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# **Statute**

#### § 1. Name, Registered office, Business year

- 1) The association carries the name Africa Network for Students and Alumni e.V.
- 2) The registered office and place of performance is Berlin.
- 3) The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
- 4) After its foundation, the association should be entered in the Register of Associations of the Berlin district court.

## § 2. Purpose

- The purpose of the association is the promotion of international relations and the promotion of education. The focus is on the further development of the concept of international understanding and the transfer of knowledge between Germany and Africa. Events on topics such as education, development cooperation, business, research and culture should also address and involve interested parties outside of the association's membership. This is supplemented by cooperation with the "German Academic Exchange Service e.V. (DAAD) so that the association and its members act as ambassadors and multipliers of the DAAD and the German university system. A network of alumni is promoted and maintained in order to exchange information with one another and with the public and to make existing contacts and existing knowledge easily accessible to future generations of scholarship holders.
- 2) The purpose of the association is realized in particular by:
  - a) The organization of events and information exchange for Alumni and outsiders, such as
    - Events on international and intercultural education, politics, economics and science especially in Africa.
    - Study trips and exchange with like-minded people from other nations.
    - To provide information to third parties about topics of international relations and the activities of the association, especially via the Internet and public events.

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- b) the formation of a network through
  - Promotion of contacts between current and former DAAD scholarship holders with a recognizable connection to Africa and with other institutions, such as like-minded networks of other nations, as well as public institutions,
  - > The integration of the new DAAD scholarship holders into the existing network of older cohorts.

### § 3. Non-profit Status

- 1) The association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit purposes in the sense of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German tax code.
- 2) The funds of the association may only be used for statutory purposes. The members perform their functions on a voluntary basis and receive no donations from the association's funds. They shall have no share in the association's assets.
- 3) The organs of the association may, however, exercise their responsibilities in return for appropriate remuneration. If necessary, offices of the Association can be exercised within the scope of the budgetary options on the basis of a service contract or against payment of an allowance according to § 3 No. 26a EStG (Income Tax Act). The decision about a remunerated activity shall be taken by the Board or the General Assembly. The same applies to the contract contents and conditions. Insofar as remuneration is paid to the Board of the association, it may not exceed the amount resulting from section § 31a section 1 sentence 1 of the German Civil Code (BGB) in order to ensure that the board members are exempt from liability.
- 4) Extraordinary contributions must be in the statutory interest of the association. Nobody may benefit from disproportionately high remuneration.

#### § 4. Funding

- 1) The association is financed through membership fees, contributions, donations, grants and other benefits.
- 2) The amount of the respective membership fee shall be at the discretion of each member. The general assembly shall decide on a minimum membership fee. The membership fee is payable at the beginning of the financial year or upon joining the association for the current financial year.

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#### § 5. Membership

- 1) The association shall award ordinary memberships, honorary memberships and sponsoring memberships.
  - a) Every current or former DAAD scholarship holder who can credibly demonstrate a recognizable connection to Africa can become a full member. A sufficient connection is in any case a sponsorship in the area of responsibility of the DAAD scholarship department "ST32 Africa", which covers Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, funding from the scholarship departments "ST33 Middle East, North Africa" or "ST35 Government Scholarship Programs Middle East, North Africa" is considered sufficient if the funding is related to a North African country instead of a country in the Middle East. For cross-regional fellowship programs, an African connection must be made credible, e.g., by destination or country of origin. Due to past and possible future organizational structures of the DAAD, this paragraph applies mutatis mutandis to the predecessor or successor departments of the above-mentioned departments. Exceptions are to be decided by the Executive Board in individual cases.
  - b) Supporting members can support the association financially or materially in its work. The Association's Board decides on membership as a supporting member after consulting the General Assembly.
  - c) The General Assembly shall decide on honorary members.
- 2) Membership is applied for by a written declaration of membership, which is generally decided by the Board. All members are entitled to propose.
- 3) The applicant may lodge a complaint with the Board against the rejection of his/her application for admission, which the next general assembly has to decide on.

#### § 6. Partnerships

The association is assisted by associate participants and the Board of Advisors as permanent partners.

- a) Every ordinary member without habitual residence in Germany may become an Associate Participant after leaving the Association. Exceptions are to be decided by the Executive Board in individual cases. Associate Participants are not members of the Association and are therefore exempt from paying membership fees. They may continue to participate in the activities of the Association. They have no membership rights. In case of loss of membership due to default of payment or exclusion, it is not possible to become an Associate Participant.
- b) The Board of Advisors (BoA) is an association of advisory supporters of the association who are not themselves members of the association. The BoA serves

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the orientation and further development of the association's activities and is available as a contact person to the individual members. Membership in the BoA is determined by the general assembly. BoA members are not Association members and therefore exempt from paying Membership fees. Therefore, they have no membership rights.

