

**STATUTES of the ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL SRI DEEP MADHAVANANDA ASHRAM FELLOWSHIP  
(International Yoga-Vedanta-Fellowship)**

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 Activity**

- (1) The Association is called "International Sri Deep Madhavananda Ashram Fellowship" ("International Yoga-Vedanta-Fellowship") - hereinafter referred to as "Fellowship".
- (2) It has its seat in Vienna, Austria and performs its activities worldwide.
- (3) The establishment of branch associations is intended.
- (4) The Fellowship is not for profit. It exclusively and directly pursues charitable and benevolent purposes within the meaning of §§ 34ff of the Federal Tax Code.

**§ 2**

**Aims and Objectives**

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

- (1) Physical, mental, social and spiritual health,
- (2) Tolerance, respect and understanding among all religions, cultures and nations,
- (3) World peace, humanitarian aid and human rights,
- (4) The protection of the environment and all living beings.

**§ 3**

**Means of Achieving the Aims and Objectives**

- (1) The purpose of the Fellowship shall be achieved by the ideal and material means listed in sub-paragraph 2 and 3.
- (2) Ideal means are:
  - a) Study, practice and teaching of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System by Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda and the teachings of Bhagwan Sri Deep Narayan Mahaprabhuji from Rajasthan, India, to promote physical, mental, social and spiritual health, world peace, humanitarian aid, human rights and protection of the environment.
  - b) Qualification, education and training of teachers of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System, Yoga Vedanta Philosophy, Sanatana Dharma, and Vedic Culture.
  - c) Worldwide preservation and protection of the teachings of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System according to the teachings of Bhagwan Sri Deep Narayan Mahaprabhuji.
  - d) Humanitarian aid and support of all living beings - humans and animals - particularly in emergency areas.
  - e) Unity, support, organization and guidance to all members.
  - f) Fostering of international relationship in the areas of health, art, culture, dance, education, language, religion etc.
  - g) Fostering of integral medicine and health-projects, especially in the field of Ayurveda, Yoga-therapy, rehabilitation and prophylaxis.
  - h) Organisation of study and exchange programs within the country and abroad, especially in the fields of yoga, health, culture and arts.
  - i) The fostering of cultural and social activities, amongst other also of minorities.
  - j) Fostering of peace, tolerance, respect and freedom towards all religions, cultures and nationalities.
  - k) Fostering of human rights and rights of the animals, respect and protection of all creatures, humans as well as animals and conservation.
  - l) Lectures, meetings, classes, courses, seminars and other events.
  - m) Performing yoga teacher examinations and issuing of yoga teacher certificates and diplomas for Yoga and the

"Yoga in Daily Life" System.

- n) Promotion and operation of charitable and social projects for in particular those projects that are in accordance with the purpose of the Fellowship pursuant to sub-paragraph 2, lit. e - k.
- o) Promotion and operation of schools and undertaking projects for education especially in regard to sub-paragraph 2, lit. h and i.
- p) Promotion and organisation of international, inter-religious and cultural festivals, conferences and dialogues in particular with regard to the purpose of the Fellowship pursuant to sub-paragraph 2, lit. e - k.
- q) Cooperation with public and private organisations as well as releasing non-profit publications in the medias (TV, radio, printed and electronic medias, etc.), in particular with regard to the purpose of the Fellowship as a whole.
- r) Production of educational materials (e.g. scripts, books, CDs, DVDs, films, audio and image carrier etc.), in particular with regard to the purpose of the association with sub-paragraph 2, lit. a and b.
- s) Establishing a library.
- t) Internal and external information resources (e.g. newsletters, magazines, course programs, photos, brochures, leaflets, posters, etc.).
- u) 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.

