

Society for Atmospheric Studies (SOFAS)

Society Regulations

Chapter 1 — Nature, Aims, and Duration of the Society

Article 1 — Nature of the Society

1. The Society for Atmospheric Studies, hereinafter referred to as “SOFAS” or “the Society,” is an international, voluntary, non-profit academic association devoted to the advancement of Atmospheric Studies as a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary field.
2. The Society shall pursue its activities independently and exclusively in accordance with its academic and non-profit aims.
3. No part of the income or resources of the Society shall be distributed to its Members, except for the reimbursement of legitimate expenses or payment for services properly authorized in accordance with these Regulations and the By-laws.
4. Unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly, the Society shall operate as an unincorporated international association and shall not maintain a permanent statutory seat or registered office in any particular jurisdiction. Its administrative functions may be carried out from different locations and countries as appropriate.

Article 2 — Aims

The aims of the Society are:

- a. to promote Atmospheric Studies as a field of research and intellectual inquiry;
- b. to foster cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration;
- c. to establish and maintain a global platform for research, publication, teaching, and scholarly exchange;
- d. to organize conferences, symposia, workshops, lectures, and other academic activities;
- e. to support the publication of the Society’s Yearbook and other scholarly publications and initiatives;
- f. to encourage cooperation among scholars, academic institutions, research centres, and other organizations whose activities are consistent with the aims of the Society; and
- g. to undertake any other activities consistent with and conducive to the aims of the Society.

Article 3 — Duration and Financial Year

1. The Society is constituted for an indefinite period.

2. The financial year of the Society shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
 3. Unless otherwise determined by the General Assembly, the membership year shall correspond to the financial year.
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Chapter 2 — Membership

Article 4 — Individual Membership

1. Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons who support its aims, whether or not they are affiliated with an academic or other institution.
2. Membership shall be individual and shall not arise automatically from affiliation with a Partner Institution.
3. Admission and registration procedures may be further regulated by the By-laws.
4. Membership shall normally become active upon payment of the applicable annual membership fee or upon the granting of an authorized exemption or waiver.

Article 5 — Rights of Members

Members in good standing shall be entitled to:

- a. participate in and vote in the General Assembly;
- b. stand for the elected offices of the Society, subject to the conditions established by these Regulations and the By-laws;
- c. nominate candidates and submit proposals for consideration in accordance with the By-laws;
- d. participate in conferences, symposia, workshops, publications, and other activities of the Society, subject to the academic, organizational, financial, or capacity requirements applicable to each activity;
- e. receive official communications and information concerning the activities and governance of the Society; and
- f. participate in the intellectual and organizational life of the Society.

Article 6 — Responsibilities of Members

Members shall:

- a. support the aims of the Society;
- b. comply with these Regulations, the By-laws, and valid decisions of the General Assembly;
- c. conduct themselves in a collegial and professional manner in activities undertaken in connection with the Society; and

d. be encouraged, according to their interests and availability, to contribute actively to the academic, organizational, and intellectual life of the Society, including its conferences, publications, committees, working groups, and other initiatives.

Article 7 — Membership Fees

1. The Society shall collect an annual membership fee from its Members.
2. Membership fees may be established according to different categories, including Standard Members and Students or Early Career Researchers.
3. The General Assembly shall determine the amount of membership fees and may periodically adjust them according to the financial needs of the Society.
4. Unless otherwise determined by the General Assembly, the initial annual membership fees shall be:
 - a. Standard Members: EUR 60;
 - b. Students and Early Career Researchers: EUR 30.
5. For the purposes of the initial fee structure, an Early Career Researcher shall normally mean a person within five years of the award of the PhD or equivalent degree. Further definitions and possible exceptions may be established in the By-laws.
6. Failure to pay the applicable annual membership fee may result in suspension of voting rights and eventual lapse of membership, according to procedures established in the By-laws.
7. Membership fees shall be used exclusively for activities consistent with the aims of the Society.

