

Art. 1

NAME

An international non-profit association named International Dzogchen Community (“Comunità Dzogchen Internazionale”) is hereby formed, hereinafter referred to as “International Dzogchen Community” or “Association”.

Art. 2

SEAT AND DURATION

The Association is currently headquartered in Merigar 1, Arcidosso, (GR), Italy.

The Association can establish secondary seats in Italy and abroad.

The Board of Directors (hereinafter also “International Gakyil”) may deliberate to move the seat of the Association within the municipality of Arcidosso by a simple resolution.

The Association has an unlimited duration.

Art. 3

DEFINITION AND MISSION

The International Dzogchen Community is an international non-profit organization that brings together people who are committed to study and practice the Dzogchen Ati Teaching as transmitted and taught by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, a Master possessing authentic knowledge of the state of Dzogchen.

It supports the evolution of individuals and promotes social aims.

It is non-political and non-sectarian.

It is founded on the principle of the Dzogchen Teaching as it has been transmitted by Prahevajra and by the uninterrupted lineage of the Masters within the Buddhist and Bön traditions down to Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, Founder and Spiritual Master of the International Dzogchen Community.

The mission of the Association is to support the transmission of the Dzogchen Teaching, as handed over within Chögyal Namkhai Norbu’s lineage and to safeguard its authenticity.

The fundamental principle of the Dzogchen Community is the understanding by every individual of the primordial state of the Great Perfection (“Dzogchen”) in his/her own nature and the application of this knowledge in life as a path to realization.

The Association aims to support the evolution of individuals through respect of everyone’s dignity and individual dimension refraining at the same time from any proselytism and sectarianism.

The Association promotes respect for the world’s cultural and spiritual diversity through exchange and comparison without any prejudice.

The Association recognizes the Four Noble Truths, taught by the Buddha Gautama Siddhartha Shakyamuni (5th century B.C.), in his sermon at Sarnath, as an integral part of the basic principles of Dzogchen teaching.

The Association’s aims are pursued through the commitment of its members to study and apply the knowledge contained in the Tantras, the Lungs, and the Upadeshas of Dzogchen. The members of the International Dzogchen Community, recognize themselves as Vajra Brothers and Sisters, and harmoniously collaborate with each other, in the spirit of Dzogchen Teachings and on a voluntary basis.

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The Association may collaborate with other entities for the development of initiatives compatible with its own institutional ends. It shall, however, remain completely independent of government bodies, public and private enterprises, and every other body.

Its organizational structure, its activities and the cooperation among its members are inspired and guided by the understanding of the principles of the Dzogchen Teaching.

The relationships among its members and the relationship of the Association with other individuals and institutions are ruled by the understanding of the principle of the specific commitments called *samaya* as they are explained in the framework of the Vajrayana Buddhism and Dzogchen Teachings.

The International Dzogchen Community intends to:

- a) support the transmission and the continuation of the three series of Dzogchen Semde, Longde and Mangagde Teachings under the guidance of the Spiritual Master and founder of the Community by organizing workshops, seminars, conferences, and retreats;
- b) support the transmission of Chogyal Namkhai Norbu's Teachings included in the Longsal cycle;
- c) support the development and continuation of the Santi Maha Sangha Training that embraces nine levels of study and practice of the three series of Dzogchen Semde, Longde and Mangagde;
- d) support, facilitate and spread the teaching activity of the Spiritual Master of the Dzogchen Community and the activities of the instructors designated by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu to explain specific methods or aspects of the Teachings;
- e) support the transmission and improve public knowledge of Yantra Yoga;
- f) support the transmission of the Vajra Dance and other dances related to the Dzogchen Teachings;
- g) retrieve and document the traditional knowledge relevant to the Dzogchen and Buddhist Teachings;
- h) promote initiatives aimed to support and to spread the knowledge of Tibetan culture;
- i) set up libraries and documentation centers;
- j) support and promote the translation and publication of the original literature on the Dzogchen and Buddhist Teachings and on the Tibetan culture in general;
- k) promote conferences, seminars and courses;
- l) give scholarships and grants to individuals, associations and institutions who are contributing to the furthering of the Dzogchen Community's aims;
- m) contribute to the development of the Association's international network;
- n) develop a network of relationships, activities and initiatives at a local and international level with and among communities, formed of all the people and entities interested in the development of spiritual knowledge;
- o) promote, organize, manage and participate in educational activities, including within schools and universities, through research projects, coordination, training and refresher courses, aimed at a comprehensive application of human evolution, and the understanding of the individual nature;
- p) realize, directly or through other organizations founded for this specific purpose, projects

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of international cooperation aimed at the protection of traditional knowledge and the support of local communities, particularly in the areas inhabited by the Tibetan ethnic groups and in general in the developing countries;

- q) encourage public dialogue on themes such as the preservation of traditional knowledge and medical traditions;
- r) promote the work of people inside or outside of the Association who have contributed to the furthering of these aims, by awarding prizes, supplying grants, disseminating and publicizing their achievements and other appropriate means;
- s) support and promote publishing initiatives relevant to the mission of the Association;
- t) publish bulletins, reviews, informative material, and periodicals on the activities of the Dzogchen Community;
- u) divulge, through the activity of qualified physicians, application of the techniques of oriental medicine, Tibetan in particular, and to arrange for the packaging of necessary medicines, in conformity with regulations currently in force;
- v) promote the commercial, artisanal and working activities of members of the Association;
- w) manage the proprietorship and the usage of the trademarks, logos and brands belonging to the International Dzogchen Community and of other trade marks, logos and brands granted in use or licensed, if any;
- x) manage the ownership of all the web domains relevant to the mission and activities of the Association.

To achieve its mission, besides the specific activities listed above, that the Association may accomplish directly or indirectly through donations in favour of other entities that share similar aims, the Association may undertake any subsidiary activity, including for-profit commercial, providing it is related and/or accessory to those listed above. The Association may also perform all acts and conclude any transaction whatsoever concerning individuals, real estate and financing that may be necessary or useful for the achievement of the aims of the Association and with reference to the purpose of the Association.

To achieve the aims it has set, the International Dzogchen Community may participate at an international or national level in public or private organizations, promote groups and meetings, and affiliate itself with institutions and organizations, including business ventures, which it feels useful for the attainment of its social objectives. It may promote and/or support foundations, study centers and publishing and promotional initiatives, and in general undertake any activity that does not conflict with the nature of the Association. To this end, the International Dzogchen Community undertakes to support the raising of financial resources to ensure the successful implementation of the activities of the non-governmental organization ASIA Onlus, the International Atiyoga Foundation, and the Shang Shung Publications Impresa Sociale S.r.l..

The International Dzogchen Community, through its Board of Directors, the International Gakyil, supports the coordination of such entities among themselves by facilitating their communication process with every other entity anywhere in the world that has equivalent and shared aims.

In addition, the Association promotes the creation of an international network of local Associations formed by groups of individuals who share its principles and mission and wish to cultivate common cultural and spiritual interests. The main headquarters of such a network of Associations located in a specific geographical area are called Gar. The basic headquarters of the same network are called Ling. These headquarters are made up of Associations or other types of local entities with their own legal and organizational autonomy that join the International Dzogchen Community as

affiliates, sharing its aims and statutory rules, in accordance with the provisions of the Membership Regulations and the Memorandum of Understanding (in Italian “Protocollo di Affiliazione”).

