

Statute

§ 1 Name, Seat, and Fiscal Year

The name of the association shall be “Völkerrechtsblog.” The association shall be entered into the association registry, upon which it shall bear the suffix “e.V.” [*registered association*]. The seat of the association shall be Berlin, Germany. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

§ 2 Non-profit status and purpose

- (1) The association’s purpose is the advancement of science and research (Section 52(2) number 1 of the German Fiscal Code [*Abgabenordnung, hereinafter GFC*] as well as adult education and vocational training (Section 52(2) number 7 GFC) in the field of public international law. In particular, it seeks to promote open access and cross-border scholarly communication as well as the opportunity for young researchers to publish. The association shall exclusively and directly pursue non-profit purposes in the sense of the chapter “Tax-privileged purposes” of the GFC. The association shall operate selflessly and shall not primarily pursue its own economic gain.
- (2) The association’s purpose shall primarily be pursued through the operation of a scholarly blog entitled “Völkerrechtsblog.” The blog shall be lead and operated primarily by volunteer junior researchers. It shall publish scholarly contributions in the fields of public international law and European law, as well as video recordings of conferences and scholarly lectures, and other multimedia content. Additionally, it shall host a platform informing on conferences and events.
- (3) The purpose shall be pursued further through various collaboration with universities, research institutes and scholarly journals.
- (4) The association’s funds may only be used for the purpose set out in this Statute. Members of the association shall receive no benefits with monetary value in their capacity as

members. No person may benefit from expenditures that are contrary to the purpose of the association or disproportionate remuneration.

§ 3 Structure of the Association

- (1) The members of the association are
 - a. ordinary members,
 - b. supporting members, and
 - c. honorary members.
- (2) The organs of the association are
 - a. the General Assembly (Editorial Team),
 - b. the Managing Editors,
 - c. the Board (Editors-in-Chief), and
 - d. the Advisory Board.

§ 4 Ordinary Members

- (1) Any natural person supporting the association's purpose, recognizing its Statue, and intending to engage in editorial work may become an ordinary member.
- (2) Persons wishing to be admitted to the association may express their interest at any time to any ordinary member. Admission shall occur by decision of the Editorial Team upon written application and invitation by the Editors-in-Chief. There shall be no subjective right to admission. If the Editorial Team denies an application, it should give reasons.
- (3) Ordinary membership is time-limited until the close of the fiscal year following that of admission. Renewal for another fiscal year may occur under the same circumstances as admission.
- (4) If the Editorial Team does not vote on the renewal of ordinary membership during a fiscal year, all ordinary memberships are automatically renewed for an additional fiscal year.

§ 5 Supporting Members

- (1) Any natural or legal person wishing to support the association's purpose immaterially or materially and recognizing its Statute may become a supporting member.
- (2) Admission shall take place under the same circumstances as for ordinary membership. Supporting membership shall not be time-limited.
- (3) Supporting members shall not be members in the meaning of the German Civil Code [*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch, hereinafter GCC*].

§ 6 Honorary Members

- (1) The Editorial Team may appoint persons that have rendered outstanding services to the association honorary members by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority upon proposal of the Editors-in-Chief. Honorary membership shall not be time-limited.
- (2) Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues.
- (3) Honorary members shall not be members in the meaning of the GCC.

§ 7 End of Membership

- (1) In addition to the time-limitation of ordinary membership and without prejudice to any claims of the association, any membership shall end
 1. through resignation,
 2. through exclusion,
 3. through death, or in the case of legal persons, through expiry,
 4. after dissolution of the association, but only upon the completion of its liquidation and its loss of legal capacity.
- (2) Resignation must be declared to the Editors-in-Chief in writing. Resignation shall only take effect at the end of a calendar month, and the declaration shall give at least two weeks' notice before the end of the month.
- (3) Supporting and honorary membership shall end through decision of the Editorial Team.
- (4) Members that
 1. act contrary to the purpose or welfare of the association or
 2. are at least six months behind with the payment of their membership dues and do not pay despite two reminderscan be excluded by decision of the Editorial Team by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

§ 8 Dues

- (1) The association shall levy a sum of money as regular annual membership dues from its ordinary and supporting members.
- (2) The amount and further details shall be decided upon by the Editorial Team in a Schedule of Contributions [*see Schedule of Contributions of 24 June 2022*].

§ 9 Editorial Team

- (1) The Editorial Team is the highest decision-making body of the association. It is the

General Assembly [*Mitgliederversammlung*] in the meaning of German association law.

- (2) The Editorial Team is composed of all ordinary members of the association..
- (3) The Editorial Team has, in particular, the following tasks:
1. decisions on the strategic direction of the blog as well as decisions regarding partnerships;
 2. election and dismissal of the Editors-in-Chief, the Managing Editors, and the Auditors;
 3. discharge [*Entlastung*] of the Editors-in-Chief;
 4. approval of the budget plan and reception of the annual report and other reports of the Editors-in-Chief;
 5. decisions regarding
 - a) the amount of membership dues;
 - b) the admission and exclusion of ordinary and supporting members;
 - c) the appointment and dismissal of members of the Advisory Board;
 - d) the appointment and dismissal of honorary members;
 - e) expenditures over 1500€;
 - f) the conclusion of collaborations;
 - g) amendments to the Statute; and
 - h) the dissolution of the association.
- (4) The Editorial Team meeting shall be convened at least twice a year by the Editors-in-Chief. The invitation shall give at least two weeks' notice and contain the meeting agenda.
- (5) It shall also be convened within one week if an urgent interest of the association so requires, or if $\frac{1}{3}$ of ordinary members so petition the Editors-in-Chief naming the convening's purpose and reasons in writing.
- (6) It shall deem to have been properly convened if the invitation has been sent to every ordinary member's most recently stated e-mail address.
- (7) Motions to the agenda may be submitted to the Editors-in-Chief by any ordinary member until the agenda is announced at the meeting. Motions submitted after the agenda is announced require approval by the Editorial Team. Motions for the exclusion of a member of the dismissal of the Editors-in-Chief may only be submitted until the agenda is announced.
- (8) The agenda shall be deemed approved when the first item is called. The Editorial Team may take a decision to remove individual items from the agenda; this does not apply to motions to amend the Statute.

