

**STATUTE of the ASSOCIATION**  
**TRANSLATION / dated 29-07-2019**

For the sake of readability, the statute refrains using gender-specific formulations.  
All personal names are to be understood gender-neutral.

**§ 1**

**Name, Seat and Field of Activities**

- (1) The Association is called "**SRI SWAMI MADHAVANANDA WORLD PEACE COUNCIL**" (Sri Swami Madhavananda Weltfriedensforum).
- (2) It has its seat in Vienna and its activities cover mainly but not exclusively Austria.
- (3) The formation of Branch Associations is intended.
- (4) The association's aim is not-for-profit. It's activities are exclusively and directly for common welfare and benevolence according to §§ 34ff of the Austrian Federal Order of Taxes.

**§ 2**

**Aims and Objects**

The association whose activity is not for profit pursues exclusively and directly charitable and benevolent purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 et seq BAO. The purpose of the association is to promote the common good in the spiritual, cultural and moral fields.

The subject of the association is the promotion of

- a) Fostering of world peace, cultural exchange, dialogue between religions and nationalities, ethic education and healthy lifestyle.
- b) Fostering of tolerance, respect and understanding among religions, cultures and nations, human rights as well as animal rights, animal and nature protection.
- c) Fostering of the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of the individual and the general community by cultivating of physical, mental, social and spiritual health through study, practice and teaching of the system "Yoga in Daily Life" authored by the founder of the Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda, based on the authentic tradition of yoga and the teachings of his spiritual masters.
- d) Fostering of activities and projects to support public health and integral medicine, particularly in the fields of Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Yoga-therapy, rehabilitation and prevention of disease.
- e) Fostering on international relations, particularly in the areas of art, culture, education and religion.

**§ 3**

**Means of Achieving the Aims and Objects of the World Peace Council**

The purpose of the association shall be achieved by the ideal and material means listed in sub-paragraphs 1 and 2.

(1) Ideal means are:

- a) The commitment to the goals and values enshrined in the Earth Charter and the Charter of the United Nations, and their active support through public conferences and dialogues, spiritual gatherings and activities, lectures, seminars and other education measures for individuals as well as community groups and organisations, national and international institutions and NGOs, facilitated and implemented by the association, in order to raise a consciousness of respect and understanding for all religions, cultures and nations, for the protection of human rights and animal rights, preservation of nature and all living beings as well as for a healthy life-style and peaceful living together.
- b) Initiate, promote and arrange International World Peace Conferences, particularly in remembrance and reverence of His Holiness Dharmasamrat Paramhans Swami Madhavanandaji from Rajasthan, India (1923-2003) honouring his message and lifelong efforts for understanding, universal love, non-violence, peace and unity in the world.
- c) Cooperate with the United Nations, other inter-governmental as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations, all denominations of faith and all men and women of goodwill locally, regionally and globally in working to realise the vision of the Charter of the United Nations and in the pursuit of peace in all its dimensions.
- d) Educate, promote and campaign for world peace and sustainable development to the individual, community groups and organisations, and national, international and governing institutions in order to awaken in all

individuals and communities a sense of shared responsibility for the well-being of the global human family and the urgent need of a sustainable development.

- e) Campaign for recognition and dissemination of ethic and spiritual values which includes respect for all life and for each person's inherent dignity and right to live in a world free of violence.
- f) Appeal to all individuals, religious communities and ethnic and national groups, to respect the right to freedom of religion and faith, to seek reconciliation, and to engage in mutual forgiveness.
- g) Develop youth education programs and curricula that impart to youth respect for cultural and religious diversities, and that promulgate spirituality, ethical and moral principles, tolerance and understanding.
- h) Call upon all institutions to affirm gender equality and to work collectively to ensure social and economic justice, universal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.
- i) Organise and perform activities, presentations, events, information and education measures in order to achieve the purpose of world peace, cultural interchange, dialogue among religions and nationalities, animal and nature protection, ethic education and a healthy lifestyle.
- j) Relief of poverty, sickness, destitution and misfortune of the general community.
- k) Initiate and facilitate support of indigent people, particularly in emergency areas.
- l) Fostering and perform international projects, study and exchange programs, particularly in the areas of art, culture, dance, education, training, and religion.
- m) Fostering of cultural, religious and social activities with special focus on minorities.
- n) Organisation of and participation in study and exchange programs at home and abroad, especially in the fields of yoga, religion, health, languages, culture and arts.
- o) Facilitating and participating in international, inter-religious and cultural festivals, conferences and dialogues.
- p) Facilitating projects, lectures, meetings, conferences, seminars and other events for community purposes, cultural exchange and education.
- q) Fostering and implementation of ecological sustainable projects as well as activities for the preservation of the environment and animal protection.
- r) Fostering and running of schools, centres of education and learning.
- s) Fostering and running of hospitals, orphanages and homes for the aged.
- t) Fostering and running of animal refuges and animal clinics.
- u) Founding of a library and inter-cultural and inter-religious showrooms.
- v) Cooperating with other public and private organisations as well as performing of publications in the medias (TV, radio, print and electronic medias etc.).
- w) Printing and publishing of internal and external means of information (newsletters, magazines, photos, pamphlets, booklets, posters, etc.).
- x) Developing and disseminating educational materials (scriptures, books, CDs, DVDs, films, audio and video cassettes etc).
- y) Deliveries or other services in accordance with § 40a (2) BAO at cost to other non-profit or charitable organizations, if at least one common purpose exists.

