



International Sustainable Development Research Society Charter

I. Name and Location

The official name of the organization is the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS), registered under the Societies Ordinance (section 5a(1), chapter 151, Law of Hong Kong) in Hong Kong in 08-05-2006 and registered as a non-profit organization in Norway at the Brønnøysundregistre under number 912294218 on 11-09-2013 and formally organized under this Charter in 2011, revised on 20-11-2013 and 29-11-2017.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the society are as follows:

- To stimulate research contributing to knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and related issues and processes,
- To disseminate knowledge on sustainable development,
- To facilitate education on sustainable development,
- To stimulate discussions on sustainable development.

III. Membership and annual fees

The ISDRS has three categories of membership for individuals.



The first category named “followers” (level blue) is without membership fees and is for those who want to participate in the social media networking activities of ISDRS.

The second category (level green) comprises members - individuals who have paid their annual dues for the current year. The third category (level green +) comprises members that have paid their annual dues for at least the last year and the current one. A

prerequisite for board membership is category level green+ membership.

The changes in annual fees for members (level green and green+) are set by the ISDRS Board at its annual meeting and approved by a two-thirds vote of those participating.

The ISDRS Board can create an institutional membership category for all types of organizations and determine its fee structure on a similar annual basis and subject to the same two-thirds voting requirement. One delegate would represent an institutional member; this delegate has the same rights as an individual regular member of level green+.

IV. Governance

The ISDRS governs itself at three distinct levels: green + members, Board, and the Executive Committee constituted by the elected officers (i.e. board members with an executive function).

A. Constitution of the Board

The Board consists of 13-21 members. Diversity is targeted with respect to at least geographic, ethnic, gender and disciplinary background as far as is possible.

Green+ members vote annually on at least two new members on the Board. The term of membership is two calendar years. Any green+ member is eligible for nomination for a board position.”



Board members will be able to extend board membership twice for a period of two calendar years, if when re-elected by the green+ members (unless elected to Executive Committee; see IV F)

B. Election Committee

In its annual meetings, the Board constitutes an Election Committee consisting of two or three members of the Board. The Election Committee ensures Green+ members are invited to stand for nomination, prepares a proposal to the board aiming at a balanced selection of nominees, reflecting the diversity of ambitions under IV-A., considering the required size of the Board and formally required executive functions. The Board, after considering the advice of the Election Committee, determines the final slate of nominees eligible for election. The green+ members elect new Board members annually from this slate of nominees, through an online balloting process overseen by the Election Committee following the annual conference. The successful nominees are the two (or more in case of vacancy) individuals receiving the most votes cast. The Board resolves any substantiated irregularities in this process definitively during a (physical or online) board meeting.

As it sees fit, the Board may, at an annual meeting, nominate and elect Honorary Members to its body for a defined term of time. However, Honorary Members have no voting rights and do not count in voting tabulations.

Board members elected can only be removed during their term of office by a two-thirds majority of participating green+ members at an annual meeting or on-line; this vote is only valid if at least 50% of the total green+ membership participate in the voting.

C. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall comprise a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Director for Communications, who form the Executive Committee.



All shall be elected among members of the Board, by and report to the Board as requested.

The Vice-President is elected by the Board with the assumption that the holder will become President after one term of two calendar years.

The President is elected with the assumption that the holder will become Past President after one term of two calendar years.

If the Vice President is not available to become the President an existing member of the Executive Committee can be elected as President (this includes the President, who could be re-elected to the post for a second term).

If the President is not available to become the Past President the former Past President can serve a second term of two calendar years as Past President.

In cases of misconduct, the Board has the sole power to remove an officer from her or his function by a vote of two-thirds of its voting members.

D. Board Decisions

Decisions shall be made by the Board based on the rule of a simple majority unless stipulated otherwise herein of those in attendance at a physical or virtual meeting. Such decisions shall be binding on the board in subsequent deliberations until modified or rescinded. In case of equally divided votes, a decision is postponed pending further discussion. When it comes to decisions about activities of a member of the Board, that member has no voting rights.



E. Responsibilities of the Board

The primary responsibilities of the members of the Board are:

- To select the site for the annual meeting of the Society;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Secretary;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the President;
- To conduct the business of the Society in matters not delegated to the Executive Committee or an ad hoc committee;
- To abide by its own decisions, whether from a physical or virtual meeting;
- To establish an Audit Committee (as given under V);
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Treasurer and the Audit Committee.

F. Duties and terms of the Executive Committee.

The President is the official spokesperson and representative for the Society, in addition to overseeing day-to-day activities.

The Vice-President represents the President on occasions as required and is responsible for liaising with potential and current conference hosts on behalf of the Society and as requested by the President.

The Past President is expected to advise the Executive Committee in particular with matters unique to the executive functions of the Board, but is not a member of the Executive Committee.

Executing the functions of Vice President, President and/or Past President will extend the membership in the Board to a maximum duration of 6 terms.



The Secretary oversees the administrative procedures and responsibilities of the Society, represents the Treasurer on occasions as required and supports the President and Vice-President in the day-to-day operations of the Society and prepares reports of board meetings and annual meetings, this includes monitoring the membership.

The Treasurer oversees the financial procedures and responsibilities of the Society, ensures the formation of the Audit Committee and represents the Secretary on occasions as required and monitors and prepares financial reports about Society activities.

The Secretary, Treasurer and/or Director of Communications can be re-elected for two terms of two calendar years, which extends the membership in the Board to a maximum duration of 6 terms.

Once board members have concluded their term(s) of office in the Executive Committee they can be re-elected by green+ members for one term, provided that the maximum of 6 terms is not surpassed.

The Executive Committee can liaise with each other over operational matters that do not require a decision of the Board as specified in point IV D.

In light of the multiple operations of the Society, the Society's office needs to be housed in an institutional setting that supports the Society's activities and is willing to negotiate a remunerative scheme acceptable to all parties. At its annual meetings, the Board pre-approves normal operating expenditures for the Society's office to enable payment on a timely basis.

V. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee annually reviews the financial report of the ISDRS and is given access to all information required for the execution of this task. The Audit Committee is



formed by two or three green+ Members, who are not Board members. The Treasurer invites green+ members to nominate themselves for two to three years for this. Green+ members elect the Audit Committee members by online voting.

VI. Meetings

A. Meetings of the Board

The Board of the ISDRS shall meet once a year to coincide with the annual conference. On occasion and as circumstances dictate, the Board may hold additional meetings (with a fourteen-day advance notice to all Board Members) for its deliberations and decisions. Such meetings would usually be virtual. These meetings will be called and conducted by the officers of the ISDRS.

For a board meeting to be quorate a minimum of 60% of board members must participate.

B. Annual Meeting of the green and green + members

An annual conference shall be held at a location selected and approved by the Board. During the annual conference, there will also be a general meeting of green and green+ members during which the members are encouraged to offer feedback about the objectives of the Society and its operations, role and focus.

VI. Topic groups for the Annual Conference

Consistent with its purpose as a research society and in recognition of the demands posed by sustainable development, the Society will diligently strive to establish and maintain an overarching set thematic topic groups corresponding to themes or tracks that can be used to organize the annual *call for papers* that precedes each conference.



Given the fundamental importance and evolving nature of these themes in shaping our knowledge base, time and effort should be devoted at the annual members meeting to discussions about the relevance and timeliness of the topic groups' current themes. Because the ISDRS is a research society, the continuous need for critical self-reflection on research endeavours should be encouraged. Themes and tracks for the annual conference have to be approved by the Board, with the conference host having the option to inset additional tracks relating to the selected overall theme for that year's conference.

The leaders of the topic groups are invited by the Board. It is expected that Board members will also serve in this role. In addition to preparing calls for papers for conferences, and chairing sessions at conferences, topic group leaders are required to contribute regular reviews of their area to the society communications (like a newsletter). It is recognized that circumstances may not permit them to attend every conference, but they should not agree to the role unless it is their intention to attend on a regular basis.

VII. Publications

Congruent with its second objective, the dissemination of knowledge, the ISDRS will endeavour to work with the publishers and editors of reputable journals whose purpose is to advance, enlighten, or scrutinize the field of sustainable development. To further this effort, all direct dealings with editors and publishers should be conducted in a transparent manner that avoids any conflict of interests, whether perceived or real.

VIII. Fellows of the Society

To recognize exemplary individual contributions to the Society, the Board may, at its discretion, designate a special status to those who have contributed to its establishment



and development or made a notable contribution to sustainability in either academia or implementation. This designation shall require a majority vote of the Board members at its annual board meeting. The website of the Society will reflect this special status through a designated display that discusses the designated individuals and their contributions.

IX. Amendments to this Charter

This Charter can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the participating green+ members, this vote can be held online or during the annual meeting, and is only valid if at least 50% of green+ members participate.

Modified by an online vote of the ISDRS Members between 14th and 28th of November 2017.

All 58 eligible members (Green+ or Institutional) were invited online for the voting, 31 votes have been received, all 31 voting yes for the charter revision.