Article 8 — Resignation, Suspension, and Termination of Membership

1. A Member may resign from the Society at any time.
2. Membership may lapse because of non-payment of membership fees in accordance with Article 7 and the By-laws.
3. A Member may be suspended or excluded for serious or repeated violations of these Regulations, the By-laws, or other rules governing the professional activities of the Society.
4. Exclusion shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the General Assembly.
5. No Member shall be excluded without being informed of the grounds for the proposed exclusion and given a reasonable opportunity to respond.
6. Detailed disciplinary, suspension, and appeal procedures shall be established in the By-laws or in a separate Code of Conduct.

Chapter 3 — Partner Institutions and the Institutional Advisory Council

Article 9 — Partner Institutions

1. Universities, university departments, research institutes, academic centres, scholarly associations, study groups, and other organizations whose activities are consistent with the aims of the Society may be recognized as Partner Institutions.
2. Partner Institutions are institutional partners of SOFAS and are not Members of the Society.
3. Recognition as a Partner Institution shall normally be approved by the General Assembly upon application or proposal. Between General Assemblies, a Partner Institution may be provisionally recognized with the agreement of at least two distinct principal officeholders, who for this purpose must be two different persons. Such provisional recognition shall be submitted to the next General Assembly or, where appropriate, to an electronic vote of the Members for confirmation.
4. A provisionally recognized Partner Institution may exercise the rights set out in paragraph 6 pending confirmation. If confirmation is not obtained, the provisional recognition shall cease.
5. Partner Institutions shall not be required to pay individual membership fees. Persons affiliated with a Partner Institution who wish to exercise the rights of individual Members shall join SOFAS in their individual capacity.
6. Partner Institutions shall be entitled to:
 - a. be publicly recognized as partners of the Society;
 - b. participate in and support the Society's academic activities;
 - c. propose collaborative projects and activities;
 - d. propose or support future conferences and other events; and
 - e. designate a representative to the Institutional Advisory Council.
7. Partner Institutions shall be expected to support the academic aims, independence, and non-profit character of the Society.
8. Recognition as a Partner Institution may be withdrawn by the institution itself or terminated by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority for serious reasons, after the institution has been given an opportunity to respond.

Article 10 — Institutional Advisory Council

1. The Institutional Advisory Council shall consist of one representative designated by each Partner Institution.
2. The Institutional Advisory Council shall be an advisory and consultative body and shall not constitute a governing body of the Society.
3. The Institutional Advisory Council may:
 - a. advise the Society concerning its international and institutional development;
 - b. recommend new partnerships and collaborative activities;
 - c. propose future conference locations and host institutions;
 - d. suggest research, publication, teaching, and funding opportunities;

- e. facilitate cooperation between Partner Institutions; and
 - f. submit recommendations to the General Assembly and to the elected officers of the Society.
- 4. Recommendations of the Institutional Advisory Council shall not be binding upon the General Assembly or the elected officers.
 - 5. Representatives of Partner Institutions shall have no institutional vote in the General Assembly. A representative who is also an individual Member of SOFAS may vote in their individual capacity.
 - 6. The Institutional Advisory Council may appoint a Convenor from among its representatives and determine its own reasonable working procedures, subject to these Regulations and the By-laws.
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Chapter 4 — The General Assembly

Article 11 — Nature and Composition

- 1. The General Assembly shall consist of all Members of the Society in good standing.
- 2. The General Assembly shall be the highest governing and deliberative body of the Society.
- 3. All authority exercised by the elected officers, commissions, editorial bodies, committees, and other organizational units of the Society derives from these Regulations and ultimately remains subject to the authority of the General Assembly.
- 4. The General Assembly may issue binding decisions concerning the governance and general activities of the Society, without prejudice to the scholarly independence of individual editorial and peer-review decisions.

