

Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V.

Charter

§ 1 Name, Registered Office

The Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V. of Zentrum Moderner Orient e.V. is listed in the Register of Associations. It is located at Kirchweg 33, D-14129 Berlin.

§ 2 Purpose of the Association

The Association seeks to support and promote the Zentrum Moderner Orient e.V. in both conceptual and material ways.

To this end, it engages with science, politics, business and culture.

In particular, it promotes and supports

- the Centre's scientific projects and cultural events,
- the Centre's dialogue with science, politics, economy and culture,
- the Centre's publications and public relations work,
- and the Centre's young scientists.

Promotion can be carried out by

- consulting,
- establishing contacts,
- covering costs for events,
- providing scholarships and travel allowances for young scientists,
- covering costs for printing.

§ 3 Charitable Status

The Association pursues, exclusively and directly, non-profit purposes as defined by the German tax code.

The Association is selfless, pursuing no primary economic interests of its own.

The funds of the Association may be used only for their intended purposes. Members receive no payment for their activities in the Association.

The Association provides no one with disproportionately high remuneration or with expenses which are foreign to the purpose of the Association.

§ 4 Members

A member of the Association can be any individual or legal entity that is willing to promote or support the aims of the Association and to recognize its statutes.

Membership is granted upon written request submitted to the Executive Board. Legal entities must name their legal or authorised representatives who shall exercise the rights of membership.

The membership ends by:

- death,
- deletion of the legal entity from the Register,
- withdrawal, which is possible at the end of the current financial year and which must be explained in writing,
- exclusion, based upon a review undertaken by the Board of Directors; the decision may be appealed in writing within one month and decided upon by the General Meeting.

§ 5 Honorary Members

Dedicated sponsors may be appointed as honorary members.

§ 6 Membership Contributions

Funds for the purpose of supporting the Association are collected through annual membership fees, one-off contributions, and voluntary contributions.

Annual membership fees are determined at the annual General Meeting.

§ 7 Bodies of the Association

The bodies of the Association are the General Meeting and the Board of Directors.

Members of the Board of Directors serve on an honorary basis.

§ 8 The General Meeting

The General Meeting is convened at least once a year.

Extraordinary General Meetings must be convened by the Board of Directors or at the written request of at least 20% of the Association's members.

Invitations to the General Meeting shall be made in writing by the Board of Directors, no later than four weeks before the meeting.

In particular, the General Meeting is responsible for:

- the election of the Board of Directors and its Chairperson,
- the receipt of the Chairperson's annual report,
- the decisions regarding the financial plan for the coming year,
- the approval of the annual accounts and the report of the auditors,
- the granting of powers to the Board of Directors,
- the choice of auditors,
- the definition of contribution levels,

- the election of honorary members,
- and the amendment of the Articles of Association.

§ 9 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of:

- the Chairperson,
- two Deputy Chairs, one of whom also assumes the function of the Treasurer,
- and two Assessors, one of whom is ex officio the director of the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies.

The members of the Board of Directors are elected for three years. Re-election is possible. An elected member shall remain in office until a successor is chosen.

The Chair and one Deputy Chair are authorised to represent the Association in accordance with the law (§ 26 BGB) and represent the Association jointly in court and out of court. Declarations by which the Association is to be bound must be in writing.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the management of the Association, the implementation of its decisions, and the management of the Association's assets.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members of the Association. At the request of a member of the Board, a meeting shall be held within four weeks of receipt of the request.

§ 10 Auditing of Accounts

The Treasurer must submit annually a written report on the past financial year and a financial plan for the coming year.

The auditors, who are members of neither the Board of Directors nor the Association, are required to examine annual financial statements and to submit their findings in a report to be finalised no later than March 31st of the year following the last General Meeting. The auditors are appointed for three years.

§ 11 Procedural Rules and Amendments

A quorum at the General Meeting requires that one third of the members be present. Decisions are taken by a majority of the members present. Resolutions on amendments to the Articles of Association and changes in membership fees require a majority of 3/4 of the members present. A member may authorise in writing that his or her vote be transmitted to another member. In the event of a tie, the amendment is rejected.

The Board of Directors takes its decisions by a majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Chair's vote shall be decisive. In urgent cases, resolutions of the Board of Directors may be passed by written vote with a majority of the Board's members.

Minutes are prepared for meetings of the annual General Meeting and the Board of Directors. The minutes are to be signed by the Chair of the Board of Directors, in whose absence a Deputy Chair may sign.

§ 12 Dissolution of the Association

The Association can be dissolved by a resolution of the General Meeting with 3/4 of the members present. In the event of dissolution of the Association, the remaining assets of the Association are to be used for scientific purposes.

§ 13 Business Year

The financial year is the calendar year.

§ 14 Jurisdiction

The court of the Association is Berlin.

§ 15 Final Provision

The Articles of Association were adopted on January 26, 2007.

Amendments to the Articles of Association that are required by the supervisory, judicial, or financial authorities to remove the Association's entry restrictions, may be initiated and carried out by the legal representative of the Association (§ 9 (4)). These amendments to the Articles of Association must be communicated to members at the next General Meeting.