

# ARTICLES OF THE ASSOCIATION

## 1. NAME

Herein is formed a non-profit social promotion association having the name ANANDA ASSOCIATION (referred to in this document as "Association"), which will be governed by the laws pertaining to such an entity and in particular the Law 383/2000.

## 2. REGISTERED SEAT – DURATION

The registered headquarters are established in Nocera Umbria (PG), via Montecchio 61. The Association is formed for an unlimited period of time, during which it is forbidden to allot, directly or indirectly, profits or remainders of the administration as well as funds, reserves or capital, except in cases imposed by the law.

## 3. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association are pursued within the territory of the Italian Republic and, on an occasional basis, anywhere in the world. The Association pursues educational and cultural ends, solidarity and pluralism, ethical and spiritual research, in conformity with the contents of Law 383/2000. In particular it deals with:

1. promoting solidarity through the practice of voluntary service and the diffusion of the principles of spiritual living according to the teachings of yoga and Self-realization as proposed by Paramhansa Yogananda, Swami Kriyananda and their spiritual descendants.
2. Helping all human beings to grow in a common ideal of universal brotherhood and promoting cultural and spiritual integration among nations and populations.
3. Developing educational and cultural activities for the purpose of harmonizing the physical, mental and spiritual nature of all humanity through:
  - 3.1. seminars and meetings focused on meditation and yoga,
  - 3.2. work-study programs for developing community living skills,
  - 3.3. courses in nutrition and vegetarian cooking,
  - 3.4. seminars in such vedic sciences as ayurveda and astrology,
  - 3.5. seminars, conferences and cultural, artistic, and musical presentations,
  - 3.6. voyages and pilgrimages having cultural and religious content,
  - 3.7. publication and distribution of publishing and audiovisual products in general.

4. Promoting the integration between human beings and nature through initiatives aimed at the knowledge, appreciation and protection of the environment, and natural resources.
5. Promoting the spiritual values contained in the message of St. Francis of Assisi, favouring the knowledge and the study of the Franciscan tradition and shrines.
6. Promoting and managing, both in Italy and abroad, spiritual centres and communities of world brotherhood based on cooperation and friendship, high ideals and simple living, truth and love for God and others.
7. Favouring individual spiritual growth, promoting spirituality in daily life, sustaining physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, also through the bestowing of prizes and scholarships whose requirements will be fixed by the Board of Directors and ratified by the assembly at the first meeting.

The Association may carry out all initiatives considered useful or necessary for the achievement of its purposes, in particular:

- a) the organization of guest reception at the headquarters or in other places chosen by the Board of Directors, providing for guests' lodging in owned or rented accommodations, including open air spaces, and for the supplying of strictly vegetarian meals.
- b) The teaching of courses aimed at the training and qualification of teachers of yoga, meditation, and other spiritual disciplines.
- c) The organization of private schools for children.
- d) The creation of schools or centres for health and healing based on the integration of body, mind and soul.

The requested contribution to attend the various offered activities will be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors and may exceed the mere cost.

All activities which are not in conformity with the social purposes are strictly forbidden.

The activities of the Association and its purposes are inspired by the principles of equal opportunities between men and women, and are respectful of the inviolable rights of all people.

#### **4. ESSENTIAL, ACCESSORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The Association may carry out any activity deemed useful or necessary to the accomplishment of its purposes, in particular:

- the purchase of goods and real estate in Italy and abroad,
- to enter into any suitable contract for financial needs, such as short-term or long-term loans,
- administrate properties which are owned or rented or granted to it,

- stipulate with public or private institutions conventions of any kind that the Association may deem useful to the accomplishment of its aims and that may also be transcribed in public registers,
- manage urban and agricultural properties,
- erect buildings and build systems deemed useful or necessary for the development of the institutional activities,
- to rent or contract its properties to third parties,
- to guarantee loans for financial operations also concerning third parties that deal with commercial activities:
  1. the Association may grant drafts, trusts and any other kind of guarantees aimed at obtaining credit for its own necessities and/or necessities of other associations having similar purposes.
  2. In developing its institutional activities, the Association will maintain close contact and collaboration with "Ananda Europe Foundation" in Nocera Umbra (PG), and with the "Ananda Church of Self Realization" in California.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

All men and women, both Italian and foreigners, irrespective of their religious beliefs, may join the Association on condition that:

- they accept the Articles and the internal guidelines,
- they share the Association's purposes
- they dedicate a part of their time to achieving them,
- they respect the decisions taken by the representative organs.