Art. 4

MEMBERSHIP

The Association includes Founding Members, Ordinary Members and Honorary Members.

Founding Members are those members who founded the Association.

Ordinary Members are both individual persons who have applied for and been accepted by the International Gakyil and those who have applied for and been admitted as Ordinary Members by the respective Boards of Directors of a Gar or Ling affiliated to the Association, under the conditions expressed in the Membership Regulations and in the Gar/Ling statutes. Therefore, all Ordinary Members of Gar and Ling affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community are automatically Members of the International Dzogchen Community.

Honorary Members are persons who have made a significant contribution to the development of the Association or the Association’s institutional activities. Honorary members of the Association are appointed by resolution of the International Gakyil, they hold permanent office and are the only members exempted from paying annual dues. Those who have assumed the same status by resolution of the respective Board of Directors of a Gar/Ling affiliated to the Association also become Honorary Members of the Association.

A person wishing to become a member of the Association can join by the means established in the International Dzogchen Community Membership Regulations.

Particularly, he/she wishes to be admitted:

- shall provide his/her personal data requested by law;
- shall accept this Statute, the Association’s Regulations and the aims and the guiding principles of the Association;
- shall consent to the treatment of his/her own personal data for institutional and administrative ends by law;
- shall pay the annual fee.

The accepted member is entered in the Register of Members, that can be also kept in electronic form. A member cannot be admitted only for a limited period.

Associations or entities who share the same aims of those of the Association can join the Association as “Affiliates”, by the means established in the International Dzogchen Community Membership Regulations.

The Affiliates will have the right to participate in the activities of the Association, expressly excluding the right to vote.

Under the terms of art. 8 of the present Statute, the International Dzogchen Community members have the right:

- a) to vote for or to be elected to any of the institutional bodies of the Association according to the principle of a single vote;
- b) to vote at the General International Assembly to approve and/or amend the Statute;
- c) to approve the Balance Sheet for the fiscal year and the budget;
- d) to participate in the Association assemblies and all its activities, as defined in this statute;

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- e) to examine the official organizational records of the Association by request to be forwarded to the International Gakyil on 15 days' notice.

All members of the Association are bound to:

- observe the rules of this Statute, of the statute of the Gar/Ling affiliated to the Association to which the member belongs, and of all subsidiary documents that will be available at the headquarters of the Association;
- pay a fee, the amount of which is fixed annually by the International Gakyil along with the Board of Directors of the Gar and Ling Affiliated to the Association in accordance with the provisions of the Membership Regulations. The International Gakyil determines the amount of the fee for each single category of members, also taking into consideration any special conditions or the economic circumstances of its members.

The membership fee is non-transferable, and non-refundable and cannot be automatically appreciated in value.

Art. 5

CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

Members cease to be members of the Association by withdrawal, expulsion, or death.

A member may withdraw by notifying in writing the International Gakyil and the Gakyil of the Gar/Ling affiliated to the Association of which he/she is a member, of his/her desire to withdraw from the group of members. Withdrawal will be effective at the beginning of the membership year following that in which the resignation notice has been given.

The Association may expel any Member via joint deliberation and decision of the International Gakyil and the Gakyil of the Gar/Ling (if any) affiliated to the Association with which the member is associated. Grounds for expulsion include:

- a) not paying the annual membership fee by the announced due date;
- b) exhibiting behaviors or implementing activities that conflict with the principles or the aims of the Association;
- c) not abiding by the terms of the Statute, the Regulations of the Association and the deliberations issued by the Bodies of the Association; or
- d) finding him/herself in a situation incompatible with the prosecution of the membership.

The rationale for an expulsion shall be explained in a written resolution and takes effect from the moment it has been deliberated jointly by the International Gakyil and the Gakyil of the Gar/Ling affiliated to the Association.

The expelled member may file a written appeal with the College of Guarantors, hereinafter referred to as the “College of Gekös”, within 30 days of the Effective Date. The College of Gekös will make their decision known within 60 days of submission of the request. The decision shall be binding on all parties.

The membership status cannot be inherited in the case of the death of the member.

Members of a Ling or a Gar affiliated to the Association that is suspended or dissolved do not lose their International Dzogchen Community membership status.

The status of an Affiliated Entity can be lost by withdrawal, by exclusion and/or by the dissolution of the relevant legal entity.

Art. 6

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The International Dzogchen Community is composed as follows:

- a) the International Dzogchen Community Association;
- b) the main headquarters of the International Dzogchen Community in a specific geographical area hereinafter referred to as “Gar”;
- c) the local headquarters/centers within a single country hereinafter referred to as “Ling”;
- d) the associations, foundations, study centers, universities, cooperatives, companies and/or any other institution founded, cofounded, promoted by and/or affiliated with the International Dzogchen Community.

The organizational bodies and offices of the International Dzogchen Community are the following:

- a) the Spiritual Master of the Dzogchen Community hereinafter referred to as the “Honorary President” (if in office);
- b) the “International Sangha Assembly” hereinafter referred to as the “General International Assembly”;
- c) the International Board of Directors hereinafter referred to as “International Gakyil”;
- d) the President of the International Dzogchen Community hereinafter referred to as President”;
- e) the International Executive Director of the International Dzogchen Community (where nominated);
- f) the Gar’s General Assembly;
- g) the Gar’s Board of Directors hereinafter referred to as “Gar’s Gakyil”;
- h) the President of the Gar;
- i) the Gar Executive Director (where nominated);
- j) the Ling’s General Assembly;
- k) the Ling’s Board of Directors referred to as “Ling’s Gakyil”;
- l) the President of the Ling;
- m) the Ling’s Executive Director (where nominated);
- n) the International Coordination Committee;
- o) the College of Gekös (College of Guarantors);
- p) the Board of Auditors.

Art. 7

HONORARY PRESIDENT

The Honorary President is the Spiritual Master of the International Dzogchen Community and the lineage-holder of the Dzogchen Teachings as specified in Art.1 of this Statute.

The Honorary President is appointed by the International General Assembly and remains in office for life.

The Founder and first Honorary President of the International Dzogchen Community was Chögyal

Namkhai Norbu.

The Honorary President has the following functions:

- a) is responsible for the transmission of the Dzogchen Teaching;
- b) sees that the Association operates accordingly to the principle of the Dzogchen Teaching and to the mission indicated in this Statute;
- c) supports the acquiring and protection of the Association's assets;
- d) may propose to the International General Assembly candidates to be elected for the International Gakyil;
- e) may give His approval to the appointment of the Gars' Gakyil members;
- f) may indicate to the International General Assembly the name of His successor(s) as Spiritual Master;
- g) speaks on behalf of the Association to the public and media;
- h) may chair, whenever possible, the International Gakyil and the Gars' Gakyils;
- i) may give His approval to the appointment of replacements for members of the International Gakyil who for whatever reason have ceased to carry out their functions;
- j) may oversee, in an advisory position, the work of the International Gakyil;
- k) may participate in the meetings of every Gars'/Lings' Gakyil, in person or via a representative;
- l) may participate by right in all the Gar/Ling General Assemblies, in person or via a representative; and
- m) in consultation with the International Gakyil, establishes new Gars and Lings and names them.

