D H A G P O S W I T Z E R L A N D

1st version - Articles of Association - November 14, 2021

2nd version - amendment to the Articles of Association - December 8, 2023

3rd version - amendment to the Articles of Association - February 21, 2026

This English version is a courtesy translation of the German Statuten. In case of any discrepancy or difference in interpretation, the German version shall prevail.

P R E A M B E L

The Buddha's teachings are a millennia-old wisdom that are accessible to all. They invite us to discover our own inner wealth by recognizing and continuously cultivating our capacity for benevolence and discernment.

The values conveyed by Buddhism enable us to live our humanity more fully by taking care of ourselves, others and our environment, and acting accordingly. These values provide enriching guidance for life in today's complex , ever-changing and challenging societies

Over the last 2500 years, the teachings of the Buddha have adapted to different cultures as they have spread from country to country. With its teachings (Dharma), which are rational, practical and universal at the same time, Buddhism is above all an attitude to life based on compassion and wisdom. The association "Dhagpo Switzerland" aims to promote and make these timeless and comprehensive values of kindness, compassion and wisdom accessible, together with the methods of the Karma Kagyu School.

"Dhagpo" is a Tibetan name that refers to a geographical area in Tibet from which one of the founding fathers of the Kagyu lineage, Gampopa (1079-1153), originated.

"Kagyu" is the name of a specific Buddhist school and means "lineage of oral transmission" (of Buddhist teachings and practices). The Kagyu school is one of the four main Buddhist schools established in Tibet.

The association "Dhagpo Switzerland" is affiliated with the “Karma Kagyu School”, a sub-branch of the Kagyu School. The unbroken lineage of transmission of this school falls under the responsibility of the Karmapa and Shamarpa incarnation lineages. Today it is headed by the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, Trinley Thaye Dorje.

The name "Dhagpo Kagyu" was unofficially given to many Buddhist organizations and centers in Europe that belong to the "Karma Kagyu School", starting with "Dhagpo Kagyu Ling" in France, the European seat of the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa,. These organizations and centers, as well as the association "Dhagpo Switzerland", are under the direction of the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, Trinley Thaye Dorje, as well as his European representative, Jigme Rinpoche.

In accordance with Buddha's teachings, the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa shares a vision of peace: both in the world and in people’s minds. This vision describes peace as complete awareness, from which compassion and wisdom are cultivated and then combined. It is a conscious state in which responsibility is taken for one's own actions. Inner wealth - innate, natural values - are cultivated and balanced with outer, material wealth in a way that benefits all sentient beings.

The Dhagpo Switzerland association supports the realization of this vision of peace through its activities.

S T A T U T E S

§1 Name and registered office

The association exists under the name "Dhagpo Switzerland" within the meaning of Art. 60 ff. ZGB with its registered office in Männedorf. It is politically and denominationally independent.

§2 Purpose of the association

The aim of the association "Dhagpo Switzerland" is to make the timeless and all-encompassing values of loving kindness, compassion and wisdom accessible together with the methods of the Karma Kagyu School. Study, contemplation and meditation are the means by which these values can be realized. In addition, the association aims to preserve the cultural and artistic heritage of the Karma Kagyu School and make it accessible to everybody.
"Dhagpo Switzerland" pursues neither a political, nor economic or religious goal. It pursues exclusively charitable and non-profit objectives and supports other recognized, like-minded non-profit organizations.

§3 Realization of the association's purpose

The purpose of the association is realized in particular through the following altruistic association activities:

1. to establish and maintain a Buddhist network in which the study and practice of Buddhist teachings as well as the scientific discussion of Buddhism are made possible.
2. to research, translate and publish Buddhist teachings and literature, as well as the languages in which they are written.
3. to research, preserve and cultivate Buddhist culture, art and architecture.
4. to invite guest lecturers and teachers of all Buddhist schools, especially the Karma Kagyu school.
5. to organize and support study courses and award educational scholarships.
6. to provide visual material as well as film screenings and audio recordings.
7. to organize and support retreats that require the uninterrupted presence of participants for the duration of the practice.
8. to impart spiritual training based on Buddhist philosophy at general schools and similar institutions if desired.
9. to maintain dialogue as well as public relations work with other Buddhist, scientific and social institutions and groups at home and abroad.
10. to look after and support Buddhist practitioners.
11. to support those in need as well as the elderly, sick and dying. For this purpose, the association may maintain a fund for charitable purposes.
12. to help and support socially underprivileged sections of the population in the Himalayan region.
13. to support peace projects such as the Kagyu Monlam in France and India.
14. to promote health through courses and seminars in mindfulness and Qi Gong.

§4 Non-profit status

The association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes.
The association is selflessly active and does not seek to make a profit.
The bodies work on an honorary basis.

