



International Sustainable Development Research Society

Charter of the International Sustainable Development Research Society

Adopted at the ordinary general meeting on the 10th of July 2025
(The first day of validity is on the 11th of July 2025).

The Society International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) is a non-profit association that was established in 2006. Its current location is in Norway.

The file is currently reachable by this link:

<https://isdrs.org/governance-of-the-isdrs/>

Content

1. General Provisions	3
1.1 The Society's purpose and focus of activities	3
1.2 Decision-making bodies	3
1.3 Signatories	3
1.4 Operating year and fiscal year	3
1.5 Interpretation of charters	4
1.6 Amendment of charters	4
1.7 Dissolution of the Society	4
2. The Society's members	4
2.1 Membership	4
2.1.1 Individual membership	4
2.1.2 Institutional membership	5
2.2 Membership fees	5
3. Society meetings	6
3.1 General meetings and association meetings	6
3.2 Motions before the general meeting	6
3.3 Decision making and voting rights	6
3.4 Decisions and voting	6
3.5 Eligibility	6
3.6 Minutes	7
3.7 Extra association meetings	7
4. The Nomination Committee appointed by the general meeting	7
5. The auditors appointed by the general meeting	7
6. Board composition and terms of office	8
6.1 Board composition and terms	8
7. Honorary members	8

1. General Provisions

1.1 The Society's purpose and focus of activities

The association, the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS, "the Society"), aims to promote the development of research, education, and knowledge in the subject of sustainable development.

Within the framework of this purpose, the Society shall:

- Promote research that contributes to knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and related issues and processes;
- Promote education in sustainable development;
- Spread knowledge about sustainable development;
- Promote discussions about sustainable development in science and society;
- Carry out opinion formation with the aim of strengthening sustainable development and its development; and
- Cooperate with other organizations within the subject of sustainable development.

For more detail on how these points are enacted see the ISDRS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

1.2 Decision-making bodies

The Society's decision-making forums are the annual general meeting for members, extra association meetings/ online voting, ISDRS Board meetings, ISDRS Executive Board meetings and the presidency. For more on decision making processes, see the ISDRS SOPs.

1.3 Signatories

The Society is signed by the Board. The Board has the right to appoint persons within its organisation as company signatories, generally or for a specific assignment (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant, etc). Signatories have sole signature rights. For more detail on specific types of signing of documents, see the ISDRS SOPs.

1.4 Operating year and fiscal year

The Society's operating year and fiscal year is determined by requirements of jurisdiction of registration. For more detail on operating year and fiscal year, see the ISDRS SOPs.

1.5 Interpretation of charters

If there is doubt regarding the interpretation of these charters, or if situations arise which are not foreseen in the charters, the matter is decided by the Board by a simple majority in a vote.

1.6 Amendment of charters

Any changes of the charters must first be approved by a decision of the Board by a two-thirds majority of the participating Board members in a vote, with the participation of at least half of the total number of Board members (i.e. quorum).

A two-thirds majority of present individual and representatives of institutional members in a vote is then required to amend the charters approved by the Board. Quorate for this vote is set by the Board.

Voting can take place digitally or physically.

1.7 Dissolution of the Society

Dissolution of the Society requires a two-thirds majority decision at two consecutive ordinary general meetings of the Society. The Society's assets must be disposed of according to a decision at the general meeting that takes the decisive decision on the Society's dissolution.

2. The Society's members

2.1 Membership

Anyone who supports the Society's objectives and who otherwise can be expected to follow the Society's charters and decisions is accepted as a member of the Society. For more on membership roles, responsibilities, and expectations, see ISDRS SOPs.

Membership in the Society is either individual or institutional is obtained against an annual fee.

Individuals and institutions from low- or middle-income economies (as defined by the World Bank) and students are offered discounted fees.

2.1.1 Individual membership

Individual members receive membership for the calendar year for which fees are paid. Individual members:

- Have the right to participate and vote at the general meeting as soon as their fee has been processed,

- Have the right to participate in meetings organized for the members (possibly for a fee depending on the conditions of the meeting in question),
- Have the right to ongoing information about the Society's affairs,
- Shall follow the Society's charters, SOPs, regulations and decisions made by association bodies,
- Do not own the right to part of the Society's assets or properties and is not responsible for the Society's debts,
- Can be elected to participate on the Society's Board from the second year of membership. They must demonstrate their active participation and service to the Society prior to election, as per the ISDRS SOPs.
- Agree, through their membership, that the Society may process personal data for the purpose of conducting appropriate activities in accordance with the Society's charters and SOPs in force at any time and in accordance with any other conditions for the processing of personal data decided by the Society.

