

# STATUTE

## § 1 Name and Seat

1. The association bears the name „**Vision Peace Foundation Germany e.V.**“.  
The association is based in Düsseldorf.
2. The fiscal year is equal to the calendar year.

## § 2 Non-profit status

1. The association pursues solely and directly objectives of public benefit and charity within the meaning of the Chapter "Tax-Exempt Objectives" of the Fiscal Code.
2. The Association acts selflessly; it does not primarily pursue economic self-interest.

## § 3 Purpose of the Association

1. Purpose of the association is the promotion of:
  - Education
  - Environmental protection
  - International ethos, tolerance in all affairs, culture and the idea of international understanding
  - Animal welfare
  - Support for needy people
2. The purpose of the Statute is realized in particular by

### **Education**

Measures that support people in the development of their personality and the expansion of their consciousness, in terms of a more humanistic lifestyle, such as

- Educational events e.g. workshops and seminars of informal learning

## **Environmental protection**

Environmentally relevant measures that contribute to the preservation of nature, as well as the protection and regeneration of our planet earth, and such that are geared towards sustainability and a conscious use of natural resources, such as

- The strengthening, support and raising of people's awareness regarding our attitude towards nature and the earth through spontaneous lectures and exemplary behavior, e.g. the use of sustainable materials.
- Creating awareness of the dignity of all life through meditation, mindfulness and perceptual exercises.

## **International understanding**

The organization of various events, seminars, workshops, panel discussions especially during the World Tour with the following objectives:

- to meet people worldwide, connect with and stimulate each other, „learn from each other“, accompany and support each other.
- meditate together, sing, dance.
- to advocate peace awareness in the world.
- to strengthen and expand worldwide democracy, peace and freedom
- to promote and exemplify awareness of unity; to connect globally all people who want to realize peace, so that a greater force can emerge in the sense of „together we are strong“.

## **Animal welfare**

The purpose of animal welfare is to protect animals from pain, suffering or damage and to provide special protection for endangered species. This can be accomplished in various ways. For example through education and public relations efforts or by supporting organizations that operate animal shelters and animal care facilities.

## **Support of needy people (charitable purposes)**

Persons within the meaning of § 53 AO are supported, especially people in acute need of short-term assistance who are in dire need of personal or material help, such as:

- Clothing,
- Food,
- Financing of temporary accommodation,
- Help with job search,
- Support of personal qualifications to eliminate mental or emotional distress.

3. Funds of the Association may only be used for statutory purposes. The members do not receive payments from the association.
4. The purpose of the Association can also be realized through the transfer of funds to other non-profit organizations.
5. No person may be favored by expenditures which are foreign to the purpose of the Association, or by disproportionately high remuneration.
6. In case of dissolution or cancellation of the Association or the cessation of the the tax-exempt purposes, the Association's assets are turned over to the association “**LICHTBEWUSSTLEBEN e.V.**“ in **Wülfrath**, which must use it directly and solely for charitable purposes.

#### **§ 4 Membership**

1. Eligible for membership of the Association is any adult natural person and any legal person supporting the purpose of the Association.
2. Membership requires a written membership application to the Board. The Board decides on the membership application at its own discretion. An applicant will not be notified of the reasons for their rejection. The rejection decision is not subject to appeal to the General Assembly. Membership becomes effective by written notification of the acceptance decision.
3. The membership of the Association ends with death, resignation or expulsion from the Association. The resignation can only take place at the end of a calendar year and should be communicated in writing four weeks before the end of the year.
4. In the case of gross violations of Association obligations, e.g. in case of grave culpable damage to the reputation of the Association's interests, the board can decide to exclude a member.
5. The Association can have honorary members. Honorary members do not have to be regular members of the Association. The board awards honorary membership on the basis of a resolution that must be passed by a simple majority. Honorary members are exempt from the obligation to pay the membership fees. The honorary members do not have voting rights.

## **§ 5 Membership fees**

1. Membership fees are charged. The Association has a Contribution Order. This Order regulates the nature and extent of the financial obligations of its members. It determines the due date of the fees and adjusts them to the respective circumstances. The Contribution Order also determines the form, execution and effect of payment reminders. By majority vote of the Executive Board, individual contributions may be waived in whole or in part.

## **§ 6 Rights and obligations of members**

Each member has the same right to vote and to be elected in the General Assembly as well as the obligation to promote the interests of the Association, in particular to pay the membership fees. Likewise, there is the right to actively participate in the implementation of the Association's purpose and to participate in joint events.