It is pointed out that in the case of His absence, impediment or when not in office, all the functions referred in the above ordered list “b) to e)” and “g) to m)” in the following articles can be validly managed by the International Gakyil.

Art. 8

THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The International General Assembly is the highest deliberating body of the International Dzogchen Community. It is composed of all the members who, when the Assembly is convened, are recorded as being in good standing with the payment of the membership fee.

The Assembly has authority over all matters that are not specifically attributed by law and/or by this statute to other bodies.

The International General Assembly is responsible for:

- a) approving the budget and the final balance for the fiscal year;
- b) approving the internal allocation of profits or surplus income, howsoever denominated;
- c) approving the Association's policies and program of activities;
- d) approving the nomination of the Honorary President;
- e) approving the nomination and the revocation of the members of the International Gakyil, of the members of the Board of Auditors and of the members of the College of Gekös;
- f) approving amendments to this Statute;

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- g) deliberating the transformation, merger, demerger and dissolution of the Association itself;
- h) deliberating on any matter submitted to the Assembly by the International Gakyil;
- i) deliberating any ordinary and/or extraordinary administrative act, investment and/or transaction, not included in the approved annual budget, exceeding the amount of Euro 100.000,00.

The Assembly is convened by the International Gakyil:

- at least once per year to approve the balance sheet, the financial report and the program of activities;
- at least every three years to renew the offices of the Association;
- whenever the International Gakyil deems it necessary.

The Assembly can be also convened on the request from at least one-tenth of the members who shall submit their written request to the International Gakyil proposing the agenda for the Assembly. In such a case, the Assembly must be convened within thirty days of the request.

The Assembly is convened, at least thirty days in advance, by any means suitable to prove the reception of the notice at the specific address and/or at the email address provided by the member at the time of his/ her request to become a registered member.

The Assembly can also be convened with the same notice period by posting the notice at the headquarters of the Association and/or by publishing the notice on the official website of the Association. The notice shall include, the agenda of the meeting, the time, the date, the format, and the place where the Assembly is convened and the time, the date, the format, and place for possibly convening the Assembly in second call. The Assembly can be also convened outside the headquarters of the Association.

Ordinary and extraordinary International General Assemblies are regularly constituted:

- in first call when 50% of the members are present;
- in second call, the Assembly is regularly constituted whatever the number of members present.

These quora are valid also in case of amendment both of incorporation deed and of this Statute.

The International General Assembly validly deliberates – both in first and in second call - on all agenda topics with the absolute majority of the attending members, i.e., more than 50% plus one of the votes cast.

In cases of the dissolution of the Association, the modification of the name, the modification of the mission in the fourth paragraph of Art. 3, and the liquidation of assets, at least a consensus of 75% of the members is required.

All members of the International Dzogchen Community who have the right to participate in the International Assembly can participate in the Assembly by proxy. Every member may represent the votes of a maximum of three other members. Every member has only one vote.

The International General Assembly is chaired by the Honorary President, if present, or by the President of the International Gakyil, or in his absence, by the Vice President of the International Gakyil, and in their absence by the senior member in office of the International Gakyil.

The Chair of the International General Assembly is assisted by a Secretary nominated by the Assembly either from among members or non-members, and, if necessary, two Scrutinisers from among the members.

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Resolutions passed by the Assembly shall appear in a written minute signed by the Chair of the International General Assembly, the Secretary and, where applicable, by the Scrutinisers.

When required by law, or the Chair of the International General Assembly deems it appropriate, the minutes shall be drawn up by a Notary Public nominated by the Chair.

The International General Assembly can be held at different locations via video/audio conference or any electronic means, including via electronic mail, on the following conditions:

- the Chair and the Secretary of the Assembly shall be at the same location;
- the Chair shall be able to verify the identity and the right to vote of the persons attending the Assembly, to preside over the assembly, to verify and announce the results of the vote;
- the person taking the minutes shall be able to properly follow the course of the Assembly events to be recorded in the minutes;
- the members attending the meeting shall be able to participate in the discussion and to concurrently vote the topics on the agenda of the meeting; they shall also be able to view, receive and/or transmit documents;
- the modality to connect to the place where the Chair and the Secretary are present, that is considered the place where the Assembly is held, shall be explained in the notice of convocation;
- whenever deemed necessary by the International Gakyil, the members' deliberations can be arranged through a written consultation or through a request to the members to express their consensus in writing;
- the procedure of the written consultation and/or the request of the consensus of the members in writing is not subject to any specific limitation as long as the right to participate in the decision is ensured for all members and that adequate information is provided to all members with right of vote;
- the deliberation is adopted when the majority of the members who have expressed their vote in writing have approved the proposal(s) that the International Gakyil has tabled for the vote of the Assembly in one or more documents;
- the voting process of the written consultation must be concluded within 20 days from the date of the request to vote to the members. Votes of members received after this deadline will not be accepted.

Art.9

INTERNATIONAL GAKYIL

A Board of Directors called the International Gakyil governs the Association.

It is composed by a minimum of three up to a maximum of nine members elected by the General Assembly based on the possible proposal of the Honorary President, if in office.

The International Gakyil nominates among its members a President and a Vice President.

The Gakyil takes its name from a traditional Tibetan symbol: a circle with three crescents yellow, red, and blue respectively in correspondence of the body, the voice/energy, and the mind of the individuals. Body, voice (or energy) and mind are the basis on which any individual succeeds in providing for all necessities of life. Consequently, the main basis of all organizational aspects of the Dzogchen Community fall within their field.

Accordingly, the Gakyil is divided into three areas of competence; each area is represented by a

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colour and should have at least one member:

- a) Yellow: deals with the administration of the Association's assets and represents the Association's economic and administrative activities.
- b) Red: oversees the development and management of the physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the implementation of the Association's operations. Oversees the smooth functioning of the Association's operations and consistent services delivery. Oversees the logistical services and the implementation of internal management and administrative systems and procedures. Oversees the recruitment and management of human resources.
- c) Blue: deals with cultural and educational activities. Oversees all activities and initiatives aimed to support the transmission of the Dzogchen Teaching and related knowledge. Promotes relevant specific activities of the Association and oversees the Association's publication and communication activities.

The International Gakyil has the responsibility to support the Honorary President (if in office) in ensuring that the Association complies with its mission; it ensures that the activities and the organizational system of the Dzogchen Community are efficiently implemented in accordance with the principle of the Dzogchen Teaching.

The International Gakyil is entrusted exclusively with all the powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration, having jurisdiction on all matters that the law and the present statute are not specifically attributing to the General Assembly.

A meeting of the International Gakyil is convened by the President and, in his absence, may be convened by any International Gakyil Member in writing (including electronic mail), with advance notice period to be agreed by the members. The notice must contain an outline of the meeting's agenda.

A quorum of the International Gakyil is deemed valid when the majority of its members holding office are present and when all areas of the Gakyil are represented. In case the Gakyil is composed of only three people, resolutions are deemed valid when all the members of the Gakyil are present.