Article 12 — Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall:

- a. elect the Secretary-General;
- b. elect the Conference Chair;
- c. elect the Editor-in-Chief;
- d. receive reports from the Secretary-General, Conference Chair, and Editor-in-Chief;
- e. approve the general direction and principal activities of the Society;
- f. receive and review financial reports;
- g. approve membership fees and categories;
- h. recognize and terminate Partner Institutions;

- i. select the host institution or location of the biennial conference;
 - j. approve and amend the Regulations and By-laws;
 - k. remove elected officers in accordance with these Regulations;
 - l. decide upon the exclusion of Members;
 - m. decide upon the dissolution of the Society; and
 - n. decide upon any other matter of fundamental importance to the Society.
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Chapter 5 — Elected Offices and Organizational Structure

Article 13 — Principal Elected Offices

1. The Society shall have three principal elected offices:
 - a. the Secretary-General;
 - b. the Conference Chair; and
 - c. the Editor-in-Chief.
2. Each principal officer shall be elected by the General Assembly.
3. Each principal officer shall serve for a term of two years and may stand for re-election.
4. A person may simultaneously hold no more than two of the three principal elected offices.
5. Holding one of the principal offices shall not prevent a person from participating in another organizational team, commission, committee, or editorial body of the Society.

Article 14 — Appointment of Teams

1. Each principal elected officer shall have the authority to appoint, organize, and, where necessary, replace the members of the team responsible for their area of activity.
2. The Secretary-General shall appoint the Secretariat.
3. The Conference Chair shall appoint the Conference Commission.
4. The Editor-in-Chief shall appoint the Editorial Board and any other editorial collaborators required for the Yearbook.
5. Members of these teams are not separately elected by the General Assembly.
6. Appointments may include Members of the Society and, where appropriate, other persons whose expertise or institutional role is useful to the work concerned.
7. Appointment to a team, commission, or editorial body shall not in itself confer voting rights in the General Assembly or any additional constitutional authority.

8. Unless otherwise agreed, the mandate of an appointed team shall correspond to that of the principal officer responsible for it. A succeeding officer may confirm or revise the composition of the team.
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Chapter 6 — Secretary-General and Secretariat

Article 15 — Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the continuity and day-to-day administration of the Society.
2. The Secretary-General shall:
 - a. coordinate the ordinary administrative activities of the Society;
 - b. maintain or supervise membership records and official records;
 - c. coordinate communications with Members and Partner Institutions;
 - d. maintain or supervise the Society's digital platforms and administrative systems;
 - e. prepare and circulate notices, agendas, minutes, and official communications;
 - f. coordinate implementation of decisions of the General Assembly;
 - g. coordinate the financial administration of the Society and its relationship with any external fiscal host;
 - h. prepare financial records, budgets, and reports in cooperation with the other principal officers;
 - i. provide administrative support for conferences, publications, and other Society activities where required; and
 - j. ensure continuity and orderly transfer of the Society's records and administrative affairs.
3. The Secretary-General shall perform these functions with the support of the Secretariat appointed pursuant to Article 14.
4. Before leaving office, the Secretary-General shall cooperate with their successor to ensure the orderly transfer of records, accounts, access credentials, communications, and ongoing administrative matters.

Article 16 — Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall support the Secretary-General in the administrative, organizational, communications, membership, and financial functions of the Society.

2. The composition and internal distribution of responsibilities of the Secretariat shall be determined by the Secretary-General.
 3. Members of the Secretariat shall act under the responsibility of the Secretary-General and in accordance with these Regulations, the By-laws, and decisions of the General Assembly.
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Chapter 7 — Conference Chair and Conference Commission

Article 17 — Biennial Conference

1. The Society shall ordinarily organize an international academic conference every two years.
2. The host institution or location of the next biennial conference shall be selected by the General Assembly.
3. Proposals for future conferences may be submitted by Members, Partner Institutions, the Institutional Advisory Council, or the elected officers.

Article 18 — Conference Chair

1. The Conference Chair shall have primary responsibility for the academic and organizational preparation of the Society's biennial conference.
2. The Conference Chair shall:
 - a. appoint and coordinate the Conference Commission;
 - b. develop the academic and organizational plan of the conference;
 - c. coordinate with the host institution and other collaborating organizations;
 - d. prepare the conference budget in cooperation with the Secretary-General;
 - e. supervise calls for papers, program preparation, logistics, registration, and other conference activities, directly or through the Conference Commission;
 - f. coordinate conference-related expenditure with the Secretary-General and any fiscal host; and
 - g. submit an academic and financial report concerning the conference after its completion.
3. The Conference Chair shall exercise academic independence in the organization of the conference within the aims and general policies of the Society.
4. Upon the election of a succeeding Conference Chair, the succeeding Chair shall assume responsibility for the preparation and organization of the next biennial conference.