- (3) The necessary material recourse shall be raised by:
  - a) Admission fees, membership fees and other fees.
  - b) Income from events, associations-internal activities and teaching aids.
  - c) Public and other sponsorships and subsidies.
  - d) Donations, collections, legacies, gifts and other contributions.
  - e) Income from the administrations of the Fellowship's assets (e.g. interest, licence, other capital income, rental income etc.).
  - f) Expense allowances.
- (4) The funds of the Fellowship may only be used for the purposes stated in the statute. The members of the Fellowship must not receive any profit shares and, in their position as members any other benefit from the resources of the Fellowship. Upon withdrawal from the Fellowship and its dissolution or annulment, the members of the Fellowship shall not receive back more than the mean value of their contributions in kind, to be calculated on the value of the deposits at the time of their performance. Nor may any person benefit from administrative expenses that are foreign to the purpose of the Fellowship or disproportionately high remuneration.
- (5) 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 board 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**

#### **Rights of the Founder and Author**

- (1) The Fellowship and its members acknowledge the exclusive rights of the Author and Founder of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda, both by name and trademark of "Yoga in Daily Life" in all languages.
- (2) Changes to the statutes of the Fellowship require prior approval of the author of the system Yoga in Daily Life, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda. or his successor. Only upon prior approval the amendments to the Articles of Association may be submitted to the General Meeting for decision. No prior approval of amendments is necessary in case of required legal amendments. In such cases, the author of the Yoga system in Daily Life, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda, or his successors, only has to be informed in advance of the change of the statutes

#### **§ 5**

#### **Types of Membership**

- (1) The members of the Fellowship are classified into Ordinary, Extraordinary, Supporting and Honorary members.
- (2) Companies, associations and other organisations fulfilling the conditions of sub-paragraph 3 as well as natural persons who fulfil the conditions of sub-paragraph 4 may become Ordinary members.
- (3) Ordinary members may become registered societies and associations in all countries of the world as well as their branches and sub-branches that teach, practice, and spread the "Yoga in Daily Life" System, Yoga Vedanta Philosophy, Sanatana Dharma and Vedic Culture, as such have a valid licence to use the trademark and the "Yoga in

Daily Life" System for social and charitable purposes only.

- (4) In countries where no registered national organisations and no local association according to sub-paragraph 3 exist, but only organisations of persons who are not organised as an association, but otherwise meet the conditions of sub-paragraph 3, may nominate a Delegate who will become an Ordinary member of the Fellowship for this organisation.
- (5) Extraordinary members may become natural persons, who do not belong to any organisation pursuant to sub-paragraph 3 or 4, and who teach, practice and spread the "Yoga in Daily Life" System, Yoga Vedanta Philosophy, Sanatana Dharma and Vedic Culture, and as those possess a valid license agreement for the use of the trademark and System "Yoga in Daily Life".
- (6) Supporting members may become societies, associations and other organisations that have no licence agreement for the use of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System but have similar purposes as the Fellowship.
- (7) Honorary members are admitted at the discretion of the Board at the request of a member.

## **§ 6**

### **Acquisition of Membership**

- (1) The admission to the membership is dependent on the conditions as provided in § 5, sub-paragraphs 2 - 6.
- (2) An application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Board that finally decides on the admission within three months. It may reject the admission without giving reasoning.
- (3) If the applicant is an association with a written statute, a copy of it with an English translation shall be attached to the application.

## **§ 7**

### **Termination of Membership**

- (1) The membership ends by death (for associations by their dissolution), by voluntary resignation, by deletion or by exclusion.
- (2) Voluntary resignation may be declared at the end of each calendar month. The Board must be notified in writing at least three months in advance. If the notice is delayed; it will not take effect until the next withdrawal date.
- (3) The cancellation of a member may be made by the Board if despite a written reminder twice, it is in arrears for more than six months with the payment of membership fees or the renewal of the license agreement. The obligation to pay the due membership fees remains unaffected.
- (4) The exclusion of a member may be ordered by the Board for gross violation of the member's obligations or dishonourable behaviour. (The appeal to the General Assembly is permissible against an exclusion, until the decision of which the member rights are suspended.)
- (5) Withdrawal of the Honorary membership may be decided by the Board for the reasons mentioned in sub-paragraph 4.