2.1.2 Institutional membership

Institutional membership is open to all types of organisations that agree to the purpose and focus of activities of the Society and is obtained for the calendar year in which the fee is paid.

An institutional member must appoint people (up to a certain number depending on the selected fee level) who register via the Society's website. These persons have the same rights and obligations as individual members as listed above.

The institutional member shall appoint a contact person from its organisation who shall oversee the renewal of the institutional membership and identify the other persons who will benefit from the membership.

2.2 Membership fees

The fees for individual and institutional membership are set within the general meeting and published on the Society's website. Failure to pay membership fees within 2 months of the renewal date will lead to a lapse in active membership for an individual and/ or institution, which can be reinstated with payment thereafter. For further grounds for membership exclusion, see ISDRS SOPs.

3. Society meetings

3.1 General meetings and association meetings

The general meeting is the Society's highest decision-making forum and occurs annually. The Society's general meeting consists of a range of items discussed and decided by the Society's members. The general meeting, and any other association member meetings such as to take particular votes or discuss member matters outside of the annual general meeting, can take place physically and/or digitally. For more on procedures and matters that may be covered in general meetings, see ISDRS SOPs.

3.2 Motions before the general meeting

Motions for resolution at the Society's general meeting may be submitted by the Society's individual and institutional members. The motion must be in writing and submitted to the Board. For more on procedures and matters on motions for general meetings, see ISDRS SOPs.

3.3 Decision making and voting rights

The general meeting and association meetings are decision-making forums with the number of members entitled to vote who are present at the meeting.

The right to vote is personal.

In some circumstances, proxies can be submitted for personal votes.

For more on procedures on decisions and voting, see ISDRS SOPs.

3.4 Decisions and voting

Decisions are made by acclamation or, if requested, after voting.

Voting takes place openly by acclamation or by show of hands, and decisions are usually made with a simple majority (unless stated otherwise in these charters or ISDRS SOPs). If requested, elections of individuals can be made in closed voting.

3.5 Eligibility

Eligible for election to the Board and the Nomination Committee is a voting member (individual member or representative of an organization with institutional membership), with Board eligibility as per 2.1.1.

3.6 Minutes

Minutes from the general meeting must be available to the members no later than four weeks after the general meeting has been held.

3.7 Extra association meetings

Extra association meetings can be held if necessary. Invitations to extraordinary general meetings must be issued by e-mail at least three (3) weeks in advance. At an extra association meeting, only the matters for which the meeting has been called, and which are specified in the notice, may be dealt with.

4. The Nomination Committee appointed by the general meeting

The Nomination Committee is appointed by the Society's general meeting and consists of three (3) members, including the Secretary. The chair of the Nomination Committee is also appointed by the general meeting.

The Nomination Committee must ensure that suitable members are invited to or stand as candidates for the Board. Furthermore, the Nomination Committee must prepare a proposal for new members that aims at a balanced selection of candidates that reflects the diversity of the Society's ambitions (see section 6.1 below), and considers the necessary size of and positions within the Board.

The Society's Treasurer works with the Nomination Committee to prepare a proposal for auditors.

The Nomination Committee's proposal for new Board members and auditors must be presented to the Board in writing no later than six (6) weeks before the general meeting takes place (if applicable to a decision on these matters at the general meeting).

5. The auditors appointed by the general meeting

The Society's accounts must be kept in accordance with good accounting practice. The accounts must be audited annually by the auditors appointed by the general meeting.

The Society's accounts must be available to the auditors no later than eight weeks before the Society's general meeting. Hereafter the auditors review the Board's administration and accounts for the most recent operating and fiscal year and submit an audit report to the Board, ideally in time for the general meeting. For more on financial governance of the Society, see ISDRS SOPs.

6. Board composition and terms of office

6.1 Board composition and terms

The Society is led by a Board consisting of 13–21 members, including the President. Diversity within the Board is sought in terms of geography, ethnicity, gender, and discipline.

The term of office for Board members is two calendar years counted from the next turn of the year after the general meeting. Re-election is possible five times, the maximum term of office is twelve (12) years.

For further information on Board elections, roles (including Board elected Executive Board), member removal, obligations, convening, quorum and voting, see ISDRS SOPs.

7. Honorary members

In order to recognize outstanding individual efforts in the Society, the Board can give a special status to those who have contributed to the Society's establishment and development or who have made an outstanding contribution to sustainable development within the academic world or in practice.

Appointment of an honorary member requires a Board decision with a simple majority.

Honorary members have the same rights as individual members, with the exception of voting rights. Honorary member is exempt from annual fee.

Charters have been revised 2020 and on 10th of July 2025.