# Statutes of the association

# § 1: Name, location and field of activity

1) The association bears the name International Nuclear Risk Assessment Group (INRAG).

2) It is based at the Institute for Security/Safety and Risk Sciences at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna and operates worldwide.

3) The establishment of branch associations is not intended.

# § 2: Purpose

The association, whose activity is not aimed at profit, aims to:

- promote independent international expertise in nuclear and environmental safety and risk.
- create a common knowledge base and encourage the exchange of knowledge between the members.
- facilitate the availability of scientific work in the field.
- publish well-founded explanations and analyzes on problems in the field.
- make international expertise available to the public and decision-makers.
- cooperate with other organizations that are interested in the transparency of nuclear risks.

The Terms of Reference established on February 28, 2014 (published on the INRAG website on March 06, 2014) are an integral part of the statutes of the association.

#### § 3: Means of achieving the purpose of the Association

1) The purpose of the association shall be achieved by the activities and financial resources referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2) Activities intended to achieve the purpose of the association are amongst other things:

- a) Regular meetings of the ordinary members with the aim of information exchange
- b) Hosting of a web site providing information to the public
- c) Conducting of conferences
- d) preparation of reports on current issues in the area of nuclear risk and nuclear safety.
- e) to provide knowledge and communication to public and police

3) The necessary financial resources are to be raised by:

- a) Subsidies and funding
- b) donations, collections, legacies and other contributions
- c) sponsorship money
- d) income from publications of the association
- e) Registration fees and membership dues

#### § 4: Types of membership

1) The members of the association are divided into regular and extraordinary members.

2) Regular members are those who fully participate in the work of the association. Extraordinary members are those who promote the work of the association mainly by paying a fixed membership

# § 5: Acquisition of membership

1) Any physical person can become regular member of the association. Extraordinary members of the association may be physical persons, as well as legal entities.

2) The General Assembly shall decide on the admission of regular and extraordinary members. The admittance can be denied without giving reasons.

#### § 6: Termination of Membership

1) The membership expires by death, by voluntary resignation or by exclusion, as well as by loss of legal personality for legal entities.

2) The withdrawal may take place at any time. It has to be communicated to the Executive Board in writing at least 2 months in advance.

3) The exclusion of a member may be exercised by the General Assembly for acts against the purpose of the association or for dishonorable behavior.

#### § 7: Rights and obligations of the members

1) Members are entitled to participate in all events of the association. The right to vote at the General Assembly as well as the right to vote and to stand as a candidate is only available to ordinary members.

2) Each member is entitled to require the Executive Board to issue the statutes.

3) The Board may be required to convene a General Assembly by at least one-tenth of the members.

4) Members must be informed on the activities and administration of funds of the association by the Executive Board at each General Assembly. If requested by at least one tenth of the members, the Board shall provide such information in any case within four weeks to the concerned members.

5) Members shall be informed by the Executive Board on the audited financial statements (accounting). If this happens during the General Assembly, the auditors must be involved.

6) The members are obligated to promote the interests of the association and to refrain from doing anything which could endanger the reputation and purpose of the association. They must respect the statutes of the association and the decisions of the association's bodies. The members are obliged to pay the membership fees on time in the amount decided by the General Assembly.

#### § 8: Bodies of the Association

The bodies of the Association are the General Assembly (§§ 9 and 10), the Executive Board (§§ 11 to 13), the Auditors (§ 14) and the Arbitration Board (§ 15).

# § 9: General Assembly

1) The General Assembly is the "Mitgliederversammlung" as defined by the Austrian Association Act 2002 (Vereinsgesetzes 2002). An ordinary General Assembly takes place at least annually.

2) An extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within four weeks on,

- a. resolution of the Executive Board or the Ordinary General Assembly,
- b. a written application by at least one tenth of the members,
- c. request of the auditors (§ 21 para. 5, first sentence of the VereinsG),
- d. decision of the auditor (§ 21 para. 5, second sentence of the VereinsG, § 11 para. 2, third sentence of these statutes),
- e. decision by a court appointed trustee (§ 11 para. 2 last sentence of these statutes).

