
**Constitution of the South Africa System Dynamics
Chapter of the International System Dynamics Society Inc**

27 December 2013

Preamble

Constitution of the South Africa System Dynamics Chapter **herein referred to as the “Chapter”** of the International System Dynamics Society Inc **herein after referred as the “Society”**;

Whereas the society has guided the growth of system dynamics research and scholarship there is need for addressing Africa specific feedback systems;

Appreciating the importance of system dynamics as a problem solving approach;

Whereas South Africa-based society members have expressed the need to associate, share their experiences and participate together in research and scholarship;

And whereas the society members working and living in South Africa want to develop such exchanges;

And recognising further the aspiration expressed by members at the 20th international system dynamics conference in Boston 24th -26th July 2013; and at the 1st Eskom system dynamics workshop in Johannesburg 20th November 2013;

Now therefore members in good standing, working and living in South Africa have resolved to form South Africa Chapter of the Society;

Here dated**February the year 2014**

1. Name

The Chapter shall be known by the name:
The South Africa System Dynamics Chapter of the System Dynamics Society Inc.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Chapter shall be, especially in South Africa, to:

- Promote understanding and awareness of system dynamics as a problem solving approach to many of the Africa-based problems;
- Identify, develop, extend and disseminate knowledge contributing to the understanding of feedback systems in South Africa and the rest of Africa;
- Promote the development of the field of System Dynamics and the free interchange of learning, research and scholarship in all related fields in South Africa and the rest of Africa;
- Encourage and develop educational programmes in the feedback behaviour of systems in South Africa and the rest of Africa.

To accomplish these objectives the Chapter proposes to conduct chapter meetings, workshops and conferences, and to publish books and other scholarly materials.

3. Membership

There shall be three categories of membership in the Chapter:

- i. Any person living or working in South Africa, and is a member of the Society, and in good standing of the Chapter is entitled to be a member of the Chapter and shall have voting and holding office rights;
- ii. Any person living in South Africa, and is not a member of the Society, but is in good standing with the Chapter is entitled to be a member of the Chapter and shall have voting and office holding rights;
- iii. Any person in good standing of the Society, living outside or working outside South Africa, but has interest in utilising system dynamics for research in Africa issues, may be associate member of the Chapter and shall not have voting or holding office rights.

4. The Policy Council

The Chapter shall be governed by a Policy Council. The Policy Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Organising Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Secretary and three/four elected council members. The Policy Council shall from time to time determine the duties and responsibilities of the office bearers as deemed necessary at the Annual General meeting.

The President of the Chapter shall hold office for not more than two years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election as President but may remain on the Policy Council for a further year as Past President, until the anniversary of election thereafter relinquishing membership of the Policy Council.

The Policy Council of the Chapter shall have the power to co-opt a member to fill any vacancy pending the Annual Meeting of the Chapter.

The quorum for meetings of the Policy Council shall consist of 50% of the Council Constitution.

5. Meetings

The Chapter shall hold a meeting at least once annually; or as the Council sees fit. Business and election of officers will be dealt with in the meeting.

6. Elections

All members of the Chapter in good standing and living in South Africa shall be entitled to vote. The elections shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the Chapter.

The Policy Council of the Chapter shall have the power to nominate to any vacancy.

Not less than one month before the Annual General Meeting, the Organising Secretary shall notify all members in good standing living in South Africa of any impending vacancies. All members living in South Africa and in good standing shall have the power to make their own nomination and shall notify the Organising Secretary not less than 7 working days before the Annual General Meeting.

In the event of there being two or more candidates for an office, that person having the larger, or largest, number of votes of all members who have voting rights, shall be elected.

7. Finances

The Chapter will operate on a non-profit making basis, with a financial year being from 1st January to 31st December.

The Treasurer shall maintain full books and papers and report to the Policy Council a detailed financial statement of income and expenses on request. A report to the membership shall be made annually on the results for the year ended December prior. The Accounts, books and papers shall be reviewed annually by an auditor.

Any surplus should be retained for future activities that further the aims and objectives of the Chapter. A reserve may be kept as an insurance against pre-paying for annual general meeting and unexpected disruptions or publications.

The Chapter will maintain a bank account on which at least two authorised signatories are required to make payment, such signatories to be unrelated persons.

The Chapter has no employees but may pay for external services on an as needs basis subject to the approval of the Policy Council. If such services are

provided by a member of the Policy Council, or any other persons, remuneration and expenses should be agreed in advance by the Policy Council.

In the event of the Chapter being dissolved any cash balances will be donated to the Society.

8. Publications

The Chapter may choose to publish a journal, newsletter and books. Such publications shall:

- not represent themselves as publications of the Society; and
- be related to the particular interests of the Chapter.

9. Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of the Chapter's Policy Council shall be available to all members of the Chapter on application to the Organising Secretary.

10. Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

The Chapter may choose to hold conferences, workshops and seminars. If held, these:

- will not present themselves to be conferences of the Society;
- will not interfere with the annual conference of the Society; and
- will have at least one month between them and the annual conference of the Society.

The expenses and profits from the conferences, workshops are the responsibility of the Chapter.

11. Dues

The Policy Council of the Chapter shall have the power to charge dues in an amount and currency of its choice.

Annual membership fees that will be effective upon Chapter registration are:

- Normal Members:
 - Members of Society: 250 Rand per member per annum
 - Non-Members of Society: 350 Rand per member per annum
- Student Members (proof of bona fide students is required):
 - Members of Society: 100 Rand per member per annum
 - Non-Members of Society: 150 Rand per member per annum
- Associate Members: 200 Rand (USD 20) per member per annum
- Corporate Members: fees to be determined

12. Chapter - Society Interaction

The Chapter will annually submit a report of activities, finances and membership to the Society Council. The report will include the names of all officers of the Chapter. Attached to the report will be copies of all publications of the Chapter, as well as a complete membership listing.

13. Changes to this Constitution

This Constitution may be changed via a qualified majority of two-thirds of members with voting rights in an online vote by initiative of any three members of the Chapter in good standing living and working in South Africa.

Any and all changes to this Constitution shall be submitted for ratification to the Policy Council of the Society, accompanied by a declaration of support of at least ten members of the Chapter in good standing living in South Africa

14. Address of the Chapter

The Chapter's contact for correspondence shall be the Organising Secretary whose address will be published and updated on the Chapter website and the Society website (www.systemdynamics.org).