



## **MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS**

### **Entities With the Right to Association Membership**

#### **Art. 1**

The right to membership in the Association is held by all natural persons who accept the rules of the International Statutes and all its attached documents and, where there is a Gar/Ling office, also its regulating Statutes, and whose application for membership is accepted. (Article 4 of the International Statute.) The interested party may acquire a full membership after having participated in the Association's activities and followed the Dzogchen Teaching from the Spiritual Master of the Community for at least three years in sequence. Until then, the participation of the interested party in the activities of the Association will be granted through a Welcome Card that will enable the interested party to attend the Association's events and initiatives as an observer. The receipt of the payment of the Welcome Card fee, for the three years preceding the application to become member, will be used to certify the right of the interested party to apply for membership.

Those interested parties who have been paying members of Gars and Lings for at least three years will be accepted as members of the IDC at the moment of the renewal of their annual membership immediately after the Gars/Lings to which they belong has formalized its affiliation to the IDC

### **Entities With the Right to Association Affiliation**

#### **Art. 2**

The right to affiliation with the Association is held by all legal entities such as associations or bodies who accept the rules of the International Statutes and all its attached documents and, where there is a Gar/Ling national office, also its regulating Statute, and whose application for affiliation is accepted.

### **Types of Association Membership**

#### **Art. 3**

The following types of standard international membership are provided for:

**Ordinary:** Includes a personal membership card and specified Association communication material.

**Family/Partner:** Valid for two people living at the same address as a family. Includes all the benefits of ordinary membership plus a membership card for the second person.

**Youth:** For individuals less than 18 years of age, includes a personal membership card and specified Association communication material.

**Reduced:** Lower annual membership fee than the other types of membership and is applicable to any person who may have specific economic constraints. Includes a personal membership card and specified Association communication material.

**Sustaining:** Includes all the benefits of the ordinary membership plus special benefits.

**Meritorious:** Includes all the benefits of the Sustaining membership plus additional special benefits.

#### Art. 4

The membership types are established by the International Gakyil. The International Gakyil has the authority to introduce new membership types intended for particular subjects and/or particular geographic areas or countries, with the aim of Association development. The International Gakyil sets the annual membership fees in consultation with the Gakyils in different countries.

#### Art. 5

The Gar and Ling Gakyils adopt the standard of international membership tiers, and establish their own annual fees for ordinary membership in consultation with the International Gakyil. The minimum benefits for members are those established by the International Association.

### **Types of Affiliation**

#### Art. 6

Affiliation types are established by the International Gakyil. The International Gakyil has the authority to introduce new affiliation types intended for particular subjects and/or particular geographic areas or countries, with the aim of developing the Association's interests. The International Gakyil also sets the annual affiliation fees.

#### Art. 7

Gars are affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community by the means established

by the International Gakyil.. In the same way the Lings are affiliated to the International Dzogchen Community and to a specific Gar.

## **Joining the Association and Membership Renewal**

### Art. 8

A person who has the intention to participate in the activities of the Association should apply for a Welcome Card following the procedures below. If he/she has the intention to eventually acquire full membership, he/she should apply for the Welcome Card for three consequent years. After three years, he/she may apply for a full membership following the same procedures for annual renewal.

The procedures for **joining the Association** are as follows:

The interested party may join the Association by directly applying online through the means established by the **International Dzogchen Community**

a) A person, resident in a country without Gar and Lings who is unable to submit his/her application online, contacts directly the Membership Service Center of the **International Dzogchen Community** by the means established and made available by the International Association.

The membership application will be accepted only if the person interested in joining has provided all of the data requested, including in particular the membership type chosen, the means of payment of the annual membership fee and consent to the use of their personal data according to Italian law (D.Lgs 196/03).

The **Membership Service Center** collects and verifies the annual membership fee on behalf of International Dzogchen Community and is responsible for completing the membership procedure, registering the member's personal data and assigning the member to the nearest Gar/Ling in a neighboring country. Subsequently the Membership Service Center will be responsible for producing the membership card and sending it to the member. The Membership Service Center is also responsible for the sending of all Association communication material, as provided for by the membership type.

b) A person, resident in a country where a Gar is not established, who is unable to submit his/her application online, contacts the nearest **Ling of the international Dzogchen Community based in his/her country of residence.**

The membership application will be accepted only if the person interested in joining has provided all of the data requested to the Ling, including in particular the membership type chosen, the means of payment of the annual membership fee and consent to the use of their personal data according to Italian law (D.Lgs 196/03) and according to the law of the country where the Ling has been legally established.

The Ling collects and verifies the annual membership fee, and the Ling Director, or person in charge within the Ling, forwards to the Membership Office of the IDC the consent to the use of personal information form (provided to new Lings by the International Membership Service Center).

The Ling's Membership Office is also responsible for sending all Association communication material, as provided for by the membership type.

c) A person, resident in a country where a Gar or Ling are established, who is unable to submit his/her application online, contacts either the **Gar's Membership Office** or the nearest Ling, accordingly to his/her place of residence, by the means established and made available by the Dzogchen Community. The membership application will be accepted only if the person interested in joining has provided all of the data requested, including in particular the membership type chosen and the means of payment of the annual membership fee.

If the application is made through a Gar, the Gar's Membership Office is responsible for completing the membership procedure, registering the member's personal data, etc.

The Gar's Membership Office collects and verifies the annual membership fee on behalf of the International Association and is responsible for completing the membership procedure, registering the member's personal data and assigning the member to the Ling nearest to his/her place of residence, when not indicated by the member.