## **§ 8**

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

- (1) The members are entitled to participate in all events of the Fellowship and to use the Fellowship's facilities.
- (2) All Ordinary members (§ 5 sub-paragraphs 3 and 4) have the right to be elected to any organ of the Fellowship. The right to vote in the General Assembly of the Fellowship is reserved only to the Delegates (see § 8, sub-paragraphs 3).
- (3) Each member organisation pursuant to § 5, sub-paragraphs 3 and 4, elects one Delegate as the representative of the association (branch or sub-Branch) at the General Assembly of the Fellowship, and only these Delegates have the right to vote in the General Assembly of the Fellowship.
- (4) Extraordinary members, supporting members and Honorary members have no voting rights.
- (5) All members shall use their best endeavours to promote the Fellowship's interests and refrain from doing anything that could damage the reputation or purpose of the Fellowship. The members must observe and obey the Fellowship's statutes as well as the resolutions, provisions and dispositions of the governing bodies (see § 14, sub-paragraph 3).
- (6) Ordinary and Extraordinary members are required to pay the membership fees on time and to renew their license to use the trademark and the System »Yoga in Daily Life«.
- (7) Each member is entitled to demand from the executive committee the discharge of the statutes.
- (8) At least one tenth of the members may request the convening of a General Assembly by the Board.
- (9) The members are to be informed in each General Assembly by the Board about the activities and financial management of the Fellowship. If at least one tenth of the members reasonable request, the Board has to give the members such information within four weeks.

- (10) The members are to be informed by the Board about the audited financial statements. If this happens in the General Assembly, the auditors are to be involved.

## **§ 9 Official Languages**

- (1) The members may use their own language in the General Assemblies provided that they ensure that their comments are translated into English or German.
- (2) The statutes, minutes, annual reports and other notifications shall be drawn up in German and/or of necessary, in English in compliance with the relevant Austrian legal provisions.
- (3) In case there is a dispute of interpretation, the English version shall govern. If only a German version exists, the German version shall be used.

## **§ 10 Organs of the Fellowship**

Organs of the Fellowship are the General Assembly (§§ 11 und 12), the Board (§§ 13, 14 und 15), the Auditors (§ 16) and the Arbitration Tribunal (§ 18).

## **§ 11 The General Assembly**

- (1) The General Assembly is the General Meeting according to the Federal Act for civil associations (Vereinsgesetz).
- (2) The ordinary General Assembly shall meet every 5 years.
- (3) An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in case of
  - a. Resolution of the Board 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,
  - e. Decision of a court appointed curator (§ 13 sub-paragraph 3 last sentence of these statutes)within twelve weeks.
- (4) Both to the ordinary and the extraordinary General Assemblies, all Delegates shall be invited in writing or by fax or e-mail, four weeks before the assembly. The notification shall be made stating the agenda. The General Assembly is convened by the Board. (sub-paragraph.1 and 3 lit. a-c), by the auditors (sub-paragraph 3 lit. d) or by a court appointed curator (sub-paragraph.3 lit. e). The General Assembly may be held at any place determined by the Board, also outside Austria.
- (5) Applications for the General Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Board at least 14 days before the date of the General Assembly.
- (6) Valid resolutions – except those concerning an application for the convening of an Extraordinary General Meeting – can only be taken on the agenda.
- (7) At the General Assembly, the Delegates pursuant to § 8, sub-paragraph 3, Board members of the member associations pursuant to § 5, sub-paragraph 3, as well as Extra-Ordinary pursuant to § 5, sub-paragraph 5, member societies pursuant to § 5, sub-paragraph 6, and Honorary members may attend the General Assembly, but only the Delegates pursuant to § 8, sub-paragraph 3, are entitled to vote at the General Assembly. Each Delegate has one vote. The transfer of voting rights to another Delegate by written power of an attorney is admitted.
- (8) The General Assembly shall be quorate regardless of the number of persons present.
- (9) Elections and decisions in the General Assembly are usually made by a simple majority vote. Resolutions changing the statute of the Fellowship – with the exception of the name change (sub-paragraph 10) – disbanding the association or relieving the board or any of its members, however, require a qualified majority of three-quarters of the valid vote cast. In a tie vote, the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive.
- (10) The name of the Fellowship must not be changed.
- (11) The General Assembly is chaired by the President, in his absence by the Vice-President. If the Vice-President is absent too, the oldest member of the Board present presides.