## **§ 7 Organs of the Association**

Organs of the Association are:

- the Executive Board
- the General Assembly

## **§ 8 Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board consists of 3 members.
2. The Board represents the Association both in and out of court. Two members of the Executive Board are jointly authorized for this representation.
3. One member of the Executive Board is designated as chairperson, one member as secretary and one member as treasurer. Secretary and treasurer are also deputy chairpersons.
4. The Board is elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. The re-election of the Board members is possible. The chairperson is determined by the general meeting in a special ballot.
5. The current members of the Board remain in office after the end of their term until successors are elected.

6. The requirement for membership of the Board is membership of the Association for a period of at least one year.
7. The Board is responsible for the management of the current affairs of the Association.

The Board is responsible in particular for the following:

- The Board is generally active on a voluntary basis. The General Assembly may decide on an annual flat fee for members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board may also receive a separate compensation for activities that go beyond its voluntary activities on the basis of a separate employment of service contract. This applies in particular to all cases in which the Executive Board can otherwise receive the service rendered by the Board member only against payment.
  - The Board can appoint a managing director for day-to-day administration. This director is entitled to attend the meetings of the Executive Board in an advisory capacity.
  - The Board is responsible for convening and preparing the General Meetings, including the preparation of the agenda, the execution of the decisions of the General Assembly, the administration of the Association's assets and the preparation of the annual report, as well as the admission of new members.
8. Board meetings are held at least twice a year. The invitation to the board meetings shall be made in writing by the chairperson in compliance with an invitation period of at least 14 days. The invitation can also be made by electronic mail.
  9. Board meetings are quorate if at least 2 of its members are present.
  10. The Board passes resolutions by a simple majority. It is also possible for the Board to make decisions in writing. A decision made by email also counts as a written decision.

## **§ 9 General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly is the supreme decision making body of the Association.
2. Tasks of the General Assembly are:
  - Determining the number, election, dismissal and discharge of the Executive Board.
  - Receipt of the annual report of the Board and resolution regarding the Association's budget.
  - Issuance of a Contribution Order, that is not part of the Statute.

- Changes to the Statute, changes to the purpose of the Association and dissolution of the Association.
  - Determining the number and choice of auditors as well as receiving their report.
  - Appointment of two auditors who are not members of either the Executive Board or a committee appointed by the Board and may not be employees of the Association to audit the accounts, including the annual accounts, and report on the results to the General Assembly.
  - Decision on the exclusion of members.
3. The Board has to convene a General Meeting at least once a year. The convocation shall be made in writing subject to a notice period of at least two weeks and stating the agenda. The period begins with the day following the dispatch. The letter of invitation must be sent to the last address of the individual member known to the Association. The invitation can also be sent by electronic mail to the last known email address known by the association.
  4. The Board sets the agenda. At the latest one week before the General Meeting, each member of the Association can propose, in writing to the Board, an extension of the agenda. The Board decides on the proposal. The General Assembly decides on proposals rejected by the Assembly or proposed during the General Meeting itself, by a majority of the votes of the members present; Excluded from this are proposals which have as their object an amendment of the Statute, the dissolution of the Association or changes in membership fees.
  5. According to § 36 BGB the Executive Board calls an extraordinary General Meeting, if the interest of the Association so requires or if  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the members request this in writing stating the purpose and the reasons.
  6. The General Assembly has a quorum if properly convened.
  7. The General Assembly passes resolutions by a simple majority of members present. Amendments of the Statute, a change in the Association's purpose as well as dissolution of the Association require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the members present.
  9. Insofar as no candidate receives the majority of the votes of the members present at the election of the Executive Board, the candidate who has received the majority of the valid votes cast is elected.
  10. The procedure of the General Assembly and the passed resolutions will be recorded. This protocol must be signed by the Secretary and the Board.

## **§ 10 Advisory Board**

1. The Executive Board has the option, at its own discretion, of appointing or dissolving an Advisory Board to support its work on the Executive Board. The appointment of further Advisory Councils for a project is also possible.
2. The Advisory Board consists of up to five elected Advisory Councils, that advise the Board in its decisions.
3. The Advisory Board may include ordinary and supporting members of the Association as well as such persons who, due to their role in society, have the opportunity to support the interests of the Association.
4. The Advisory Board is elected by the Executive Board for the duration of a project or for a maximum of 1 year. The election is made by a simple majority of the elective members of the Executive Board. Re-election is permissible.
5. It is possible that the office as Advisory Council ends upon termination of membership in the Association. This is decided by the Executive Board by a simple majority.
6. The work on the Advisory Board is voluntary.
7. The Advisory Board meets at least twice a year. The chairperson of the Association invites to the meetings of the Advisory Board.
8. The members of the Advisory Board are entitled to attend the General Assembly. They are not eligible for voting.
9. At the request of a member, the majority of the Executive Board decides on the exclusion of an Advisory Board member from the Advisory Board. Prerequisite is the culpable violation of the interests of the Association in a crude manner.