

Vedanta Study Circle Zürich (VSCZ)

Constitution

(Version 2)

1. Name und Seat

- 1.1. The Association, under the name of Vedanta Study Circle Zurich (VSCZ), hereinafter called “The Association”, is defined by article 60 ff. ZGB, with its seat in Zurich. VSCZ is a non-political, non-commercial and non-profitable Association.

2. Language

- 2.1. The official Language is English.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. The ideal of the Association consists in establishing and maintaining a group of like-minded people inspired by Vedanta as taught and lived by Sri Ramakrishna and his disciples.
- 3.2. The Association wants to intensify the spiritual progress of individual members, practise and propagate the universal spiritual ideas of mystics across religions and equality of humankind.
- 3.3. Vedanta declares that each soul is potentially divine and the goal of human life is to realize and manifest that divinity. Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda broadened this goal by saying that realizing one’s own divinity is not enough, one must also contribute to the welfare of the world through service. The vision of this Association would be to help spiritual aspirants to realize one’s own divinity and at the same time contribute to the welfare of the world.

4. Activities

- 4.1. Holding of regular group meetings to read texts, reflect on them, meditate, sing, and chant etc.
- 4.2. Celebrating anniversaries of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda.
- 4.3. Inviting Swamis and arranging Satsangs (religious talks).
- 4.4. Undertaking the spreading of the teachings of Vedanta through translation, digital transmission etc.
- 4.5. Keeping members informed about matters of common interest.
- 4.6. Providing members the opportunities for service either in the Association itself, the local community or through fund raising and / or volunteer work for helping Centers of the Ramakrishna Mission and affiliated organizations.

- 4.7. Maintaining a Website with basic information.
- 4.8. The Executive Committee (EC) will organize and execute these activities with the help of volunteers if necessary.

5. Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Association are the following:

- 5.1. Contributions of an annual membership fees.
- 5.2. Contributions from members and non-members aligned to specific event budgets.
- 5.3. Donations from private, public and non-profit institutions.
- 5.4. Donations from private sponsors and also by testaments.

6. Membership

- 6.1. Members are individuals who support the objectives of the Association and have paid the annual membership fee.
- 6.2. All members constitute the General Assembly of the Association.
- 6.3. Applications for admission should be addressed to the President.
- 6.4. Admission to the Association will be decided by the EC.
- 6.5. Members have the choice to serve as active organizational members or ordinary members who do not participate in organizational activities.
- 6.6. Non-members are welcome to all events but have no voting rights.
- 6.7. Non-members are welcome to volunteer for organizing events.

7. Termination of Membership

- 7.1. The membership expires by resignation, exclusion or death.

8. Resignation and exclusion of Membership

- 8.1. A resignation from the Association is possible at any time. The membership expires after the receipt of a written notice of resignation to the EC. Leaving members are not entitled to the Association's assets or already paid voluntary contributions.
- 8.2. A Member may be excluded without explanation from the Association at any time. The EC decides about the exclusion. The member may appeal against the decision of the EC within 30 days. The final decision will then be made by the General Assembly.

9. Management bodies of the Association

The Management bodies of the Association are:

- 9.1. General Assembly
- 9.2. Executive Committee (EC)
- 9.3. Auditor or Auditing team

10. General Assembly

- 10.1. All members of the VSCZ form the General Assembly. A formal General Assembly Meeting is to be held annually in the 1st half of the year.
- 10.2. In the 2nd half of the year, another Assembly can take place on request to discuss organizational matters. This meeting will not have the right to modify the Constitution.
- 10.3. The General Assembly will be announced at least 3 weeks in advance including the agenda. Each Member will receive a written invitation either by letter or by Email.
- 10.4. Proposals from members for the General Assembly should be submitted to the EC in writing at least 2 weeks in advance. They will be added to the agenda.

The General Assembly will have the following functions:

- 10.5. Election of the EC and of the Auditor/ Auditing team for a period of 2 years. The Auditor /Auditing team does not have to be members of the Association.
- 10.6. Modification of the Constitution, if necessary.
- 10.7. Acceptance of the activity report and passing the annual Accounts.
- 10.8. Discussion on the annual budget (expenses for visiting monks or guests, donations, celebrations etc.).
- 10.9. Recommendation of the annual Membership fee
- 10.10. Dealing with exclusion appeals.
- 10.11. To establish a set of working traditions that address the seamless interaction and functioning of the group.
- 10.12. At least 1/3 of the VSCZ members shall be present. At the General Assembly, each Member has one vote. An absent Member can be represented by another Member by a written proxy. The decision will be taken by a simple majority (except Clauses 15 + 16).

11. The Executive Committee (EC)

- 11.1. The EC consists of three persons: President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of office is two years. Re-election is possible. Accumulation of functions is permitted.

- 11.2. The EC manages the affairs of the Association. It represents the Association to the third parties and carries out all transactions, unless they are incumbent on the General Assembly.
- 11.3. All members of the EC are elected by the General Assembly.
- 11.4. Members of the EC are volunteers and have no entitlement to compensation.
- 11.5. Minutes of the EC meetings must be kept.

12. Signature

- 12.1. The signing authority for the Association is possessed by any two of the three EC members.

13. The Auditor

- 13.1. The General Assembly elects an Auditor/Auditing Team who checks the accounts. This can be either an internal or external Auditing Team.

14. Liability

- 14.1. For the Liability of the Association, solely the Association's assets shall be liable. Personal liabilities of the members and of the EC members are excluded.

15. Amendment of the Constitution and Resolutions

For amending the Constitution and Resolutions taken by the Association, the following norms would apply:

- 15.1. At least 55% of the registered members have to vote for the amendment. An absent member can be represented by another member by a written proxy or unambiguous Email.
- 15.2. A notational voting by the registered members using written circulation can be carried out. The means will be either by letter or unambiguous Email.

16. Dissolution of the Association

- 16.1. The dissolution of the Association can be decided at any time by at least 66% of registered members. An absent member can be represented by another member by a written proxy or unambiguous Email.
- 16.2. At dissolution of the Association, the Association's asset will be given to an institution in Switzerland with similar purpose. A distribution among the members is not permitted.

17. Financial year

17.1. The financial year is the calendar year.

18. Activation of the Constitution

18.1. The articles of the Constitution were accepted by the majority of the Group members on 12th April 2020 and comes into effect as from this date (version 1)

19. Amendments to the constitution

19.1. Amendments to the constitution were made in clause 10.1 and 10.2. The amendments were accepted at the General Assembly on 24th Oct 2021 and came into effect as from this date. The changes made are already included in the current version (version 2).