

# **CHARTER**

## **SINTER Snow International**

revised 2025

### **I. BACKGROUND**

In August 13–17, 2013, a group of about fifty scientists and engineers met in Boulder, Colorado to discuss the current state of snow remote sensing. Since then, three more meetings have been held. These meetings addressed the following goals:

1. Assess the current state of snow remote sensing (RS), noting recent successes, promising new technologies, and areas where basic research will be needed to make advancements.
2. Identify and plan steps needed to make progress on key snow-related science questions in which remote sensing plays an important role.
3. Define the function of the snow RS community and identify strategies to promote a sustainable, vibrant future to attract the next generation of snow researchers as well as research dollars.

The outcome of these meetings included consensus for the need of a professional organization to represent the interests of the snow RS community. From that consensus, the International Snow Working Group – Remote Sensing (iSWGR) was initiated (changed to Snow International - SINTER in 2019). This Charter establishes the purpose, objectives, organization, and operational procedures of SINTER.

### **II. PURPOSE**

SINTER will bring together scientists from around the world to foster international collaboration and focus on the following topics:

SINTER is committed to advancing snow science and monitoring through remote sensing science, technologies and modeling.

SINTER is a resource for communicating advances and issues among members of the snow science community, stakeholders, and the general public, including amplifying under-heard voices.

SINTER facilitates educational activities and serves as an objective advisory and advocacy organization for the advancement of snow science, particularly as it relates to the goal of remotely sensing snow globally.

SINTER facilitates mentorship and networking opportunities to help students and early career scientists make connections with more established researchers.

SINTER maintains a repository of links to online snow resources relevant to the membership (e.g. podcasts, tools, external educational resources).

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

The SINTER Membership includes scientists, engineers, educators, students, and other professionals involved with supporting snow research. New members may self-nominate and are added to the Membership upon approval by the SINTER Chairperson. By accepting Membership, members agree to abide by the rules outlined in this Charter. Membership is a lifetime appointment.

### **IV. ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS**

SINTER supports the snow science community by holding quarterly virtual meetings, by providing a forum for member communication, and by advocating for snow research. SINTER maintains a strategic plan and organizes activities that support the implementation of the strategic plan.

### **V. SINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is comprised of nine SINTER members. ExCom is responsible for the overall operation, maintenance, and activities of SINTER. The international composition of the SINTER ExCom is considered to be in compliance by this Charter under the following conditions: of the six permanently inhabited global continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Australia/Oceania), at least three regions (i.e., half) must be represented by ExCom members in any given year. Representation is determined by where each candidate resides. Among the currently represented regions on the ExCom, no single region may occupy over half of the ExCom (i.e., a maximum of four ExCom members may represent the same region). Two of the nine positions are reserved for early-career members (e.g., students, postdoctoral researchers, colleagues within 5 years of earning their highest degree).

ExCom members are elected through a popular vote by the Membership. Any SINTER community member may be nominated as a candidate for ExCom. Each year SINTER elects two members to serve a four-year term on the ExCom, with the exception of leap years when three members are elected. If the composition of the SINTER ExCom is out of compliance, replacement positions will be filled according to the results of the popular vote. If the outcome of the popular vote itself brings the ExCom back into compliance, no adjustments will be made. However, if the popular vote does not restore compliance, one of the open positions will be awarded to the next highest-voted candidate whose inclusion brings the ExCom back into or toward

compliance (e.g., by expanding regional representation and/or adding an early-career member). Thus, regardless of ExCom compliance, one of the open positions per election will always be assigned to the highest popular vote. As an international organization, this election structure is intended to ensure global representation on the ExCom.

Elections are run by the Election Chair and are made via on-line electronic ballot; each SINTER member is allowed to vote for two candidates, or three candidates during leap years. Newly elected ExCom members begin their term on the ExCom on January 1.

Decision-making is made by the ExCom as representative of the Membership. Each ExCom member's vote has equal weight. Consensus is made by majority vote. When voting, the ExCom will assure that member views are communicated, that information is shared, and that actions are taken with full understanding and consent.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Executive Committee officers are members of the Executive Committee. ExCom members abstain from voting on elected positions for which they are nominated. In the case of a split vote, the current Chairperson will cast the tie-breaker vote.

The Executive Committee annually elects one SINTER Chairperson who serves a three-year term. The intent is to elect a Chairperson of different region representation in each consecutive year, to assure support of the international interests of SINTER. In Year One, the Chairperson serves as Chairperson Elect, in Year Two as the Chairperson, and in Year Three as Past Chairperson.

The Chairperson, Chairperson Elect, and Past Chairperson share the responsibilities of running the organization. The Chairpersons oversee all activities and are responsible for assuring that SINTER activities align with the Charter. Chairpersons delegate responsibility of specific tasks to volunteer members. The Chairperson is the presiding officer over all SINTER meetings and serves as spokesperson for SINTER.

The Elections Chair is responsible for handling new member nominations, annual election of ExCom members, and internal ExCom elections of the Chairperson Elect, SINTER Secretary and Elections Chair. The Elections Chair fosters international representation among SINTER Membership, ExCom Membership, and its Officers.

If extenuating circumstances make adherence to the by-laws in terms of election timelines impossible, the current Chair and Elections Chair will make adjustments while seeking approval from the complete Executive Committee.

**VII. SUB-COMMITTEES**

SINTER will form sub-committees as it considers necessary, on a continuing or ad hoc basis, to address specific items such as education programs, meeting planning, professional awards, specific studies, etc..., or as specific problems, issues or opportunities arise. Specific information on sub-committees will be posted on the website.

**VIII. FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

SINTER is a nonprofit professional organization. This Charter establishes the authority of the SINTER Officers to manage financial resources needed for operation.

**IX. CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

This charter stands until revised by the SINTER Membership. Changes are adopted by a majority two-thirds vote received from the Membership.

Approved by the following founding Members:

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