

## **The Constitution of African-Danish Network**

We, Danes, African-Danes, and Africans in Aalborg have resolved to form African-Danish Network in assisting and promoting integration opportunities and improving the quality of integration in our community, as our mission.

**ARTICLE I:** Name of the organization

**SECTION I:** The name of the organization shall be known and called african-Danish Network, hereinafter referred to as the organization.

**SECTION II:** It is a non-profit organization.

**SECTION III:** It is a culturally based organization.

**SECTION IV:** It is a non politically and non religious organisation.

**ARTICLE II:** The aims and objectives of African-Danish Network.

**SECTION I:** The prime objective is to promote multicultural understanding and relations and to encourage integration opportunities for Africans, Danes, African-Danes and other minority groups in our community.

**SECTION II:** To encourage and improve opportunities for closer cultural understanding by providing and sharing information on African and Danish traditions, values and norms through participation in community work and common cultural activities such as African dance, Danish Folk dance, textile and design, music, cuisine, art, paintings, etc.

**SECTION III:** To raise awareness of different cultural values and ethos in their own right in order to encourage and promote mutual understanding and acceptance of, and respect for, our different cultural and national personalities and identities.

**SECTION IV:** To create a social network for a promotion of a better milieu of cultural exchange, social relations and friendship between Africans, Danes, African-Danes and other minorities in our community.

**SECTION V:** Through community work to provide humanitarian support in Africa and other developing countries, i.e. to assist where possible, in the improvement of the lives and standard of living of the poorest of the poor, underprivileged, marginalized and vulnerable children and families in order to promote peace, progress and prosperity.

**Vision:** To promote a multicultural society!

**ARTICLE III:** Membership

Membership is open to any person, as well as any institutions or organizations agreeing with the organization's aims and objectives.

**ARTICLE IV:** Membership will be divided into three categories, namely:

**SECTION I:** Regular/Full Membership: All persons agreeing with organization's aims and objectives will be eligible for full membership, which entitles them to participation in all of the activities of the organization, at all levels; and hence have full voting rights at the Annual General Assembly.

**SECTION II:** Associate Membership: This will be extended to all persons agreeing with organization's aims and objectives. They have the same rights and privileges as Regular/Full Members, and can serve as executive officers of the organization, but with limited signing authority.

**SECTION III:** Family Membership: The spouses and children of all persons agreeing with organisation's aims and objectives will be eligible for affiliate membership. They have the rights and privileges as Associate members but cannot participate in any decision-making processes of the organization.

**SECTION IV:** Students/Pensioners/Unemployed: Students, pensioners and unemployed agreeing with organisation's aims and objectives will be eligible for student/pensioners/unemployed membership and they have the rights and privileges as Associate members.

**SECTION V:** Organisation/Institutions: Any organization or institution agreeing with organisation's aims and objectives will be eligible to organization's membership. They have the rights and privileges as Associate members.

**SECTION V:** Any member who acts contrary to the organisations rules and regulations as well as its objectives can be excluded from the organisation. For such a decision to be passed there must be a absolute majority.

#### **ARTICLE V:** The representatives

**SECTION I:** The Executive Committee: (ExCo) will be composed of a President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer. All executive members are to be elected in the Annual General Assembly (AGA). This appointment has to be ratified by AGA. All members of the Executive Committee are accountable to the General Membership, and subject to recall. A petition supported by 15% of voting members constitutes inclusion of a recall motion on the agenda of the next General Body Meeting.

**SECTION II:** President: The President will preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and of General Membership, and will preserve order and regulate debate according to parliamentary procedure. S/he will oversee and coordinate the activities of the organization, and will also be an ex-officio member of all committees, excluding instances where a committee is reviewing the presidency

**SECTION III:** Vice President: The Vice President will assist the President in the task of overseeing and coordinating the program and activities of the organization and must have General membership. S/he will stand in for the President in her/his absence. S/he will, in close collaboration with the President, and wherever possible, the entire Executive Committee, develop the agenda of each meeting.

**SECTION IV:** General Secretary: The General Secretary will attend all the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Membership, and act as clerk thereof, and record the minutes of all its transactions in a book to be kept for that purpose. S/he will give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and General Membership. S/he will ensure that all received correspondence is

timeously tabled, and then stored, and that all mandated correspondence is sent, and copies kept. S/he will keep and make available whenever required, all of the records of the organization.

**i)** The General Secretary shall inform to the General Membership about the date of the scheduled meeting and that all the General membership shall receive a copy of an agenda to the scheduled meeting, and its minutes thereafter. All proposals to the agenda shall be forwarded to the General Secretary 3 days before the scheduled meeting.

#### **SECTION V: Treasurer**

The Treasurer will keep account of all the organization's funds and securities. S/he will keep, or cause to be kept full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the organization. S/he will disburse the funds of the organization as mandated by the General Membership or the Executive Committee. Further, the Treasurer will give an accurate account of all her/his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the organization, whenever required to do so by the General Membership, or any member of the Executive Committee.

#### **SECTION VI: The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee has the power, subject to ratification by the General Membership to appoint additional officers to the Executive Committee if the situation requires it.