Insofar as this serves the purpose of the Fellowship, the Fellowship is further entitled to use auxiliary persons in accordance with § 40 BAO or to act as auxiliary person itself.

- (2) The necessary funds will be procured by:
  - a) Membership fees and other dues.
  - b) Income from events, associations-internal activities and teaching aids.
  - c) Purchase and sale of goods - such as t-shirts or stickers - as far as it concerns identification materials or means for disseminating the associations ideas.
  - d) Purchase of books or audio and image carrier which serve the spread of the contents of the association purpose.
  - e) Grants from sponsors, subsidies, legacies.
  - f) Donations, collections, legacies, gifts and other contributions.
  - g) Income from the administrations of the Fellowship's assets (e.g. interest, licence, other capital income, rental income etc.).
  - h) Expense allowances.
- (3) All activities of the society must serve the fulfilment of the humanitarian goals only, and only such activities may be performed that are necessary to accomplish the named goals. The activities of the society must not compete any professionals in similar or the same field on a bigger scale than it is absolutely necessary for the fulfilment of its aims. Profits of the named activities must serve directly and exclusively the humanitarian goals of the society. Members of the society must not gain any profit, and in her function as members also not get any other benefit from the means of the society. Also no one should gain any benefit by excessive remunerations nor by any refunds of administration expenses, which are not related to the aims of the society.

- (4) The Fellowship may, as far as the material means and the purpose of the association allow, have employees and even use third parties to fulfill the purpose. Also members of the Fellowship, including Committee members, may be paid for activities that go beyond the activities of the Fellowship in the narrowest sense; such remuneration must withstand a third comparison.

#### **§ 4**

##### **Inherent Principles and Canon of Conduct**

- (1) The inherent belief and principles of the World Peace Council are based on the teachings as imparted by the spiritual forefathers of the World Peace Council's lineage: the reverent Indian Saints of Northern Rajasthan, Sri Deveshwar Mahadev, Bhagwan Sri Deep Narayan Mahaprabhuji and Dharmasamrat Paramhans Swami Madhavanandaji. The World Peace Council adheres to and takes guidance from the spiritual doctrines expounded on the pure essence of the ancient Meditation and Yoga teachings, for the cultivation of inner spiritual values. Following these teachings culminates in the enrichment of human life through greater Self-Awareness, true Equanimity and Inner Peace, and Compassion and Tolerance for all humans and creatures on this Earth.
- (2) The World Peace Council requests its members to abide by and consistently work towards the cultivation of the human qualities and ethic principles of Compassion, Non-Violence, Patience, Tolerance and Selfless Service. This is the World Peace Council's general rule and code of moral conduct for all members worldwide.

#### **§ 5**

##### **Kinds of Membership**

- (1) The members of the World Peace Council are classified as Ordinary, Extraordinary and Honorary members.
- (2) Ordinary members may become
  - a) registered societies and associations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations and legal entities, as well as
  - b) individual personswho pursue the same ethical principles and goals, have been admitted by the Committee, are willing to undertake voluntary service for the society, and pay the membership fees as determined by the Committee for Ordinary members.
- (3) Extraordinary members are supporting members without passive and active voting rights and pay membership fees as determined by the Committee for Extraordinary members.
- (4) Honorary members will be admitted by the General Assembly upon application of one member by the Committee, for special services to the association.
- (5) Members who no longer fulfill the admission criteria may be re-classified by the Committee to the category of membership corresponding to their participation in the association's work. The change is to be announced to the member immediately.

#### **§ 6**

##### **Becoming Member**

- (1) Physical persons as well as legal entities can become members of the association.
- (2) Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Committee. The Committee will make a final decision on admission within three months. The Committee may reject the admission without giving reason.
- (3) The appointment as an honorary member shall be made at the request of the Committee by the General Assembly.
- (4) If the applicant is an Association with a written constitution, a copy in English or German translation shall be attached to the application.

