

**Statutes**  
**of**  
**International Disability Alliance**

**Preamble**

1. The International Disability Alliance started as a non-incorporated, contractual alliance in 1999 and has since then worked as a network on issues which are common to all its member organizations and with full respect for the distinct and relevant role of each of its member organizations. The change to a formally incorporated association, which seeks to guarantee the sustainability of the initiative of the member organizations, will strengthen the networked collaboration of the member organizations as well as the role of the member organizations.

**Name and headquarters**

**Article 1**

1. International Disability Alliance is a non-profit association (the "**Association**") governed by the present statutes and, secondarily, by Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.
2. It is neutral politically, and non-denominational.

**Article 2**

1. The Association's headquarters are located in the Canton of Geneva.
2. The Association shall be of unlimited duration.

**Purpose and Principles**

**Article 3**

1. The purpose of the Association shall be the advancing of the human rights of persons with disabilities as a united voice of organizations of persons with disabilities. The Association shall in particular found its advocacy on the utilisation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments.

**Article 4**

1. The Association is based on the following principles:
  - a) to respect the sovereignty of all member organizations and recognize their expertise on issues affecting their own constituency;
  - b) to promote the capacity of its member organizations in the interest of their disability constituencies;

- c) to follow democratic governance ensuring transparency, accountability and full consultation with its member organizations;
- d) to promote solidarity among and equal treatment of all disability constituencies in all regions of the world;
- e) to fully respect in all of its work non-discrimination on any grounds including disability, race, gender, religion, age, language, ethnic origin, and sexual orientation; and,
- f) to ensure the leadership of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all decisions affecting their lives;

## **Article 5**

1. Any claim of a member organization to the assets of the Association is excluded.

## **Resources**

### **Article 6**

1. The Association's resources come from:
  - donations;
  - legacies;
  - private and public subsidies;
  - membership fees; and
  - any other resources authorized by the law.
2. The funds shall be used in conformity with the Association's purpose.

### **Article 7**

1. The liability of the Association is limited to the assets of the Association. Any personal liability of the member organizations for the liabilities of the Association is excluded. For the individuals acting for the Association, article 55 para 3 of the Swiss Civil Code is reserved (personal liability in case of wrongful behavior).

## **Members**

### **Article 8**

1. The Association comprises members who shall be global or regional organizations.
2. Founding members are those member organizations that established the Association. The founding members will be duly registered as such and their contribution to the establishment of the Association will be acknowledged in the different Association documents.
3. Member organizations shall be global and regional organizations whose mission and objectives are the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and who meet the following criteria:

a) Global organization:

- I. It shall be a legally established organization that has a global mandate and comprises member organizations from at least 50 individual countries, with members in at least three continents. Founding members that do not meet these requirements are exempted, but will endeavor to meet these.
- II. The majority of its member organizations shall be organizations composed and governed by persons with disabilities or, in the case of persons with intellectual disability, composed and governed by persons with intellectual disability and family members
- III. It shall have a majority of persons with disabilities in the governing bodies of the organization, or in the case of persons with an intellectual disability, persons with intellectual disability and family members are in the majority of the governing bodies of the organization.
- IV. Its leadership is elected democratically by its members.

b) Regional organization:

- I. It shall be a legally established regional organization with national members in at least two-thirds of the countries of the region and open to the membership of all constituencies of persons with disabilities.
- II. The majority of member organizations shall be organizations composed and governed by persons with disabilities or, in the case of persons with intellectual disability, composed and governed by persons with intellectual disability and family members.
- III. It shall have a majority of persons with disabilities in the governing bodies of the organization, including its general assembly. Persons with intellectual disabilities can be represented by persons with intellectual disabilities and by family members.
- IV. Its leadership is elected democratically by members.

4. Requests to become a member must be addressed to the Board of the Association. The Board admits new member organizations by unanimity of all its members and informs the General Assembly accordingly. No regional organization that is a member of a global member of the Association can itself become a member of the Association.

## Article 9

1. Membership ceases for any of the following circumstances:
  - a) by written resignation notified to the Board at least six months before the end of the financial year;
  - b) by exclusion decided by the Board, when a member organization has undertaken unlawful or illegal actions that are likely to threaten or compromise the name, reputation or assets of the Association and following an investigation undertaken by the Membership Committee of the Association, which should present an unanimously agreed proposal to the Board. The member organization will have the right of appeal to the General Assembly.

Appeals must be lodged within 30 days of the mailing of notification of the Board's decision to the relevant member organization. If the appeal is lodged, the exclusion will be suspended until the General Assembly takes a final decision.

- c) for non-payment of dues for more than three years, unless the non-payment is adequately justified.
2. In all cases the membership fee for the current year remains due. Organizations whose membership has terminated for any of the above reasons have no rights to any part of the Association's assets, and all membership rights terminate with the membership.

## **Organs**

### **Article 10**

1. The Association's organs are:
  - the General Assembly,
  - the Board, and
  - the Auditor.

## **General Assembly**

### **Article 11**

1. The General Assembly is the Association's supreme authority. It is composed of all the Member organizations.
2. It shall hold an ordinary meeting once each year. It may also meet in extraordinary meeting whenever necessary, by unanimous decision of the Board or at the request of one half of the member organizations.
3. The General Assembly shall be considered valid if three quarter of all the member organizations are present.
4. The Board shall send notice of the meeting to the member organizations at least six weeks in advance. The convocation, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member organization at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

### **Article 12**

1. The General Assembly:
  - a) acknowledges the contents of the Association's reports and financial statements for the preceding year and votes on their adoption;
  - b) approves the Association's annual budget;
  - c) fixes the annual membership fees.
  - d) supervises the activity of the Association's other organs, which it may dismiss, stating the grounds therefore;

- e) shall deal with appeals related to the expulsion of member organizations or non admission of new member organizations decided by the Board;
- f) appoints an Auditor who shall be in charge of the audit of the Association's accounts;
- g) decides on any modification of the Association's statutes and internal rules; and
- h) decides on the dissolution of the Association.