## **§ 12 Tasks of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly is reserved for the following tasks:

- a) Receipt and approval of the statement of accounts, the income statement and the balance sheet (§21, sub-

paragraph 1 Vereinsgesetz).

- b) Confirmation of the contributions proposed by the Board.
- c) Appointment and removal of members of the Board and the Auditors.
- d) Decision on appeal against exclusion from membership.
- e) Resolution on amendments of the statute and the voluntary dissolution of the Fellowship.
- f) Report of the Data Protection Manager on the technical and organizational measures of the Fellowship for Data Protection and, if applicable, the requests of individuals or the Data Protection Authority.

### **§ 13 The Board**

- (1) The Board is the management organ according to the Federal Order for civil associations.
- (2) The Board consists of six persons: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and his deputy, the Treasurer and his deputy.
- (3) The Board is elected by the General Assembly. The Board has the right to co-opt any other eligible member upon the withdrawal of an elected member, for which a subsequent approval shall be obtained in the next General Assembly. If the Board 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 Board 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.
- (4) The term of office of the Board 5 years. In any case, it lasts until the election of a new Board. Re-election is possible.
- (5) The Board shall be convened by the President, in his absence by the Vice-President, in writing or oral. If the Vice-President too is absent for an unpredictably long time, any other member of the Management Board may call the Board.
- (6) The Board has a quorum if all its members have been invited and at least half of them are present.
- (7) The Board passes its resolutions by a simple majority of votes. In case of a tie, the vote of the Chairman decides.
- (8) The Board meeting is chaired by the President, in case of prevention, the Vice-President. If this is too prevented, the chairmanship is incumbent on the oldest member of the Board present or by that member of the Board who is majority-appointed by the other Board members.
- (9) Apart from death and expiry of the term (sub-paragraph 4), the function of a Board Member expires by discharge (sub-paragraph 10) and resignation (sub-paragraph 11).
- (10) The General Assembly may at any time revoke the entire Board or individual Board Members thereof (see § 11, sub-paragraph 9).
- (11) The Board Members may at any time declare their resignation. The declaration of resignation shall be directed to the Board in writing. In case of resignation of the entire Board the notification shall be directed to the General Assembly. The resignation must not be made at an inopportune time, so that the Fellowship would be harmed.

### **§ 14 Responsibilities of the Board**

- (1) The Board is responsible for the management of the Fellowship. It is assigned all duties, which are not assigned to another body of the association by the statutes. Its competencies include in particular the following matters:
  - 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 expenditure statement including the balance sheet, according to §21, sub-paragraph 1 Vereinsgesetz.
  - c) Preparations to the General Assembly in case of § 11 sub-paragraph 1 and sub-paragraph 3 lit. a - c of these statutes.
  - d) Convening Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly meetings.
  - e) Information of the members about the Fellowship's activities, the Fellowship's performance and the audited financial statements;
  - f) Administration of the Fellowship's assets.
  - g) Admission, expulsion and dismissal of members.
  - h) Power of veto against the nomination of a Delegate.
  - i) Appointment of project officers as well as establishment and dissolution of work and project teams.
  - j) Admission and withdrawal of Honorary members.
  - k) Admission and termination of employees of the Fellowship.

- l) Determination the amount of enrolment fees, membership fees and other fees.
  - m) Decision in the reduction of contributions in individual cases.
  - n) Application and control of the implementation of the legal requirements and measures of the GDPR.
- (2) The Board is obliged to conclude a contract with the Author and Licensor of the System »Yoga in Daily Life«, Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda (respectively with his successors) about the conditions for the use of the Trademark and System "Yoga in Daily Life" by the Fellowship and its members. This contract has to be reconfirmed annually.
  - (3) The Board is authorised to adopt binding rules and regulations for the dissemination of the teaching of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System as well as for the publication of teaching materials in self-publishing. These are to be approved by the Author (respectively by his successors). The dispositions and rules are to be followed by all members, otherwise the Board of the Fellowship may order their exclusion from the Fellowship and withdraw the entitlement to any use of the Trademark and Method of "Yoga in Daily Life" for teaching and self-publishing of educational materials.
  - (4) In order to gain insight and sufficient information, the Board is entitled to attend all events of the members as well as to examine the all of these self-published publications produced and to report to the Author (respectively to his successors).