#### **§ 7**

##### **End of Membership**

- (1) Membership to the World Peace Council ends by death (for Associations by their dissolution), by voluntary withdrawal, removal or expulsion.
- (2) Membership may be terminated at the end of each month by voluntary withdrawal. The Committee must be given three months written notice of intention to terminate membership. If notice of information is delayed, end of membership shall only become effective three months after the Committee actually receives the notice.
- (3) The removal of members can be ordered by the Committee if a member has neglected payment of membership fees for more than six months despite two written reminders. The obligation to pay the membership-fees that fall

due remains unaffected.

- (4) The expulsion of a member may be ordered by the Committee for severe violation of the member's duties, obligations or for immoral conduct. A member has the right to submit an appeal to the Committee. Until a decision is made, the member's rights are suspended.
- (5) Ordinary members who are no longer fully involved in the work of the association may be reorganized by the Committee to the status of associate members or honorary members. This change of status will not take effect until the end of the next General Assembly, unless this General Assembly has accepted an application against this reclassification.
- (6) Cancellation of Honorary membership may be decided by the Committee for reasons mentioned sub-paragraph 4.

## **§ 8**

### **Rights and Obligations of the Members**

- (1) Members are entitled to participate in all events of the society and to use the society's facilities.
- (2) Individual members and members of Associations and Organisations that are Ordinary members of the society according to § 5, sub-par. 2, are granted the right to be elected to any Organ of the society.
- (3) Every Organisation that is an Ordinary member according to § 5, sub-par. 2, has to nominate a Delegate as a representative of this organisation in the General Assembly of the society.
- (4) Ordinary and Honorary members have the right to vote. Extraordinary members have no voting right. In addition, only one appointed Delegate from organisations that are an Ordinary member, have the right to vote.
- (5) Extraordinary members have no voting right.
- (6) All members are obliged to foster the interests of the society to the best of their abilities and to avoid actions or statements detrimental to the reputation. and the purpose of the World Peace Council. Members must abide by the statute of the society, decrees and regulations of the organs of the society.
- (7) Ordinary members are expected to assist actively in the activities of the society on a voluntary basis.
- (8) All Ordinary and Extraordinary members are obliged to pay membership fees on time.
- (9) Each member is entitled to demand from the executive committee the discharge of the statutes.
- (10) At least one tenth of the members may request the convening of a General Assembly by the Committee.
- (11) The members are to be informed in each General Assembly by the Committee about the activity and financial management of the association. If at least one tenth of the members reasonable request, the Committee has to give the members such information within four weeks.
- (12) The members are to be informed by the Committee about the audited financial statements. If this happens in the General Assembly, the auditors are to be involved.

## **§ 9**

### **Official Languages**

- (1) Members may use their own languages in the General Assemblies if they provide a verbal translation into English or German.
- (2) The statute, protocols, reports and other notifications of the society will be drafted in German, in compliance with the applicable Austrian legal provision and/or if necessary in English. If there is a dispute of interpretation, internally the English version shall govern. If, however, only a German version exists, the German version shall govern.

## **§ 10**

### **Organs of the Society**

Organs of the society are the General Assembly (§§ 11 und 12), the Committee (§§ 13, 14 und 15), the Auditors (§ 16) and the Arbitration Tribunal (§ 17).

## **§ 11**

### **The General Assembly**

- (1) The General-Assembly is the Assembly of all Members according to the Austrian Associations Act 2002 (Vereinsgesetz).
- (2) The General-Assembly shall meet every five years.
- (3) An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in case of
  - a. Resolution of the Committee or the Ordinary General Meeting,
  - b. Written request from at least one tenth of the members,
  - c. Request of the auditors (§ 21 sub- paragraph 5 first sentence Vereinsgesetz),
  - d. Resolution of the auditors (§ 21 sub- paragraph 5 second sentence of the Vereinsgesetz, § 13 sub- paragraph 4

