



Amendment to the Himalayan University Consortium Bylaws 2025

Endorsed by the General Assembly through Emergency Voting, April 2025
and came into force on 1 May 2025.



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List of Abbreviations

GA	General Assembly
HUC	Himalayan University Consortium
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalaya
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
EC	Executive Committee
SC	Steering Committee
TWG	Thematic Working Group
CWG	Cross Cutting Workgroup

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Governance Task Team, 2025

Following a decision by the HUC Steering Committee (SC) on 16 December 2024, a Task Team on Governance was established, consisting of eleven members,¹ Co-Chaired by two SC Members. Task Team members were representatives of most of the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries and from outside of the HKH region and various academic disciplines and cohorts. Between February and April 2025, the Task Team conducted virtual meetings and discussed revisions of HUC Bylaws 2018. A draft of the Amendment to Bylaws 2025 was reviewed by the SC before circulating to HUC institutional members on 17 March 2025. The Amendment was reviewed by members, revised and refined by the Governance Task Team, and endorsed by the General Assembly through emergency voting between 14 and 30 April 2025. It came into force on 1 May 2025.

Preamble

In 2007, the Himalayan University Consortium was established as an initiative of the International Centre for Integrated Development in Kathmandu, with a mandate to develop an effective and sustainable network of universities in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, in collaboration with academic research and knowledge-generating and exchange institutions within and outside the region. In 2013 and 2014, a congregation of scientists, scholars, and university administrators, under the leadership of a Steering Group, met at Lanzhou University and COMSAT University Islamabad, Abbottabad. In 2015, at the HUC Summit in Kathmandu hosted by ICIMOD, members endorsed the HUC Charter 2015, and the HUC became an emerging programme of ICIMOD Medium Term Action Plan III. In early 2016, a full-time Programme Coordinator started to lead the Secretariat. In 2016 and 2017, the General Assembly Meeting took place in New Delhi and Chengdu, hosted by Indian National Science Academy and Sichuan University, respectively. At the General Assembly Meeting hosted by ICIMOD in 2018, the HUC Bylaws 2018 were endorsed.

The Amendment to the Bylaws 2025 will be endorsed by the General Assembly voting in April 2025.

¹ Governance Task Team primary members are Prof Dr Hossain Md Aktar (Chittagong University, Bangladesh), Prof Dr Jelle J P Wouters (Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan), Dr WANG Wenling (Yunnan University, China), Prof Dr Vishal Narain (Management Development Institute, India), Prof Emeritus Dr Ganga Gautam (Tribhuvan University, Nepal), and (Prof Dr Ghulam Raza, University of Baltistan, Pakistan); non-primary members are Dr Chubbamenla Jamir (Native Foodscape Foundation, India), Prof Dr Biraj Singh Thapa (Kathmandu University), and Dr Jakob Steiner (University of Graz, Austria), Co-Chaired by Dasho Nidup Dorji (Royal University of Bhutan, HUC Steering Committee Member – Bhutan) and Prof Dr Liu Peng (Yunnan University, China, HUC Steering Committee Member - China).

The HUC is a membership-based, apolitical academic network within and outside of the Hindu Kush Himalaya, committed to promote cooperation between higher education institutions and other organisations and individual researchers in matters concerning mountain and downstream communities. The network engages professional women and men capable of undertaking high-quality research, education, capacity development, and knowledge dissemination in service of mountain-specific, regenerative, fair and inclusive futures by choice and decision made by the HKH nations and peoples.

Article I. Establishment

- 1.1.** Pursuant to the efforts made by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development since 2007, the HUC Summit 2015 consolidated the Himalayan University Consortium through its HUC Charter. Once endorsed at the HUC Summit 2025, the HUC Charter 2025 will be the prevailing governing document of the network.
- 1.2.** The Amendment to the Bylaws 2025 serves as the HUC's regulatory document outlining HUC operations and activity implementation. In case of interpretational differences between the two documents, the HUC Charter 2025 shall take legal precedence over the HUC Bylaws.
- 1.3.** The HUC and its members abide by the HUC Bylaws that guide the membership, structure, General Assembly, Executive Committee, Secretariat, and amendment in the Bylaws. The Bylaws overrule any other processes and practices previously in vogue, with the exception of the HUC Charter. Amendments in the Bylaws will be possible through (e-)voting by a two-thirds majority of votes cast with at least 50% of all active members as a minimum quorum in the General Assembly.

