CHARTER

IAIA "FIT FOR FUTURE" INITIATIVE

Systems Thinking, Planetary Boundaries and Impact Assessment

International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

1. Purpose

The IAIA Board of Directors establishes the **Fit for Future Initiative on Systems-Based Assessment of Planetary Recovery Alternatives** ("the Initiative") as an IAIA-recognized member initiative.

The purpose of the Initiative is to explore how developments in planetary boundary and Earth system science, systems thinking, cumulative and interacting risk assessment, and related fields may strengthen impact assessment practice.

Drawing on the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary expertise of IAIA members, the Initiative will develop ideas and provide non-binding advice to IAIA on approaches to assessing alternative pathways for mitigation, restoration, and regeneration, with particular regard to human well-being and planetary health.

The Initiative may also explore potential relationships and areas of collaboration with relevant organizations and networks, including the Global Commons Alliance ("GCA"), for consideration by IAIA.

2. Status and Relationship with IAIA

2.1 The Initiative is established under the authority of the IAIA Board of Directors and operates under the day-to-day oversight of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO").

2.2 The Initiative is an **IAIA-recognized member initiative**. It is not:

- a committee of the IAIA Board;
- an IAIA Section;
- a separate legal entity; or
- an agent or authorized representative of IAIA.

2.3 The Initiative has an advisory role only. It has no independent governance, decision-making, financial, contractual, or legal authority and may not commit IAIA to any course of action except where expressly authorized under this Charter.

2.4 Recognition of the Initiative does not confer authority on the Initiative or any of its participants to speak or act on behalf of IAIA.

2.5 The Initiative builds on work undertaken within IAIA's Climate Change Section and will seek to collaborate with that Section and other relevant IAIA Sections and groups. Its establishment does not alter the mandate, status, or activities of any existing IAIA body.

3. Participation and Leadership

3.1 Participation in the Initiative is open to IAIA members with relevant interest or expertise, subject to participation arrangements agreed with the CEO.

3.2 The Initiative should seek an appropriate balance of:

- impact assessment practice;
- planetary boundary and Earth system science;
- systems and risk expertise;
- geographic representation;
- professional and sectoral backgrounds; and
- career experience.

3.3 The Initiative will have a Chair appointed by the IAIA Board or by the CEO under delegated authority, following consultation with Initiative participants.

3.4 The Chair is responsible for coordinating the work of the Initiative and acting as its principal point of contact with the CEO.

3.5 The Board or CEO, as appropriate, may appoint, replace, or remove the Chair where this is considered necessary for the effective functioning of the Initiative.

3.6 Participation in the Initiative is voluntary and does not create any employment, agency or contractual relationship with IAIA.

4. Scope of Activity

Within the scope of this Charter, the Initiative may:

4.1 Review relevant scientific, professional, and policy developments and identify their potential implications for impact assessment practice;

4.2 Develop ideas and recommendations for consideration by IAIA relating to guidance, professional development, training, conferences, and other IAIA activities;

4.3 Explore how systems thinking, cumulative and interacting effects, planetary boundary science, and related approaches can contribute to impact assessment at project, program, plan, policy, and strategic levels;

4.4 Review the work of relevant external institutions and networks, including GCA and its partners, where this may inform IAIA's work;

4.5 Explore potential areas of dialogue or collaboration with relevant organizations, subject to Section 6 of this Charter;

4.6 Provide input into IAIA's strategic planning and other Board or CEO-led initiatives where requested; and

4.7 Share its work with relevant IAIA Sections and groups to encourage collaboration and minimize unnecessary duplication.

5. Annual Work Program

5.1 The Chair and Initiative participants will agree with the CEO an indicative annual program of activities, priorities, and proposed outputs.

5.2 The program may evolve during the year, but activities materially outside its agreed scope should be discussed with the CEO before being undertaken in IAIA's name.

5.3 The work program should, where practicable, identify:

- principal areas of inquiry;
- proposed external engagement;
- expected outputs;
- potential resource implications; and
- opportunities for collaboration across IAIA.

5.4 Agreement to include an activity in the work program does not constitute approval of any subsequent publication, partnership, expenditure, or public position.

