

Statement on HUC General Assembly Emergency Voting and Results

Released on 5 May 2025

1. Context. The hybrid General Assembly Meeting of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC), originally scheduled for 16–18 April 2025 in Kathmandu and online, was not held. Following a proposal by a combination of the Governance and Resource Mobilization Task Teams, the HUC Steering Committee resolved to conduct an emergency vote by the General Assembly in the latter half of April, enabling members to make key decisions on HUC governance matters (Annex 1).

2. Quorum. As of mid-April 2025, the HUC General Assembly comprised 55 institutional members whose memberships were either current or renewed through written communication between January and the end of March 2025 (Annex 2a). In accordance with the HUC Bylaws (2018), any amendments require a two-thirds majority of the quorum. The quorum is defined as half of the institutional members, i.e., 28, meaning that 19 votes are needed to pass a decision.

3. The Ballot. The HUC General Assembly emergency voting ballot comprised three sections, addressing a key decision on the Consortium's future, the endorsement of two foundational documents, and other member matters (Annex 2b). All relevant options were clearly outlined on the ballot, and supporting materials — including detailed comparisons between the HUC Charter 2015 and HUC Charter 2025, as well as between the Bylaws 2018 and the 2025 Bylaws Amendment — were provided through active links to facilitate informed decision-making. To ensure broad accessibility, the ballot was made available via online platforms both within China and

internationally, with an offline version included alongside the voting invitation. Robust technical safeguards were put in place to uphold the integrity of the process, ensuring that each institutional member with a valid membership could cast a single vote.

4. The Process. From mid-January to early March 2025, the Governance Task Team — comprising HUC fellows and affiliates representing all membership categories, clusters, and cohorts, and co-chaired by two Steering Committee members — drafted revisions to the HUC Charter 2025 and the Amendment to the Bylaws 2025. The draft documents were circulated to Heads of Institutions and to their designated focal persons, where applicable, on 17 March 2025, one month prior to the planned General Assembly meeting, for review and comment. Over the following month, the Secretariat received feedback from members, which the Governance Task Team carefully incorporated into the final documents prepared for voting.

In early April, the HUC Steering Committee reviewed the proposal for emergency voting and the draft ballot prepared by the combined Task Teams, provided feedback, and granted approval. The Secretariat was tasked with coordinating with the technical support teams in Kathmandu and Kunming to align the virtual ballot and to circulate the voting announcement on 14 April 2025. Voting was open from 14 April through 30 April, during which the Secretariat remained available to address member queries related to the voting process.

5. Results and Decisions. By the close of voting on 30 April 2025, a total of thirty-six (36) votes had been cast through online platforms and email submission of offline ballots. All decisions on the ballot were approved by a high to absolute majority (Annex 3). The approved decisions are as follows:

Decision 1: The Himalayan University Consortium will continue to operate as an academic network with its governance structure, decision-making mechanisms, and independent legal status, to be registered in one of the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries where conditions enable international cooperation and mobility.

Decision 2: The HUC Charter 2025 and Amendment to the Bylaws 2025 were endorsed and came into force on 1 May 2025.

Decision 3.1: The membership of five universities was approved (list enclosed, Annex 4a).

Decision 3.2: The candidacy of two nominees for Steering Committee membership was endorsed:

Professor Dr. Sumit Sen, Head, Department of Hydrology, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Steering Committee member representing India.

Professor Dr. Khin Maung Sint, Rector, University of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Steering Committee member representing Myanmar.

Decision 3.3: Existing members of the Steering Committee and its Interim Chairperson were reconfirmed (list enclosed, Annex 4b)

6. Conclusion. The General Assembly emergency voting was prepared through a comprehensive member consultation process, with robust due diligence, and was conducted in a fully transparent manner. As a result, the voting outcomes are validated, and the ensuing decisions were passed with strong consensus. The notably high level of participation — 36 out of 55 members (65%) — and the broad geographical representation, covering all eight Hindu Kush Himalayan countries as well as all associate members with valid or renewed membership, reflect the Consortium members' strengthened sense of ownership and their growing commitment to international and regional collaboration in academic research and capacity development.

