



hdri
Human Development
Research Initiative

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Environmental Responsibility in Practice and in Principle

Adopted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Article 31 of the HDRI Statutes

Paris, France



Human Development Research Initiative (HDRI)

50 Rue des Tournelles, 75003 Paris, France

Registration Number: W751275674

EU TRN: 892689452279-12

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PREAMBLE

Environment, Climate, and Energy is one of the five thematic pillars of the Human Development Research Initiative ('HDRI' or 'the Organisation'), and HDRI regularly researches, advocates on, and convenes events about the environmental and climate challenges facing Europe and the wider world. An organisation that does so has a direct responsibility to ensure that its own operations are conducted with a comparable degree of environmental care. This Environmental Policy (the 'Policy') sets out that responsibility in concrete terms.

This Policy is adopted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Article 31 of HDRI's Statutes (the 'Statutes'). It is informed by the international and European legal and policy framework within which HDRI's Environment, Climate & Energy pillar operates, including the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119), the European Green Deal, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action, as well as the general duty of environmental care reflected in the French Environmental Code and the Charte de l'environnement annexed to the French Constitution.

This Policy addresses HDRI's environmental footprint as an organisation, its offices, travel, events, and procurement, and the environmental integrity of its research, advocacy, and partnerships, on the view that an organisation's credibility on environmental policy depends, in part, on the coherence between what it recommends to others and how it conducts itself.

This is the final and consolidated version of this Policy and supersedes any prior draft or informal statement of HDRI's environmental practices.

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TITLE I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 — Purpose and Legal Basis

This Policy is adopted pursuant to Article 31 of the Statutes for the purpose of setting out HDRI's environmental principles and the operational measures by which HDRI reduces the environmental impact of its own activities and safeguards the environmental integrity of its research, advocacy, and partnerships.

Article 2 — Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy: 'environmental footprint' means the aggregate impact of HDRI's own operations, including office use, travel, events, procurement, and digital activity, on natural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste generation; 'precautionary principle' means the principle that, where an activity risks serious or irreversible environmental harm, the absence of full scientific certainty is not a reason to postpone reasonable preventive measures.

Article 3 — Scope of Application

This Policy applies to HDRI's own operations and to all events, programmes, publications, and partnerships carried out in its name, and binds all Board members, staff, interns, research fellows, and volunteers in the exercise of their functions.

Article 4 — Relationship with the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure, and the Code of Conduct

This Policy is subordinate to the Statutes and supplements HDRI's Rules of Procedure, in particular the financial authorisation procedures under which environmentally responsible procurement and travel decisions are made, and the Code of Conduct's general standards of institutional integrity.

TITLE II — ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Article 5 — The Precautionary Principle

HDRI applies the precautionary principle in its own decision-making, favouring the more environmentally protective course of action where a proposed decision carries a material and reasonably foreseeable environmental risk, even in the absence of complete scientific certainty as to the scale of that risk.

Article 6 — Continuous Reduction of Environmental Footprint



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HDRI is committed to the continuous, good-faith reduction of its own environmental footprint, proportionate to its size and resources as a youth-led civil society organisation, rather than to the pursuit of an unattainable standard of zero impact irrespective of cost or feasibility.

Article 7 — Coherence Between Advocacy and Practice

HDRI shall take reasonable steps to ensure that its own institutional conduct does not manifestly contradict the environmental positions it advocates in its research and public communications, recognising that this coherence is itself a component of the Organisation's credibility and independence under Article 5 of the Statutes.

Article 8 — Integration into Governance

Environmental considerations shall be integrated into the Board's ordinary decision-making, including in the approval of budgets, events, and major procurement decisions under Title V of the Rules of Procedure, rather than treated as a matter reserved solely to the Environment, Climate & Energy pillar.

TITLE III — OPERATIONAL MEASURES

Article 9 — Office Operations and Resource Use

HDRI shall favour digital documentation and communication over paper wherever practicable, minimise energy consumption in any office space it occupies, and favour, where a genuine choice exists and cost is comparable, suppliers of electricity, equipment, and consumables with a demonstrable environmental commitment.

Article 10 — Travel

For journeys within continental Europe where rail travel is available within a reasonable additional time of approximately two hours compared with air travel, staff, Board members, and volunteers travelling on HDRI business shall use rail rather than air transport. Where air travel is unavoidable, HDRI shall consider, resources permitting, the use of a reputable carbon offsetting or contribution scheme for the corresponding emissions.

This Article states an institutional preference to be applied with reasonable judgment, having regard to cost, duration, accessibility needs of the traveller, and the practical constraints of a given itinerary; it does not override the traveller's safety or the reasonable performance of their duties.

Article 11 — Events and Meetings

In organising conferences, workshops, and seminars such as those delivered under HDRI's youth advocacy and workshop programmes, organisers shall: favour venues accessible by public transport; use digital rather

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than printed materials wherever practicable; select catering that minimises food waste and gives reasonable consideration to plant-based options; and consider a remote or hybrid format where it would achieve the event's purpose with a materially lower environmental footprint.

Article 12 – Procurement

Where the Board or the Operations Officer selects a supplier for goods or services above the thresholds set out in Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure, environmental impact shall be one of the factors considered in that selection, alongside cost, quality, and reliability.

Article 13 – Partnerships and Funding

The Board shall have regard, as one factor in the due diligence exercised under Article 16 of the Code of Conduct, to whether a prospective donor or partner's core activities are manifestly and directly incompatible with HDRI's environmental commitments, for example, an entity whose core business consists of large-scale fossil fuel extraction, before accepting a grant or entering into a partnership of a scale that could reasonably be seen as endorsing that activity.

Article 14 – Environmental Integrity of Research and Advocacy

Research and advocacy produced under HDRI's name on environmental, climate, or energy matters shall be based on the best available and properly sourced scientific evidence, in keeping with the standards of intellectual integrity set out in Article 8 of the Code of Conduct.

TITLE IV – MONITORING, REPORTING, AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15 – Environmental Focal Point

The Board shall designate a Board member or senior staff member, which may be the officer responsible for the Environment, Climate & Energy pillar, as HDRI's Environmental Focal Point, responsible for monitoring implementation of this Policy and advising the Board on environmental matters affecting HDRI's own operations.

Article 16 – Annual Review

The Environmental Focal Point shall present to the Board, at least once a year, a short written review of HDRI's environmental practices under this Policy, including travel undertaken, events organised, and any procurement or partnership decision in which environmental considerations played a material part, together with any recommendation for further measures.



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Article 17 – Reporting a Concern

A Covered Person who considers, in good faith, that a decision or practice of HDRI is inconsistent with this Policy may raise the matter with the Environmental Focal Point or through the general reporting channel described in Article 26 of the Code of Conduct, and is protected against retaliation on the same terms as set out in Article 27 of the Code of Conduct.

Article 18 – Amendment

This Policy may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any time by a simple majority decision of the Board, in accordance with Article 31 of the Statutes, and any amendment shall be communicated to all members within fifteen (15) days.

Article 19 – Entry into Force

This Policy enters into force upon its adoption by the Board of Directors and remains in force, as amended from time to time, until repealed by a subsequent decision of the Board.

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ADOPTION

This Environmental Policy, comprising Four Titles and Nineteen Articles, was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Human Development Research Initiative (HDRI) at a duly convened meeting, pursuant to Article 31 of the Statutes, and constitutes, from the date of its adoption, the Organisation's sole and complete policy on the matters it addresses.

Gurgen Petrosyan

President of HDRI

Date: 11 September 2026

Signature:

Sofia Balas

Secretary General

Date: 11 September 2026

Signature:

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