Public and private institutions and organizations whose articles express even partially the same purposes may join the Association.

The qualified appointed organ that deliberates on membership admissions is the Board of Directors. The membership request must be written and must include the name, address, place of birth and other particulars. Members have to pay an annual fee fixed by the Board of Directors, and they also promise to respect the Articles and rules of the Association.

Temporary members are not admitted: the association fee cannot be passed on to others, with the exception of transfers due to death of the member, and it is not re-valuable.

There are four categories of members:

- **Founding Members:** they have taken part in the establishment of the Association. They have the right to vote, can be elected for social offices and their membership is automatically renewed without application or payment of the annual fees. They have the same rights and duties of ordinary members, but they can lose their membership rights and be

expelled by the Board of Directors for reasons of verifiable incompatibility.

- **Ordinary Members:** they request and receive membership status from the Board of Directors. They have the right to vote and can be elected for social offices. Their membership is conditioned on their annual written request and payment of the membership fee.
- **Benefactor Members:** they have distinguished themselves for activities or contributions in favour of the Association, and are designated by the Board of Directors. They have the right to vote and can be elected for social offices. They have the same rights and duties of ordinary members, but they can lose their membership rights and be expelled by the Board of Directors for reasons of verifiable incompatibility.
- **Resident Members:** they are designated by the Board of Directors, from among those who apply for this kind of membership, and who possess all the requirements, and undertake to respect the guidelines established by the Board of Directors. Their membership is automatically renewed without application or payment of the annual fees, being confirmed by the abovementioned requirements. They have the right to vote and can be elected for social offices. They have the same rights and duties of ordinary members, but they can lose their membership rights and be expelled by the Board of Directors for reasons of verifiable incompatibility.

The number of members is unlimited.

Members have to pay the social fee within 10 days of registration.

The amount of the annual fee will be fixed by the Board of Directors by the fifteenth of January every year.

All the activities carried out by members in favour of the Association, in order to accomplish the social purposes, are totally free and performed as voluntary service.

In case of special needs the Association may appoint employees or independent workers chosen also from among its own members.

## **6. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

All members have the right to elect the social organs and to be elected to them.

All members have the rights of information and control established by the Law and by the present Articles: voluntary members will not get remunerated but they may be reimbursed of expenses met for the given activity.

All members have the right of access to the documents, balance sheets, statement of accounts and registers of the Association and can request a copy at their own expense.

All adult members have the right to vote according to the principle of single vote as in art. 2538, second sub-section, of the Civil Code.

The members have the right to receive the newsletters concerning the activities of the Association and to participate in the life and activities as proposed.

## **7. DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

Members offer their services to the Association in a personal, voluntary and free way according to the necessities of the Association and their own availability.

The behaviour of members towards others inside and outside the Association should be motivated by a spirit of solidarity and courtesy, good faith, honesty, probity and moral rigour, with respect for the present Articles and for the enacted guidelines.

## **8. RECESSION / EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS**

The designation of Ordinary Member may be retracted for the following reasons:

- automatic withdrawal when the member does not apply and pay annual fee by the fifteenth of January: the Board of Directors proceeds each year by the fifteenth of February to revise the list of members.
- Exclusion decided by the Board of Directors because of verified incompatibility.
- Spontaneous withdrawal communicated by letter to the President of the Board of Directors. Without a declaration given by the Board of Directors the member is not freed from the duties towards the Association.
- Death of the member.

Besides the abovementioned reasons, organizations or other institutions who are Members may have their membership designation retracted because of:

- extinction of the organization or institution;
- alteration of the Articles of the organization or institution in such a way that they do not meet even partially the purposes of the Association.

Whatever may be the cause of recession, any member or his/her heirs and parties are not entitled to ask back contributions or money given to the Association for any purpose, nor are they entitled to the Association's estate.

## **9. SOCIAL ORGANS**

The organization and the functioning of the Association are in conformity with the principles of democracy and transparency.