The HUC General Assembly voting process demonstrated transparency, openness, and bottom-up participation as core values and operational principles of the Consortium. The success of the April 2025 emergency voting marks a significant milestone in the Consortium's transition to independence, as outlined in the HUC Transition Roadmap (2025–2027), and establishes a strong foundation for future sustainability and growth.

List of Annexures

Annex 1. Members and Co-Chairs of HUC Governance Task Team and Resource Mobilization Task Team

Annex 2a. List of HUC Institutional Members with Valid Membership as of 1 April 2025

Annex 2b. The HUC General Assembly Emergency Voting Ballot

Annex 3. Results of the HUC General Assembly Emergency Voting, 30 April 2025

Annex 4a. List of new institutional members, effective 1 May 2025

Annex 4b. List of reconfirmed Executive Committee Members and Chairperson, effective 1 May 2025

Annex 1. Members and Co-Chairs of Governance and Resource Mobilisation Task Teams

Decision #12 of HUC Steering Committee Meeting on 19 September 2024 appointed two Steering Committee Members to co-lead each of the three Task Teams: Governance, Resource Mobilisation, and Communication and tasked the Secretariat to draft Task Team Terms of Reference. Decision #6 of the SC Meeting on 19 December 2024 approved the ToR and activated the Task Teams, tasking the Secretariat to enroll members who are fellows and affiliates from HUC institutional members and Co-Leads of Thematic and Cross-Cutting Work groups. Enrolment took place in January 2025 and the first e-meetings of three Task Teams took place in early February.

Primary members are expected to attend all e-meetings, lead in drafting key documents, and implement the workplan. Non-primary members are not expected to attend all e-meetings, but welcome to provide comments and input to Task Team documents and support workplan implementation.

GOVERNANCE TASK TEAM

Co-Chairs: Dasho Nidup Dorji (Royal University of Bhutan) and Prof Dr LIU Peng (Yunnan University)

Primary Members

1. Prof Dr Hossain Md Aktar, Chittagong University, Bangladesh
2. Prof Dr Jelle J P Wouters, Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan
3. Dr WANG Wenling, Yunnan University, China
4. Prof Dr Vishal Narain, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, India
5. Prof (Emeritus) Dr Ganga Gautam, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
6. Prof Dr Ghulam Raza, University of Baltistan, Pakistan

Non-primary members

1. Dr Chubbamenla Jamir, Climate Studies and Knowledge Solutions Center, Dep of Science & Technology, Gov of Nagaland, India
2. Prof Dr Biraj Singh Thapa, Kathmandu University
3. Dr Jakob Steiner, University of Graz, Austria

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TASK TEAM MEMBERS

Co-Chairs: Professor Dr. Tri Ratna Bajracharya (Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University); Professor Dr. Nichole Georgeou, (Humanitarian and Development Initiative, Western Sydney University)

Primary Members

1. Professor Dr. Tarekul Islam, Institute for Water and Flood Management, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2. Dr. Hu Shaoji, Institute of International Rivers and Eco-Security, Yunnan University, Kunming, China
3. Dr. Chubbamenla Jamir, Climate Studies and Knowledge Solutions Center, Dep of Science & Technology, Gov of Nagaland, India
4. Professor Dr. Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, University Kohsar Murree Vice Chancellor, HUC Steering Committee Member - Pakistan
5. Dr. Associate Prof. Muhammad Shafique, National Center for Excellence in Geology, Peshawar University, Peshawar, Pakistan
6. Dr. Grady Walker, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, UK

Non-primary members

1. Ms. Samira Noori, Deputy Director General, Citizens Organization for Advocacy and Resilience, Kabul, Afghanistan
2. Dr. Wang Wenling, Institute of International Rivers and Eco-Security, Yunnan University, Kunming, China
3. Dr. Associate Prof Harshit Sosan Lakra, Department of Architecture, India Institute of Technology Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India
4. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Iqbal Mead, Head Air Quality Measurement, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, the United Kingdom