5. The outgoing Conference Chair and Conference Commission may continue, after the end of the Chair's ordinary term, solely for the purpose of completing the financial closing, reporting, and other outstanding administrative matters relating to the preceding conference. Such continuation shall not confer responsibility or authority in relation to the preparation of the next biennial conference.

Article 19 — Conference Commission

1. The Conference Commission shall support the Conference Chair in the academic and organizational preparation of the biennial conference.
 2. Its composition and internal structure shall be determined by the Conference Chair.
 3. The Conference Commission may include representatives of the host institution, Members of the Society, and other persons whose expertise or support is useful to the organization of the conference.
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Chapter 8 — Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board

Article 20 — Editor-in-Chief

1. The Editor-in-Chief shall have primary responsibility for the Society's Yearbook and for the implementation of its general editorial policy.
2. The Editor-in-Chief shall:
 - a. appoint and coordinate the Editorial Board;
 - b. establish editorial procedures and schedules;
 - c. oversee submissions, peer review, editing, and publication;
 - d. uphold appropriate academic and editorial standards;
 - e. coordinate publication-related expenditure with the Secretary-General;
 - f. develop the Yearbook and related publishing initiatives in accordance with the aims of the Society; and
 - g. report on the activities of the Yearbook to the General Assembly.
3. Decisions concerning the acceptance, rejection, peer review, and scholarly content of individual contributions shall fall within the editorial competence of the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board and shall not be determined by the General Assembly or other organizational bodies of the Society.

Article 21 — Editorial Board

1. The Editorial Board shall support the Editor-in-Chief in the preparation and publication of the Yearbook.
 2. Its composition, division of responsibilities, and editorial procedures shall be determined by the Editor-in-Chief, subject to these Regulations, the By-laws, and generally accepted principles of academic publication.
 3. Additional editors, reviewers, advisers, or collaborators may be appointed as necessary.
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Chapter 9 — Coordination Between the Principal Offices

Article 22 — Coordination Council

1. The Secretary-General, Conference Chair, and Editor-in-Chief shall together constitute the Coordination Council of the Society.
 2. The Coordination Council shall facilitate communication and coordination between the Society's permanent administration, biennial conference, and publication activities.
 3. The Coordination Council shall not replace the General Assembly and shall not possess independent constitutional authority over matters reserved to the General Assembly.
 4. Each principal officer shall retain responsibility for matters falling primarily within their own area.
 5. Matters substantially affecting more than one area shall be discussed among the relevant principal officers.
 6. Financial commitments affecting more than one area, major unbudgeted expenditure, and other matters creating a potential conflict of interest shall require the agreement of at least two distinct principal officeholders.
 7. A person holding two principal offices shall count as one person for the purposes of the requirement contained in paragraph 6.
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Chapter 10 — Elections, Vacancies, and Removal from Office

Article 23 — Elections

1. Elections to the three principal offices shall normally take place every two years in connection with the General Assembly held during the biennial conference.
2. Candidates shall be Members of the Society in good standing.
3. Nominations may be submitted according to procedures and deadlines established in the By-laws.

4. Elections may be conducted by direct vote at a meeting of the General Assembly, by asynchronous electronic ballot, or by another voting method permitted by the By-laws. The method to be used for each election shall be determined in accordance with the By-laws and shall be clearly communicated to Members in advance of the vote.
5. The notice of an election shall specify the voting method, the opening and closing of the ballot where applicable, the Members entitled to vote, and any other information necessary for Members to exercise their voting rights.
6. An elected officer shall normally require a simple majority of valid votes cast.
7. Where more than two candidates stand for an office and no candidate obtains a majority, a second ballot shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.
8. Where only one candidate stands for office, election shall take the form of a confirmation vote.