§ 10 Decisions of the Editorial Team

- (1) Every ordinary member has one vote. Supporting and ordinary members have no vote.
- (2) The Editorial Board has a quorum if it has been properly convened and at least seven members with voting rights are present. If no quorum is reached, the Editors-in-Chief shall convene another Editorial Team meeting with the same agenda within one month. In this meeting, a quorum shall be reached regardless of the number of members with voting rights present if this fact is signaled in the invitation.
- (3) Voting rights may be exercised personally or by proxy. Only members with voting rights may act as proxies. Delegation cannot occur generally, but must be restricted to a specific Editorial Team meeting. Every member present acting as proxy may take part in votes and elections both with their own vote and the proxy vote. Sub-proxies shall not be permitted. A member acting as proxy may not vote on behalf of more than one other member. The delegation must be notified to the meeting chair before the meeting begins.
- (4) The Editors-in-Chief shall designate one or multiple persons to open, chair, and close the Editorial Team meeting. Upon proposal of the Editors-in-Chief, the Editorial Team shall designate one or multiple persons to take the minutes at the beginning of the meeting. The minutes shall include the time and place of the meeting, the number of members present, the number of members with voting rights present, the meeting chair and the persons taking the minutes, the agenda, and the decisions taken including the type of vote and the voting results. If at least three members so request, the minutes shall include a detailed account of specified parts of the meeting. The minutes shall be signed by the person taking the minutes, the meeting chair, and at least one of the other Editors-in-Chief.
- (5) In principle, the Editorial Team meeting shall take place online. Elections and votes shall take place in a format suited to online execution. If at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of participants so request, they shall be taken by secret ballot.
- (6) Unless otherwise specified, the Editorial Board shall decide by a simple majority of valid votes cast. Abstentions shall be considered invalid votes.

§ 11 Editors-in-Chief

- (1) The Editors-in-Chief are the Board [*Vorstand*] in the meaning of German association law. The Editors-in-Chief shall comprise the association's chairperson, its deputy chairperson, and its treasurer.

- (2) All Editors-in-Chief are authorized to represent the association individually.
- (3) To be elected as an Editor-in-Chief, a candidate must have already been a member of the association for at least six months.
- (4) The Editors-in-Chief shall be elected for a term of one year by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of valid votes cast by the Editorial Team. Abstentions shall be considered invalid votes. Re-election shall be permitted. Until new Editors-in-Chief are elected, the incumbents shall remain in office. If an Editor-in-Chief loses their mandate before its regular end, the other Editors-in-Chief may appoint a temporary replacement until the next Editorial Team meeting.
- (5) The tasks of the Editors-in-Chief are of an strategic-operative nature and include, in particular:
 1. the outwards representation of the association;
 2. membership administration;
 3. ensuring the preservation of the association's purpose and interests;
 4. finances including payment of bills and financial decisions up to an amount of 1500 €;
 5. acquisition of partnerships and collaborations.

§ 12 Managing Editors

- (1) The Managing Editors shall manage day-to-day operations and take decisions on ongoing editorial work, provided these are not contrary to decisions of the Editorial Team.
- (2) The Managing Editors shall be elected for a term of one year by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of valid votes cast by the Editorial Team.

§ 13 Advisory Board

- (1) The purpose of the Advisory Board shall be to provide advice to the Editors-in-Chief and the Editorial Team and to make suggestions regarding the association's long-term development and direction.
- (2) Members of the Advisory Board shall be elected by the Editorial Board for an indefinite period of time and may be dismissed under the same conditions.
- (3) Members of the Advisory Board shall perform their duties on a volunteer basis.
- (4) Members of the Advisory Board should be given the opportunity to participate in the association's events.
- (5) All other matters shall be decided upon by the Editorial Team.

§ 14 Treasury

- (1) The treasurer shall keep accounts of all the association's transactions and prepare an annual financial report.
- (2) The annual accounts shall be audited by at least one and at most two Auditors. The Auditors shall be elected by the Editorial Board by simple majority for a term of one year. Re-election shall be permitted. Editors-in-Chief may not be Auditors. The Editorial Team shall take a decision on the audited annual accounts.

§ 15 Liability

The liability of the Editors-in-Chief and the members of the association shall be pursuant to German law.

§ 16 Amendments to the Statute

Amendments to the Statute require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of votes cast. Planned amendments to the Statute must be notified in the invitation to the Editorial Team meeting. The invitation must contain a suggested revised version of the provision in question.

§ 17 Dissolution

- (1) A Dissolution of the association requires a $\frac{4}{5}$ majority of all members with voting rights in an Editorial Team meeting convened solely for the purpose of dissolving the association.
- (2) In the event of the association's dissolution or the discontinuation of its tax-privileged purpose, the association's assets shall be divided as follows: half to the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law and half to the German Research Foundation [*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*], who must use them exclusively and directly for non-profit purposes.
- (3) The liquidators shall be the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the association, each of whom shall be authorized to represent the association individually, unless the Editorial Team takes a decision to the contrary.

The above Statute was constituted by the Editorial Team on 11 March 2022.

It was last amended by the Editorial Team on 2 November 2022.

This English translation was made on 1 December 2023. The translation serves only to inform, it is the original German version deposited with the Association Registry shall have legal effect.