

**Constitution for**

**“The Integrated Assessment Society”**

established on 31 October 2003 at 09.00

In Hause Hakenstr. 9, 49074 Osnabrück

(Information about this meeting is available from TIAS in German)

Constitution amended 01 January 2010  
(Amtsgericht Osnabrück – Registerblatt VR 3418)

(The text in this document has been translated from German)

**§ 1**  
**Name, domicile**

The association bears the name "The Integrated Assessment Society" and, following successful registration, which is to take effect at once, the addition "e.V.". The association's domicile is in Osnabrück.

**§ 2**  
**Purpose of the association, charitable nature**

- 1) The purpose of the association is to promote the furtherance of science in the specialist area of "*Integrated Assessment*". This may include research. "*Integrated Assessment*" focuses on the analysis of complex interrelationships between environment and society, providing the scientific fundamentals for solving environmental problems and the sustainable development of society. In so doing, it is necessary to integrate knowledge from various disciplines. In particular, simulation models are used for the comprehension of complex interrelationships in human-technology-environment systems. By means of participatory processes to encourage the involvement of societal interest groups and a broad public, conflicts of interest are analysed at an early stage and the acceptance of choices of action are investigated. The interdisciplinary field of research is still a young one, comprising both pure and applied research. The objective of the association is to consolidate the sometimes fragmented activities in the field of Integrated Assessment internationally and to better establish this scientific field in research and teaching at institutions of higher education.
- 2) The intended purpose of its articles of association is in particular realised by holding international congresses, as well as symposiums and further training programmes. All results achieved through the association's activities are to be made available to the public.
- 3) The association hereby exclusively pursues directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the section on "tax-privileged purposes" of the general tax code.

- 4) The association does not act on its own behalf; it does not pursue goals primarily serving its own economic interest.
- 5) The association's funds may only be used for the purposes set out in the articles of association.
- 6) No one may be favoured with expenditures that are alien to the purpose of the association or with disproportionately high payments.

### **§ 3**

#### **Financial year**

The financial year is the calendar year.

### **§ 4**

#### **Association's offices**

- (1) Offices held at the association are honorary offices.
- (2) If the amount of work arising exceeds a reasonable degree of voluntary service, a full-time executive secretary and (or) assistance for the office and administration can be appointed. § 2 section 3 must be observed.
- (3) Duties in the Society are honorary posts. However, subject to agreement of the executive committee, members of the extended executive and advisory board may receive a compensation for their effort.

### **§ 5**

#### **Members**

- (1) Any natural or legal person who wishes to support the purposes and objectives of the association may become a member.
- (2) Members are divided into:
  - (a) full members
  - (b) student members
  - (c) paying members
  - (d) lifelong members

(e) honorary members

- (4) Those interested in the development and application of Integrated Assessment can be registered as full members.
- (5) Students and doctoral candidates can be registered as student members.
- (6) Full members can be registered as paying members if they are willing and able to support the association financially.
- (7) Lifelong members are full members whose membership to the association is valid for life.
- (8) Members who have rendered outstanding services to the association are designated honorary members. The body of members decides by resolution on the designation.

## **§ 6**

### **Acquisition of membership**

- 1) Applications for registration to the association are to be submitted in writing to the executive committee. Minors must provide evidence of permission granted by their statutory guardian(s).
- 2) The executive committee decides conclusively by a simple majority of voices whether to accept the application. The executive committee is not obliged to inform the applicant of reasons for refusal.
- 3) Membership arises through entry into the association.

## **§ 7**

### **Members' rights**

- 1) All members have the right to use the association's facilities in accordance with the articles of association and the resolutions and regulations adopted by the association's bodies, and to participate in the events organised by the association.
- 2) All members have the right to submit applications to the executive committee and the body of members. The right to vote can only be exercised in person at the general meeting.
- 3) Honorary members enjoy all of the rights bestowed upon full members. They are exempt from paying contributions.

## **§ 8**

### **Members' obligations**

- 1) Members must fulfil the obligations arising from the articles of association, in particular from the purpose of the association.
- 2) Members are obliged to observe the resolutions and regulations adopted by the association's bodies.
- 3) All members, with the exception of honorary members, have to pay contributions (§ 9).
- 4) Members are obliged to duly promote the association and its purpose, also in public.

## **§ 9**

### **Membership contribution**

- 1) All members, with the exception of honorary members, must pay annual contributions. Student members pay reduced rates.
- 2) The valid contribution regulations that is passed by the body of members, determines the amount of the annual membership contributions, sponsor contributions, admission fees and levies.
- 3) Members who fail to pay the amount when due are sent a reminder. After the receipt of two reminders, members who fail to pay the contribution can be excluded in accordance with § 12.