Article 24 — Vacancies and Temporary Appointments

1. An elected officer may resign by providing written notice.
2. Where a principal office becomes vacant before the end of its term, the remaining principal officers may designate an Acting Officer until an election can reasonably be held.
3. An acting appointment shall normally not exceed six months without confirmation by the General Assembly or by an electronic vote of the Members.
4. Temporary arrangements shall seek to maintain the functional independence of the Secretariat, Conference Commission, and Editorial Board.

Article 25 — Removal from Office

1. A principal elected officer may be removed for serious failure to perform their responsibilities, serious violation of these Regulations or the By-laws, or conduct materially incompatible with their office.
2. The officer concerned shall be informed of the reasons for the proposed removal and shall have an opportunity to respond.
3. Removal from a principal elected office shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the General Assembly.
4. Removal from office does not automatically terminate individual membership of the Society.

Chapter 11 — General Assembly Meetings and Decision-Making

Article 26 — Meetings of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall be convened at least once every two years, ordinarily in conjunction with the Society's biennial conference.
2. Additional General Assemblies may be convened whenever necessary.
3. Meetings may be held in person, online, or in hybrid form.

4. A General Assembly held in conjunction with a physical biennial conference shall provide for remote participation and voting wherever reasonably possible, so that Members unable to attend the conference in person may participate in the governance of the Society.
5. An extraordinary General Assembly may be convened by:
 - a. the Secretary-General in consultation with the other principal officers; or
 - b. a request supported by at least twenty per cent of the Members in good standing.
6. Members shall receive reasonable advance notice of the meeting, together with the principal matters to be decided.
7. Further procedures concerning notice and submission of agenda items may be established in the By-laws.

Article 27 — Quorum

1. The quorum for a General Assembly shall be thirty per cent of all Members in good standing and entitled to vote.
2. Members participating in person, remotely, or through a valid proxy shall count toward the quorum.
3. Where the quorum is not reached, no binding decision requiring a vote of the General Assembly may be taken.
4. For an electronic vote conducted outside a meeting of the General Assembly, the quorum shall likewise be thirty per cent of all Members in good standing and entitled to vote.
5. For the purpose of determining the quorum for an electronic vote, any Member submitting a valid ballot, including a recorded abstention, shall be counted as participating in the vote. Abstentions shall not otherwise be counted as votes cast for the purpose of determining the result.
6. If the required quorum is not reached, the electronic vote shall have no effect. If the matter is to be decided, a new electronic vote shall be conducted with reasonable notice and a reasonable opportunity for Members to vote.

Article 28 — Voting

1. Each Member in good standing shall have one vote.
2. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of valid votes cast unless these Regulations provide otherwise.
3. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.
4. Amendments to these Regulations, removal or exclusion of Members or elected officers, and dissolution of the Society shall require a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast.
5. Electronic voting and written decisions by electronic means shall be valid where Members are given reasonable notice and a reasonable opportunity to vote, subject to the quorum requirements established in Article 27.
6. Secret ballots shall be used for elections and may be used for other matters where appropriate.
7. Voting may take place synchronously during a meeting of the General Assembly or asynchronously through an electronic voting system, as provided by the By-laws.

8. The procedures governing each form of voting, including ballot duration, authentication, secrecy, record dates, technical procedures, invalid ballots, ties, and the opening and closing of electronic ballots, shall be established in the By-laws.
9. The voting method applicable to a particular decision shall be clearly communicated to Members before voting begins and shall not be altered after the opening of the vote except where necessary because of a serious technical failure or comparable exceptional circumstance, in accordance with the By-laws.
10. Unless otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations, any decision assigned to the General Assembly may also be taken through a duly authorized electronic vote of the Members in accordance with Article 27.

Article 29 — Proxy Voting

1. A Member who is unable to participate in a General Assembly may authorize another Member in good standing to exercise their vote by proxy.
2. A proxy shall be given in writing or by an authenticated electronic means and shall identify the meeting for which it is valid.
3. A proxy shall expire at the conclusion of the relevant meeting unless expressly revoked earlier.
4. No Member may exercise more than two proxy votes in addition to their own vote.
5. Further proxy procedures may be established in the By-laws.