The International Gakyil resolves votes based on the simple majority of those present. In the case of a tie, the vote of the President prevails and in his absence, the vote of the Vice President prevails.

Whenever necessary, the International Gakyil can meet, deliberate, and cast votes via video or telephone conference or via electronic mail, as long as all the members have the possibility of participating in discussions and the decision-making process.

The International Gakyil may temporarily delegate all or some of its powers to ad hoc committees, to the International Executive Director and/or to other individuals.

The International Gakyil may appoint directors, proxies holder and attorneys to perform certain acts and/or categories of acts and determine their powers.

Members of the Association who wish to be elected should submit a Letter-of-Intent together with their Curriculum Vitae that proves the suitability for the role related to one of the three above-mentioned operational areas to the Gakyil at least two months prior to the date of the International General Assembly. Candidates to be presented for election to the International General Assembly are selected by the Gakyil in charge taking into account any proposals made by the Honorary President (if in office), on the basis of their CV, Letter-of-Intent, and the outcome of verbal interviews with at least two sitting International Gakyil members. In the selection process, the International Gakyil may rely on the advisory opinion of a Committee appointed ad hoc.

The members of the International Gakyil remain in office for three years.

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A member of the International Gakyil may be elected for two consecutive terms; after his/her second term of office he/she may not be re-elected for a period of three years.

The resignation of a member of the Gakyil shall be communicated to the International Gakyil in writing at least 30 days in advance of the Effective Date. The resignation shall have immediate effect if the majority of the members of the International Gakyil remaining in office vote in favour of releasing the resigning member sooner than 30 days. Any member whose separation would make it impossible to form a valid quorum shall remain productively in office until a qualified replacement takes office.

If for any reason one or more of the elected members of the International Gakyil ceases to perform their function, the International Gakyil will appoint their replacement. The Honorary President (if in office) shall have the power to express his opinion on the appointment of the replacement(s) of the member(s) of the International Gakyil who for any reason has or have ceased to perform his/their functions. These new members will remain in office until the next Assembly. For the purposes of a possible re-election, partial duration of the office will be counted as a full year, if it exceeds six months.

If the majority of the Gakyil members are unable to participate, the members remaining in office shall call a meeting of the Assembly to replace them.

Members of the Gakyil are not entitled to any remuneration, other than reimbursement of documented expenses incurred at reasonable and customary cost in the course of their duties.

Art. 10

In addition to the tasks previously mentioned in this Statute, the International Gakyil is also responsible for:

- a) overseeing the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the International Association;
- b) drawing up the balances and the budgets to be submitted for final approval by the International General Assembly and carry out all related tasks;
- c) deliberating on applications for new memberships and affiliations;
- d) fixing the method of determining the annual membership fee;
- e) reviewing the activities and decisions taken by the various Gar's Gakyil to ensure compliance with the Association's policies, with all the authority assigned by this Statute;
- f) proposing to the Honorary President, if in office, the establishment of new Lings and Gars and the dissolution of existing Gars and Lings;
- g) authorizing, in the geographical areas where there is no Gar's Gakyil in charge, the implementation of forms of organization between Lings which render their Association activities more efficient;
- h) keeping the Lings of those countries without a Gar's Gakyil informed of the Association's strategic aims, main initiatives and national campaigns (this task may possibly be delegated to the nearest Gar's Gakyil);
- i) setting up international and national *ad hoc* committees and advisory committees, made up of experts whose duty will be to propose policies, programs and initiatives functional to the aims of the International Association;
- j) appointing the members of the International Coordination Committee (Art. 13 of this Statute);
- k) convening the meeting of the International Coordination Committee;

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- l) convening the International General Assembly and preparing the Acts to be submitted to the Assembly;
- m) proposing the appointment of representatives of the Association to public and private bodies and institutions of which the Association is part of or to which it has the right to do so;
- n) deciding on the removal from office of any International Gakyil member, in the event that he or she is not performing his/her duties or is organizing and/or running activities considered by the International Gakyil to be damaging, incompatible or in opposition to the International Dzogchen Community;
- o) making recommendations to the Honorary President, if in office, to the General Assemblies and Gakyils of relevant Gars and Lings the removal from office of Gar and Ling Gakyil members;
- p) making recommendations on the closure of inactive Lings, or the dissolution of Lings with just cause, where it is not the responsibility of the relevant Gar's Gakyil;
- q) inviting representatives from the Association to discuss issues of their specific interest and competence: these invited representatives may express non-binding opinions;
- r) approving standard regulations and protocols for the management of the Association to be proposed to the affiliated Gars and Lings;
- s) defining, establishing and managing the trademarks owned by or granted in use to the International Dzogchen Community;
- t) verifying the compliance with the Statute and regulations within the Association and their observance by Gars and Lings affiliated;
- u) promoting the reform of this Statute, if and when considered necessary, to the Honorary President (if in office) and to the International General Assembly;
- v) establishing by means of a specific resolution the Executive Director's powers and limits of action, in particular with regard to extraordinary administration;
- w) taking part in the Assemblies of the Gar Associations, when deemed necessary and/or on the recommendation of the Honorary President;
- x) ensuring that all the Gars and the Lings of the International Dzogchen Community serve the mission and purposes of the International Dzogchen Community in accordance with the principle of the Dzogchen Teaching;
- y) nominating from among its members the President, who has the legal representation of the Association, and a Vice President;
- z) modifying the membership Regulations.

Art. 11

PRESIDENT

The President is responsible for the legal representation of the Association before third parties and in the court for all matters of ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Association and has all relevant powers of signature. The President coordinates the work of the International Gakyil.

In the case of urgent necessity, the President can exercise the powers of the International Gakyil, upon ratification at the first International Gakyil meeting.

The International Gakyil, by means of a specific resolution, in particular with regard to extraordinary administration, establishes the President's powers and limits of action.

In the case the President is absent or unable, all his duties are assumed by the Vice President.

The Honorary President (if in office) may express his approval on the appointment of the President and to recommend the demotion of the President.

The President is nominated by the International Gakyil from among its members.

The resolution of the demotion of the President is approved by a majority vote of all IG members.

Art. 12

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If needed, the International Gakyil may decide to entrust the management of the day-to-day operations of the Association to an Executive Director. The International Executive Director is appointed by the International Gakyil. He/she reports to the International Gakyil, directs all day-to-day operations of the Association, including: supervising staff, monitoring programs and finances, providing ongoing direction, providing assistance and reporting to the International Gakyil on the Association's operations, and any other duties that may from time-to-time be assigned by the International Gakyil.

The International Executive Director can be assigned the authority to represent the International Association in relation to specific acts by the International Gakyil.

The International Executive Director may be invited to participate in the International Gakyil meetings with no right of vote.

The Executive Director's powers and limits of action are established by the International Gakyil by means of a resolution.

Art. 13

THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

The International Coordination Committee is the assembly, which represents the main forum for coordination and dialog between associations, entities, institutions, and groups belonging to, or associated with the International Dzogchen Community.