Annex 2a. The HUC General Assembly 2025 as of 1 April 2025

Table 2.1. Full Members

S.No	Institutions	City	Country	Year joined/ renewed	April 2025 Vote Cast
1	Kabul University	Kabul	Afghanistan	2025	√
2	Kandahar University	Kandahar	Afghanistan	2025	√
3	Nangarhar University	Nangarhar	Afghanistan	2025	√
4	Laghman University	Mihtarlam	Afghanistan	2021	√
5	Syed Jamaluddin Afghani University	Yargul Bela & Salar Bagh	Afghanistan	2020	√
6	Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET)	Dhaka	Bangladesh	2025	√
7	Jahangirnagar University	Dhaka	Bangladesh	2020	
8	University of Chittagong	Hathajari, Chittagong	Bangladesh	2025	√
9	Fareast International University	Dhaka	Bangladesh	2024	√
10	University of Dhaka	Dhaka	Bangladesh	2023	
11	Royal University of Bhutan	Thimphu	Bhutan	2025	√
12	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Forestry Research and Training (UWIFoRT)	Bumthang	Bhutan	2025	√
13	Institute for Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE)	Chengdu	China	2025	

14	Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB)	Kunming	China	2025	
15	Lanzhou University (LZU)	Lanzhou	China	2025	√
16	Northwest University	Xi'an city	China	2025	
17	Sichuan University (SCU)	Chengdu	China	2025	
18	Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)	Kunming	China	2025	√
19	Southwest Minzu University	Chengdu	China	2021	
20	Xinjian Institute of Ecology and Geography	Urumqi	China	2025	√
21	Yunnan University	Kunming	China	2025	√
22	Leshan Normal University	Leshan	China	2020	
23	Sichuan University of Agricultural Science	Chengdu	China	2020	
24	G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology	Pantnagar, UK	India	2025	√
25	Martin Luther Christian University	Meghalaya	India	2020	√
26	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	Sholan, HP	India	2025	√
27	Sikkim University	Gangtok	India	2025	√
28	South Asian University	New Delhi	India	2025	√
29	TERI School of Advanced Studies	New Delhi	India	2025	√
30	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	Roorkee	India	2021	
31	Indian Institute of Technology Mandi	Mandi, Himachal Pradesh	India	2023	
32	Himalayan Institute of Alternatives	Ladakh	India	2021	√
33	Graphic Era Hill University	Dehradun	India	2022	√
34	Forest Research Institute Deemed University	Dehradun	India	2025	
35	Yezin Agricultural University	Nay Pyi Taw	Myanmar	2025	√
36	Myitkyina University	Myitkyna	Myanmar	2020	
37	Mandalay Technological University	Mandalay	Myanmar	2020	
38	Monywa University of Economics	Monywa	Myanmar	2021	
39	Kathmandu University (KU)	Dhulikhel	Nepal	2025	√
40	Nepal Open University	Kumaripati	Nepal	2020	
41	Tribhuvan University (TU)	Kirtipur	Nepal	2025	

42	Ipir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi	Punjab	Pakistan	2020	
43	Karakorum International University (KIU)	Gilgit	Pakistan	2024	√
44	University of Peshawar	Peshawar	Pakistan	2025	√
45	Abdul Wali Khan University - Mardan (AWKUM)	Mardan, KP	Pakistan	2021	
46	University of Baltistan	Skardu	Pakistan	2021	√
47	Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	Lahore	Pakistan	2023	√