Article 30 — Chairing the General Assembly

1. At the beginning of each meeting, the General Assembly shall approve a person to chair the meeting.
2. The Secretary-General may open the meeting and conduct the proceedings until the meeting chair has been approved.
3. Where the General Assembly is considering a matter directly concerning an elected officer, that officer shall not chair the relevant part of the meeting.

Chapter 12 — Financial Administration and Fiscal Hosting

Article 31 — Financial Resources

1. The Society may receive membership fees, donations, grants, subsidies, sponsorships, publication income, conference income, and other lawful contributions consistent with its aims.
2. The financial resources associated with the Society shall be used exclusively to support activities consistent with its aims, including:
 - a. conferences and other academic events;
 - b. publications;

- c. research and scholarly projects;
- d. administrative and digital infrastructure;
- e. grants, awards, or other forms of academic support;
- f. reasonable organizational expenses; and
- g. other activities approved in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 32 — Fiscal Hosting

1. The Society may entrust the receipt, holding, accounting, administration, and disbursement of funds associated with its activities to an external fiscal host or other competent non-profit organization.
2. The appointment of a fiscal host shall be approved by the General Assembly.
3. The relationship with the fiscal host shall be governed by a written agreement defining the respective responsibilities of the Society and the fiscal host.
4. The fiscal host may, subject to that agreement, administer membership fees, donations, grants, subsidies, sponsorships, conference income, publication income, and other lawful contributions connected with the Society.
5. The use of a fiscal host shall not alter the internal governance structure established by these Regulations.
6. A change of fiscal host shall require approval of the General Assembly. Where urgent circumstances make prior approval impracticable, the principal elected officers may establish a temporary arrangement which shall subsequently be submitted to the General Assembly for confirmation.

Article 33 — Financial Coordination

1. The Secretary-General shall be the principal officer responsible for coordinating the financial administration of the Society and its relationship with any fiscal host, where applicable.
2. The Secretary-General shall perform this responsibility in cooperation with the Conference Chair and Editor-in-Chief.
3. The Secretary-General shall coordinate the preparation of an annual budget and an annual financial report, in cooperation with the other principal officers.
4. The annual financial report and the annual budget shall be submitted to the Members for approval. Where a General Assembly is held during the relevant year, such approval may take place at the General Assembly. Where no General Assembly is held, approval shall be obtained by electronic vote in accordance with Articles 27 and 28.
5. If an annual budget has not been approved before the beginning of the financial year, the previous year's approved budget may continue to operate provisionally, insofar as necessary for the ordinary activities and existing commitments of the Society, until a new budget is approved.
6. The Conference Chair shall be responsible for proposing and supervising expenditure within the approved conference budget.
7. The Editor-in-Chief shall be responsible for proposing and supervising expenditure within the approved publication budget.

8. Payments and reimbursements shall be processed in accordance with the internal rules of the Society and, where applicable, the procedures of any fiscal host.
9. No elected officer shall exercise sole authority over the approval of a payment or reimbursement made directly to themselves.
10. Significant expenditure outside an approved budget shall require agreement by at least two distinct principal officeholders.
11. Annual financial information, including the annual financial report and the approved annual budget, shall be communicated to the Members.

Chapter 13 — Communication, Records, and Delegation

Article 34 — Communication and Transparency

1. Decisions of the General Assembly and other decisions of general importance to the Society shall be communicated to Members in an appropriate and timely manner.
2. The Society shall maintain appropriate records of:
 - a. membership;
 - b. General Assembly meetings and decisions;
 - c. elections;
 - d. principal financial reports;
 - e. institutional partnerships; and
 - f. other official matters necessary for the continuity and accountability of the Society.
3. Personal, confidential, editorial, disciplinary, or legally protected information shall not be subject to general disclosure merely by reason of this Article.