Article II. HUC Charter 2025

The first HUC Charter was endorsed by members at the HUC Summit in Kathmandu in October 2015. The second HUC Charter was endorsed by the General Assembly through GA Emergency Voting April 2025. It serves as the binding document that articulates the Vision, Mission, Core Values, Objectives, and Functions of the Consortium. The Charter is to be signed by the Head of the Institution upon approval of the General Assembly to formalize the membership of the respective institution. By applying for HUC individual membership, researchers, scholars, practitioners, and members of the public abide by the HUC Charter.

Article III. Membership

The HUC has two membership categories: institutional members and individual members.

3.1. Institutional Members

Institutional members include educational institutions and knowledge organisations. Educational institution members are universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher education having their own registered students. Knowledge organisation members include research institutions and other knowledge organizations concerned with education and research about mountains and the HKH. Subsidiary entities of Higher Education Institutions such as independent institutes, branch campuses, and departments and research units or centers of public and private sector entities qualify as knowledge organizations.

Within institutional members, there are two types:

- 3.1.1. Hindu Kush Himalayan Institutional Members are institutions and organizations with an interest in and commitment to higher education and research on mountains and in the HKH, located in the eight HKH countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan.
- 3.1.2. Non-HKH Institutional Members are institutions and organizations with an interest and commitment to higher education and research on mountains and in the HKH, located outside the eight HKH countries.

3.2. Individual Members - Fellows and Affiliates

Individual scholars and professionals who were recipients of HUC individual grants or/and successfully completed one or more capacity development programmes organised by the HUC are qualified as *HUC Fellows*.

Distinguished individual scholars and professionals who have a strong interest in and commitment to HUC mission and values and who are affiliated with non-HUC institutional members may be solicited or apply to be *HUC Affiliates*. Scholars from non-HUC institutions who have imparted training programmes (co-)organized by the HUC are qualified as *HUC Affiliates*. An HUC Affiliate may be asked to serve as a special advisor for programme areas in which his or her special competence may be relevant.

3.3. Participation and Representation

All members, institutional and individual, may participate in and lead the development and delivery of HUC programme activities.

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.

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.

3.4. Eligibility Criteria

3.4.1. FOR INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

In acting on application for institutional membership, the General Assembly is guided by the following criteria:

- demonstrated commitment to HUC's mission and values;
- demonstrated commitment and capacity to actively contribute to the development of HUC and its joint programmes among HUC member institutions;
- demonstrated commitment and capacity to actively contribute to the development of HUC research, education, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination in fair, inclusive, and regenerative development for the HKH;
- willingness to pay annual membership fees and provide in-kind support, services, or material resources helpful to the operation and development of HUC;
- links to major HKH constituencies such as local communities, the private sector and industries, public sector and government authorities at all levels, and the development sector.

Higher education institution applicants are also evaluated on the following additional criteria:

- willingness and capacity to jointly develop and/or deliver HUC academic and public outreach programmes;
- willingness and capacity to contribute existing expertise and materials to HUC joint activities;
- demonstrated commitment to in-country, regional, and international collaboration in research, education, and capacity development, including strong faculty and student involvement in research on mountains and the HKH.

3.4.2. FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Individual fellows and affiliates obtain and retain their membership when they fulfill the following criteria:

- demonstrated commitment to HUC's mission and values;
- demonstrated commitment to in-country, regional, and international collaboration in research, education, and capacity building;
- willingness and capacity to jointly develop and/or deliver HUC academic and public outreach programmes;
- willingness and capacity to contribute existing expertise and materials to HUC joint activities;
- willingness to pay annual membership fees and make in-kind contributions to the Consortium's activities

3.5. Membership Obligations

All members are required to fulfil the following obligations:

- 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.

Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the HUC Congress, General Assembly Meeting, Vice Chancellors' Forum, (virtual) Townhall, and HUC Open Conferences.

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.

3.6. Resignation and Removal of Membership

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 by the Secretariat. Only active members can exercise their voting rights.

Any institutional member may resign from the HUC network by providing written notice to the General Assembly or by giving notice thereof at the General Assembly Meeting, which would then be recorded in the minutes. Any individual fellow or affiliate may resign from the HUC networking by writing to the Secretariat or by giving notice thereof at the GAM.

The HUC Secretariat shall provide a warning to any member that fails to meet its obligations during a given year or exhibits misconduct and expression that contradicts the Consortium's core values. Alternatively, notices shall be communicated through e-governing features of the HUC Online Portal. Failure to comply with HUC's obligations and reporting requirements shall lead to the member being recommended for placement on the warning list for removal from the roster of active HUC members.

Failure to attend three consecutive General Assemblies with a sufficiently high-level representation will lead to an institutional member being relegated to inactive status.