§5 Means

To fulfill its purpose, the association has the following resources at its disposal:
- Membership Fees
- Income from its own events
- Donations and grants of all kinds

The membership fees are determined annually by the general assembly. Honorary members and incumbent board members are exempt from the fee.
The business year corresponds to the calendar year.

§6 Membership

Natural and legal persons who support the purpose of the association can become members. The association has active and passive members as well as patrons:

- Active members with voting rights are natural persons who actively support and use the offers and facilities of the association.
- Patrons with voting rights pay a self-chosen annual fee that is higher than the active member fee.
- Passive members without voting rights can be natural or legal persons who support the association idealistically and financially. They form the supporting circle of friends of the association. They can submit proposals and written motions for the general assembly.

Persons who have made a special contribution to the Association may be awarded honorary membership by the General Meeting at the proposal of the Board of Directors.

Applications for membership must be addressed to the Executive Board. The Executive Board decides on admission.

§7 Termination of membership

Membership expires in the case of natural persons through resignation, exclusion or death; in the case of legal entities, by resignation, exclusion or dissolution of the legal entity.

§8 Withdrawal and expulsion

It is possible to leave the association at the end of the year. The letter of resignation must be sent in writing to the board at least two weeks before the ordinary general meeting.
A member can be expelled from the association at any time for violating the statutes and the objectives of the association. The board of directors makes the decision to exclude.
The member can appeal the exclusion decision to the general assembly.
The member in question must always be heard prior to exclusion.

§9 Bodies of the association

- the general assembly
- the board
- the auditors
- the office, this can be set up if necessary

§10 The general assembly

The supreme body of the association is the general assembly. It is formed by the active members. An ordinary general assembly takes place annually in the first half of the year. Members are invited to this meeting one month in advance in writing, stating the items on the agenda. Invitations by e-mail are valid. The general assembly can be held by video conference.

Motions on the individual agenda items can be submitted before (by e-mail) or directly at the beginning of the general meeting.

The board or 1/5 of the members can call for an extraordinary general meeting any time, stating the purpose. The meeting must take place no later than three months after receipt of the request.

The general assembly has the following obligations and competencies that cannot be rescinded:

1. Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting
2. Approval of the Annual Report of the board
3. Receipt of the audit report
4. Approval of the annual accounts
5. Discharge of the board
6. Election of the board and the auditors
7. Determination of membership fees
8. Acknowledgment of the annual budget
9. Acknowledgment of the program of activities
10. Passing resolutions on motions by the board and the members
11. Amendment of the Statutes
12. Decision on exclusions of members
13. Resolution on the dissolution of the association and the use of the liquidation proceeds

Any duly convened general meeting has the power to make decisions regardless of the number of members present. The members pass the resolutions with a simple majority*.
In the event of a tie, the President of the day has the casting vote.
At least one resolution protocol must be drawn up on the resolutions that have been passed.

**Remark: the definition of simple majority according to vitamin B (department for associations): an application is accepted if it has more yes than no votes. Abstentions are not counted.*

Amendments to the Statutes of the Association require the approval of a 2/3 majority of those entitled to vote.

§11 The board

The board consists of 2 to 5 people.
The term of office is 3 years. Re-election is possible.

The board manages the day-to-day business and represents the association externally. It can set up working groups. It can hire or commission people to achieve the association's goals in return for appropriate compensation.

Other duties and competences of the board:

- The Executive board has all powers that are not assigned to another body by law or in accordance with these statutes.
- The board meets as often as the activities require.
- Each member of the board can demand that a meeting be convened, stating the reasons. Unless any member of the board requests oral discussion by presence or video conference, the resolution is also valid by e-mail.
- The board generally works on a voluntary basis. It can count on the reimbursement of the actual expenses or waive them.

§12 The auditors

The auditing body consists of 2 auditors elected by the general meeting.

- The auditors check the accounts and carry out a spot check at least once a year.
- The auditors submit a report and proposal to the board for the general meeting.
- The term of office is 3 years. Re-election is possible

§13 Authority to sign

The board requires joint signatures for the signing authority.

§14 Liability

Only the assets of the association are liable for the debts of the association.
Personal liability of the members is excluded.

§15 Dissolution of the association

The dissolution of the association can be decided by resolution of an ordinary or extraordinary general meeting. A decision on the dissolution of the association can only be made with a majority of at least 90% of the votes present.

If the association is dissolved, the association's assets go to a tax-exempt organization that pursues the same or a similar purpose.
The distribution of the association's assets among the members is excluded.

These statutes were adopted at the general meeting on February 21, 2026 and came into force on that date.

Zurich, February 21, 2026

Fabienne Berlinger
President of the day

Ariella Schärer
Minute-taker