## **§ 10**

### **Levies**

- 1) In special cases, the body of members can direct a levy to be collected and can determine the circle of members obliged to pay this levy.
- 2) § 9 clause 3 applies accordingly.

## **§ 11**

### **End of membership**

- 1) Membership ends following voluntary resignation, exclusion, death of the member or loss of legal capacity in the case of legal persons.
- 2) All demands on the association expire upon termination of membership.

## **§ 12**

### **Voluntary resignation**

Membership can be terminated as of the end of the year by written declaration. The notice to terminate must be delivered to the executive committee by 30 September at the latest.

## **§ 13**

### **Exclusion**

- 1) The executive committee, at least two-thirds of which must be present, can decide by resolution to exclude a member from association if substantial grounds are at hand.
- 2) Reasons for exclusion are, in particular:
  - (a) gross contravention of the articles of association and the association's interests as well as of the resolutions and regulations adopted by the association's bodies
  - (b) severe damage to the association's reputation
  - (c) dishonourable behaviour within or outside the association
  - (d) failure to pay the contribution after receipt of two reminders (§ 9 section 3)
- 3) The member in question has the opportunity to make a statement regarding the resolution within a period of two weeks.
- 4) The member in question is to be informed of his exclusion by registered letter.

## **§ 14**

### **Association's bodies**

The bodies of the association are:

- (a) The executive committee
- (b) The extended executive committee
- (c) The body of members

## **§ 15**

### **Executive Committee**

- 1) The executive committee (§ 26 of the Civil Code) is made up of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd president. Each executive committee member is authorised to represent the association on his or her own.
- 2) Legal transactions that commit the association to payments of over 5,000.00 euro require approval by the extended executive committee.

## **§ 16**

### **Extended executive committee**

- 1) The extended executive committee is made up of:
  - (a) the executive committee (§ 15)
  - (b) the treasurer
  - (c) the secretary
  - (d) two assistants
- 2) The executive committee is elected at the ordinary general meeting by written, secret ballot.
- 3) The 1st, 2nd and 3rd president are elected for a 4-year term; the remaining executive committee members are elected for a 2-year term.
- 4) If an executive committee member withdraws from office before his period of office has lapsed, the executive committee is authorised to install a successor until the end of the current financial year. If the 1st, 2nd or 3rd president withdraws from office before his or her period of office has lapsed, a special election can be held; this must take place within four weeks if over half of the executive committee members withdraw.

## **§ 17**

*This section is missing in the original legal document in German, but for the purposes of legality the sections have not been adjusted in the English version of this document.*

## **§ 18**

### **Executive committee meeting**

- 1) An executive committee meeting must be called if at least three executive committee members request this, stating the reasons. The meeting can take place via telephone or internet.
- 2) The executive committee has a quorum if all executive committee members have been invited and at least half of the members are present.
- 3) The executive committee decides by a simple majority of voices of those members present. In the case of parity of votes, the 1st president or the president chairing the meeting has the casting vote.

## **§ 19**

### **Treasurer**

- 1) The treasurer deals with the cash transactions.
- 2) He/she must draw up an annual budget, which is to be approved by the executive committee and submitted to the ordinary general meeting for resolution.
- 3) He/she must balance the books at the end of the financial year and submit the accounts to the cash auditors (§ 26) for auditing.

## **§ 20**

### **Secretary**

- 1) The secretary takes care of the correspondence and keeps the minutes at executive committee meetings and general meetings.
- 2) Together with the 1st, 2nd or 3rd president, he/she must sign the minutes.

## **§ 21**

### **Assistants**

Two assistants contribute to the executive committee (§ 16 clause 1.d.). They should be enlisted in all tasks that have not been mentioned specifically.

## § 22

### Ordinary general meeting

- 1) The general meeting consists of those members of the association who are present and qualified to vote.
- 2) The general meeting consists of those members of the association who are present and qualified to vote. The meeting may be held electronically (online) when it is not necessary to hold an in-person meeting.
- 3) A call for a membership meeting must be sent either in written or other text form (via Email; fax or other compatible communication media) by the 1<sup>st</sup> president at least two weeks before the meeting is to be held. The time limit begins the day the invitation to the last known membership address has been sent (and/or the invitation in text form sent to Email address or fax number). The members must inform the Executive Committee of a change of address (Email address or fax number).
- 4) Requests to be included in the agenda must be submitted in writing to the 1st president at least two weeks before the day of the meeting with a brief outline of the reason. Before the commencement of the general meeting, members must be informed in good time of any items on the agenda submitted at a later date.
- 5) Later requests – also requests made during the general meeting – must be placed on the agenda if the majority of those members of the association who are qualified to vote and are present at the general meeting agree to the requests being dealt with (*urgency*).

