

## VICSON- Charter

### **Name**

English name: Vietnam Independent Civil Society Organizations Network (VICSON)

### **Goals:**

1. Advocate, protect and exercise basic human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other Conventions (Covenants) on human rights.
2. Encourage, support, and establish independent civil society organizations.
3. Implement properly the National Process to participate in the ASEAN CSOs Conference (ACSC) and the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) as well as other international forums.

### **Membership**

1. Any CSOs agreeing the Charter of VICSON and having two member organizations for introduction is eligible to become a member of the VICSON. The Secretariat will make a press release for the new membership after receiving an official letter from the candidate organization.
2. Members have the right to withdraw from VICSON after sending official notice to the Secretariat.

### **Secretariat**

The secretariat consists of five people: two Co-Presidents (Co-Chairpersons) and three equal members, for a term of 02 years.

Each member organization has one vote to select 05 candidates for the Secretariat. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will become Co-Presidents. The three candidates with the next highest number of votes will become the other members of the Secretariat. When many candidates receive the same number of votes than two (for co-presidents) and three (for the Secretariat members), the representatives of the member organizations will make additional votes to select two presidents and three members of the Secretariat.

The tasks of the Co-Presidents: Responsible for all activities and development of VICSON.

Duties of other three members of the Secretariat: Supporting Co-President, and performing the tasks assigned by the Secretariat /VICSON.

When any member of the Secretariat could not permanently carry out his/her tasks, VICSON needs to conduct a meeting to select other member to replace him/her.

### **Regular Meetings, Extraordinary Meetings, Congress**

VICSON holds monthly meeting (online or offline) with participation of representatives of all member organizations.

The Secretariat will hold extraordinary meetings when there are urgent issues to be settled.

Congress will be held for every two years.

### **Organizational Methods/Engagement Modality**

- Openness: VICSON is a form of open forum for all civil society organizations.
- Diversity: member organizations represent the different groups of people in the country.
- Dialogue: discussions and dialogue as key means for understanding and development.
- Consensus: majority rule while respecting the differences of opinions.
- Non-violence: does not advocate the use of violence or incite to hatred.

### **Guiding Principles**

- The process of democratization (democratic process): the principle of democratic process must be respected.
- Effective governance: approach the problem, consult and hold dialogue.
- Rule of law: advocated a rule of law.
- Non-discrimination: respect for the equality of all people regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender and other differences.
- Progress on human rights: no concessions on fundamental human rights standards and update progress on human rights in the world.

### **Dispute Settlement**

In order to settle disputes between member organizations that affect activities and image of VICSON, the Secretariat will mediate the two sides based on Fairness and Solidarity.

### **Charter Amendments**

This Charter can be amended if any member organization proposes. The proposal will be discussed at monthly meeting and the amendment (s) will be accepted if there is a consensus of the majority of two thirds of the member organizations on the issue.

Vietnam, March 09, 2016.

Representatives member organizations signed