second sentence of these statutes),

- e. Decision of a court appointed curator (§ 13 sub-paragraph 3 last sentence of these statutes) within six weeks.
- (4) All members shall be invited in writing or by fax or e-mail, four weeks ahead of time to the regular and the extraordinary General Assemblies. Notification shall be accompanied by the agenda. The General Assembly is called by the Committee (sub- paragraph 2 and sub- paragraph 3 lit a-c), by the auditors (sub- paragraph 3 lit d) or by the curator (sub- paragraph 3 lit e).  
The General Assembly may be held at any place fixed by the Committee, not limited to Austria.
- (5) Applications to be dealt with by the General Assembly must be filed with the Committee in writing at least 14 days before the date of the General Assembly.
- (6) Valid decisions may be resolved with respect to the agenda, except decisions on an application for calling an extraordinary General Assembly.
- (7) All Delegates specified in § 8, sub-paragraph 3, individual persons and Committee members of the member Organisations that are Ordinary members specified in § 5, sub-paragraph 2, as well as Extraordinary and Honorary members may attend the General Assembly.
- (8) Ordinary members specified in § 5, sub-paragraph 3 and Delegates specified in § 8, sub-paragraph 3 as well as Honorary members, are entitled to vote in the General Assembly. Each Delegate has one vote. The transfer of the voting right by written power of attorney to another Delegate is admissible.
- (9) The General Assembly shall be quorate regardless of the number of persons present.
- (10) For elections and decisions in the General Assembly regularly a simple majority is necessary. Decisions by which the statute of the society - except the name (see sub-paragraph 11) – shall be changed, by which the society shall be liquidated or by which the Committee or single Committee Members shall be discharged, require a qualified majority of three quarters of valid votes. If there are equal votes, the vote of the President/Chairman shall be decisive.
- (11) The name of the society may be changed only with approval of its founder, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda or his legal successor.
- (12) The General Assembly is chaired by the President, in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents. If the Vice-Presidents are also absent, the General Assembly is chaired by the eldest member of the Committee.

## **§ 12**

### **The General Assembly**

The following agendas are reported to the General Assembly:

- a) Receipt and approval of the financial report, revenue and expense statement as well as the statement of assets according to § 21, sub-paragraph 1, of the Austrian Associations Act 2002.
- b) Resolution on membership fees and other contributions as proposed by the Committee.
- c) Appointing and discharging members of the Committee and the Auditors.
- d) Decisions on appeals against expulsion of membership.
- e) awarding and withdrawing honorary membership;
- f) Resolution on amendments of the statutes and voluntary dissolution of the World Peace Council.
- g) Discussions and resolutions on other issues subject of the agenda.

## **§ 13**

### **The Committee**

- (1) The Committee is the managing body according to the Austrian Associations Act 2002.
- (2) The Committee consists of seven members, which are the President, two Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer.
- (3) The Committee is elected by the General Assembly.
- (4) The Committee has the right to elect another member if a member withdraws. Approval of the subsequent General Assembly is required. If the Committee fails to self-supplement by co-opting at all or for an unpredictably long time, then each auditor is obliged to convene without delay an Extraordinary General Assembly for the purpose of electing a new Committee member. Should the auditors also be incapacitated for action, every ordinary member who recognizes the emergency situation must immediately apply for the appointment of a curator to the competent court, who must immediately convene an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- (5) The term of the Committee is five years. In any case a Committee position lasts until the election of new Committee members. Committee members may be re-elected.

- (6) The Committee shall be called by the President, in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents or the General Secretary in writing or oral. If they too are absent for an unpredictably long time, any other member of the Committee may call the Committee.
- (7) The Committee shall be a quorum if all members have been invited and if at least 50% are present.
- (8) The Committee decides by simple majority. If there are equal votes, the vote of the chairman shall be decisive.
- (9) The President is the chairman, in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents or the General Secretary. If also these are absent, the eldest Committee member shall be the chairman or that member of the Committee who is majority-appointed by the other Committee members.
- (10) Apart from death and expiry of term (sub-paragraph 5), the function of the Committee Members shall end by discharge (sub-paragraph 11) and withdrawal (sub-paragraph 12).
- (11) The General Assembly may at any time discharge the entire Committee or single Committee Members (see § 12 c).
- (12) The Committee Members may at any time withdraw from their position. Notice of withdrawal shall be directed to the Committee in writing. In the event of withdrawal of the entire Committee notification shall be directed to the General Assembly. Withdrawal shall be only effective after the election of a new Committee. The resignation must not be made at an inopportune time, so that the Fellowship would be harmed.

