# BYLAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

**Adopted: 30 January 2026**

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## Preamble

The International Development Economics Association (IDEA) is established to advance the global production and dissemination of rigorous economic research. We subscribe to the principle that the study of international development should include international scholars in a central way, and for IDEA to be a pluralistic forum, welcoming economists from all parts of the globe, different intellectual traditions or methodological approaches, provided that these meet basic standards of academic integrity.

## ARTICLE I: NAME, PURPOSE, AND LOCATION

### Section 1. Name

The name of this organization is the **International Development Economics Association**, hereinafter referred to as "IDEA" or "the Association."

### Section 2. Purpose

The purposes of IDEA are to advance development economics worldwide by:

(a) Fostering scholarly exchange and professional interaction among development economists, practitioners, and policymakers;

(b) Supporting research, teaching, and career development at all stages;

(c) Sponsoring conferences, publications, and programs that enhance understanding of economic development; and

(d) Promoting the field's contributions to global development challenges, without regard to nationality, theoretical orientation, or methodological approach.

(e) Promoting diversity in the profession along multiple dimensions, including but not limited to: geographic diversity; methodological and career-stage diversity; as well as diversity of perspectives, experience, and demographic characteristics.

### Section 3. Tax-Exempt Status

IDEA is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of the law in the Association's country of registration.

### Section 4. Registered Office and Agent

The registered office and registered agent of the Association shall be as determined by the Board of Directors from time to time and as required by applicable law.

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## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. Eligibility

Membership in IDEA is open to all scholars interested in development economics, without regard to race, gender, nationality, or professional affiliation.

### Section 2. Classes of Membership

The Association shall have four classes of members:

(a) **Regular Members**: Any scholar interested in development economics who pays applicable membership dues. Regular Members have full voting rights.

(b) **Student Members**: Graduate and undergraduate students who pay reduced membership dues as determined by the Board. Student Members have full voting rights.

(c) **Institutional Members**: Educational institutions, research organizations, governmental agencies, and private organizations concerned with development economics, subject to approval by the Board. Institutional Members pay dues at rates set by the Board but have no voting rights as institutions. However, individuals designated by Institutional Members may become Individual Members with voting rights.

(d) **Honorary Members**: Individuals who have made distinguished contributions to development economics and/or IDEA, as determined by the Board of Directors. The Board may create different versions of honorary membership (e.g., Honorary Board, Advisory Committee, etc.) at its discretion. Term limits, rights, and responsibilities of such honorary positions shall be determined by the Board.

### Section 3. Membership Dues

The Board of Directors shall determine membership dues for each class of membership. Dues may vary based on member classification, country of residence, income level, or other criteria as determined by the Board.

### Section 4. Voting Rights

All Individual Members (Regular, Student, and Honorary) in good standing shall have voting rights on matters submitted to the membership. Members whose dues are more than six months in arrears shall not be entitled to vote.

Upon joining IDEA, members will be asked to indicate their affiliation with one of the world regions for the purpose of voting for the Board's Regional Representatives. Members may change regional affiliation no more than once per calendar year.

### Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by:

(a) Voluntary withdrawal by written notice to the Executive Director;

(b) Failure to pay membership dues within six months of the due date;

(c) Expulsion by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors for violation of the Association's Code of Professional Conduct, Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, or Conflict of Interest Policy. The member shall be provided with written notice and an opportunity to respond before such vote.

### Section 6. Code of Professional Conduct

All members must abide by IDEA's Code of Professional Conduct and Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, to be adopted by the Board of Directors. Violation of these policies may result in sanctions or termination of membership as provided in Section 5(c) of this Article.

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## ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1. Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen (15) voting members:

(a) Four (4) Officers: President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Past President;

(b) Eight (8) Regional Representatives: Seats reserved for members who currently have their main employment at an institution in the region. If necessary, the Nominating Committee shall resolve any questions regarding candidates' main place of employment. One representative from each of the following six regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and Oceania, plus two additional representatives from the two regions with the largest number of IDEA members;

(c) Three (3) At-Large Members elected to ensure diversity as determined by the Board.

## Section 2. Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

The following shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Board:

(a) The Executive Director;

(b) Representatives from partner organizations (such as other development economics associations, development economics journals, research networks, and international development institutions), invited by the Board on recommendation of the Executive Committee for three-year renewable terms.

## Section 3. Advisors and Liaisons

The Board may appoint advisors, liaisons, or observers from partner organizations or journals to participate in Board meetings in a non-voting advisory capacity, for terms and under conditions determined by the Board.