Table 2.2. Associate Members

S.No	Institutions	City	Country	Year joined/ renewed	April 2025 Vote Cast
48	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	Kanagawa	Japan	2020	√
49	Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University	Kyoto	Japan	2023	√
50	The Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU)	Trondheim	Norway	2020	√
51	Centre for Development and Environment (CDE, University of Bern)	Bern	Switzerland	2025	√
52	University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)	Scotland	UK	2025	√
53	Walker Institute, University of Reading	Reading	UK	2025	√
54	University of Bristol	Bristol	UK	2020	√
55	The College of William and Mary	Virginia	USA	2024	√

Annex 2b. Voting Ballot

The Himalayan University Consortium General Assembly 2025

Voting Ballot

14 April to 30 April 2025

INTRODUCTION

The most recent General Assembly Meeting of the Himalayan University Consortium took place in Kathmandu, in October 2018. The GAM, originally scheduled for 16-17 April 2025, could not take place due to a funding deficit. However, key decisions must be made regarding the continuity of the Consortium and other important governance matters. This emergency voting is open for the HUC General Assembly, consisting of 55 institutional members with valid and renewed membership as of April 1, 2025. The Heads of the Institutions, or designated Focal Persons, cast one vote per institution.

Page One. Key Decision Regarding the Existence and Continuity of the Consortium

The Himalayan University Consortium continues to exist as an academic network with its governance structure, decision-making mechanisms, and independent legal status, to be registered in one of the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries where enabling conditions for international cooperation and mobility exist.	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information about the HUC Transition Roadmap (2025-2027), refer to the link Recommendations by the ICIMOD's Programme Advisory Committee are available here link 		

Page Two. Endorsement of Foundational Documents of the Consortium

Endorse the HUC Charter 2025 <i>Full text of the HUC Charter 2025 link and detailed comparison between HUC Charter 2015 and Charter 2025 link</i>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Endorse the Amendments to the Bylaws 2025 <i>Full text of Amendments to the Bylaws 2025 link and detailed comparison between HUC Bylaws 2018 and Bylaws 2025 link</i>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Page Three-One. Member Business Decisions

Endorse applications for institutional membership from <i>Summary of applications link</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharq Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kumaun University, Nainital, India link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute of Business Administration Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women's University, Peshawar, Pakistan link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Page Three-Two (continued)

Endorse candidacy for new members of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> representing India – Professor Dr Sumit Sen, Head, Department of Hydrology, India Institute of Technology Roorkee link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> representing Myanmar – Professor Dr Khin Maung Sint, Rector, University of Forestry and Environmental Sciences link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Page Three-Three (continued)

Reconfirm members of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Habibullah Habib, former Vice Chancellor, Kabul University, Afghanistan, since 2020 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Sara Nowreen, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh, since 2025 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Nidup Dorji, former Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan, since 2020 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr LIU Peng, Director, International Cooperation, Yunnan University, China, since 2024 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Tri Ratna Bajracharya, Former Dean, Institute of Engineering – Pulchowk, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, since 2022 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, Former Vice Chancellor, Kohsar University Murree, Pakistan, since 2025 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Nichole Georgeou, Director, Humanitarian and Development Initiative, Western Sydney University, Austria, Associate Members – Asia Pacific, since 2021 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Dr Rosalind Cornforth, Director, The Walker Institute, University of Reading, the United Kingdom, Associate Members – Europe/America, since 2021 link 	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Page Three-Four (continued & end)

Confirm Chairperson of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Professor Dr Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan link	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Date

Name & Title of Submitter

Institution

Signature & Stamp^(*)

() if deemed appropriate*

Thank You

for casting the institutional vote of your university to make key decisions for the HUC.