3) Invitations to both the regular as well as the extraordinary General Assemblies shall be extended to all members in writing, by fax, or via e-mail (to the fax number or e-mail address indicated to the Association by the member) at least two weeks prior to the date of the Assembly. The invitation to the General Assembly shall include the agenda. The General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Committee (para 1 and para 2 lit. a - c), by an auditor (para 2 lit. d) or by a court appointed trustee (para 2 lit. e).

4) Motions to the General Assembly must be submitted to the Executive Board in writing, by fax, or via e-mail at least three days before the date of the General Assembly.

5) Valid resolutions, with the exception of those regarding a motion to convene an extraordinary General Assembly, can only be passed on items that are part of the agenda.

6) All members are entitled to participate at the General Assembly. Only ordinary members are entitled to vote. Each member has one vote.

7) The General Assembly has a quorum if at least 1/5 of the voting members are present in person or via electronic media.

8) Resolutions of the General Assembly are to be made by consensus of present members. If a consensus cannot be reached after an appropriate amount of time, resolutions are to be made by a simple majority of the valid votes cast. Decisions amending the statutes of the association or dissolving the association, however, require a qualified majority of two-thirds of the valid votes cast.

9) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the chairman and the vice chairman in his / her absence. If he / she is also absent, the oldest Board member present chairs the Assembly.

# § 10: Tasks of the General Assembly

The General Assembly reserves the right to undertake the following duties:

- a) Passing resolutions on the submitted motions;
- b) Receiving and approving the annual report and accounting of the past financial year upon the recommendation of the Auditors;
- c) Electing and releasing the members of the Executive Board and the Auditors;
- d) Approving legal transactions between the Auditors and the Association approval of legal transactions between auditors and association;
- e) Discharging the members of the Executive Board from all liability with respect to their management;
- f) Determining entrance and membership fees for ordinary and extraordinary membmers.
- g) Awarding and termination of the membership;
- h) Passing resolutions on amendments to the Statutes and the voluntary liquidation of the Association;
- i) Consultation and decision-making on other matters on the agenda.

#### § 11: Executive Board

1) The board consists of three to six members, namely the chairwoman/chairman, the secretary and the treasurer, and their respective deputies.

2) The Board is elected by the General Assembly. The Executive Board has the right to co-opt another electable member in case of the resignation of an elected board member. Subsequent approval is to be obtained at the next General Assembly. If the Executive Board is not available at all or for an undetermined periods of time without appointing another member, each Auditor is obliged to immediately call an extraordinary General Assembly to elect a new Executive Board. If the Auditors are also unable to fulfill their duties, any regular member who recognizes the severity of the situation can immediately file a petition with the competent court for the appointment of a trustee, who shall then immediately call an extraordinary General Assembly.

3) The term of office for Executive Board members shall be one year whereas reelection is possible. The duties of each office in the Executive Board must be performed by the person elected to the office

4) The board shall be convened in writing or verbally by the chairwoman / chairman, or, if he/she is unable to do so, by the Vice President. If the latter is also unable to fulfill his/her duties for an unforeseeable period of time, the Executive Board may be convened by any member of the Executive Board.

5) The Executive Board shall reach a quorum if all its members have been invited and if at least half of the members are present at a meeting.

6) The Executive Board shall pass resolutions by a simple majority of votes; In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote shall be decisive.

7) Executive Board meetings shall be presided over by the chairman and, in case he/she is unable, by the deputy. If the deputy is also unable, the Executive Board meeting shall be chaired by the oldest Executive Board member in attendance or another Executive Board member who shall be elected by a simple majority of other board members.

8) Except as a result of the death and expiration of the functional period (paragraph 3), the function of a member of the Executive Board expires by withdrawal (para 9) and resignation (para 10).

9) The General Assembly may remove the entire Executive Board or any of its members from office at any time. The removal shall become effective as from appointment of a new Executive Board member or a completely new Executive Board.

10) The Executive Board members may submit their resignation in writing at any time. The resignation shall be submitted to the Executive Board or, in the case of the resignation of the entire Executive Board, to the General Assembly. The resignation shall become effective only upon the election or appointment. (para. 2) of a successor.

# § 12: Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the management of the Association. It shall be the "Leitungsorgan" according to the Austrian Association Act of 2002. It shall perform all functions not allocated to another organ of the Association by the Statutes. Its responsibilities shall include:

- 1) Preparation of an accounting system that complies with the accounting requirements of the Association with a continuous record of the income/expenses and the administration of a list of assets as a minimum requirement;
- 2) Preparation of the estimated annual budget, the annual report, and the balance of the accounts;
- 3) Preparation and calling of the ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies in the event of § 9 (1) and (2) lit. a c of these Statutes.;
- 4) Information of the members on the association's operations, association's conduct and the controlled balancing of accounts;
- 5) Administration of the Association's assets;
- 6) Admission and expulsion of regular and sustaining members of the Association;
- 7) Employment and dismissal of employees of the Association.

#### § 13: Special duties of individual members of the Executive Board

1) The chairperson shall be responsible for the ongoing business of the association. The secretary supports the chairperson in the management of the association's business.

2) The chairperson represents the association in all matters. Written official copies of the association need the signature of both the chairperson and the treasurer to become effective. Legal transactions between the Executive Board members and the Association are subject to the approval of another Executive Board member.

3) Contractual authorization and the right to represent the association can only be appointed for the members of the Executive Board stated in named in para. 2 above.

4) In case of extraordinary circumstances, the chairperson shall be entitled to take measures independently, even in matters falling within the competence of the General Assembly or of the entire Executive Board. Such measures shall, however, require the subsequent approval of the competent organ of the Association

5) The President shall preside over meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

6) The secretary keeps the minutes in the general assembly and the executive committee.

7) The treasurer is responsible for the orderly conduct of the association in financial matters.

8) If the chairman/woman, the secretary or the treasurer are not capable to carry out their duty, the respective deputy takes their place.

## 14: Auditor / Auditor

1) Two auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of one year. Re-election is possible. The auditors may not be members of an organ of the association - other than the General Assembly - whose activity is the subject of the audit.

2) The auditors' duties are to check the current business and the financial management of the Association for the proper character of accounting and to examine whether the funds are used as given by the Statutes. The Executive Board shall provide the auditors with all necessary documents and information. The auditors shall report the results of the audit to the Executive Board.

3) Legal transactions between auditors and the association are subject to approval by the General Assembly. In addition, the provisions of § 11 paragraphs 8 to 10 apply mutatis mutandis to the auditors.

#### Section 15: Arbitration

1) All disputes arising from the associative relationship shall be settled by the internal arbitration board of the Association. It is a "Schlichtungseinrichtung " within the meaning of the Association Act 2002 and no arbitral tribunal according to §§ 577 ff ZPO.

2) The Arbitration Board shall be composed of three ordinary members of the Association. It is formed in such a way that one party appoints a member of the association as arbitrator in writing. On request of the Executive Board within seven days, the other party shall appoint a member of the Arbitration Board within 14 days. After informing the Executive Board within seven days, the two appointed arbitrators shall elect a third full member to be the chairman of the arbitration board within a further 14 days. If the vote is tied among those elected, a decision shall be reached by drawing lots. The members of the arbitral tribunal shall not be members of an organ - other than the General Assembly - whose activity is the subject of the dispute.

(3) The Arbitration Board shall render judgment after hearing both parties in the presence of all its members by a simple majority of votes. It shall decide to the best of its knowledge and belief. Its decision shall be final within the Association..

# § 16: Voluntary liquidation of the association

1) The voluntary liquidation of the Association can only be decided by the General Assembly and requires a qualified two-thirds majority of the valid votes.

2)The General Assembly shall also pass a resolution concerning the assets of the Association, if such assets exist. In particular, the General Assembly shall appoint a liquidator and pass a resolution regarding to whom the assets of the Association remaining shall be transferred after the payment of the debts.

3) The last board member has to announce the voluntary liquidation within four weeks after the decision to the competent authority in writing.

# § 17: Use of the association assets upon the departure of members, upon liquidation of the association or in case of the abolition of the beneficiary purpose

In the case of liquidation of the association or in the event of the abolition of the existing beneficiary purpose, the remaining assets shall be used for charitable or non-profit purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 ff Bundesabgabenordnung (BAO) after the covering of liabilities. As far as possible and permitted, institutions which pursue the same or similar purposes as this association should be taken into account.