## **§ 15**

### **Special Obligations of the Board Members**

- (1) The President is the highest association official. He represents the Fellowship to the outside, according to sub-paragraph 4, particularly to third persons and to authorities. He chairs the General Assembly and the Board. In the event of imminent danger, he is entitled to make independent orders under his own responsibility, including in matters falling in the sphere of action of the General Assembly or the Board. However, these require the subsequent approval by the competent association body.
- (2) The Secretary shall assist the President in conducting the association's affairs. He is responsible for keeping the minutes of the General Assembly and the Board meetings.
- (3) The Treasurer is responsible for the proper financial management of the Fellowship.
- (4) Written copies and notices of the Fellowship, in particular documents binding the Fellowship, shall be jointly signed by the President and the Secretary, resp. jointly signed by the President and the Treasurer, provided that they concern monetary matters.
- (5) In the case of prevention, the deputies will substitute the President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- (6) Legal transactions between the Fellowship and a member of the Board require the approval of the remaining Board.
- (7) Authorizations to represent the Fellowship externally or to subscribe to it may only be granted by the members of the Board considering sub-paragraph. 4.

## **§ 16**

### **The Auditors**

- (1) The two Auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly for the term of 5 years. A re-election shall be possible.
- (2) The appointment of independent accountants according to §22 of the Federal Order of Taxes is possible.
- (3) The auditors are responsible for the control of the finance management of the Fellowship with respect to the compliance with the accounting principles and the proper use of the funds. The Board must provide the auditors with the necessary documents and provide the required information. The auditors shall report to the Board and the General Assembly on the result of the audit.
- (4) Legal transactions between Auditors and the Association require the approval of the Board. § 13 sub-paragraphs 4, 9, 10 und 11 shall apply to the Auditors accordingly.

## **§ 17**

### **Special Obligations of the Delegates**

- (1) The Delegates are responsible for the correct performance and preservation of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System and fulfilment of the rules and regulations of the Fellowship by the members of their Organisation.
- (2) The Delegates have the duty to collect the annual fees and deliver them on time to the Board of the Fellowship.
- (3) The Delegates have the task of representing the members of their organisation in the Fellowship and of informing them of all the broadcasts and messages sent out of the Fellowship.
- (4) The delegates have the task to advise the members of their organisation to the best of their ability and to help in the

best way to represent the System "Yoga in Daily Life" in their country and in the sense of public health, for the benefit of humanity, of all living things and the environment.

#### **§ 18**

##### **The Arbitration Tribunal**

- (1) In all disputes arising from matters regarding the Fellowship, an Arbitration Tribunal shall decide.
- (2) The Arbitration Tribunal consists of five Delegates of the Fellowship. It is formed in such a way that within 14 days each party of a dispute shall name two members as arbitrators to the Board. These arbitrators elect a fifth member as chairman of the Arbitration Tribunal by simple majority. In the case of equal votes, the chairman shall be determined from 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 its decisions in the presence of all its members by simple majority of votes. It shall decide at its best abilities. Its decisions are final within the Fellowship.
- (4) In all questions or disputes regarding the teachings of the "Yoga in Daily Life" System the Board has to seek the Author's (respectively his successor's) decision. His decisions are final within the Fellowship.

#### **§ 19**

##### **Dissolution of the Fellowship**

- (1) The voluntary dissolution of the Fellowship can only be decided upon an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for this purpose and only with a majority of three-quarters of the valid votes cast.
- (2) This General Assembly has also - as far as association assets are available - to decide on the liquidation. In particular, it must appoint a liquidator and decide on whom to transfer the assets of the association remaining after covering the liabilities.
- (3) In case of dissolution of the Fellowship or omission of the former beneficiary purpose, the Fellowship 's assets remaining after covering all 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 et seq 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 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.