The role of the International Coordination Committee is to facilitate the international coordination and synergies between the entities above. It acts as an advisory board on issues pertaining to the Association and its activities.

It is composed of members by right, and members appointed by the Honorary President (if in office) and the International Gakyil.

The members by right are:

- a) the Honorary President;
- b) the members of the International Gakyil;
- c) two representatives from each Gar Gakyil, appointed by the Gar Gakyil among its members;
- d) one representative for each Ling, appointed by the Ling Gakyil among its members;
- e) one representative of the NGO A.S.I.A, one representative of the International Atiyoga Foundation, one representative of the Shang Shung Publications Impresa Sociale S.r.l..

The President of the Board of Auditors, the President of the College of Guarantors and the International Executive Director are invited by right to meetings of the International Coordination Committee. The members of the International advisory bodies as to Art. 36 of this Statute are also invited to meetings of the International Coordination Committee.

Art. 14

The International Coordination Committee is convened by the International Gakyil at least once every three years. It must be convened by providing notice in writing (including electronically) at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The announcement must contain information on the date, place, format, and agenda of the meeting. The International Coordination Committee must also be convened whenever it is deemed necessary or when at least one-tenth of the members eligible to vote of the Association make a written request to the International Gakyil. The International Gakyil, with advice from ICC members, determines the agenda for its meetings.

Art. 15

In addition to those previously mentioned, the tasks of the International Coordination Committee include:

- a) examination of major issues facing the International Dzogchen Community with the aim to better support the teaching activities of its Spiritual Master and to enhance the coordination of the activities of the Association;
- b) proposing to the International Gakyil means aimed to improve the coordination between groups and organizations in the different countries;
- c) supporting the International Gakyil in developing communication and fundraising strategies;
- d) supporting the coordination and development of initiatives, projects and activities promoted by ASIA Onlus, the International Atiyoga Foundation, the Shang Shung Publications Impresa Sociale S.r.l. and/or any other organization founded and/or affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community;
- e) supporting the communication between members of the Association in the different countries with the aim to optimize and facilitate the use of resources.

The ICC approves resolutions by a simple majority of those participating. When necessary, the International Coordination Committee can meet and deliberate via video or telephone conference or via electronic mail, as long as all the members have the possibility of participating in the discussions and decision-making process.

Every participating ICC member represents the situation of the Association in their own country, geographic area, organization, group, etc., proposes to the International Coordination Committee the projects and initiatives of their own area and reports back to their area/group on the decisions and planning policies proposed by the International Coordination Committee to the International Gakyil.

Art. 16

The International Gakyil shall replace a member of the International Coordination Committee if the requisites that permitted his or her appointment cease to exist or for other reasons, provided that these are grounded, such as, for example, those referred to in Article 4 of this Statute.

Art. 17

GAR'S HONORARY PRESIDENT

If in office, the Gar's Honorary President is the Spiritual Master of the International Dzogchen Community and Honorary President of the International Association.

Art. 18

THE GAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Gar's General Assembly is the highest deliberating body of the Gar.

It is composed by all the members registered with-the Gar in good standing with their membership fees.

The General Assembly of the Gar has authority over all matters:

- that are reserved to it by the respective Statute and by the law of the State where the seat of the Gar is located;
- that are not specifically attributed by law and/or by this statute to other bodies.

The Assembly is convened by the Gar Gakyil:

- at least once per year to approve the balance sheet, the financial report, the budget and the program of activities;
- at least every three years to renew the offices of the Gar;
- whenever else the Gar Gakyil deems it necessary.

The Gar Assembly is convened by the Gar Gakyil on its own initiative (or, in Italy, on the request of at least one-tenth of its members eligible to vote) or of whatever proportion might be required by the law of each relevant country for the Gar.

Art.19

GAR'S GAKYIL

The Gar's Gakyil is the representative and coordinating body for all the members and all the organizational structures of the International Association present in a specific geographical area defined by the International Gakyil. It is established when, following the request of the IDC Honorary President (if in office), a Gar, the main seat of the Association in a specific geographic area, is founded by the members of the International Dzogchen Community.

The Gar's Gakyil consists of at least three members of the Gar elected by the Gar Assembly.

The members of a new Gar's Gakyil, are elected by the Assembly of the Founding Members taking into consideration the possible proposal of the Honorary President (if in office) of the International Dzogchen Community. The Honorary President (if in office) has also the faculty of recommending to the General Assembly of the Gar to suspend or dissolve existing Gars' Gakyil within the terms of this Statute.

Members of the Gar Gakyil remain in office for three years. A member of the Gar Gakyil may be elected for two consecutive terms; after his/her second term of office he/she may not be re-elected for a period of three years.

The Gakyil's President, via written or verbal communication, convenes meetings of the Gar Gakyil normally at least one week prior to the date fixed for the meeting. Resolutions of the Gakyil are deemed valid when the majority of the members of the Gakyil are present and when all areas/colors of the Gakyil are represented. Deliberations are resolved on the basis of a simple majority of those present. In the case of a tie, the vote of the President of the Gar Gakyil prevails and in his/her absence the vote of the Vice President prevails.

Members of the Gar's Gakyil are not entitled to any remuneration, other than reimbursement of documented expenses incurred at reasonable and customary cost in the course of their duties.

Art. 20

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG GAR’S GAKYIL, IDC AND THE INTERNATIONAL GAKYIL

The relationships between every Gar’s Gakyil and the International Gakyil are regulated by this Statute, by the Gar Statute and by the relevant Protocol(s) signed by both bodies. The Protocol authorizes a Gar’s Gakyil to use the International Dzogchen Community trademarks, logos, and brands according to the terms defined by the article on the “Code of Use for the International Dzogchen Community Trademarks, Logos and Brands”.

With reference to the breakdown of membership fees among IDC, Gars and Lings, each Gar has the right to a share of the total comprehensive membership fee paid by each member (including IDC, Gar and Ling membership fee) to finance its activities, to be defined by the International Gakyil in consultation with the Gar’s Gakyil, based on the Membership Regulations.

Art. 21

TASKS OF THE GAR’S GAKYIL

The tasks of the Gar’s Gakyil are:

- a) to oversee the implementation of the resolutions of the International General Assembly and the guidelines of International Gakyil in order to ensure the harmonious development of the Association in the represented geographical area;
- b) to coordinate and organize activities in agreement with this statute, the Gar’s statute and in accordance with the International Dzogchen Community Membership Regulations;
- c) to support the development of the International Association through its own financial resources;
- d) to establish relationships and collaborations with public bodies, associations, non-governmental organizations, and communication media that are functional to the aims of the Association;
- e) to keep its affiliated Lings informed of the Association’s strategic goals, and the IDC’s and Gar’s main initiatives and campaigns;
- f) to propose to the IG and to the Honorary President (if in office) the closure of inactive Lings or the dissolution of Lings with just cause;
- g) to propose to the General Assembly, after consultation with the International Gakyil, amendments to the Gar Statute which govern the functioning and administration of the Gar Association, in accordance with this Statute;
- h) to prepare and submit annual work-plans and relevant budgets to the International Gakyil;
- i) to send at least quarterly to the International Gakyil the membership data for all new members;
- j) to monitor the use of the International Dzogchen Community trademarks, logos and brands in their own country and to promptly inform the International Gakyil of any case of incorrect or inappropriate use;
- k) to nominate among its Gakyil’s members the Gar’s President who has the legal representation of the Association and the Vice President.