The Association's organs are:

- the Assembly of Members,
- the Board of Directors,

- the President,
- the College of Auditors, when deemed necessary by the Assembly.

All social charges are assumed and performed as voluntary deeds.

## **10. ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly is the sovereign organ of the Association. The Assembly of Members is formed by Founding, Benefactor, Ordinary and Resident Members; it is convened at least once a year, at the headquarters or elsewhere, to approve the balance sheet. It is convened by the President of the Association or whoever takes his/her place through written notice published on the Internet Website of the Association, at least 10 days before the fixed date, through e-mails sent to the addresses communicated by members in the application forms and through posting in the rooms of the headquarters at least 20 days before the fixed date.

The Assembly is presided over by the President of the Board of Directors or by a delegate chosen among the members of the Board of Directors. A secretary is chosen among the present members to draw up the minutes.

The Assembly must be convened:

- a) when the Board of Directors deems it is necessary;
- b) when it is requested by at least one tenth of the members.

The Assembly is the sovereign organ of the Association.

The notices of convocation have to point out all the items to be discussed and place and time of the meeting both in first and second convocation.

The Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary: it is extraordinary when convened to modify the Articles of the Association or to deliberate the dissolution of the Association; it is ordinary in all other cases.

The ordinary Assembly is valid at first convocation when the majority of members having the right to vote, on one's own or by proxy, are present; it is valid at second convocation – even on the same day - whatever the number of present members.

The Assembly:

- a) approves the balance sheet;
- b) dictates the general directives for the functioning and the development of the Association;
- c) elects the members of the Board of Directors and those of the College of Auditors;
- d) deliberates eventual modifications of the present Articles and decides about the items to be discussed, proposed by the Board of Directors;
- e) deliberates on the eventual dissolution of the Association, its liquidation and the devolution of the remaining estate.

Regarding the modifications of the present Articles, the Extraordinary Assembly is valid when at least three quarters of the members are present or represented at first convocation; it is valid at second convocation whatever be the number of present members.

Deliberations are taken by the majority of present members plus members represented by proxy and have to be expressed by manifested vote, except those whose issues concern someone in particular or when the Assembly deems it convenient. Each member has the right to express one vote and may be represented at the Assembly by another member through written proxy: each member may represent only one other member, the proxy cannot be conferred to members of the Board of Directors.

Discussions and deliberations of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Assembly are summarized in the minutes drawn up by the secretary appointed by the President. Both the President and the secretary sign the minutes; when the Assembly is extraordinary a notary has to sign too. The minutes are transcribed on a specific register, which is kept in the legal seat of the Association, under the care of the President.

Each member has the right to consult the minutes and ask for a copy, at his/her own expense.

All members have the right to take part in the assemblies, to vote and be elected, on condition that they have paid the annual fee.

## **11. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Association is administered by a Board of Directors elected by the Assembly and composed of a number of members which may vary from three to seven: their charges last three years, then they may be re-elected. Members of the Board of Directors choose among themselves a President, a Vice-President and a secretary. They will not get remunerated for their activity as administrators but they may be reimbursed for expenses.

In case of the death of a member of the Board, or by renunciation, loss or permanent hindrance caused by any reason, he/she is replaced by another member taking charge: this event is ratified at the first meeting following said event.

The Board of Directors meets any time the President deems it convenient or necessary, or in case of a request forwarded by at least two of its members. In any case the Board meets at least once a year to discuss the balance sheet.

There may be the possibility of holding the meetings by videoconference, on condition that every participant can be identified and given the possibility to listen to what is said and intervene promptly in the discussion. When these preliminary assumptions are respected, the meeting place of the Board of Directors is considered to be the place where the President and the secretary that draws up the minutes are.

Decisions taken by the Board of Directors may also be communicated in a written form: in this case one of the members communicates to all the others

the written text of the proposed decision, fixing a time non inferior to ten days during which the eventual consent of each member has to reach the seat of the Association; in case of non-answer by the date of expiration the consent is implicitly denied. The documents have to point out clearly the object of the taken decision and the given consent; any means of communication are accepted, including fax and e-mail, on condition that the origins may be verified and reception checked. These documents have to be kept by the Association. The decision can be considered valid only when all the answers of the members have reached the Association in due time, or, in want of some of them, at the expiration date.

