

HERMANN GUNDE RT SOCIETY
Society for the Promotion of Inter–Cultural Dialogue
Stuttgart, Germany

Statutes

§ 1 Name, Registered Office, Aims and Financial Year of the Society

1. The name of the Society is: Hermann Gundert Society – Society for the Promotion of Inter–Cultural Dialogue (registered on June 8, 1993 in Stuttgart, Vereinsregister des Amtsgerichts – Register of Societies of the High Court – No. VR 5308).
2. The office of the Society is located in Stuttgart.
3. The aim of the Society is the promotion of an inter–cultural dialogue. The Society promotes international understanding as envisaged by Dr. Hermann Gundert and, in order to improve the level of information and education, regularly organises lectures, seminars, conferences and exhibitions at home and abroad, and informs the public directly through suitable publications. Local and foreign publications which serve the cause of international understanding shall be supported. Available private collections, e. g. bequeathed letters, antiques, etc., which serve the aim of the Society, shall be edited and transferred to public libraries, museums, etc. and thus be made available to the public.
4. The Society promotes exclusively and directly non–profit aims in the interest of the community in accordance with paragraph “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” (tax–concessions for non–profit aims) of the relevant German law (Abgabenordnung). The Society works selflessly, i. e., on a non–profit basis. It does not seek, in the first place, to promote its own economic aims.
5. The assets of the Society shall be used only for the aims in accordance with the statutes. The members shall not receive any benefits or assets of the Society. No person shall be favoured either through expenditures which are foreign to the aims of the Society, or through allowances which are disproportionately high.
6. The financial year of the Society is the calendar year.

§ 2 Membership

1. Ordinary Members

Natural and legal persons according to Private and Public Law as well as non–registered societies which are interested in the promotion of intercultural dialogue can be members of the Society. A written application addressed to the Executive Committee is the condition for acquiring membership. The Executive Committee is free to decide about the application. In the event of the application being rejected the Committee is not required to give the applicant any reasons.

2. Corresponding Members

Legal persons according to Private and Public Law and non–registered societies which have their offices abroad and are interested in inter–cultural dialogue may become Corresponding Members of the Society. They are required to make a contribution fixed by the Executive Committee. § 2 No. 1 (above) is applicable.

3. Membership can be relinquished through death, through a written declaration of resignation or through expulsion. The written declaration of resignation is to be sent to the Executive Committee and may only be declared at the end of the financial year, and thereby it is necessary to allow for a withdrawal–period of two months.

4. The expulsion of a member can only be decided by the Executive Committee after having duly heard the member concerned. An appeal to the General Assembly of Members for the revision of the expulsion can be made within a month after the announcement of the expulsion.

§ 3 Honorary Members

Members who have in a special way worked for the aims of the Society, can be designated by the General Assembly as Honorary Members when they are recommended by the Executive Committee of the Society.

§ 4 Membership Contributions

Every member is required to make an annual contribution. The General Assembly decides the amount of the contribution. The contribution is due at the beginning of the financial year. Members whose membership has ceased during the course of the financial year, have no claim to re–payment of membership dues. The Executive Committee may in suitable cases waive or grant a respite, wholly or partly, with regard to contributions.

§ 5 The Administrative Organs of the Society

The administrative organs of the Society are the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

§ 6 The General Assembly

1. Every member of the Society has one vote in the General Assembly. A member can empower another member in writing, or a form of electronic writing to exercise his/her vote. The empowerment is required to be made specifically for every meeting of the General Assembly. No member may be empowered to exercise the votes of more than three other members. Corresponding members may make suggestions but may not participate in voting.

2. The General Assembly shall be convened together with the announcement of the Agenda by the Executive Committee once a year. The invitation shall be in written form and shall be announced, at the latest, four weeks before the date set. The convening period begins on the day after the date on which the invitation has been sent. The invitation is considered to have been sent when it is directed to the last address, about which the member has informed the Society in writing, or a form of electronic writing. The Agenda shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. Applications of members for the inclusion of items in an Agenda for a forthcoming General Assembly shall indicate the aims and reasons, when resolutions are sought to be made, and shall be made together with the application for a resolution in writing, or a form of electronic writing at least 7 days before the date of the General Assembly and deposited with the Executive Committee of the Society. The President of General Assembly shall announce the additional items on the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Changes in the Agenda which are suggested during the meeting, can be decided in the Assembly by a simple majority.