## Section 4. Powers and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors shall have full responsibility for the management, direction, and control of the Association, including but not limited to:

(a) Determining the strategic direction of the Association;

(b) Approving the annual operating budget;

(c) Setting membership dues and conference registration fees;

(d) Appointing the Executive Director and overseeing their performance;

(e) Establishing standing and ad hoc committees;

(f) Determining the location and dates of IDEA conferences;

(g) Approving amendments to these Bylaws;

(h) Adopting policies including the Code of Professional Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy, and other governance policies.

## Section 5. Terms of Office

(a) **Officers**:

- President: Two years (after serving as President-Elect)
- President-Elect: Two years (automatically succeeds to President)
- Past President: Two years (after serving as President)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Four years, renewable once

(b) **Regional Representatives**: Four years, with terms staggered so that four are elected every two years.

(c) **At-Large Members**: Four years, with terms staggered.

## Section 6. Regional Representative Responsibilities

Regional Representatives shall:

(a) Represent the views and interests of members in their regions;

(b) Facilitate communication between the Board and regional members;

(c) Assist in organizing regional activities, workshops, and outreach;

(d) Report on regional developments and opportunities to the Board.

## Section 7. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice each calendar year. Meetings may be held in person, by video conference, or by other electronic means permitting all participants to hear one another simultaneously.

## Section 8. Notice of Meetings

Written or electronic notice of Board meetings shall be provided to all Directors at least fifteen (15) days prior to regular meetings and at least five (5) days prior to special meetings.

## Section 9. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President, by a majority of the Executive Committee, or upon written request of one-third of the Board members.

## Section 10. Quorum and Voting

A majority of the voting members of the Board (eight members) shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote (50% plus one) of those present, except where these Bylaws require a supermajority.

## Section 11. Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if all Board members consent in writing (including by email), and such consent is filed with the meeting minutes.

## Section 12. Resignation and Removal

(a) Any Director may resign by written notice to the President.

(b) Any Director may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the full Board for cause, including violation of the Code of Professional Conduct or failure to fulfill duties. The Director shall be given notice and an opportunity to respond before such vote.

## Section 13. Vacancies

Vacancies in elected Board positions may be filled by appointment by the President with Board approval, to serve until the next regular election. The appointee must meet the eligibility requirements for the vacant position (e.g., regional representation). The Board may operate with fewer than the full set of members while vacancies are being filled.

## Section 14. Initial Provisions for the Association's First Two Years

The provisions below modify these bylaws for the Association's first two years of operation and the first election of Officers and Board members at the start of this period.

(a) **Initial Officer and Board Composition**: For the association's first two years of operation, the following fifteen (15) Officers and Board positions shall be filled:

i. President
ii. Secretary-Treasurer
iii. One regional representative for each of six world regions (listed in Article III, 1(b))
iv. Seven (7) at-large Board members

(b) **Initial Electorate**: For the first election of Officers and Board members, the electorate shall consist of the "Founding Board": individuals who have participated in IDEA organizing meetings prior to bylaws adoption. In these first elections, regional representatives shall be elected by the full Founding Board, rather than only Founding

Board members within region. Subsequent elections, starting two years after establishment of the Association, shall use the full IDEA membership as the electorate, with regional representatives elected by members within region, as specified in Article VI.

(c) **Initial Nominating Committee**: For the first election, the Founding Board shall appoint an Interim Nominating Committee to nominate candidates, run the election process, and certify election results. This committee shall serve until the first election is completed.

(d) **Initial Terms**: Officers and Board members elected in the first election shall serve for a fixed two-year term, until new elections are held two years after establishment of the Association. Officers and Board members elected in the first election may be candidates again in the new elections held two years after establishment of the Association.

(e) **Past President and President-Elect Functions During Initial Period**: During the first two years of the Association the positions of Past President and President-Elect shall be unfilled. Roles and responsibilities assigned to the Past President and President-Elect in these bylaws shall be filled by Board members selected by the President with Board approval.

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# ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

## Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Past President.

## Section 2. President

(a) The President shall be the chief officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board and the membership.

(b) The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association, subject to the direction of the Board.

(c) The President shall appoint committee chairs and members, subject to Board approval where specified in these Bylaws.

(d) The President shall serve for two years after completing a two-year term as President-Elect, and may not succeed themselves.

## Section 3. President-Elect

(a) The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in the President's absence and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President or Board.