## § 23

### Content of the agenda

- 1) The agenda must contain:
  - (a) Receipt and approval of the annual report and treasurer's report for the past financial year.
  - (b) Resolution on the association's budget
  - (c) Determination of the time for payment and the amount of the admission fees, annual contributions and any levies

- (d) Discharge of the executive committee
  - (e) Election of a new executive committee and the cash auditors (§ 26)
- 2) The body of members also decides upon any changes to the articles of association and on the dissolution of the association.

## **§ 24**

### **General meeting resolutions**

- 1) The duly convened general meeting has a quorum when, in addition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd president and at least two further executive committee members, at least 1/10 of the members who are qualified to vote are present (or registered to participate in online meetings). For resolutions on changing the articles of association and on the dissolution of the association, the presence of at least 1/3 of the members who are qualified to vote is required. If the convened general meeting lacks a quorum, a new meeting with the same agenda is to be convened which has a quorum regardless of the number of members present. As a precaution, the members can be invited to this new meeting in the invitation for the first meeting. The invitation of the announcement of the first meeting must contain the notice that the second meeting – directly following the first meeting lacking a quorum – has a quorum regardless of the number of members present.
- 2) Unless otherwise stipulated by law or these articles of association, resolutions are passed by a simple (relative) majority of the voices of those members present who are qualified to vote. In the case of parity of votes, the 1st president has the casting vote. For resolutions on changing the articles of association and on the dissolution of the association, a majority vote of three quarters of the members present is required.
- 3) If a secret vote is to take place, this must be applied for by at least ten members who are qualified to vote. Elections must always be carried out in secret.
- 4) Minutes must be drawn up on the discussions held and resolutions passed at the general meeting.

## **§ 25**

### **Extraordinary general meeting**

- 1) The executive committee can convene an extraordinary general meeting.

- 2) The executive committee must convene a general meeting, stating the suggested agenda, if at least one-tenth of all members request this in writing.
- 3) The regulations that apply to ordinary general meetings also apply to extraordinary general meetings.

## **§ 26**

### **Right to vote**

Full and honorary members have the right to vote. From the age of 18 years, each member has a vote that can only be cast in person.

## **§ 27**

### **Cash auditors**

Two cash auditors, who are appointed by the body of members, are responsible for auditing the accounts. They inform the executive committee of the audit results and report to the body of members. The cash auditors may not be members of the executive committee.

## **§ 28**

### **Dissolution of the association**

- 1) The dissolution of the association can only be decided at an extraordinary general meeting.
- 2) All members who are qualified to vote must be informed of the resolution by registered letter, and a time limit of one month must be complied with. § 24 must be observed.
- 3) In the case of the dissolution of the association, the 1st president, the treasurer and the secretary are appointed liquidators, unless the body of members decides conclusively otherwise. Their rights and obligations are based on §§ 47 ff of the Civil Code.
- 4) Upon the dissolution of the association or should the tax-privileged purposes cease to exist, the association's assets are transferred to the University of Osnabrück, which may only use the association's assets for directly charitable purposes.

Resolutions on the future use of the assets may only be executed following the consent of the tax office.

- 5) The register of associations at the *Amtsgericht Osnabrück* must be notified of the dissolution of the association by the 1st president.

## **§ 29**

### **Corrections to the Constitution**

The Executive Committee is authorized to undertake tangible additions and/or modifications to the Constitution, if the registry office or the local tax authority acknowledges that such tangible modifications are preconditions for the registration or recognition of non-profit activities, as long as such amendments do not change the purpose of the society and all other formal requirements regarding modifications to the Constitution will be adhered to. The members must be informed of the changes to the constitution immediately - either in a written or other text [e.g. electronic] form.

## **§ 30**

### **Entry into force of the articles of association**

The above articles of association were adopted at the founder's meeting on 31 October 2003. They will enter into force as soon as the association has been entered into the register of associations at the *Amtsgericht Osnabrück*.

Osnabrück, 31 October 2003

Signatures

Dr. Matt Hare

Dr. Dagmar Ridder

Dr. Maja Schlüter

Dr. Claudia Pahl-Wostl

Dr. Jürgen Berlekamp

Dr. Horst Malchow

Dr. Jens Newig

in accordance with

§ 53 section 3  
of the Civil Code.