## § 7 Loss of Membership

Membership expires if;

- a) resignation, which is possible at any time and must be notified to the board in writing,
- Default in payment of more than one annual membership fee unless the Board has unanimously decided at the request of the member that the default in payment does not affect membership for a certain period due to particular hardship,
- c) Expulsion, which is only permissible in the event of gross violation of the interests of the association. The member concerned shall be heard. The General Assembly then decides on the expulsion with a three-quarter majority,
- d) Legal revocation of the scholarship granted by the DAAD e. V.

#### § 8. Organs

The organs of the association are the Management Board and the General Meeting.

#### § 9. Association's Board

- 1) The Board is the executive organ of the members' will and represents the Association externally. It directs and manages the association's business and elects a chairperson and a deputy chairperson from among its members.
- 2) The Board consists of five board members with voting rights. All board members are individually authorized to manage and represent the association. The Management Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
- 3) Non-voting assessors from among the members of the association can be added to the board by the general meeting.
- 4) The Board shall be appointed by resolution of the General Assembly for a period of two years and shall remain in office until the next Board is appointed in accordance with the

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Articles of Association. Re-election or early removal by an extraordinary General Assembly is permitted.

- 5) In the event of the resignation or departure of a member of the Board, a successor shall take over the duties of the exiting Board member. The order of succession admission is determined by the successor list, drawn up by the General Assembly when the Board is appointed.
- 6) In principle, all Board members with voting rights are to be consulted for the resolution and consensus is to be sought. In the event of a dispute, a resolution with a simple majority of votes is possible. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson decides. Representation and written procedures are permitted.

#### § 10. General Assembly

- 1) The members are the foundation of the association's life. They meet:
  - a) at a regular general meeting at least once a year.
  - b) at the decision of the Board or at least a quarter of the ordinary members to an extraordinary General Assembly.
- 2) The tasks of the General Assembly are:
  - a) Election and discharge of the Board.
  - b) Selection of the successors and creation of a successor list.
  - c) Passing resolutions on motions from members and the Board.
  - d) All other tasks assigned to it within the framework of this statute.
- 3) All General Assemblies are convened by the board at least four weeks before the scheduled date, stating the agenda.
- 4) Motions regarding the General Assembly must be submitted to the board at least two weeks before the Assembly. At the General Assembly, however, ad-hoc applications can be accepted by a simple majority.
- 5) Quorum in every General Assembly is called by statute, provided that at least 5 members are present and cast a vote.
- 6) Resolutions shall be passed with a simple majority. Only ordinary members are entitled to vote. Direct representation for up to five other members is permitted. However, Board members may not act as substitutes or direct representations. Restrictions on the power of attorney are irrelevant to the validity of the vote.

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7) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Board, who must appoint a representative if he/she is unable to attend. Minutes are to be taken, which should be signed by the Chairperson of the meeting and the secretary and are open to the members for inspection.

## § 11. Amendment of the Articles of Association

These statutes can only be amended by a three-quarters majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly.

### § 12. Written Resolution

- 1) In justified exceptional cases, members can also make resolutions in writing outside of a General Assembly with a simple majority. The appeal to the mere fact that the minimum number of participants is not to be expected when a General Assembly is convened is insufficient as a reason and is only significant if the urgency of the resolution is justified. The scope and number of its voting alternatives should make the proposal for a resolution accessible to a simple vote.
- 2) The planned written resolution requires a board decision or a motion from at least ten association members. The reasons for the resolution procedure must be specified in the resolution or the motion, together with the template, through which the proposal shall be made in writing. Furthermore, the resolution or motion should contain a proposal for specific procedural rules that are necessary for the planned vote. If a motion does not contain such rules, or if they are insufficient or ambiguous, the Board shall determine or supplement them.
- 3) The written resolution shall be adopted by an appropriate procedure, which follows the following principles:
  - a) The identity of the voters must be adequately secured.
  - b) The objection to the written procedure by at least five members leads to a prior vote on whether a resolution should be taken in writing or not. In any case, this can be done in writing.
  - c) The respective resolution procedure must be carried out before the resolution process and explained before the start of each voting step.
  - d) When taking resolutions via the Internet or by e-mail, the deadlines for voting must be set so that each member has the opportunity to participate in the vote. There must be at least one week between the announcement and the start of a vote and between the beginning and end of each voting step. Once a period has started, it must not be extended.

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e) At least fifteen members must participate in a resolution. Representation is not permitted in the written resolution process.

#### § 13. Audit of Accounts

At the beginning of the financial year, the General Assembly appoints two auditors who are not members of the Board. They are responsible for auditing the entire financial management of the past financial year. A report on the audit must then be prepared and presented to the General Assembly.

#### § 14. Dissolution of the Association

- 1) The Association can only be dissolved by resolution of a General Assembly specially convened for this purpose with a majority of not less than three-quarters of all members participating in the vote.
- 2) The Board is responsible for the liquidation.
- 3) In the event of the dissolution or termination of the Association or the discontinuation of its purpose, the Association's assets shall be transferred to the DAAD Foundation, which must be used directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes.