

MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

of the International Association of Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations DOBRO (International Association DOBRO)

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. These Membership Regulations of the International Association of Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations DOBRO (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations and the International Association) define the entities eligible for membership in the International Association, the principles, levels, rights and obligations of members, as well as the grounds and procedure for changing and terminating membership.

1.2. These Regulations have been developed on the basis of the Memorandum on the Establishment of the International Association of Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations DOBRO dated 5 December 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum) and the Criteria for Admission of Member Organizations to the International Association DOBRO dated 10 June 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the Admission Criteria).

1.3. The procedure for submitting and reviewing applications and other procedural matters related to the admission of new member organizations are governed by a separate document — the Regulations for the Admission of New Member Organizations to the International Association DOBRO (hereinafter referred to as the Admission Regulations). These Regulations establish the substantive conditions of membership: who may become a member, at which levels, and with which rights and obligations.

1.4. Membership in the International Association is voluntary, open and equal for non-profit organizations (in Central Asian countries — non-governmental non-profit organizations (NNPOs)), volunteer organizations and charitable entities registered in any country of the world that share the goals, values and ethical principles of the International Association.

1.5. The International Association does not admit commercial, governmental or political entities as members, nor organizations whose activities contradict the principles of humanism, non-violence and the non-profit nature of the International Association.

1.6. Membership is indefinite, except for the statuses of “Observer” and “Consultative Status” (see Clause 4.4), subject to annual confirmation of activity (Section 7). The membership level may be changed in accordance with Section 4 of these Regulations and the Admission Regulations.

2. VALUES AND GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS THE BASIS FOR MEMBERSHIP

2.1. By joining the International Association, an organization undertakes to share and promote the values and ethical principles set out in the Memorandum, namely:

- voluntary participation and equality of members;
- openness and transparency of activities;

- respect for human dignity and universal human rights, mutual trust and respect for cultural differences;
- non-discrimination, inclusiveness and equal opportunities for all;
- non-violence and the “do no harm” principle in programme implementation;
- protection of vulnerable groups, including children and young people;
- respect for the cultural traditions and traditional values of participating countries, and the protection and preservation of universal spiritual and moral values;
- commitment to humanitarian cooperation aimed at practical assistance and sustainable development;
- constructiveness, responsibility and sustainability of initiatives;
- the non-profit nature of activities.

Formal confirmation of acceptance of these values is provided by signing the Declaration of Commitment to the Values of the International Association DOBRO, which is a mandatory attachment to the membership application.

2.2. Members of the International Association contribute to achieving its goals, including:

- developing international cooperation in the humanitarian, social and educational spheres;
- exchanging best practices and pooling resources among organizations from participating countries;
- supporting civil society institutions and protecting the rights and interests of non-profit organizations and volunteers;
- improving the quality of social initiatives and professional competencies.

3. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

3.1. An organization may become a member of the International Association at any level if it meets all of the following general criteria:

1. Legal status — a registered non-profit organization (NPO; in Central Asian countries — a non-governmental non-profit organization (NNPO)), volunteer organization or charitable entity in its country, as confirmed by its charter and registration documents.
2. Compliance with values and goals — full alignment with the goals, values and ethical principles of the International Association (Section 2 of these Regulations).
3. Operational experience — at least one full financial year of operation, with evidence of actual activity in volunteering and/or charitable work (reports, publications, partnerships).
4. Geographic openness — the organization may be registered in any country or region of the world.
5. Commitment to responsibility — signing the Declaration of Commitment to the Values and readiness to contribute to the activities of the International Association in proportion to the membership level.

4. MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

4.1. The International Association has a three-level membership system:

Level	Status	Validity period / transition
1	Observer	Up to 12 months; transition upon application subject to fulfilment of the conditions
2	Consultative Status	Up to 12 months; transition upon application subject to fulfilment of the conditions
3	Full Member	Indefinite, subject to annual confirmation of activity

4.2. Principles for assigning statuses and transitioning between levels:

- Flexibility of assignment — an organization may be assigned any membership level directly, based on its experience, expertise and scale of activity; progression through the levels from lower to higher is not mandatory.
- No mandatory sequence — both upward and downward transitions, as well as temporary changes of status, are permitted.
- Grounds for changing status — an organization’s application; results of activity assessment; degree of fulfilment of obligations; strategic needs of the International Association.
- Frequency of review — a transition takes place once a year at a regular meeting of the Council of the International Association; an application for transition must be submitted at least 3 months before the meeting.

4.3. The rights and obligations of each membership level are set out in Sections 5 and 6 of these Regulations; the criteria for assigning each membership level are established by the Admission Criteria.

4.4. The “Observer” and “Consultative Status” statuses are granted for a period of up to 12 months. Upon expiry of this period, if the obligations have not been fulfilled or no application for transition has been submitted, the status is cancelled. “Full Member” status is indefinite and requires annual confirmation of activity (Section 7).

5. MEMBERS’ RIGHTS

5.1. Observer

- Participation in open events of the International Association (without voting rights).
- Access to information materials of the International Association.

5.2. Consultative Status

- Participation in Council meetings (without voting rights) and working group meetings.
- Access to expanded resources of the International Association.

5.3. Full Member

- Eligibility to serve on the Council of the International Association (subject to election).
- Voting rights at Council meetings.

- Participation in the management of the activities of the International Association.
- Access to all resources, platforms and knowledge bases of the International Association.
- Right to nominate organizations for status assignment recommendations.

5.4. General rights of all members (regardless of level)

- to receive information about the activities of the International Association;
- to submit proposals and requests to the governing bodies of the International Association;
- to voluntarily withdraw from membership by notifying the Project Office of the International Association.

6. MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS

6.1. General obligations (for all levels)

- to comply with the Charter of the International Association (once adopted), these Regulations and decisions of the Council of the International Association;
- to submit, annually by 1 March, a brief report on activities and contributions (Section 7 of these Regulations);
- to refrain from actions that may damage the reputation of the International Association or its members;
- to mention the International Association and display its logo (branding) when publicizing joint projects and events, as well as events conducted on behalf of or under the auspices of the International Association;
- to inform the Project Office of the International Association of any changes to its legal status, contact details or management.

6.2. Observer

- to appoint a responsible coordinator for interaction with the International Association;
- to promote and publicize the activities and events of the International Association through its own information channels (website, social media, mass media);
- to develop a 12-month roadmap for engagement in the activities of the International Association;
- to participate in at least 2 events of the International Association per year;
- to organize and conduct at least 1 event or initiative on behalf of or under the auspices of the International Association;
- to prepare brief participation reports to confirm the status.

6.3. Consultative Status

- to appoint a responsible coordinator;
- to promote and publicize the activities and events of the International Association through its own information channels (website, social media, mass media);

- to contribute to the event plan of the International Association by organizing or co-organizing at least 3 events on its behalf or under its auspices;
- to provide venues for projects and events of the International Association (upon request);
- to engage partners (commercial organizations, government entities, NPOs) in the events and projects of the International Association (upon request);
- to prepare analytical and expert materials (case studies, research, methodologies) upon request.

6.4. Full Member

Except for the general obligations set out in Clause 6.1 of these Regulations (including the mandatory mention of the International Association and display of its branding), the obligations of Full Members are advisory in nature; however, they are expected to actively contribute to the development of the International Association, including:

- promotion and publicity of projects and events of the International Association;
- an active role in scaling the activities of the International Association;
- initiation of international projects (recommended target — at least 3) and establishment of new partnerships (at least 3);
- resource contribution — financial, infrastructural (venues, online platforms), human resources and expertise — to the extent possible;
- co-branding — mentioning and displaying the branding of the International Association at its own events, including internal events;
- mentoring organizations at lower membership levels;
- assistance in attracting new members (recommended target — at least 1 organization per year).