(b) The President-Elect shall be responsible for overseeing planning of Association conferences during their term and shall chair the Program Committee.

(c) The President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of President upon completion of their two-year term.

## Section 4. Past President

(a) The Past President shall serve in an advisory capacity to the President and Board.

(b) The Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee.

(c) The Past President shall serve for two years after completing their term as President.

(d) For the first two years after initial establishment of the Association, when there is no Past President, the Past President position shall be unfilled. During this time, the Past President’s seat on the Executive Committee shall be filled by a Board member appointed by the President with Board approval. During this initial period the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chair from among Board members, subject to Board approval.

## Section 5. Secretary-Treasurer

(a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep accurate records of Board meetings and member meetings.

(b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall have custody of the Association's funds and shall oversee financial records and reporting.

(c) The Secretary-Treasurer shall present annual financial statements to the Board and membership.

(d) The Secretary-Treasurer shall work with the Executive Director to ensure compliance with legal and tax requirements.

(e) The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for four years and may be reappointed for one additional four-year term.

## Section 6. Election of Officers

(a) The President-Elect shall be elected by the membership from candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee or by petition.

(b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of the Board on recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

(c) The President and Past President assume office automatically upon completion of the relevant prior term.

### Section 7. Vacancies

(a) If the President is unable to complete their term, the President-Elect shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term.

(b) If the President-Elect or Past President are unable to complete their term, the Board shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next regular election.

(c) If the Secretary-Treasurer is unable to complete their term, the Board shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

### Section 8. Executive Director

(a) The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Director to serve as the chief administrative officer of the Association.

(b) The Executive Director, if appointed, shall be responsible for: (i) Managing the day-to-day operations of the Association; (ii) Implementing policies and decisions of the Board and Executive Committee; (iii) Overseeing administrative, financial, and operational activities; (iv) Serving as the primary staff liaison to the Board, Executive Committee, and standing committees; (v) Such other duties as assigned by the Board or President.

(c) The Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed by majority vote of the Board.

(d) The compensation and terms of employment for the Executive Director shall be determined by the Board.

(e) In the absence of an appointed Executive Director, the duties specified in these Bylaws for the Executive Director shall be assumed by the Secretary-Treasurer or other Officers as designated by the President with Board approval.

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## ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee (“ExCom”) shall consist of:

(a) Seven (7) voting members:

(i) Officer ExCom members: the four (4) Officers

(ii) Appointed ExCom members: three (3) additional Board members appointed by the President with Board approval

(b) Ex-officio non-voting member: The Executive Director.

## Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities

The Executive Committee shall be authorized to conduct necessary activities of the Association between Board meetings, subject to the Board's general direction and the obligation to report to, and when appropriate obtain ratification from, the full Board.

The Executive Committee's authority includes:

(a) Day-to-day operational decisions;

(b) Expenditures within the approved budget;

(c) Personnel management;

(d) Contract execution within limits set by the Board;

(e) Emergency or time-sensitive decisions.

## Section 3. Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet as needed, but at least quarterly. Meetings may be held in person or electronically.

## Section 4. Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee (four members) shall constitute a quorum.

## Section 5. Term of Office

Officer ExCom members shall serve on the Executive Committee during the time they hold their Officer positions. Appointed ExCom members shall serve during the term of office of the President who appointed them. The President may replace Appointed ExCom members with Board approval.

## Section 6. Vacancies

Executive Committee seats that become vacant shall be filled by Board members appointed by the President with Board approval. Replacements in Officer ExCom seats shall serve until the respective Officer position is filled, at which point the Officer will assume the respective Officer ExCom seat. Replacements in the Appointed ExCom seats shall serve for the remaining time in the President’s term.

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# ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS AND NOMINATING PROCESS

## Section 1. Nominating Committee

(a) The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Past President (Chair) and at least four other members appointed by the President and approved by the Board. If the Past President’s office is vacant, the Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President with Board approval.

(b) In appointing the Nominating Committee, the President and the Board shall ensure diversity in its composition.

(c) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for President-Elect and one or more candidates for each elected Board position.

(d) The Nominating Committee shall actively identify and encourage qualified candidates to seek nomination, with particular attention to diversity in the candidate pool.

## Section 2. Nominations by Petition

Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of voting members, submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least sixty (60) days before the election.

## Section 3. Election Process

(a) Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot distributed to all voting members.

