk, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to make recommendations of interim policies or procedural changes, which shall be ratified by the General Assembly in the subsequent voting.</p>
SIGNATORIES	N/A	<p>The right to sign on behalf of the HUC belongs to: i) the President; ii) the Chairperson of the Executive Committee; iii) the head of the Executive Secretary (the Secretariat); and iv) those persons within or outside of the Executive Committee to whom the Executive Committee has given this right, each separately. At any given time, at least one of these persons must have a domicile in the country where the Secretariat is located.</p>
QUORUM	at least 50% of all members as a minimum quorum in the General Assembly.	<p>The quorum shall be more than half of the total institutional and individual members with active membership and voting rights at any General Assembly meeting and more than half of the total Executive Committee members with voting rights at any EC meeting.</p> <p>A quorum of annual e-voting is the total votes cast by virtual platforms and other technical means such as e-mail, postal mailing, and other platforms with proper documentation.</p>
AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS	The HUC Bylaws may be amended at any time.	Any decision to amend the HUC Bylaws must be taken during a meeting of the General Assembly.

	<p>Amendments to these bylaws can be proposed by members of the General Assembly or Steering Committee members.</p> <p>Notices of proposed amendments are circulated to all members at least thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting at which decisions are made by consensus.</p> <p>Amendments must be approved by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of all members, either present or via e-voting, with at least 50% of all members as a minimum quorum in the General Assembly.</p>	<p>Amendments to these bylaws can be proposed by members of the General Assembly or members of the Executive Committee. Notices of proposed amendments are circulated to all members at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly at which they are to be acted upon. Decisions on these bylaws and any proposed amendment shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at the annual e-voting or General Assembly meeting.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances due to fast-developing or emergency situations that may put the existence of the Consortium at risk, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to make recommendations of interim policies or procedural changes, which shall be ratified by the General Assembly in the subsequent voting. The Amendments to the Bylaws shall come into force on the closing date of the voting whereby the Amendments are passed by a two-thirds majority vote.</p>
DISSOLUTION	N/A	The HUC can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Assembly meeting.
TOTAL WORDCOUNT	2574	5146