



# **Himalayan University Consortium Charter 2025**

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





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# List of Abbreviations

<b>EC</b>	Executive Committee
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>HKH</b>	Hindu Kush Himalayas or Hindu Kush Himalayan
<b>HUC</b>	Himalayan University Consortium
<b>ICIMOD</b>	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communications technology
<b>SG</b>	Steering group
<b>SMD</b>	Sustainable mountain development

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## Preamble

**The Himalayan University Consortium (HUC)** was founded in 2007 with the goal of building a dynamic mountain knowledge partnership among the universities of the HKH region and other organizations and institutions – both within and outside the region – concerned with sustainable mountain development (SMD) in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) and adjoining mountainous regions. For the first 18 years, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has hosted the Secretariat of the HUC in its headquarters in Kathmandu (Nepal) and facilitated its activities.

The members of the HUC share many common values and concerns regarding opportunities and challenges for research, education and training concerning SMD in the HKH. However, the universities in the region vary considerably in many aspects. Some have existed for a century or more, with a wealth of resources such as multidisciplinary research centers, experienced scholars and professionals, experience in capacity building, research and extension capabilities. Others have been established over the past decade. Some universities have long-established collaborative bilateral relationships with universities in other parts of the world; others have no such relationships.

There have been limited interactions and collaboration between HKH universities, even within individual countries. This challenge is exacerbated by the fact that the universities are distributed across a mountainous region that is not easily accessible and has inadequate communication facilities, a problem that is partially being addressed through the application of information and communication technology (ICT).

A major factor behind the slow pace of SMD and uneven achievements of Sustainable Development Goals in the HKH during the first two decades of the 21st century is a lack of professionals who can undertake high-quality research and support sustainable mountain development, and poor international cooperation. There is considerable scope for increasing collaborative activities between academic and research institutions in the HKH and their counterparts in other parts of the world. Such collaboration would promote growth and dissemination of knowledge and help improve livelihoods and economy in the context of SMD. The first HUC Charter was deliberated, endorsed, and signed by the Consortium's members and observers in the HUC Summit, Kathmandu, 29 October 2015.

Halfway through the second decade of the new millennium, humanity and the Planet Earth, with its geological and biological diversity, are facing multiple existential crises. The role of research and higher education institutions in co-generating knowledge and co-designing innovative solutions for challenges

faced by mountain and downstream communities has become more heightened. Furthermore, cross-sectoral, multi-scalar, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary collaboration has become imperative in tackling wicked problems that threaten the stability and prosperity of nations and communities and endanger the Planetary health. Recognition of a profound interdependence between humanity and earth systems, acknowledgement of multiple ways of knowing and ethical concerns, respect for Indigenous and local knowledge, appreciation of cultural values and meanings, and an increased acceptance and proven effectiveness of a bottom-up and participatory approach of decision-making form the core of practical solutions and the vitality of communities in pursuit of their own and shared aspirations, in harmony with safeguard of Planetary health.

Over the past almost two decades since its inception, the HUC has built three core capabilities: interdisciplinary capacity development, climate and sustainable mountain development governance, and local-to-global partnerships. As a unique and valuable academic network in the HKH region, its strengths are drawn from a wide range of expertise, methodologies, and skills of various disciplines to tackle issues and challenges faced by mountain and downstream communities. Through continued engagement of HUC institutional members and individual fellows in their home country facilitated by country-based hubs, the Consortium maintains a strong foothold at the national and sub-national levels. Thanks to the top-notch quality of scholarly engagement, convening power at the national and regional levels, and an innovative modality of transformative partnerships, the Consortium has gained recognition on the global stage and made important contributions to the empowerment of the Global South for local-to-global collective and impactful action.

In early 2025, a Governance Task Team was established to review and make proposals for an update of the HUC Charter that incorporates the state-of-the-art understanding, methodologies, and wisdom and make it future-fit. The proposal is reviewed by the Steering Committee, shared with institutional members a month prior to the General Assembly Meeting, reviewed by members from mid-March to mid-April, and endorsed by GA emergency voting between 14 and 30 of April 2025. The HUC Charter 2025 came into force on 1 May 2025.



## Article I. Interpretation

In this Charter, unless the context otherwise specifies, various abbreviations, acronyms, and terms, as expressed in the List of abbreviations, are used.

The Charter 2025 and the Amendment to the Bylaws 2025 were endorsed by the General Assembly through GA emergency voting between 14 and 30 April 2025 and came into force on 1 May 2025. In case of interpretation differences between the two documents, the Charter shall take precedence.

## Article II. Name and character

- 2.1.** The name of this organization shall be “Himalayan University Consortium”, hereinafter referred to as “HUC” or “the Consortium”.
- 2.2.** HUC shall have a logo and branding designed and approved by the General Assembly. The GA may decide to change the logo and branding through an amendment or resolution at its Meeting.
- 2.3.** HUC is a membership-based, apolitical, international academic network within and outside the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. It is committed to safeguarding Planetary health by promoting in-country, regional, and international cooperation in research, education, capacity development, policy advocacy, and public outreach for resilient, just, inclusive, and regenerative communities and thriving geo- and ecosystems in the HKH.

## Article III. Vision, Mission, and Core Values

### III.1. Vision

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 environmental regenerability.

### III.2. Mission

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.

### III.3. Core values

**The core values of the HUC are:**

#### **MOUNTAIN FOCUSED**

- HUC promotes mountain voices and a Himalayan plurality of perspectives.

#### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- HUC promotes high-quality education, research and innovation, with uncompromising adherence to academic excellence and scholarly neutrality.