Article 35 — Committees, Working Groups, and Delegation

1. The Society may establish committees, working groups, projects, and other temporary or permanent initiatives consistent with its aims.
 2. The General Assembly or any principal elected officer may establish such bodies within the scope of their respective responsibilities.
 3. Functions may be delegated to Members, committees, Partner Institutions, contractors, fiscal hosts, or other competent organizations where appropriate.
 4. Delegation shall not transfer powers expressly reserved by these Regulations to the General Assembly.
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Chapter 14 — By-laws, Amendments, and Dissolution

Article 36 — By-laws and Additional Policies

1. The Society shall maintain By-laws governing matters of procedure and implementation that do not require inclusion in these Regulations.
2. By-laws and other policies may address, among other matters:
 - a. membership procedures;
 - b. elections and nominations;
 - c. meeting procedures;
 - d. conference organization;
 - e. editorial and publication procedures;
 - f. financial procedures;
 - g. conflicts of interest;
 - h. codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures;
 - i. use of the Society's name and identity;
 - j. institutional partnerships; and
 - k. other administrative matters.
3. The By-laws may be proposed or amended by any principal elected officer or by Members in accordance with procedures established in the By-laws.
4. The adoption or amendment of the By-laws shall require a simple majority of valid votes cast by the Members at a General Assembly or through an electronic vote. The quorum requirements established in Article 27 shall apply.
5. Proposed By-laws or amendments to the By-laws shall be communicated to Members with reasonable notice before the vote.
6. No By-law, policy, procedure, or decision may conflict with these Regulations. In the event of a conflict, these Regulations shall prevail.
7. Administrative policies and procedures of the Society that do not affect the constitutional rights of Members or the allocation of powers established by these Regulations may be adopted and amended by the competent principal officers within their respective areas of responsibility, subject to these Regulations and the By-laws.

Article 37 — Conflicts of Interest

1. Persons exercising responsibilities on behalf of the Society shall disclose any material personal, professional, institutional, or financial interest that could affect their impartiality in a matter under consideration.
2. A person with a material conflict of interest shall disclose the conflict and shall abstain from voting on or approving the matter concerned. Such person shall not exercise sole decision-making authority concerning that matter.
3. Detailed conflict-of-interest procedures may be established in the By-laws.

Article 38 — Amendments

1. Amendments to these Regulations may be proposed by:
 - a. any of the principal elected officers;
 - b. the Institutional Advisory Council; or
 - c. Members in accordance with procedures established in the By-laws.
2. Proposed amendments shall be communicated to Members in advance of the vote.
3. Amendments shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast at a General Assembly or through a duly authorized electronic vote.

Article 39 — Dissolution

1. The Society may be dissolved only by a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast at a General Assembly or through a duly authorized electronic vote.
2. A proposal for dissolution shall be explicitly included in the notice convening the General Assembly or electronic vote.
3. Upon dissolution, all liabilities and outstanding commitments associated with the Society shall first be settled in accordance with applicable agreements and requirements.
4. Any remaining funds or assets associated with the Society shall not be distributed among Members or elected officers.
5. Remaining funds or assets shall, subject to applicable law and the terms governing any fiscal host or restricted funds, be transferred to one or more non-profit academic, educational, research, or charitable organizations whose purposes are compatible with those of SOFAS, as determined by the General Assembly.

Chapter 15 — Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions

Article 40 — Entry into Force

1. These Regulations shall enter into force upon their approval by the founding General Assembly of the Society, held in Kobe, Japan, on 26 September 2026.

2. The founding General Assembly may adopt such temporary measures as are reasonably necessary to establish the first elected offices, Secretariat, Conference Commission, Editorial Board, Institutional Advisory Council, membership system, and fiscal arrangements of the Society.
3. The first terms of office may be adjusted by the founding General Assembly where necessary to establish the two-year electoral and conference cycle.
4. Matters not expressly addressed by these Regulations shall be determined by the General Assembly or, where a decision cannot reasonably await the next General Assembly, provisionally by the principal elected officers acting within their respective responsibilities. Any such provisional decision concerning a matter of fundamental governance shall be reported to the next General Assembly.