The General Assembly may remove an institutional member by a vote taken during its meeting, with the reason for dismissal contained in a proposal that must be made available in accordance with the General Assembly rules of procedure. Prior to action on the proposal, the member must be given the opportunity to respond to the matter. Professional misconduct or any expression that violates the core values of

the Consortium by an individual member, upon ratification by the Executive Committee following an investigation task team facilitated by the Secretariat, will result in disciplinary suspension or permanent revocation of membership.

A member under inactive status or removed from membership must re-apply to become a member.

3.7. Membership Term

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.

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.

Article IV. General Assembly

- 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.
- 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.

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:

- 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.

4.2. Officers of the General Assembly

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.

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.

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.

Should any officer position become vacant when the officer has not completed her or his term, the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement to serve in the role until the next Assembly.

To ensure continuity of institutional memory, a proper handover document shall be prepared by an outgoing President or Vice President(s) and submitted to the Secretariat, who shall arrange interactions between outgoing and incoming GA Officers for a seamless transition. Secretariat's induction and handover shall be overseen by the Executive Committee.

- 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The President, Secretary General, and Chair of the Executive Committee are invited to the GA meetings as ex-officio (non-voting) members.

Article V. Executive Committee

- 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 general responsibility for HUC's development and for its main priorities.

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.

5.2. Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

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.

The EC has the authority and primary responsibility for:

- 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.

5.3. Election of the Executive Committee

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Executive Officer/ Director of the HUC Secretariat serves as the ex-officio (non-voting) Member Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Nominees to the EC should have the following qualifications:

- commitment to the mission and values of the HUC;
- willingness to devote time and energy to the HUC;
- professional experience in higher education and/or public service;
- high credibility with key HUC constituencies;
- demonstrated judgment;
- freedom from conflicts of interest;
- professionalism and personal integrity.

The Secretariat is responsible for providing detailed information about the HUC governance, EC member terms of reference, and Consortium's ongoing activities in the respective country, the HKH region, and outside of the region to EC candidates. A process of induction and handover is to be arranged to facilitate interaction between outgoing and incoming EC members to ensure a seamless transition and retention of institutional memory.

Article VI. Executive Secretary

- 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.
- 6.2.** The Executive Committee shall appoint the Executive Secretary – Executive Officer/ Director – for a tenure of three (3) years. The performance of the 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.
- 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.

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:

- 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 e) 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 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;
- 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.

6.4. 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.

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.

6.3. Signatories

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.

Article VII. Committees and Task Forces

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 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.

7.2. Thematic and Cross-Cutting Working Groups

TWGs/CWGs are members-led clusters of HUC institutions that come together over shared interests in a thematic area. TWGs operate on the basis of shared leadership and resources.

TWGs/CWGs may participate in research cooperation, development and delivery of varying forms of shared and joint education on all levels, utilize mobility and mobilize resources for cooperation, engage in knowledge development and organize dialogue with policymakers and society to identify and address issues of common concern of sustainable mountain development for the HKH.

TWGs/CWGs are required to address gender and social inclusiveness issues from subject matter and methodological perspectives as well as in the representativeness of the groups. TWGs/CWGs shall aspire, whenever feasible, to have at least 40% female and 30% early-/mid-career participation in all activities.

7.3. Country Chapters

HKH members in a country may decide to establish a country chapter with its structure and governance agreed by members. HUC country chapters function in line with the Consortium's vision and mandates and comply with its rules and regulations.

A separate Management Standard, providing details of guidelines, agreed-upon procedures, rules, and regulations and processes for performing the role, functions, dispute resolution, and the overall conduct of the Country Chapter shall be developed by members of the respective Chapter in accordance with rules and regulations of the respective country.

7.4. The HUC Trustee Council

The HUC Trustee Council is an advisory body for the HUC Executive Committee and President on strategy, programmatic development and resource mobilisation. The Trustee Council is comprised of six to eight eminent individuals, including the HUC President and Chairperson of the Executive Committee as ex-officio members. The members of the Trustee Council are invited by the EC, with a tenure of three years renewable once.

Article VIII. Rules and Regulations

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.

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.

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.

Article IX. Quorum

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.

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.

The activeness of membership is measured by quantifiable and qualitative metrics, documented by a set of robust e-governance tools of the HUC Online Portal, administered by the Secretariat. The Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the documentation, keeping members frequently informed about their membership status, and giving members a chance to secure their voting rights before voting.

Article X. Amendments to the Bylaws

Any decision to amend the HUC Bylaws must be taken during a meeting of the General Assembly.

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.

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.

Article XI. Dissolution

The HUC can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a General Assembly meeting.



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