6. External Engagement and Limits of Authority

6.1 Subject to prior coordination with the CEO, the Chair and designated Initiative participants may engage in exploratory dialogue, information-sharing, and relationship-building with relevant external organisations.

6.2 Such engagement is exploratory and does not authorize the Initiative or its participants to commit IAIA.

6.3 Without prior written approval from the CEO, or from the Board where the CEO considers Board approval appropriate, the Initiative and its participants may not:

a. enter into or commit IAIA to any partnership, memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal arrangement;

b. issue, endorse, or agree any public or joint statement on behalf of IAIA;

c. commit IAIA to any expenditure, staffing, or other resource allocation;

d. solicit or accept funding, grants, sponsorship, or other financial support in IAIA's name;

e. establish an external website, social-media account, or other public-facing platform using IAIA's identity;

f. use IAIA's logo, branding, or institutional endorsement other than as specifically authorized;

g. make a material reputational commitment on behalf of IAIA; or

h. represent themselves as speaking for, or formally representing, IAIA solely by virtue of their participation in the Initiative.

6.4 Participants may identify themselves accurately as participants in an **IAIA-recognized Fit for Future Initiative**, provided that such identification cannot reasonably be interpreted as authority to speak on behalf of IAIA.

6.5 Where there is doubt as to whether an activity or communication requires approval, the matter will be referred to the CEO before proceeding.

7. Outputs, Publications, and IAIA Positions

7.1 The Initiative is encouraged to develop ideas, research, discussion papers, recommendations, and other outputs within its agreed work program.

7.2 Such outputs represent the work or views of the Initiative participants and **do not constitute an IAIA policy, position, guidance document, or endorsement unless formally approved by IAIA**.

7.3 Any document proposed for publication as an IAIA publication, guidance document, policy position, or other official output requires prior approval through the appropriate IAIA process.

7.4 Public dissemination of material using IAIA's name, branding, or institutional endorsement requires prior approval from the CEO or Board, as appropriate.

7.5 Intellectual property and publication arrangements for significant outputs will be agreed with IAIA before publication. Materials produced using material IAIA resources or commissioned by IAIA will be subject to IAIA's applicable intellectual property arrangements.

8. Reporting and Accountability

8.1 The Chair will maintain regular dialogue with the CEO or the CEO's designated liaison.

8.2 The Chair will provide a concise report on the Initiative's activities to the CEO and Board at least twice each year.

8.3 Reporting should include, as appropriate:

- work undertaken;
- principal findings or emerging recommendations;
- external engagement;
- proposed publications or outputs;
- resource implications;
- significant issues or risks; and
- priorities for the following period.

8.4 The Initiative may be invited to present its work directly to the Board or other IAIA bodies.

9. IAIA HQ and Resources

9.1 The CEO, or a nominated delegate, is the Initiative's primary liaison with IAIA HQ.

9.2 The Initiative has no dedicated IAIA budget unless separately approved.

9.3 Any request for IAIA funding, staffing, technology, communications support, or other material resources requires prior approval from the CEO within delegated authority or from the Board where appropriate.

9.4 The establishment of the Initiative does not create an obligation on IAIA to provide financial, administrative, or other resources.

10. Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

10.1 Participants are expected to act in good faith and consistently with IAIA's mission, values, Code of Conduct, and relevant policies.

10.2 Participants must identify and appropriately manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest relevant to the Initiative's work.

10.3 Participation in the Initiative does not limit participants' ability to hold or express professional views different from those of other participants or IAIA, provided that personal views are not represented as official IAIA positions.

11. Term, Review, and Termination

11.1 The Initiative is established for an initial term of **three years** from the date of Board approval.

11.2 The Board may review the Initiative at any time and may amend its mandate, suspend its activities, or terminate it.

11.3 Before the end of the three-year term, the Board will determine whether to:

- renew the Initiative, with or without amendment;
- incorporate some or all of its activities into another IAIA body or program; or
- conclude the Initiative.

11.4 Unless the Board affirmatively renews the Initiative, it will cease to operate at the end of the three-year term.

12. Amendment

12.1 This Charter may be amended by the IAIA Board of Directors at any time.

12.2 The CEO may approve minor administrative or procedural changes that do not materially alter the purpose, authority, or governance of the Initiative, reporting any such changes to the Board.