Art.22

GAR’S PRESIDENT

The Gar’s President is responsible for the legal representation of the Association before third parties

and in the court for all matters of ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Gar and has all relevant powers of signature.

The President coordinates the work of the Gar's Gakyil.

In the case of urgent necessity, the President can exercise the powers of the Gar's Gakyil, upon ratification at the first meeting.

The Gar's Gakyil by means of a specific resolution, in particular with regard to extraordinary administration, establishes the President's powers and limits of action.

The President is nominated by the Gar's Gakyil among its members. The demotion of the President can be recommended at any time by the Honorary President (if in office). It can be deliberated through a motion, voted by the majority of the Gar's Gakyil members.

Art. 23

THE GAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If needed, the Gar Gakyil may decide to entrust the management of the day to day operations of the Association to an Executive Director. The Gar Executive Director is appointed by the Gar Gakyil. He/she reports to the Gar Gakyil, directs all day-to-day operations of the Association, including: supervising staff, monitoring programs and finances, providing ongoing direction, providing responsive administrative support to Gar Gakyil members, advising and reporting to the Gar Gakyil on the Gar's operations, and any other duties that may from time-to-time be assigned.

The Gar Executive Director can be assigned the authority to represent the Association in relation to specific subjects by the Gar Gakyil.

Art. 24

THE GAR STATUTE

The Statute of the Gar guarantees:

- a) the exact nature of the Association (or analogous established structure) as the local organized structure of the International Dzogchen Community, so that belonging to the local Dzogchen Community Association on the part of an individual member presupposes membership in the International Dzogchen Community Association;
- b) conformity of the Statute with the International Dzogchen Community Statute and all its subsidiary documents available at the Association Headquarters;
- c) the definition of the relationships between the Gar and the Lings;
- d) a Gar General Assembly of the members as the supreme deliberating body of the Association;
- e) the Gar General Assembly to be held every year for the approval of the final balance sheet and budget and, when needed, the election of the Association's bodies;
- f) the means of identifying candidates to represent the Gar in the international bodies of the Association;
- g) the IDC Honorary President (if in office) as the Honorary President of the Gar;
- h) the determination of one or more administrative bodies and the representative powers of the bodies themselves;
- i) the non-transferability onto the International Dzogchen Community Association of any obligation assumed by the Gar's Gakyil, with the exception only of specific and documented exceptions originating along with the International Gakyil;

- j) the presentation of annual financial accounts to the International Gakyil and of a budget forecast for the following year;
- k) any other matter required in accordance with the law of the State where the Gar is established.

Art. 25

THE LING, THE LING GAKYIL, THE LING’S PRESIDENT

The Ling is the Association’s basic organizational structure within which members carry out the Association activities at the local level.

The establishment of a new Ling is confirmed by the Honorary President (if in office), who also confers the Ling’s name along with the International Gakyil.

With reference to the breakdown of membership fees among IDC, Gars and Lings, each Ling has the right to a share of the total comprehensive membership fee (including IDC, Gar and Ling membership fee) to finance its activities, to be defined with the Gar’s Gakyil accordingly to the directions issued by the International Gakyil, based on the Membership Regulations.

Art. 26

To establish a Ling, the founding members must make a formal request to the International Gakyil. If the International Gakyil in consultation with the Honorary President (if in office) approves the request, it may ascribe the new Ling to the network of Lings related to a specific Gar. It may also allow the Ling to use the International Dzogchen Community’s trademarks, logos, and brands in accordance with the relevant means of use contained in the present Statute and in the Protocol’s article on the “Code of Use of Trademarks, Logos and Brands of the International Dzogchen Community”.

To make a formal request for the establishment of a Ling there should be at least 9 registered and in good standing with the payment of the annual membership fee members of the International Dzogchen Community who have an official seat where to hold the Ling meetings.

With just cause the International Gakyil may propose the dissolution of a Ling, with a consequent immediate cessation of the use of the International Dzogchen Community trademarks, logos and brands and the possibility of using the Association’s tools of identification.

Art. 27

A Ling can be considered active when, having established a headquarters and its statute, as approved by the International Gakyil, has been legally registered, and its copy has been received by the International Gakyil and by the relevant Gar Gakyil (where existing). In the absence of these conditions a Ling will still be considered active in certain circumstances if it is recognized as such by the International Gakyil or the Honorary President (if in office).

In case a Ling is dissolved or ceases its activities, or for any other justifiable reason, the International Gakyil has the responsibility to reallocate the share of the comprehensive membership fee and to refer the members of the Ling to another Ling and/or directly to a Gar.

Art. 28

LING’S TASKS

The Ling's tasks are:

- a) to locally promote the mission of the International Dzogchen Community Association;
- b) to support and facilitate the teaching, the study and the practice of the Dzogchen Teaching and related disciplines;

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- c) to support, facilitate and spread the work of the Spiritual Master of the Dzogchen Community and of other Dzogchen Community instructors in the local area where the Ling is established;
- d) to develop around itself a local network of individuals who share the principles of the International Dzogchen Community and collaborate together to support the Dzogchen Teaching; this network is the local community of the International Dzogchen Community;
- e) to find appropriate places where the Association activities can be implemented;
- f) to organize events, courses and seminars relevant to the mission of the Association;
- g) to establish relationships and collaborations with public bodies, private associations and communication media, in order to contribute to the mission of the International Dzogchen Community;
- h) to collaborate with other associations or entities in initiatives aimed to support Tibetan culture;
- i) to establish and maintain collaborative relationships with other Lings; and
- j) to implement activities of promotion and support for the International Dzogchen Community's international and local projects and programs.

Art. 29

LING'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ling's General Assembly is the highest deliberating body of the Ling. It is made up of all those registered in the Ling in good standing with the payment of the membership fee.

The General Assembly of the Ling has authority over all matters:

- that are reserved to it by the respective Statutes and by the law of the State where the seat of the Ling is located;
- that are not specifically attributed by law and/or by this statute to other bodies.

The General Assembly meeting of the Ling is convened:

- at least once per year for the approval of the Ling's balance sheet, financial report, the budget and program of activities;
- at least every two years to renew the offices of the Association;
- whenever else the Ling Gakyil deems it necessary.

The Ling General Assembly is convened by the Ling Gakyil on its own initiative or on the request of at least one-tenth (or whatever percentage might be required by the law of the relevant country in which the Ling is located) of the members who make such request to the Ling Gakyil.

Art. 30

A Ling Gakyil, composed by at least three members, manages the Ling. The Ling Gakyil is responsible for the activities it carries out and for any kind of obligation towards third parties. The Ling Gakyil represents the Association in the Ling's geographic area and is responsible, in addition to what has been stated above, for the use of the Association trademarks, logos and branding according to the principles and means established in the present Statute and in Protocol's article on the "Code of Use of the International Dzogchen Community Trademarks, Logos and Brands".