3. An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly can be convened by the Executive Committee, when this is in the interests of the Society or when one tenth or at least 3 of the members apply for it in writing, or a form of electronic writing, giving reasons and aims.

4. The General Assembly preferably is a meeting in presence, but it can also be performed as a virtual video assembly.

a) A virtual assembly takes place in a virtual meeting room which is accessible only to members of the Society and admitted guests. The valid access to the virtual meeting will be communicated by the President by e-mail in good time before the meeting.

b) Members and admitted guests are obliged not to make their legitimation data accessible to a third party and to keep it confidential. Recording and storage of the meeting is prohibited.

c) Decisions, including elections shall be made openly by hand signal. Members connected by video can only vote if they are visible.

d) In the event of opposition to an open vote secret voting is to take place, for which appropriate precautions shall be taken.

5. The General Assembly is responsible for the following matters:

- a. election of the Executive Committee
- b. removal of individual committee members
- c. election of two auditors
- d. acceptance of the annual and financial reports of the Executive Committee and of the reports of the auditors and to grant relief
- e. consolidating and presenting the Budget
- f. appointment of Honorary Members
- g. fixing of the minimum contribution for members
- h. passing of resolutions on changes in the statutes
- i. passing of resolutions on other suggestions of the Executive Committee
- k. passing of resolutions on the dissolution of the Society
- l. appeals against expulsion decisions of the Executive Committee

6. The President of the General Assembly is the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in his/her absence his/her Deputy. If no member of the Executive Committee is present, the General Assembly elects by simple majority the President of the meeting. In the event of elections, the presiding function can be delegated to an election commission through a resolution of the General Assembly for the period of the election and the preceding discussion.

7. The members of the Executive Committee have no voting rights with regard to election, removal or discharge of the Executive Committee.

8. The General Assembly is considered to have a quorum when the meeting has been convened according to the statutes.

9. The General assembly decides on the basis of a simple majority of the votes handed in. In the case of voting parity, the vote of the President is decisive.

10. A resolution on changes in the statutes or on the dissolution of the Society requires a majority of three fourths of those members present or represented at the meeting.

11. The Executive Committee is hereby empowered to decide with a simple voting majority such changes in the statutes, which the Registrar of Societies or the competent financial authority considers necessary.

12. With regard to the resolutions of the General Assembly the minutes are required to be written and these are to be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Assembly.

§ 7 The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Secretary is simultaneously the Deputy Chairman. In the case of the Secretary's absence, the General Assembly elects the Secretary of the day.
2. The Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of three years. The Executive Committee remains in office up to the new elections. Re-election of the members of the Executive Committee is possible.
3. Resolutions may be passed during meetings of the Executive Committee on the basis of a simple voting majority. Meetings may be convened by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and in his/her absence by the Deputy Chairman. The Executive has a quorum (to pass resolutions) when at least two of its members are present. The Chairman presides at the meeting. The Executive Committee may pass resolutions on the basis of a simple voting majority. In the case of voting parity, the Chairman's vote is decisive.
4. The Executive Committee represents the Society in the courts and also outside. Such representation shall take the form that two members of the Executive Committee (respectively) affix their signatures together.

§ 8 Advisory Committee

1. The Society may appoint for the fulfilment of its tasks an Advisory Committee consisting of at the most 12 persons. The Advisory Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly.
2. The Advisory Committee advises and supports the Executive Committee in cultural, scientific, economic and organisational matters, and works out long-term concepts with regard to subjects which need to be emphasised.

§ 9 Business Management

For the current (day-to-day) business of the Society the Executive Committee makes use of the services of a managing agency. The Executive Committee may appoint a business manager.

§ 10 Distribution of Assets in the Event of the Dissolution of the Society

In the event of the dissolution of the Society the Chairman and the Treasurer together shall be the liquidators (with the right of representation) on the assumption that the General Assembly, in connection with its decision to dissolve the Society, has not passed any resolution to the contrary.

In case the Society is dissolved or its erstwhile aims no longer exist or it has lost its legal rights, the assets of the Society shall be used for tax-deductible aims in accordance with § 1 No. 3 (above). The General Assembly shall decide how the assets are to be used. Resolutions as to the use of the assets of the Society may be carried out by the liquidators only after the tax authorities have confirmed that the tax concession is unobjectionable.

Stuttgart, March 1993 with complement of video assembly February 2021

The German version of the statutes is binding.