



---

## 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 in Hongkong in 2006 and formally organized under this Charter in 2011, revised in 2013.

### 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 Dues

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 annual fees for members (level green and green+) is 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 sponsorship 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. A sponsor would be represented by one delegate; 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 of Directors, and the executive committee constituted by the elected officers (i.e. board members with an executive function).

##### **A. Constitution of the Board**

Green+ members elect annually at least two new members to serve on the Board for a period of three years (starting in 2011 for the members of the founding board). In consultation with the general membership at the annual meeting, the current board members choose the nominees for these two positions or any additional vacant positions; any green+ member is eligible to be nominated for a board position. The election of new Board members annually from a slate of nominees is decided by the green+ members through an online balloting process following the annual conference overseen by the current elected officers. The successful nominees are the two (or more in case of vacancy) individuals receiving the most votes cast. Any substantiated irregularities in this process are resolved definitively by the sitting Board during a (physical or online) board meeting.



---

The Board of Directors consists of 13-21 members coming from as wide a geographic and discipline range as practical. Board members will be able to stand for re-election once (unless elected to executive office; see IV D). As it sees fit, the Board may, at an annual meeting, nominate and elect honorary members to its body for a defined period of time. However, honorary members have no voting rights and do not count in voting tabulations.

Board members confirmed by the Board during the formative period ending with 31st of December 2013 can be removed from the Board by a two-thirds vote of total Board membership at the time. Those elected by the green+ members 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.

The Board officers (executive function) shall comprise a President, a Vice-President, an Executive Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Director for Communications, who form the Executive Committee. All shall be elected by and report to the Board as requested. In cases of behavioral 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.

## **B. 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 of Directors, that member has no voting rights and do not count in voting tabulations.

### **C. Responsibilities of the Board of Directors**

The primary responsibilities of the Board of Directors and its members are:

- To select the site for the annual meeting of the Society;
- To elect the Board officers (Executive Committee), who must be existing members of the Board;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Executive 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 an physical or virtual meeting;
- To establish an Audit Committee whose function is to oversee the finances of the ISDRS and online voting processes, this committee shall be formed by at least two Board Members, Officers are not allowed to join this committee;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Treasurer and the Audit Committee.



---

#### **D. Duties and terms of the Officers (who collectively form the Executive Committee)**

The President is the official spokesperson and representative for the Society, in addition to overseeing day to day activities and serves a three-year term, as all officers, with the opportunity to stand once for re-election to the same post. An executive function will extend the membership in the Board to a maximum of 4 periods. The President will ordinarily have been the Vice President, though could otherwise be an existing or previous member of the executive committee.

The Vice-President is responsible for liaising with potential and current conference hosts on behalf of the Society and as requested by the President. The Vice-President is elected with the assumption that they will become President.

The Executive Secretary supports the President and Vice-President in the day-to-day operations of the Society and prepares reports from board meetings and annual meetings, this includes monitoring membership.

The role of the Treasurer is to monitor and oversee the financial activities of the Society and to prepare financial reports about Society activities.

The Director for Communications oversees all electronic and virtual communications in which the Society engages, liaising as necessary with the external webmaster and is



---

responsible for organizing the Society's communications (including the newsletter) and is provided by the Board the discretionary power to undertake this task.

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 C.

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. 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. Meetings of the 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 the membership (inclusive of membership categories green, green+) during which the members are encouraged to offer feedback about the objectives of the Society and its operations, role and focus.

## **VI. Working groups for the Annual Meeting**

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 working 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 general membership meeting to discussions about the relevance and timeliness of the working groups' current themes. Because the ISDRS is a research society, the continuous need for efforts that ask us to think critically about our research endeavors should not be neglected. 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 working groups are invited by the Board. It is expected that Board members will serve in this role. In addition to preparing calls for papers for



---

conferences, and chairing sessions at conferences, working 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 endeavor 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 membership at its annual 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 in the Society's initial years (defined as the period until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013) by a two-thirds vote of the total Board membership and in later years 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 a online vote of the Board between 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2013.

The members voting were:

Baumgartner, Rupert; Cerin, Pontus; Deutz, Pauline; Dobers, Peter; Haskins, Cecilia; Keitsch, Martina; Madhavan, Shobhana; Mauerhofer, Volker; Narayanan, Yamini; Welford, Richard; Ramos, Tomas; Sahay, Arun; Schlosser, Peter; Vermeulen, Walter