

Are you considering nominating for election to the

ISOCARP Board?

Information for candidates

Election of the Board

At the Annual General Meeting of the International Society of City and Regional Planners, the members approve the annual accounts and the budget, make policy decisions including amendments to the Constitution, and elect Board Members if there are vacancies on the Board.

The Board is responsible to the members for the management of the Society. The Board has *eleven* members: the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and eight other Board Members. It has *twelve* members when – every third year – the President-Elect joins the Board.

In the elections concluding at the Annual General Meeting in Riyadh on 3 December 2025, members will vote to fill six vacancies on the Board.

Specific features of the 2025 elections

The Board proposes to implement three specific reforms.

- Appointment of the Secretary General by the Board

The Board has outlined its reasons for recommending that the Secretary General be appointed by the Board, rather than being directly elected. At the Special General Meeting on 18 November 2025 the members will be asked to support this reform.

- The election of a Board Member from Africa and a Board Member from South America

The Board is focused on increasing the membership in all international regions. It intends to develop a strategy for defining the relevant international regions, promoting the Society in all regions, and ensuring that there are Board Members from all regions.

The Board believes that the initial focus of these principles should be on building the Society's presence in Africa and South America. Accordingly, during the 2025 elections, the Board intends to encourage all members to consider supporting candidates from Africa and South America.

- Board Members in reserve to fill vacancies between AGMs

At these elections, subject to the approval of the members, the Board will implement a "count-back" process for filling vacancies on the Board that occur some months after Board elections. The count-back process determines which candidate in the previous elections would have been elected if there had been one more vacancy at the time.

The Board's advice to candidates and voters

The Board recognises its responsibility to ensure good governance and the continuation of ISOCARP's achievements as the international voice of city and regional planning. These goals are achieved when the Board:

1. is diverse in terms of gender, age and professional expertise;
2. is representative of global regions;
3. meets the members' highest expectations in making policy – strategies, priorities and programs;
4. provides five Executive Committee members to implement the Board's policies.

1. Diversity

For over twenty years, ISOCARP's Board Members have been a diverse mix of young, old, female, male, in practice, in government, in academe and in consulting.

- Every *member* should know that they are welcome to participate in the government of our Society.
- Every *voter* should consider diversity when casting their vote for candidates for the Board.

2. Global regions

During the 2025 elections, the Board encourages all members to consider supporting candidates from Africa and South America.

Candidates will be encouraged to include their region in their candidate statement, and to indicate how, as a Board Member, they would promote membership and activity in their region.

At the Special General Meeting on 18 November 2025, the Board will be seeking the support of the members to:

- implement minor adjustments to the voting process to ensure (if reasonably possible) that the new Board will include a member from Africa and South America; and
- increase the number of Board Members from eleven to twelve or thirteen if this enables these principles to be applied in the fairest and most efficient manner.

3. Best practice policy making

The Board has adopted the following **criteria** relating to expectations of Board Members.

Professional competence Board Members hold recognised qualifications and substantial professional experience in line with their years in practice in city and regional planning or a related field, demonstrating leadership and strategic relevance to ISOCARP's mission.

Commitment and integrity Board Members have a record of engagement with ISOCARP and commit to upholding its vision, mission and values. They must adhere to high ethical standards, show integrity in personal and professional conduct, and act in the organisation's best interest. Candidates commit to accountable decision-making and actions in their role as Board Member.

Time commitment Board Members dedicate sufficient time to Board duties, including preparation for meetings, active participation in meetings and decision-making, and contribution to organisational initiatives.

Term limitation A Board Member's term of office is three years, from the Annual General Meeting when elected to the Annual General Meeting three years later. Board Members are eligible to re-nominate for one consecutive term.

Conflict of interest When participating in discussions and decisions, Board Members must act solely in the interests of members, disregarding personal, financial, organisational or political interests. Board Members are legally required to declare any interests that may affect, or may be perceived to affect, their participation in the Board discussions and decisions.

Constructive attitude and collaborative leadership Board Members bring a constructive approach to collaborating with others and addressing challenges, a readiness to promote a positive atmosphere within the Board, and constructive engagement with the wider ISOCARP community.

Strategic and forward-looking vision Board Members bring a future-oriented perspective, supporting innovation, partnerships, initiatives and fundraising that strengthen ISOCARP's global relevance and impact.

Candidates will be asked to commit to ISOCARP's Ethical Standards for Board and SciCom members.

4. Policy execution

The Members of the International Society of City and Regional Planners form the *governing body* of the Society, and elect the *Board Members* who are collectively responsible for the governance of the Society.

In turn, the Board appoints five of its members to form the *Executive Committee* to execute the Board's decisions and to provide day-to-day management. The *Secretariat* in The Hague is the administration of the Society, reporting to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee.

The office of secretary is required in all associations governed by the Dutch Civil Code, whether directly elected by the members or elected by the Board from the Board Members. The Board has outlined its reasons for recommending that the Secretary General be appointed by the Board, rather than being directly elected.

At the Special General Meeting on 18 November 2025 the members will be asked to support this change.

Candidates for election to the Board are asked:

- to consider if they would be willing and qualified to fulfill the role of Secretary General;
- to indicate in their candidate statement how they understand the role and would carry it out.

5. Board Members in reserve to fill vacancies between AGMs

At these elections, subject to the approval of the members, the Board will implement a “count-back” process for filling vacancies on the Board that occur some months after Board elections. The count-back process determines which candidate in the previous elections would have been elected if there had been one more vacancy at the time.

- Unsuccessful candidates should remember that they may be considered to be in reserve.
- Unsuccessful candidates may be asked if they wish to join the Board if a vacancy occurs in the months after the AGM.

6. Nominations

All members are encouraged to consider nominating for election to the Board, to serve the members of the Society – city and regional planners in every region of the world – as they support each other and offer a respected and credible voice in international forums for sustainable cities.

You may nominate other members with their agreement, and you may nominate yourself, by completing and submitting the online [nomination form](#). You will also be asked to provide:

- your name, affiliations, contact details and a short cv;
- a short statement with your reasons for wishing to join the Board;
- acknowledgement of the best practice criteria and the Code of Ethics;
- a photo to be used on the ISOCARP website and other publications.

Please send this information to elections@isocarp.org before nominations close on **14 November 2025**.

ISOCARP October 2025