(b) Elections shall be held biennially for President-Elect, Regional Representatives, and At-Large members.

(c) The electorate for President-Elect and At-Large members shall be the global membership of IDEA. The electorate for the Regional Representatives shall be IDEA members in their respective regions.

(d) In elections where multiple At-Large Board seats are contested, all candidates for these positions shall run in a single pool. Members may vote for up to as many candidates as there are seats available in that election. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the available seats.

(e) Members shall have at least thirty (30) days to cast ballots.

(f) Candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. If more than two candidates run for a position, instant runoff voting may be used at the Board's discretion.

(g) Election results shall be certified by the Secretary-Treasurer and announced to the membership.

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# ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

## Section 1. Standing Committees

The Association shall have the following standing committees:

(a) **Nominating Committee** (as specified in Article VI)

(b) **Finance Committee**: Chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer, with at least two other Board members, to oversee budgets, financial policies, and investments.

(c) **Program Committee**: Chaired by the President-Elect, to plan conferences and other related programming.

## Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

The President, with Board approval, may establish additional committees as needed to carry out the work of the Association.

## Section 3. Committee Composition and Terms

Committee chairs and members shall be appointed by the President, except where otherwise specified in these Bylaws. Terms and responsibilities shall be determined by the Board.

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# ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

## Section 1. Annual Member Meeting

An annual meeting of the membership shall be held at such time and place as determined by the Board. The annual meeting may be held in person or virtually. At the annual meeting, the membership shall:

(a) Receive reports from the President, Secretary-Treasurer, and committees;

(b) Review the annual financial statements and budget;

(c) Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

### Section 2. Special Member Meetings

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Board, the President, or upon written petition of ten percent (10%) of voting members.

### Section 3. Notice of Member Meetings

Notice of member meetings shall be provided to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance by electronic or written communication.

### Section 4. Quorum for Member Meetings

Five percent (5%) of voting members shall constitute a quorum for member meetings.

### Section 5. Voting at Member Meetings

Each voting member present shall have one vote. Voting may be conducted in person, electronically, or by written ballot as determined by the Board.

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## ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

### Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year (January 1 through December 31).

### Section 2. Budget

The Board shall approve an annual operating budget prepared by the Executive Committee and Finance Committee.

### Section 3. Contracts and Obligations

The President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Executive Director, or other persons authorized by the Board, may sign contracts and other instruments on behalf of the Association.

### Section 4. Financial Statements

The Association shall prepare annual financial statements, which shall be reviewed or audited as required by law or as determined by the Board.

### Section 5. Prohibition on Private Inurement

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, except that the Association may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments in furtherance of its exempt purposes.

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## ARTICLE X: CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ETHICS

### Section 1. Conflict of Interest Policy

The Board shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy applicable to all Board members, officers, and committee members.

### Section 2. Disclosure

Any Board member, officer, or committee member who has a financial or personal interest in any matter before the Association shall disclose such interest and abstain from voting on the matter.

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## ARTICLE XI: INDEMNIFICATION

### Section 1. Indemnification

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the Association shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, Officer, committee member, employee, or agent of the Association, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such proceeding.

### Section 2. Insurance

The Association may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person entitled to indemnification under this Article against any liability asserted against such person.

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# ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

### Section 1. Proposal of Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by:

(a) A majority vote of the Board of Directors; or

(b) Written petition signed by ten percent (10%) of voting members.

### Section 2. Adoption of Amendments

Proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least thirty (30) days before a vote. Amendments shall be adopted upon approval by two-thirds of voting members casting ballots.

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# ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION

### Section 1. Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, followed by approval by two-thirds of voting members casting ballots.

### Section 2. Distribution of Assets

Upon dissolution, after payment of all debts and obligations, the remaining assets of the Association shall be distributed to one or more organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes, as determined by the Board of Directors, with preference given to organizations supporting development economics research and education.

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# ARTICLE XIV: MISCELLANEOUS

### Section 1. Nondiscrimination

In pursuit of its purposes, the Association shall make its services and activities available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## Section 2. Parliamentary Authority

Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, except where inconsistent with these Bylaws or policies adopted by the Board.

## Section 3. Interpretation

In the event of any conflict between these Bylaws and applicable law, applicable law shall prevail.

## Section 4. Severability

If any provision of these Bylaws is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

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**CERTIFICATION**

These Bylaws were adopted by the Founding Board of the International Development Economics Association on [Date].

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[Name], President

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[Name], Secretary-Treasurer