The Membership Office is also responsible for the sending of all the Association communication material, including material from the International Association, as provided for by the membership type.

#### Art. 9

The procedures for **renewing Association membership** in the case a person is unable to renew his/her membership online, are as follows:

a) The member, resident in a country where a Gar and Lings are not established, contacts directly the International Membership Service Center of the **International Dzogchen Community** by the means established and made available by the International Association.

In any case the member will be sent a letter informing them of the expiry of their membership by the International Membership Service Center. It will include a renewal form and information on other means of renewal. The renewal then follows the procedure stated in Article 8, a).

b) The member resident in a country where a Gar is not established, contacts the **Ling of the International Dzogchen Community based in his/her country of residence to which he/she belongs.**

In any case the member will be sent a letter informing them of the expiry of their membership, either by the International Membership Service Center or the Ling to which they belong. It will include a renewal form and information on other means of renewal. The renewal then follows the procedure stated in Article 8, b).

c) The member resident in a country where a Gar and Lings are established, contacts either the **Gar's Membership Office** or the Ling to which he/she belongs by the means established and made available by the Dzogchen Community.

In any case the member will be informed of the expiry of his/her membership by either the International Membership Center, the Gar to which his/her Ling is referring to or the Ling itself. The renewal then follows the procedure stated in Article 8, c).

## **Affiliation with the Association and Affiliation Renewal**

### **Art. 10**

The means of affiliation with the Association and affiliation renewal are the same as the procedures for becoming a member of the Association and renewal of the Association membership card, except for the following: The entity requesting affiliation applies exclusively to the International Dzogchen Community Association, and not to the Lings or Gars, with the relevant affiliation application form properly filled in. Following evaluation, the International Dzogchen Community Association may assign the relevant affiliation to a specific Ling/Gar

## **Duration of Dzogchen Community Membership and Affiliation**

### **Art. 11**

Association membership and affiliation lasts for one (1) calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) with the exception of Gars and Lings of the International Dzogchen Community whose affiliation is not limited in time. The International Gakyil has the authority to introduce other types of membership and affiliation with different durations.

### **Art. 12**

The member or affiliate loses its status as an active member or active affiliate if the affiliation or membership is not renewed by March 31 of the year following the expiry date of the membership or affiliation. From that moment on they will be considered to be a passive member or passive affiliate and will not have the right to the benefits offered by their specific type of membership or affiliation. However they will be kept within the Association database with the status of passive member or passive affiliate.

#### Art. 13

The member or affiliate is not required to give notice of cancellation of membership or affiliation with International Dzogchen Community. It is sufficient that they do not renew their own membership or affiliation. The member or affiliate must renew their membership or affiliation at their own initiative. The exception is in countries where the member or affiliate, according to the laws in force, is considered as “active” and held to payment of the annual Association membership or affiliation fee until they communicate their cancellation to the relevant membership office within a pre- defined time period.

### **Rights of Members**

#### Art. 14

Every member has the right to all the benefits offered within their own membership type.

#### Art. 15

Every member is assigned to the Ling nearest to his/her place of residence or to the Gar of that specific geographic area . Whenever the distance between the residence of a member and the nearest ling is such that it does not allow regular participation in the activities of the Ling, the member is assigned directly to the Gar.

Whenever a member changes his/her place of residence he/she will be reassigned to the nearest Gar/Ling accordingly. The member has to give notice of the change of place of residence at the moment of renewal of Association membership.

#### Art. 16

The dissolution of a Ling or a Gar does not lead to the loss of membership status for anyone who had been part of that Ling or Gar (Article 5 of the International Statute). These members will be reassigned to another Ling or Gar

#### Art. 17

Further rights are stated in Article 4 of the International Statutes.

### **Rights of Affiliates**

#### Art. 18

Every affiliate has the right to all the benefits offered within their own affiliation type.

#### Art. 19

The dissolution of a Gar does not lead to the loss of affiliate status for the affiliated association or body.

#### Art. 20

The affiliate does not have voting rights in accordance with Article 4 of the International Statute.

## **Acceptance and Refusal of Membership or Affiliation Applications**

### **Art. 21**

The membership application of an interested party who has regularly participated in the activities of the Association through the Welcome Card will be accepted by the International Dzogchen Community Association Membership Service Center or by the Membership Office of a Gar/Ling Gakyil on behalf of the International Dzogchen Community Association, as long as the conditions stated in the “Joining the Association and Membership Renewal” section of these regulations are met.

Refusal of a membership application and/or renewal of membership will be decided by the International Gakyil or Gar/Ling Gakyil, in the presence of, for example, behavior or activities on the part of the applicant, which are in obvious conflict with the principles or aims of the Association. Written notice will be given in case of an application refusal.

### **Art. 22**

The affiliation request will be accepted by the International Dzogchen Community Association, as long as the conditions stated in the “Affiliation with the Association and Affiliation Renewal” section of these regulations are met.

Refusal of an affiliation application can be decided by the International Gakyil in the case of, for example, behavior or activities on the part of the applicant which are in obvious conflict with the principles or aims of the Association. Written notice will be given of an application refusal.

## **Loss of Membership or Affiliate Status**

### **Art. 23**

The status of member or affiliate can be lost in accordance with Article 5 of the International Statute.

## **Allocation of Association Membership fees**

### **Art. 24**

The amount of the individual membership fee that will be allocated respectively to the International Dzogchen Community Association, to a Gar or to a Ling, and reciprocal payments of debits and credits will be regulated by specific Protocols agreed upon by the International Gakyil and the individual Gar and Ling Gakyils.