**SECTION VII:** If any office becomes vacant for any reason, and the General Membership does not choose a successor at the first Membership meeting thereafter, the Executive Committee is empowered to appoint a successor, subject to ratification by the General Membership.

**SECTION VIII:** The duties vested in the Executive Committee and the officers of the organization include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a)** Planning projects, programs and activities of the organization.
- (b)** Raising funds, businesses and private individuals, as well as through grants which may be provided by various institutions and government agencies.
- (c)** Publicizing the organizations' activities.
- (d)** Developing ways of attracting membership.
- (e)** Maintaining close liaison with the leadership of sponsoring organizations.

**SECTION IX:** Any member of the Executive Committee or any others with General memberships acting contrary to the organisations rules and regulations as well as its objectives can be excluded from the organisation. For such a decision to be passed there must be an absolute majority.

**SECTION X:** Any member who is lawfully resident or holds permanent residence in Denmark is entitled to hold any position in the Executive Committee under this Act.

**SECTION XI:** Members of Executive Committee and any others with General membership shall not misuse members' e-mails, telephones or postal address for their personal interests. All correspondence concerning organisation issues shall be forwarded to the General Secretary.

## **SECTION XII: Meetings (M)**

Members of The Executive Committee or any others with General membership shall attend all scheduled meetings. If any member cannot attend the scheduled meeting should notify the General Secretary a day before the scheduled meeting. All scheduled meeting shall by this Constitution proceed as planned. For such a meeting to be cancelled there must be only one attendance to the scheduled meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI: Meetings**

### **SECTION I: Annual General Assembly (AGA)**

**(a)** The AGA will be held on the 28th of November of every year, and will be considered the end and beginning of the fiscal year.

**(b)** The agenda for this meeting will include, but not be limited to:

**SECTION II:** Report by the President on the activities of the organization in her/his term, and a vision for the organization;

**SECTION III:** Report by the General Secretary on the state of the organization;

**SECTION IV:** Financial report, audited by an independent auditor, approved by the Executive Committee, summarizing the fiscal state of the organization as of the end of the previous fiscal year.

**SECTION IV:** Amendments to and ratification of the constitution; and

**SECTION V:** Election of representatives by majority rule.

**(a)** Written notice of this meeting will be given to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the day of the meeting.

**(b)** A simple majority of voting members and all members with voting power present constitute a quorum. A simple majority passes a motion.

**(c)** Notice of amendments to the constitution should be received by the General Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

### **SECTION VI: Meetings (M)**

The membership will meet quarterly with the Executive Committee to receive program reports and discuss the overall plans and programs of the organization.

### **SECTION VII: Executive meeting (EM)**

**(a)** The Executive Committee will meet at least once a month. The President, and in her/his absence, the General Secretary, will preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee.

**(b)** Special meetings of the board may be called by the President, or by any three of the Executive Committee members.

**(c)** Written notice of every meeting will be given at least five (5) days prior to the day of the meeting.

**(d)** A simple majority of the total number of Executive Committee members will constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII: Finances**

### **SECTION I: Sources of Revenue**

The organization is a non-profit organization and its revenues are determined by:

**(a)** Membership fees, to be determined and renewed annually by the AGA, or the first Executive Committee thereafter, which is non-refundable.

**(b)** Funding raising activities and events.

**(c)** Donations from government agencies, embassies and other institutions or organizations.

### **SECTION II: Checks and balances**

**(a)** The Executive Committee will issue the guidelines for the use and disbursement of the money of the organization.

**(b)** An independent auditor will be approved by the Executive Committee at the end of the fiscal year to audit the accounts, and provide a report to the AGM.

**(c)** All cheques issued by the organization will be counter signed by the President and the General Secretary or any other payments made by the organization should be approved by the President and General Secretary.

**(d)** The entire Executive Committee will have to be notified at least 48 hours ahead of time before money is withdrawn from the organization's account.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Committees**

**SECTION I:** Committee will be formed by Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the General Membership, as the need arises.

**SECTION II:** The structure and modus operandi of each committee will be de+.

## **ARTICLE IX: Amendments**

**SECTION I:** Amendments to this constitution can be made only at the AGA or at a specially convened general body meeting.

**SECTION II:** The constitution can be amended by 2/3 majorities of the voting members present at the

AGM or at the specially convened general meeting.

**SECTION III:** The special general meeting has to be convened by at least 2/3 of the members of the Executive Committee and at least 2/3 of the voting members of the organization have to be present.

## **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

**SECTION I.** The decision to dissolve the organisation shall only be valid if  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the possible votes in an ordinary general assembly or an extra ordinary assembly.

**SECTION II:** If the possible majority for a dissolution resolution cannot be achieved but  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the voters at the meeting vote for the resolution then  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the votes shall make the resolution valid during a new GA. This new GA shall be held at least 1 month from the last general assembly but not later than 13 months after the general assembly when the dissolution resolution was first taken. The suggestion must be sent to the members with the exact wording.

**SECTION III:** In case of a dissolution the organization's resources and assets have to be discussed during such a GA.

## **ARTICLE X: Operational**

The rules and regulations are valid immediately after the closing of the AGA, the 28th of November 2007.