7. ANNUAL STATUS CONFIRMATION AND ACTIVITY MONITORING

7.1. All members of the International Association, including Full Members, are required to submit to the Project Office of the International Association, annually by 1 March, a report on activities during the previous calendar year, including:

- a list of International Association events in which the organization participated;
- initiatives implemented under the auspices of the International Association;
- evidence of publicity of the activities of the International Association (links to publications, photographs and video materials mentioning the International Association and displaying its branding);
- contribution to the development of the International Association (joint projects, partner engagement, expertise);
- information on changes to contact or legal details.

7.2. The Project Office of the International Association monitors fulfilment of obligations throughout the year. If inactivity is identified (participation in fewer than 1 event per year, failure to submit a

report), or if the obligation to mention the International Association and display its branding (Clause 6.1) is not fulfilled, the Executive Director sends the organization a warning. If there is no response within 2 months, the status may be suspended and subsequently downgraded or cancelled. Systematic failure (two or more times during a year) to mention the International Association and display its branding constitutes grounds for termination of status in accordance with Section 8 of these Regulations.

7.3. For the “Observer” and “Consultative Status” statuses, expiry of the 12-month period does not automatically renew membership: to renew, an application must be submitted for reassignment of the same level or for transition to a higher level in accordance with the Admission Regulations. Otherwise, membership is terminated.

8. GROUNDS AND PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

8.1. Membership in the International Association is terminated:

- voluntarily — upon an application submitted by the organization to the Project Office of the International Association;
- automatically — upon expiry of the “Observer” or “Consultative Status” period without an application for renewal or transition being submitted (Clause 7.3);
- by decision of the Council — through expulsion from membership.

8.2. Grounds for expulsion of a member by decision of the Council include:

- gross violation of the values and ethical principles of the International Association (discrimination, violence, or conducting commercial or political activities under the guise of non-profit activity);
- systematic failure to fulfil the obligations established for the relevant membership level, including inactivity for 12 months, as well as systematic failure to mention the International Association and display its branding (Clauses 6.1 and 7.2);
- submission of knowingly false information upon joining or during annual status confirmation;
- discrediting the International Association or its members in a manner causing substantial reputational damage;
- liquidation of the organization or loss of its non-profit status.

8.3. A decision on expulsion is made by the Council by a qualified majority of votes (at least two-thirds of the Council members present), while ensuring the organization’s right to provide written explanations and participate in the meeting. The detailed review procedure, including notification periods and the appeal procedure, is established by the Regulations for the Admission of New Member Organizations and/or a separate document, “Rules for Expulsion and Protection of Members’ Rights,” approved by the Council of the International Association.

9. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

9.1. Council of the International Association

Makes final decisions on the admission, transition and expulsion of members, as well as changes in status, and approves the forms of documents related to membership. Decisions are adopted by a qualified majority of votes (at least two-thirds of those present, but not less than 50% of the total membership of the Council).

9.2. Executive Director

Organizes work on membership matters, conducts preliminary review of applications, submits recommendations to the Council, and monitors members' activity.

9.3. Project Office

Conducts desk reviews of applications, maintains the membership database of the International Association, prepares draft reports, and provides methodological support to organizations at all membership levels.

10. FINAL PROVISIONS

10.1. These Regulations enter into force on the date of their approval by the Council of the International Association.

10.2. Amendments and additions to these Regulations are made by decision of the Council by a qualified majority of votes. Proposals for amendments must be submitted to the Executive Director no later than 2 months before the Council meeting.

10.3. Matters not regulated by these Regulations shall be resolved in accordance with the Memorandum on the Establishment of the International Association, the Charter of the International Association (once adopted), the Regulations for the Admission of New Member Organizations and other internal documents of the International Association.

10.4. Forms of documents related to membership (application, activity report, Declaration of Commitment to the Values) are developed by the Project Office of the International Association and approved by the Council. Current versions are posted on the Dobro.org platform.