



PACTUM AFRICANUM

The Alliance for the Promotion
of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa

Statutes

Preamble

With grateful thanks for several centuries of peaceful co-existence between the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions in Ethiopia, in the interest of a future without violence in Africa and Europe, and invoking Abraham, the 'Father of Faiths' revered by all monotheistic religions, we hereby establish the 'Pactum Africanum – Alliance for the Promotion of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa'.

The Pactum Africanum - Alliance for the Promotion of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa is founded on the principle of tolerance. The religious fundamentals of belief as proclaimed in Christianity, Judaism and Islam embrace the entire human being and constitute the foundation of mankind's deepest convictions. The claim to truth related to these convictions has great power. Great tolerance stems from strong religious convictions. The believer acknowledges a deep inner connection to the fellow believer. All have faith in common ('fides qua'), however much the doctrinal content ('fides quae') may differ. Respect and esteem flow from this common factor. It provides inner strength with which to tolerate substantive differences.

All members of the Alliance and all who would like to contribute therefore commit themselves to the Alliance by undertaking the following solemn vow:

"In the conviction that all believers strive for truth, we meet each other with respect and esteem. I, NN, therefore solemnly vow before God, who is a God of peace, in remembrance of Abraham, the Father of Faiths, in the co-existence of Jews, Christians and Muslims, never to use any form of violence."

The content of the pact is the radical renouncement of any form of violence. Not until this pact has been acknowledged as the foundation on which all encounters at theological, cultural, political or commercial level will take place, will the key prerequisite for peace between the cultures and religions have been established. Not until the principle of non-violence applies unconditionally can an exchange of convictions and arguments, of action and transformation, in particular between the three monotheistic cultures, develop to the benefit of all.

The pact binds an inner commitment with a solemn vow with which the alliance, its bodies, members and all who would like to publicly declare this voluntary inner commitment, express to one another their commitment to non-violence and their desire for peace. The pact's outward form is a formal, documented statement in the shape of a charter and is exchanged between all members of the pact.

§ 1
Name, Seat

1. The Alliance bears the name

Pactum Africanum
Alliance for the Promotion of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa
2. It is to be entered into the Association Register and will then bear the suffix e.V. (Registered Association)
3. The seat of the Alliance is Frankfurt am Main.

§ 2
Purpose

1. The Alliance shall exclusively and directly pursue objectives related to public benefit within the meaning of §§ 51 cont. of the German Tax Code governing tax-privileged purposes of voluntary organisations (Abgabenordnung). Its activities are focused on supporting the public in a selfless way. The association is recognised as a charitable non-profit association.
2. The purpose of the Alliance is
 - 2.1 to promote science including that of the doctrine and research, in particular in the area of religious sciences and ethics;
 - 2.2 to promote religion;
 - 2.3 to promote tolerance in all areas of faith, culture and the concept of international understanding.
3. The aims of the Alliance are effectuated in particular by framework conditions for peaceful coexistence between Christians, Jews and Muslims, as well as by applying the insights gained to crisis areas for instance in East Africa;
 - 3.2 arranging and promoting meetings between Christians, Jews and Muslims both at home and abroad (e.g. in 'Houses of Encounter') by organising and conducting events on interreligious dialogue;
 - 3.3 providing and publishing information on the three Abrahamic faiths;
 - 3.4 cooperating with universities in connection with research on interreligiosity;
 - 3.5 striving to achieve accreditation as a 'Non-Governmental Organisation' (NGO) at the 'African Union' (AU);