#### **INCLUSIVE**

- HUC celebrates linguistic, cultural, religious, and spiritual diversity, advocates gender equality, and embraces multiple abilities.

#### **RESPECTFUL**

- HUC promotes transformational partnerships that are based on mutual respect and trust and embraces the perspectives, knowledge, and ways of knowing of Hindu Kush Himalayan peoples.

#### **COLLABORATIVE**

- HUC is committed to supporting participatory approaches to the production and sharing of knowledge.

#### **ETHICAL**

- HUC recognizes the broad-based importance of ethics, encompassing integrity, accountability, ethics of research, ethics of practice, and ethics of care, in a fast-evolving and complex landscape of science, technology, and innovations, including artificial intelligence.

#### **OPEN**

- HUC is committed to reducing barriers to cooperation across borders, cultures, intellectual traditions, and academic systems, embracing transparency and openness.

#### **INFLUENTIAL**

- HUC provides decision-makers with knowledge-based advice that supports mindful socio-economic development, cultural preservation, and environmental regenerability of the HKH; inspires youths pursuing gainful and dignified employment, ecopreneurship, science-based advocacy, and heritage safeguarding.

## **SELF-RELIANT**

- HUC aspires to build a thriving Consortium with strong governance and financial independence, serving its members and community while achieving adaptability and resilience, capable of withstanding shocks and overcoming uncertainties.

## **Article IV. Objectives and Functions**

### **IV.1. Objectives**

#### **The HUC's objectives are:**

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.

## IV.2. Functions

### **The functions of the HUC shall be to:**

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.

## Article V. Structure and Membership

### V.1. Approach

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.

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.

### V.2. Organizing principles

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

- 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.

### V.3. Membership

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

#### **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 organisations 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:**

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

#### **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.

## **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 matters 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Membership in the HUC is voluntary and entails rights and responsibilities for the member. Detailed obligations of members are described in Article III.3.5 of the Bylaws 2025.

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.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

A list of criteria for each member category is described in Article III.3.4. of the HUC Bylaws 2025. The Secretariat shall provide this information to prospective applicants.

## **Article VI. Resources**

- The HUC shall seek and receive funds from various sources to carry out its functions. Such sources may comprise:
- Membership subscripsts received from HUC members
- Donations or contributions received from HUC members

- Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations, development banks, donor or aid organisations or agencies, philanthropic bodies or individuals;
- Contributions from partners or collaborators and sponsors mainly through projects or programmes developed and secured by HUC and through HUC organised meetings, events, networks, campaigns, etc.; and
- Other suitable sources as approved by the Executive Committee.

## **Article VII. Governance and Administration**

The Executive Committee of the HUC has general responsibility for HUC's administration, development, and activities. The EC provides the economic and other resources for the Consortium.

The HUC shall have a permanent Executive Secretary (HUC Secretariat), located in a country where stable and enabling conditions for international cooperation and mobility exist, with an international or inter-governmental organisation as the host. The Secretariat, together with the Executive Director, shall form the core of the Consortium's administration. The Secretariat shall provide support to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee and shall work closely with the Consortium's leadership.

Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected during the annual e-voting or at the hybrid bi-annual Meeting of the General Assembly.

## **Article VIII. General Assembly, Executive Committee, and Executive Secretary**

### **VIII.1. General Assembly**

There shall be a General Assembly of HUC, wherein each institutional member shall be represented by one delegate and individual members present on their own behalf.

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 procedure;
- dissolving the Himalayan University Consortium.

#### **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 preparation of GA proposals. Should the President and Vice Presidents be unable to assume 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.

## **CONVENING GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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 they have 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 a 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.

## **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. 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 keeping members frequently informed about their membership status and giving members a chance to secure their voting rights before voting.

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.

## **VIII.2. Executive Committee**

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.

### **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. Detailed responsibilities of the EC are prescribed in Article V.5.2. of the Bylaws 2025.

### **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. EC shall aspire, whenever feasible, to achieve 40% women's 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 one 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 an acting replacement for the remaining tenure.

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

Qualifications of nominees to the EC are prescribed in Article V.5.3. of the Bylaws 2025.

### **VIII.3. Executive Secretary**

The HUC Executive Secretary (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 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.

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.

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. Detailed responsibilities of the Secretariat are prescribed in Article VI.3. of the Bylaws 2025.

Resource for 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.

## **Article IX. 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 X. Committees and Task Forces**

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.

### **THEMATIC AND CROSS-CUTTING WORKING GROUPS**

TWGs/CWGs are member-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 at 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 achieve 40% female and 30% early-/mid- career representativeness.

## **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 the rules and regulations of the respective country.

## **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 comprises 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 XI. Accounting Period and audits**

The accounting period of the Consortium is the Gregorian calendar year. Auditing procedures comply with that of the good office of the host of the Secretariat. All necessary documents required for the closing of accounts and the Executive Committee's annual report shall be submitted to auditors at least one month prior to the first meeting of the Executive Committee in any given year. The auditors are to provide a written statement of accounts to the Executive Committee at least two weeks before the second meeting of the Executive Committee of the same year.

## **Article XII. Amendments of the Charter and Dissolution of the HUC**

Any decision to amend this Charter or to dissolve the HUC must be taken during the General Assembly of the HUC, where the decision is passed by a two-thirds majority vote. A notice of an Assembly must state all proposed Charter amendments or the dissolution of the HUC.

Upon the dissolution of the HUC, any assets of the Consortium will be used for the promotion of the original intentions of the Consortium as specified in the Assembly where the decision to dissolve the Consortium has been made. If the Consortium is declared terminated, the assets will be used for the same intended purpose.





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