#### **§ 14**

##### **Scope of Rights and Duties of the Committee**

- (1) The Committee steers the society. Its duties are all those functions not passed by the statutes to another organ of the society. Especially, its duties include
  - a) Establishment of an accounting system complying with the requirements of the Association, with an ongoing record of revenue / expenditure and keeping a list of assets as a minimum requirement.
  - b) Preparation of the annual budget, drafting the financial report, the revenue and financial statement.
  - c) Preparation of the General Assembly in case of § 11 (2) and (3) lit. a - c of these statutes.
  - d) Calling of ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly meeting in case of § 11 (2) and (3) lit. a - c of these statutes.
  - e) Administration of the society's assets.
  - f) inform the members of the association about the association's activities, the association's performance and the audited financial statements;
  - g) Admission, termination and removal of members.
  - h) Power of veto against the nomination of a Delegate.
  - i) Admission and termination of Honorary members.
  - j) Appointment of project officers and establishment and dissolution of work and project teams.
  - k) Hiring and discharging of employees of the World Peace Council.
  - l) Determination of membership fees and other dues.
  - m) Consideration of reducing enrolments or membership fees in individual cases.
  - n) Determination of how to utilise donations or gifts in kind.

#### **§ 15**

##### **Special Duties of the Committee Members**

- (1) The President is the highest official. According to sub-paragraph 4 the President represents the society, particularly with respect to third persons and to authorities. The President is the chairman of the General Assembly and the Committee. When danger is ahead, the President is entitled to make decisions in areas which also fall into the responsibility of the General Assembly or the Committee. Such decisions must be subsequently approved by the competent body.
- (2) The General Secretary shall support the President in conducting the business of the society. The General Secretary drafts the protocols of the General Assembly and the Committee meetings.
- (3) The Treasurer is responsible for administering the monetary matters of the society.
- (4) Written documents and notices of the World Peace Council, particularly documents which bind the World Peace Council, shall be jointly signed by the President and the General Secretary. Documents that concern monetary agendas are signed jointly by the President and the Treasurer.
- (5) In the absence of the President, the General Secretary and/or Treasurer, their deputies shall be signatories on documents.
- (6) Legal transactions between the association and a member of the Committee require the approval of the remaining Committee.

- (7) Authorizations to represent the association externally or to subscribe to it may only be granted by the members of the Committee considering to sub- paragraph. 5.

**§ 16**  
**The Auditors**

- (1) The two Auditors must not be part of any other organs of the Society. They shall be elected by the General Assembly for the term of five years. Re-election of the same auditors is possible.
- (2) The auditors are responsible for the control of the finance management of the Association with respect to the compliance with the accounting principles and the proper use of the association funds. The Committee must provide the auditors with the necessary documents and provide the required information. The auditors shall report to the Committee and the General Assembly on the result of the audit.
- (3) Legal transactions between Auditors and the Association require the approval of the Committee Apart from this, for the Auditors the regulations of § 13, sub-paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 apply accordingly.
- (4) The nomination of a public accountant and/or tax consultant according to § 22 of the Austrian Associations Act 2002 is possible.

**§ 17**  
**The Arbitration Tribunal**

- (1) An Arbitration Tribunal shall decide on all disputes arising from matters regarding the society.
- (2) The Arbitration Tribunal shall comprise five Delegates of the society. Within 14 days, each party to a dispute shall name to the Committee two members as arbitrators. These arbitrators shall elect, by simple majority, a fifth member as Chairman of the Arbitration Tribunal. In the case of equal votes, the Chairman shall be determined among the proposed persons by lot. The members of the Arbitral Tribunal may not belong to any other body except the General Assembly.
- (3) The Arbitration Tribunal shall make decisions by simple majority voting to the best of their ability and in the presence of all Tribunal members. Its decisions are internally final and binding

**§ 18**  
**Dissolution of the Society**

- (1) Voluntary dissolution of the society can only be decided by an extraordinary General Assembly called for that purpose and by three quarters of valid votes.
- (2) If the society owns assets, the General Assembly shall decide on the liquidation of its assets. In particular, it shall elect a liquidator and decide who shall receive the assets of the society after deduction of debts.
- (3) In case of dissolution of the association or omission of the former beneficiary association's purpose, the association's assets remaining after covering the liabilities shall be used for charitable or benevolent purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 et seq BAO (Bundesabgabenordnung, Federal Tax Act). For this purpose, the remaining assets shall be transferred to a "Yoga in Daily Life" organization, society or foundation, if this meets the conditions for the granting of tax benefits in accordance with §§ 34 ff BAO, which has to be approved by submitting the Articles of the Association and the financial statements of the last three years. If no "Yoga in Daily Life" organization, society or foundation fulfills the requirements according to §§ 34 et seq BAO at the time of the liquidation Association or the abolition of the previously favored association's purpose, or due to other reasons the transfer of the assets in the sense of the above statements is not possible, the remaining association assets shall be used for other charitable or benevolent purposes in accordance with §§ 34 et seq BAO. As far as possible and permitted, it should fall to institutions that pursue the same or similar purposes as this association.
- (4) The last Committee members must notify the voluntary resolution in writing within four weeks the competent authority.