- 3.6 mediating in interreligious conflict situations;
 - 3.7 organising and conducting visits to the religious institutions of Christians, Jews and Muslims.
4. The purpose of the Alliance is also to gather funds for tax-relief purposes through others, also foreign corporations or through a public body within the meaning of § 58 No. 1 AO. The Alliance can participate in tax-privileged corporations or become a member of such a corporation. Distribution of funds to national corporations presupposes that they are tax-privileged. Funds can only be distributed to foreign corporations if the recipient undertakes to submit an annual, detailed statement of accounts on the use of the funds provided by the Alliance within four months at the latest by the conclusion of each business year. Should this statement of accounts fail to demonstrate that these funds have been used exclusively to pursue purposes which comply with the terms of the Alliance's statutes or should the recipient of the funds not comply with the obligation to submit the statement of accounts, the forwarding of Alliance funds will be terminated immediately.
 5. Within the framework of the fund management the Alliance can participate in other companies, unless this would affect the common-benefit character of the Alliance.
 6. Projects and persons in countries other than Germany can also be financed, if this complies with the purposes laid down in § 2. Existing tax and tax procedural restrictions should be observed.
 7. It should be ensured that the Alliance can influence and help shape all projects it has helped fund.
 8. Support grants can be revoked at any time and are not subject to any legal claim.
 9. The Alliance is a non-profit organisation; it does not primarily pursue its own financial objectives.
 10. The Alliance's funds may solely be used for statutory purposes. Members will not receive any contributions from the association's funds.
 11. No one may be favoured through expenditure foreign to the Alliance's purpose, nor through disproportionately high payments.

§ 3
Membership

1. Any natural or legal person can become a member of the Alliance. The board decides on membership after receipt of a written application. In the case of minors the application for membership should be made through the legal representative. In the membership application, members must take the solemn vow as set out in the preamble and thus commit to the spirit of the Pactum Africanum. In the case of honorary members, no membership application need be made. After being accepted as members, every member will be given a Pactum Africanum Charter.
2. The Alliance has regular members and honorary members. The board can also accept sponsoring members who do not have a right to vote.
3. Members may resign from the Alliance at any time. A written explanation should be submitted to the Board.
4. A member can be excluded from the Alliance if his conduct seriously violates the Alliance's interests, in particular the purposes laid down in this Statute. The board decides whether a member is to be excluded.
5. Membership terminates with the death of a member (as regards legal persons with their cessation).
6. Any member who has resigned or been excluded from the Alliance has no claims to the Alliance's assets.
7. Members shall make annual membership contributions. Honorary members are exempt from membership fees. The General Meeting determines the amount and due dates of membership fees.
The General Meeting can determine different charges for individual groups of members (as, for example, sponsoring members or legal persons) .

§ 4
Bodies

The Alliance's bodies are

1. the Board,
2. the Board of Trustees and
3. the General Meeting.

In addition, if the case arises, the Board can convene working committees without these necessarily taking on the nature of a body.

§ 5
Board

1. The Alliance's Board consists of the Chairman of the Board, the Deputy Chairman and the Treasurer. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board the Deputy Chairman assumes his duties.
2. The Chairman is elected by the General Meeting for a period of five (5) years; however, all members of the Board remain in office until new elections have been held.
3. The Board conducts the Alliance's affairs and manages its assets. It informs the Board of Trustees at least once a year about the Alliance's affairs. The Board is also in charge of all matters which the Statute does not assign to the General Meeting or the Board of Trustees.
4. The Board generally makes its decisions in board meetings which are convened by the Chairman of the Board or in his absence by the Deputy Chairman of the Board in writing, by telephone or e-mail with a notice period of two (2) weeks. The Board has a quorum if at least half of its members are present, including either the Chairman of the Board or his Deputy.
5. The supervisory board meeting is conducted by the Chairman of the Board or in his absence the Deputy Chairman of the Board. At the adoption of a resolution the majority of the votes cast is the determining factor unless the law or this Statute prescribes a different majority. In the event of tied vote the person conducting the board meeting has the casting vote.

6. The Board is also the authorized Executive Board within the meaning of § 26 BGB. All members of the board represent the Alliance individually.
7. The Board is entitled to draw up its own rules of procedure.

§ 6 Board of Trustees

1. The Board of Trustees supports the Board in drawing up and developing the Alliance's programmatic principles and conceptual orientation. The Board of Trustees is committed to continuity. All members of the board may participate in an advisory capacity at the Board of Trustees' meetings.
2. All the Alliance's founding members are life-time members of the Board of Trustees. Further members of the Board of Trustees will be appointed by the Chairman of the Board as life-time members. These further members of the Board of Trustees need not be members of the Alliance.
3. The Chairman of the Board can prematurely dismiss members of the Board of Trustees if there is good cause.
4. The Board of Trustees should convene annually if possible. The invitation will be extended by the Chairman of the Board. The Board of Trustees will inform the Board of the results of its consultations.
5. The Board and the Board of Trustees can issue rules of procedure for the Board of Trustees.