Annex 3. Results of HUC General Assembly Emergency

Ballot Page	Content	Affirmative	Negative	Total votes cast	Decision
Page One. Key decision regarding the existence and continuity of the Consortium	The HUC continues to exist as an academic network with its governance structure, decision-making mechanisms, and independent legal status, to be registered in one of the HKH countries where enabling conditions for international cooperation and mobility exist.	36		36	Approved
Page Two. Endorsement of Foundational Documents of the Consortium	Endorse the HUC Charter 2025	36		36	Approved
	Endorse the Amendment to the Bylaws 2025	35	1	36	Approved
Page Three. Member Business Decisions	One. Endorse applications for institutional membership from				
	Sharq Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan	33	3	36	Approved
	North-South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh	34	2	36	Approved
	Kumaun University, Nainital, India	36		36	Approved
	Institute of Business Administration Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan	33	3	36	Approved
	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women's University Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan	35	1	36	Approved
	Two. Endorse candidacy for new members of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee				
	representing India - Prof Dr Sumit Sen, Head, Dep Hydrology, IIT Roorkee	35	1	36	Approved
	representing Myanmar - Prof Dr Khin Maung Sint, Rector, U of Forestry and Env Sciences	36		36	Approved
	Three. Reconfirm members of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee				
	Prof Dr Habibullah Habib, former VC, Kabul U, Afghanistan, since 2020	34	2	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Sara Nowreen, BUET, Bangladesh, since 2025	34	2	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Nidup Dorji, former VC, RUB, Bhutan, since 2020	35	1	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Liu Peng, Director Int Cooperation, Yunnan University, China, since 2024	35	1	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Tri Ratna Bajracharya, former Dean, IoE, Tribhuvan U, Nepal, since 2022	33	3	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, former VC, Kohsar U Murree, Pakistan, since 2025	32	4	36	Approved
	Prof Dr Nichole Georgeou, Director Humanitarian Dev Initiative, Western Sydney U, Asia/ Pacific, since 2021	36		36	Approved
	Prof Dr Rosalind Cornforth, Director, Walker Institute, U Reading, Europe/America, since 2021	36		36	Approved
	Four. Confirm Chairperson of the HUC Steering/ Executive Committee				
	Prof Dr Attaullah Shah, VC KIU, Pakistan, since 2024	34	2	36	Approved

Annex 4a. List of new institutional members, effective 1 May 2025

Applications of the following institutions for HUC membership were approved by General Assembly through emergency voting in April 2025.

- **Sharq Institute of Higher Education**, Kabul, Afghanistan
- **North-South University**, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Kumaun University**, Nainital, India
- **Institute of Business Administration Karachi**, Karachi, Pakistan
- **Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women's University**, Peshawar, Pakistan

Annex 4b. List of reconfirmed Executive Committee Members and Chairperson, effective 1 May 2025

The following Steering Committee Members were nominated through a formal process applicable to each Hindu Kush Himalayan country or world's region. Their candidacy was reviewed and endorsed by the HUC Steering Committee at its meetings, followed by (e-) voting during the COVID19-induced mobility restrictions in lieu of General Assembly meetings. They were reconfirmed by the General Assembly through emergency voting in April 2025.

Listed by countries of the HKH and world's regions.

- Prof Dr **Habibullah Habib**, former Vice Chancellor, Kabul University, Afghanistan, since 2020.
- Prof Dr **Sara Nowreen**, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh, since 2025.
- Prof Dr **Nidup Dorji**, former Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan, since 2020.
- Prof Dr **LIU Peng**, Director, International Cooperation, Yunnan University, China, since 2024.
- Prof **Tri Ratna Bajracharya**, Former Dean, Institute of Engineering – Pulchowk, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, since 2022.
- Prof Dr **Syed Habib Ali Bokhari**, Former Vice Chancellor, Kohsar University Murree, Pakistan, since 2025.
- Prof Dr **Nichole Georgeou**, Director, Humanitarian and Development Initiative, Western Sydney University, Austria, Associate Members – Asia Pacific, since 2021.
- Prof Dr **Rosalind Cornforth**, Director, The Walker Institute, University of Reading, the United Kingdom, Associate Members – Europe/America, since 2021.

The Interim Acting Chairperson, Prof Dr **Attaullah Shah** (Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Pakistan), was nominated and endorsed by the HUC Steering Committee and assumed his roles and responsibility since 1 November 2024. He was reconfirmed as Chairperson of the Executive Committee by the General Assembly through emergency voting in April 2025.