

## **STATUTES for the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research**

### **Purpose**

**Article 1.** The purpose of the Foundation, whose name shall be the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, is to fund research of strategic importance for a good living environment.

The Foundation shall promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international class with importance for Sweden's future competitiveness. The research shall be of importance for finding solutions to important environmental problems and for a sustainable development of society. Opportunities for achieving industrial applications shall be taken advantage of.

### **Endowment**

**Article 2.** The Foundation's endowment consists of the funds which have been transferred to the Foundation as of 2 December 1993 by Government decision plus whatever funds may be transferred to the Foundation thereafter as additional foundation capital.

### **Activities**

**Article 3.** The activities of the Foundation shall be built up gradually based on the Foundation's own, independent judgements and the special nature that shall distinguish the activities according to what is said below. The research activities may range from pure basic research to applied research, and, not least, areas in between.

The Foundation shall be distinguished by the special nature of its activities as described below:

- Concentration of efforts so that research centres or research areas with international impact can be established
- Projects and programs that span the boundaries between disciplines

- Establishment of networks or more permanent forms of collaboration nationally and internationally, including establishment of an international researcher exchange program
- Promotion of training and recruitment of researchers
- Research centres or research areas in close association with universities and colleges
- Collaboration between universities and colleges on the one hand and industry on the other hand when it comes to research within fields that are of particular interest to industry
- Mobility of researchers both across international borders and between universities/colleges, institutes and companies

The activities of the Foundation may eventually entail that the Foundation's endowment is used up.

### **Board of trustees**

**Article 4.** The affairs of the Foundation shall be handled by a board of trustees consisting of a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven members, with a definite term of office. The Government shall appoint and remove all members of the board of trustees, as well as designate the chairman.

**Article 5.** The board of trustees shall appoint a deputy chairman from among its own members.

**Article 6.** The board of trustees has its seat in Stockholm. The board shall meet when convened by the chairman or when at least three members request a meeting. A quorum of the board exists when at least half of the members are present, including the chairman or, in his/her absence, the deputy chairman. Minutes shall be kept at meetings of the board.

### **Decision-making rules**

**Article 7.** Decisions shall be carried by a simple majority of votes, except in such cases as set forth in Article 8. In the event of a deadlock the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.

**Article 8.** With regard to decisions on applications for permutation of the Foundation decree or for execution of changes in accordance with a permutation decision, at least three quarters of all the board members must vote for the decision.

### **Asset management etc.**

**Article 9.** The board of trustees is responsible for ensuring that the Foundation's assets are managed satisfactorily with limited risk and a good rate of return.

**Article 10.** The board of trustees may take a loan from a credit institution in order to meet a temporary need for liquidity.

### **Authorization to represent the Foundation**

**Article 11.** The person or persons appointed by the board of trustees are authorized to sign on behalf of the Foundation.

### **Accounts and audits**

**Article 12.** The Foundation shall keep accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Swedish Accounting Act. The Foundation's financial year shall be the calendar year. The board of trustees shall adopt a special budget for the coming financial year.

**Article 13.** The board of trustees shall prepare an annual report based on the final accounts for each financial year. The annual report shall consist of a profit and loss account and balance sheet plus a management report, which shall, in addition to the usual information, contain information on how the purposes of the

Foundation have been fulfilled during the financial year.

**Article 14.** The Foundation's accounts and annual report and the board of trustees' management shall be examined by two auditors, at least one of whom shall be authorized. Personal alternates shall be appointed for the auditors.

In addition to the aforementioned auditors and their alternates, the National Audit Bureau shall be entitled to appoint an auditor.

**Article 15.** The board of trustees shall make the annual report available to the auditors for examination not later than four months after the end of the financial year.

**Article 16.** If the auditors prescribed in Article 14 first paragraph so request, a meeting of the board of trustees shall be convened.

**Article 17.** After the audit has been completed, the Foundation shall send a copy of the annual report and the auditors' report to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.

### **Evaluation etc.**

**Article 18.** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry shall be entitled to examine the Foundation's activities.

**Article 19.** The board of trustees shall see to it that the research funded by the Foundation is evaluated regularly.

The Foundation shall furthermore annually publish and give wide distribution to a more popular account of its activities.

**Oversight**

**Article 20.** The Foundation is exempted from oversight according to the Act (1929:116) on oversight of foundations.