Art. 31

LING GAKYIL

The Ling Gakyil additionally is responsible for:

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- a) organizing the Association’s local activities and Association membership;
- b) representing the Association in its relationships with public entities, institutions, and communication media within the area where the Ling is located;
- c) convening the Ling General Assembly;
- d) preparing the annual report to be presented to the Ling General Assembly and providing for the keeping of the Ling’s account and statutory books as well as the list of members;
- e) promoting and implementing all the initiatives that are adopted by the International and relevant Gar’s Gakyil;
- f) controlling the use of the International Dzogchen Community trademarks, logos and branding in the Ling’s area and promptly notifying the International Gakyil, or the relevant Gar’s Gakyil where existing, in the case of use deemed to be incorrect or inappropriate;
- g) submitting regularly, work-plans, reports, budgets, and balance sheets to the International Gakyil and to the relevant Gar Gakyil, if any.

Art. 32

The Ling Gakyil is elected by the Ling General Assembly, who will also determine its size. It holds office for two years. The founding members nominate the Ling Gakyil members of a new Ling.

Within one month of being nominated, the members of the Ling Gakyil must sign a document which, in accordance with this Statute, regulates the details of the relationship of the Ling to the International Gakyil and Gar’s Gakyil, where existing. The agreement is drawn up by the International Gakyil and takes into account the specific rules and regulations of any Gar Statute, where applicable, and the Ling’s geographic location.

Ling Gakyil meetings are convened by the President of the Ling Gakyil by a written or verbal communication, normally at least three days prior to the day planned for the meeting. For resolutions to be valid there must be a majority of Gakyil members present. Resolutions are passed by a vote in favor from the majority of those present at the meeting; in the case of a tie, the vote of the President prevails and in his absence the vote of the Vice President prevails.

The Ling Gakyil member mandate lasts for two consecutive years. Ling Gakyil members can remain in office for up to two successive mandates, after which they cannot be reelected for at least two years.

Art. 33

LING PRESIDENT

The Ling President, who is appointed by the Gakyil from among its members, coordinates the activities of the Ling Gakyil. He/she is entrusted with legal representation of the Ling. The Ling President chairs the Ling Gakyil and has the task to coordinate the work of the Ling Gakyil regarding:

- a) planning of the Ling’s activities;
- b) preparation of the annual report;
- c) convening the general Assembly of the members when needed;
- d) preparation of the internal rules and regulations that best serve the running and administration of the Ling;
- e) coordination of administrative activities with directives and regulations set down by the International Gakyil and the relevant Gar’s Gakyil, where existing; and

- f) evaluation of the correctness of the use of the International Dzogchen Community logo in the Ling’s local geographic area.

Art.34

THE LING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If needed, the Ling Gakyil may decide to entrust the management of the day-to-day operations of the Association to an Executive Director. The Ling Executive Director is appointed by the Ling Gakyil. He/she reports to the Ling Gakyil, directs all day-to-day operations of the Association, including: supervising staff, monitoring programs and finances, providing ongoing direction, providing responsive administrative support to Ling Gakyil members, advising and reporting to the Ling Gakyil on the Ling’s operations, and any other duties that may from time-to-time be assigned.

The Ling Executive Director can be assigned the authority to represent the Association in relation to specific subjects by the Ling Gakyil.

Art. 35

THE LING STATUTE

The Ling Statute guarantees:

- a) the exact nature of the Association (or analogous established structure) as the local organized structure of the International Dzogchen Community, so that belonging to the Local Association on the part of an individual member implies membership in the International Association and in the Gar Association where existing;
- b) conformity of the Ling Statute with the International Statute and its subsidiary documents available at the Association’s Headquarters and with the relevant Gar Statute if any;
- c) the definition of the relationships between the Ling’s Association and the International Dzogchen Community Association and the relevant Gar if any;
- d) a Ling General Assembly of the members as the supreme deliberating body of the Ling’s Association;
- e) the Ling General Assembly to be held at least every year for budget and final balance approval and every two years for the election and the renewal of the bodies of the Association;
- f) the means of identifying candidates to represent the Ling in the international bodies of the Association;
- g) when in office, that the Honorary President of the Ling is the Honorary President of the International Dzogchen Community;
- h) the determination of one or more administrative bodies and the representative powers of the bodies themselves;
- i) the non-transferability onto the International Association, and onto the Gar if any, of any obligation assumed by the Ling Gakyil, with the exception only of specific and documented exceptions originating along with the International Gakyil;
- j) any other matter required in accordance with the law of the State where the Gar is established.

Art. 36

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BODIES

International advisory bodies are created by decision of the International Gakyil. They have the task of in-depth study, development and proposition of policies and strategies involving specific

issues of interest to the Association, in such a way as to ensure they are managed in full conformity with the circumstances of each country. The International Gakyil defines their composition, operating procedures, and tasks.

Art. 37

THE BOARD OF AUDITORS AND THE COLLEGE OF GEKÖS (COLLEGE OF GUARANTORS)

The bodies of guarantee and control of the International Association are the Board of Auditors and the College of Gekös (College of Guarantors). The members of both bodies are elected by the International General Assembly. Membership lasts for three years and they can be reelected. Both bodies of guarantee and control resolve on a simple majority. If necessary, they can conduct remote meetings via audio/video conference and can vote deliberations via mail, electronic mail, teleconferences, etc.

Art. 38

THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

The Board of Auditors can be constituted by only one auditor or can be composed, whenever deemed necessary by the General Assembly, by a board of three permanent auditors and two substitutes.

The Auditors may be non-members of the Association. They shall not sit on the International and Gars' Gakyils and shall not be a spouse, relative or in-law of members of the International and Gar's Gakyils and/or the Honorary President within the fourth degree. They are preferably nominated from among the subjects indicated in paragraph 2 or art. 2397 of the Italian Civil Code and, however, from among persons arguably appropriate for the office.

Auditors remain in office until approval of the balance sheet for the third year following their nomination. Auditors may be re-elected.

The Board may be revoked solely for just cause.

The Auditor(s) may take part in meetings of the International Gakyil and Assemblies of Members but have no voting rights. They are required to take part at the meeting of the International Gakyil, which draws up and endorses the budget and Financial Statement and at the Assembly for their approval.

The Auditors ensure that the accounting books are regularly kept, ascertaining financial solidity. They may at any time, including individually, undertake acts and inspections for the purposes of control; they preside over the Association's administration and examine and approve the annual financial statement and the statement of assets and liabilities to submit to the Assembly of Members.

A President of the Board of Auditors is elected from among its members. The President is permanently invited to meetings of the International Coordination Committee.

The Board has the tasks of verifying that:

- a) the law, the Statute and the principles of correct administration are being observed;
- b) the accounts are being kept correctly and tax obligations are met;
- c) the Financial Statement, the Balance Sheet and the written accounts correspond to the facts reported by management.

The Board of Auditors presents a written report of the Association's Balance Sheet.

Art. 39

COLLEGE OF GEKÖS (COLLEGE OF GUARANTORS)

The College of Gekös (College of Guarantors) is the body of statutory guarantee and internal jurisdiction and its functions cover the entire international scope of the Association.