The decisions of the Board are valid only when the majority of the members are present, and when accepted by the majority of them. At a parity of votes the vote given by the President prevails. The vote cannot be expressed by proxy.

The Board of Directors is invested with full powers for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Association, with the exception of specific issues pertaining to other social organs.

Therefore the Board may (considering the following list exemplifying and not specific): buy and sell goods and real estates by private negotiations and public auctions; redeem annuities and rents; contract for loans and mortgages; collect and invest capitals; rent estates even beyond a period of nine years; appoint attorneys, lawyers and advisers of various natures; appear before the Court both in active and passive causes.

The Board may also:

- a) keep the social and account books;
- b) draw up and present to the assembly the balance sheet and the statement of accounts;
- c) decide upon the admission, recession and exclusion of members for incompatibility and loss;
- d) elect Benefactor and Resident Members;
- e) decide upon the acceptance of inheritances, legacies and donations;
- f) grant certifications of temporary residence in Italy to foreign members;
- g) fix the amount of admission fee and annual fee.

The Board of Directors may delegate the accomplishment of certain deeds to one or more members.

## **12. PRESIDENT**

The President is the legal representative of the Association, he/she presides over the Board of Directors and the Assembly. The president represents the Association before the authorities and is the official spokesman.

He/she may convene the assembly of members and the Board of Directors both for ordinary and extraordinary issues.

He/she provides for the execution of decisions taken by the Board of Directors and by the Assembly and performs the acts attributed to him/her by the present Articles or delegated by the institutional organs.

In case of absence or hindrance, the President may be replaced by the Vice-President who then takes his/her place with the same authority and attributions.

### **13. COLLEGE OF AUDITORS**

The Assembly may elect every three years a College of Auditors formed by three people, that can be members of the Association or not, to control the administration of the social accounts. The auditors elect a president from among themselves and write a report on the annual balance sheet drawn up by the Board of Directors. They have the power to check any time the cash on hand and to proceed even individually to inspect and control. Auditors may be re-elected.

### **14. PECUNIARY RESOURCES**

1. The Association draws the pecuniary resources for its functioning and for the development of activities from:
  - a) fees and members' contributions;
  - b) inheritances, donations and legacies;
  - c) contributions from the State, from regions, from local and public institutions, that may also be focused on the support of specific and documented programs created in respect of the social aims;
  - d) contributions from the European Community and International Institutions;
  - e) incomes from given conventional services;
  - f) proceeds from the cession of goods and services to third parties, also through the development of economic activities of a commercial and agricultural nature that are carried out as auxiliaries and anyhow meant for institutional aims;
  - g) liberal endowments from members and from third parties;
  - h) incomes from promotional initiatives, such as feasts and subscriptions that may also bestow prizes;
  - i) other incomes in conformity with the social aims of the Association.
2. In case of dissolution or extinction of the Association, the liquidation of the remaining estate has to be devolved to ends of social utility.
3. Any means may be used to support the financing of the Association and increase its estate, on condition that they are not in contrast with the present Articles, the inner rules and the laws of the Italian State.

## **15. FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. During the following three months the Board of Directors has to draw up the balance sheet and submit it to the Assembly of members to be approved within the fourth month.

All goods belonging to the Association must be registered in the balance sheet, which has to be complete with a report on the administration by the Board of Directors and eventually with a report written by the College of Auditors.

The balance has to be deposited at the seat of the Association and at the various sections at least 20 days before the Assembly convocation and may be consulted by any member. Eventual remainders of the administration have to be re-invested in favour of activities in conformity with the regulations.

## **16. DISSOLUTION**

At least three quarters of favourable votes are required in an extraordinary convocation of the Assembly in order to deliberate on the dissolution of the Association and the devolution of its estate.

The Assembly that deliberates to dissolve the Association elects one or more liquidators and takes decisions concerning the destination of the remaining estate.

It is made obligation to devolve the estate to another association having similar aims or to public utility, as specified in Law 23.12.1996 n. 662, art. 3 sub-section 190, save different destinations imposed by the Law.

The devolution of the estate has to be of public utility in favour of associations of social promotion having similar aims.

## **17. FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

Reference is made to the provisions of the Law for all matters for which no specific provision is made in these Articles.