### **Article 13**

1. The General Assembly is presided over by the Chair (see Article 17) of the Association. In the absence of the Chair, the General Assembly will be presided by the First Vice Chair.

### **Article 14**

1. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by two thirds of the member organizations present. In case of deadlock, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
2. Decisions concerning the amendment of the statutes and internal rules, the appeals related to the exclusion of a member organization or non admission of new member organizations, the establishment of the annual membership fees and the dissolution of the Association must be approved by unanimity of all member organizations.

### **Article 15**

1. Votes are public. If requested by at least half plus one of its member organizations, they take place by secret ballot.

### **Article 16**

1. The agenda of the ordinary Annual Meeting of the General Assembly must include:
  - approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
  - annual report on activities of the Board
  - report of the Treasurer and of the Auditor
  - setting of membership fees
  - approval of the budget
  - approval of reports and accounts, and discharge to the members of the Board
  - election of the Auditor
  - other business.

## **Board**

### **Article 17**

1. Each member organization will be represented on the Board by the member organization's president / chair or such president's / chair's nominee. Board members will have a two year mandate renewable, but their mandate can be withdrawn at any time following a request from the president/chair of the member organization.
2. The Board shall in addition elect one person to act as the Chair of the Association who does not represent any specific member organization.
3. Each member organization may appoint deputies to their representative on the Board.
4. The Board shall elect among its members a First Vice-Chair, two additional Vice-Chairs, a Treasurer and a General Secretary. Their roles are defined in the internal rules.

### **Article 18**

1. The Board is competent for any acts and decisions that do not fall in the competence of another organ of the Association.
2. More particularly, the functions of the Board are, without limitation:
  - a) to take all measures to attain the goals of the Association;
  - b) to manage the Association and to administer the assets of the Association;
  - c) to adopt other relevant regulations and instructions for a proper operation of the Association;
  - d) to convene General Assemblies;
  - e) to take decisions with regard to admission of new member organizations, to resignations of member organizations, and to their possible expulsion; and
  - f) to ensure the application of the statutes and the internal rules.
3. The Board may appoint a qualified professional to the function of Executive Director to whom the daily management of the Association and administration of its assets is delegated. The Executive Director may be seconded by a secretariat.

### **Article 19**

1. The Board meets at least twice a year and extraordinarily as often as required. The quorum for ordinary Board meetings will be of three-fourths of all Board members.
2. If an extraordinary Board meeting is to be held, the Chair will explain the reasons for such a meeting and the decision to hold such an extraordinary Board meeting will be taken by five-sixths of all Board members.
3. Votes at ordinary Board meetings can be validly taken if three quarters of its members are present, while votes at extraordinary Board meetings can be validly taken if five-sixths of its members are present.

### **Article 20**

1. The following rules apply to decision making:

- a) Decisions on strategies and policy matters, including those in relation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments, shall be made by unanimity of all members of the Board present.
  - b) Decisions on membership issues shall be made by unanimity of all members of the Board present, unless the Board has to deal with the exclusion of a member organization pursuant to Article 9 n° □b) (exclusion for unlawful or illegal actions) or pursuant to Article 9 n° □c) (exclusion for non-payment). In such a case the member of the Board of the member organization in question cannot take part in this decision.
  - c) Decisions on procedural and other issues shall be made by consensus as far as possible and any disagreements, as assessed by the Chair, shall be resolved by a vote requiring a three quarters majority of the members of the Board present.
2. Between meetings votes may be taken electronically, whereas the Chair shall keep proper record of such votes and will submit a list of all decisions taken electronically to the following Board meeting.
  3. The Executive Director of the Association has a consultative voice at the Board meetings, but - for the avoidance of doubt - no vote in the Board.

#### **Article 21**

1. The Association may be validly represented vis-à-vis third parties by:
  - by Chair and the Treasurer acting jointly;
  - by Chair or the Treasurer plus the Executive Director acting jointly;
  - Legal proceedings, either as plaintiff or as defendant, shall be conducted by the Board represented by two of its members.
  - Within the strict framework of daily management in the ordinary course of business, the Association shall be validly represented vis-à-vis third parties by the Executive Director, following approval from the Chair.

#### **Article 22**

1. The Board members act voluntarily and can only be compensated for their travel and subsistence costs.

#### **Auditor**

#### **Article 23**

1. The Association has an auditor who is appointed by the General Assembly for two years. He/she may be reelected. He/she proceeds to an audit of the accounts of the Association and submits a yearly report to the General Assembly.

#### **Various provisions**

#### **Article 24**

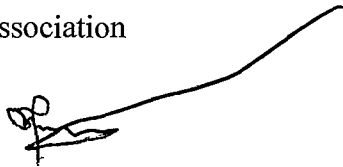
1. The financial year shall begin on 1st of January and end on 31st of December of each year.

#### **Article 25**

1. In the case of the Association being dissolved, the assets shall be allotted to a non-profit organization pursuing goals of public interest similar to those of the Association and which benefits itself from tax exemption. The assets cannot be returned to the founders or member organizations, nor be used to their own profit.

The present statutes have been approved by the General Assembly of the Association on June 7th in Geneva.

For the Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Chairperson of the constitutive General Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, appearing to read 'Urs Kvalvick'.

Secretary of the constitutive General Assembly