It consists of a minimum of three members up to a maximum of five members in good standing with the payment of the membership fee nominated from among the members of the Association who are not sitting on the International Gakyil, on the Gar Gakyils, on the Ling Gakyils and who are not a spouse, relative or in-law of members of the International and Gar's Gakyils and/or the Honorary President (if in office) within the fourth degree.

A President of the College of Gekös is elected from among its members. The President is permanently invited to meetings of the International Coordination Committee.

The College of Gekös has jurisdiction on any possible controversy between the members and the Association and/or its administrative bodies as far as the interpretation and implementation of this Statute are concerned.

The College of Guarantors will judge *ex aequo et bono* with no procedural formalities within 60 days from the reception of a request/appeal, and issue a written ruling containing reasons for their decision.

Art. 40

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The members of the governing and administrative bodies of the International Dzogchen Community at different levels must adapt their behavior and their initiatives, within the ambit of the Association, in order to guarantee that their own interests are not privileged in connection with economic and professional activities, and that they do not obtain personal benefits from them. The International Gakyil has the task of monitoring and verifying any eventual inappropriateness and taking any resulting decisions, following consultation with the College of Guarantors.

Art. 41

TOOLS OF COMMUNICATION

The International Gakyil oversees the publication of all forms of media communication for the International Dzogchen Community. It also monitors the publication, in paper or electronic form, of information materials published by all Gars, Lings and affiliated associations to ensure that they correspond to the Teachings of the Spiritual Master of the Dzogchen Community and that they comply with the mission, principles and the provisions on the use of trademarks, logos, brands and names of the International Dzogchen Community. It also monitors any form of broadcasted and/or web communication.

The International Gakyil defines the official website for the whole International Dzogchen Community.

Art. 42

ASSETS AND RESOURCES

The Association's assets may only be used for its institutional activities.

The assets of the International Dzogchen Community are made up of:

- a) chattels and real estate acquired and/or devolved to the Association by whatever right by natural persons, public and private entities;

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- b) donations and legacies;
- c) income arising from the previous items, which are regarded as designated to increase the assets;
- d) sums deriving from operating surpluses which the International General Assembly, on the proposal of the International Gakyil, decides to increase the assets when approving the final yearly balance sheet.

All of the income which is available to the Association for the carrying out of its purposes comes from:

- a) contributions and reimbursements;
- b) membership fees;
- c) revenue or profit from the assets or economic activities and commercial activities related to institutional activity;
- d) proceeds from public fundraising activities also in an organised and continuous form, in compliance with legal or ministerial provisions;
- e) any other kind of income deriving from secondary and instrumental activities with respect to institutional activities;
- f) donations or contributions from public and private parties not expressly designated to increase the assets;
- g) payments made by founders and all those who participate in the Association;
- h) other contributions, of whatever nature, paid by members, natural persons, public and private entities, for the development of activities having social aims, exercised in compliance with institutional objectives;
- i) any extraordinary contribution established by the Assembly, which fixes the amount.

Payments may be for any amount, except for a minimum membership payment fixed annually by the International Gakyil as stated in the Membership Regulations and are, however, considered grants; in no case, including in the case of wind-up of the association, death, extinction, withdrawal, or exclusion from the Association, will the amount paid to the Association, for any reason whatsoever, be refunded.

Payment of the fee or membership contribution may not be appreciated in value, does not give rise to rights of ownership, shares thereof or any other form of participation in the Association's assets and surplus income; more specifically, does not create undivided shares transferable to third parties by way of inheritance or by legacy.

The assets, contributions and donations from public and private parties have the aim of guaranteeing the functioning of the Association, the realization of its aims and the coverage of any deficits in running costs.

Any profits and operating surpluses must be used exclusively for the achievement of the Association's institutional aims.

The Association is forbidden to distribute, even indirectly, profits or surpluses as well as funds, reserves and assets during the life of the Association, unless the destination or distribution is imposed by law or is made in favor of other Associations or other entities that by law, statute or regulation carry out activities similar or analogous to those of the Association.

Art. 43

TRADEMARKS, LOGOS AND BRANDS

The name, trademarks, logos and brands of the Association and other related trademarks, logos and brands or granted to it for use together with relevant web domains may be used exclusively according to the procedures laid down in the present Statute and in the Code of Use for the International Dzogchen Community Trademarks, Logos and Brands. The International Dzogchen Community members, Lings and Gar's Gakyils must observe the Code of Use for the International Dzogchen Community Trademarks, Logos and Brands in full. Modifications to the Code of Use for the International Dzogchen Community Trademarks, Logos and Brands must be decided upon by the International Gakyil.

Art. 44

ACCOUNTING PERIOD, ACCOUNTING, THE BUDGET, AND THE SOCIAL INFORMATION

The accounting period lasts from January 1 until December 31.

The International Gakyil is responsible for setting-up and operating an accounting system that completely and analytically represents the operations carried out in each financial period by the International Dzogchen Community Association.

A final balance sheet must be prepared for each annual financial year. It must include: the balance sheet, the profit and loss, the notes to the accounts and the mission report of the Association, which appropriately represent the situation of the Association from the point of view of the assets, the profit and loss account and the financial situation.

The yearly budget, consistent with the Association's yearly work-plan, must be approved by the International Gakyil within December 31st of the previous year.

The final balance sheet and the yearly budget must be approved by the International General Assembly within five months from the ending of the financial year.

If there are legitimate reasons, the date of approval of the final balance may be postponed up to a maximum of six months after the ending of the financial year.

A comprehensive narrative report on the activities carried out in each financial period by the International Dzogchen Community Association must be submitted together with the final balance.

Art. 45

MEMBERS' SERVICES

The members will be able to offer their services within the Association, in accordance with the provisions of current legislation of labor and social security.

It is up to the International Gakyil to define any remuneration for the services rendered in implementing specific tasks relevant to the institutional goals of the Association.

Art. 46

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

The Association grants all members the protection of personal data, including sensitive data, that it has in its possession, ensuring all the security measures provided for by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and deemed necessary for the protection of the privacy of its members.

Art. 47

DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Except for legal reasons, the dissolution of the Association is decided by an Extraordinary International General Assembly, convened by the means established in this Statute, to verify the conditions for the dissolution. It will nominate one or more liquidators and will define the procedure for the devolution of any assets to entities (Associations, other entities ...) which pursue aims like those of the Association, after consultation with the Supervisory Body, according to art. 3, subparagraph 190 of the law of the 23 December 1996, n.662, notwithstanding different provisions of law.

Art. 48

FINAL RULES

The international governing, administrative and executive bodies of the Association are not responsible for liabilities incurred by the Gars and Lings (as they are legal entities distinct from the Association itself), which are solely answerable for their own funds and for their own governing, administrative and executive bodies.

Minutes duly signed by the elected President and Secretary must be written up for every meeting of the governing, administrative and executive bodies.

Art. 49

For any dispute related to this Statute the sole place of jurisdiction is that of Grosseto, Italy. Anything not envisaged by the articles of this statute shall be regulated by existing Italian law and the norms thereof relative to the matters in hand.

This statute has been amended according to D.M. 200/2012.

Art. 50

LANGUAGES

The reference languages for this Statute are Italian and English.