§ 7 General Meeting

1. The General Meeting is the supreme governing body. It has in particular the following responsibilities:
 - 1.1 to give advice and take decisions on the Alliance's working guidelines;
 - 1.2 to accept and approve the business and cash report;
 - 1.3 to discharge the Board;
 - 1.4 to elect the Board;
 - 1.5 to decide on the responsibilities allocated to it in the Statute.

2. the Ordinary General Meeting will be convened annually.
3. Moreover, a General Meeting should be convened whenever the Alliance's interests require a meeting or when a minimum of 1/10 of the members call for a meeting in writing stating purpose and reasons.
4. All General Meetings are to be convened by the Board in written or text form, by e-mail or telefax in compliance with the invitation notice of a minimum of two (2) weeks and giving details of the agenda. To comply with the notice it will suffice to put the invitation in the post with due notice addressing it to the last address of the member known to the Alliance or to send it by telefax or e-mail to the last address or telefax number that the member has given the Alliance.
5. Up to a week before the day of the General Meeting at the latest, all members can submit a written application to the Board to add further items to the agenda. Adding further items to the agenda is not possible if changes to the membership of the Board, changes to the Statute or the dissolution of the Alliance are to be discussed or voted on. The Chair of the meeting should accordingly supplement the agenda at the beginning of the General Meeting.

The General Meeting will decide on applications to add items to the agenda submitted a week prior to the General Meeting or made in the meeting itself. A majority of 3/4 of the valid votes cast is required for the application to be accepted.
6. The Chair of the Meeting is the Chairman of the Board or in his absence the Deputy Chairman of the Board. Should both be absent a Chair will be elected by the General Meeting. The Secretary will also be elected by the General Meeting.
7. Every correctly convened General Meeting has the right to pass resolutions irrespective of the number of members attending.
8. The resolutions passed by the General Meeting will be adopted, unless explicitly regulated otherwise (as, for example, point 9.), with a simple majority of the valid votes cast.
9. To amend the Statute (including amendments to the purpose of the Alliance) a majority of 3/4 of the valid votes cast is necessary. Amendments to the Statute are allowed if they comply with the Alliance's purpose.

Amendments to the Statute relating to the Alliance's purpose are permitted if compliance with the Alliance's purpose is no longer possible due to circumstance of time or this is necessary to keep the non-profit status intact. Amendments to the Statute (including changes in purpose) may only be registered for entry in the Alliance Re-

gister by the Board if the relevant financial authority has confirmed in writing that it does not put the Alliance's non-profit status at risk, or the Board has informed the General Meeting that such confirmation has not been received and all members have agreed to the amendment to the Statute; the consent of absent members must be given in writing.

10. Minutes should be taken on the resolutions made by the General Meeting and should be signed by both the person presiding over the meeting and the Secretary.

§ 8

Honorary Members

The Board can designate an eminent person as a life-time honorary member on account of his/her outstanding achievements for the Alliance. Honorary members have their seat and vote in the Board of Trustees.

§ 9

Reimbursement of Expenses

1. Members of the Board and the Board of Trustees work on a voluntary basis. However, they are entitled to reimbursement of accrued and documented expenses and expenditures.
2. The Board has the right, with the consent of the General Meeting of members and the responsible financial authority, to grant an appropriate lump sum as compensation for the expenditure of time and money by the Board and the Board of Trustees.

§ 10

Dissolution, Disposition of the Funds of the Alliance

1. A majority of 4/5 of the valid votes cast is necessary to dissolve the Alliance.
2. Should the Alliance be dissolved or no longer be a non-profit organisation the Alliance's assets will go to
 - 2.1 the German Red Cross (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.) which has to use the assets (while strictly complying with the purposes listed in § 2) directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes, or
 - 2.2 alternatively to the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation for the purposes listed in § 2.

§ 11

Business Year

The business year is the calendar year.

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of the Abrahamic Dialogue in Africa

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