STATUTES

Articles of Association

The statutes of the association "Latvijas Islāma kultūras centrs "SULEYMANIYE"", adopted in Riga on 15 June 2023.

This is a translation of the official Latvian statutes. Only the Latvian text is legally binding.

Preamble

The founders of the Association, its future members and the association "Latvijas Islāma kultūras centrs "SULEYMANIYE"" as a whole form a non-partisan and non-political community that serves the comprehensive practice and promotion of Islamic culture,

- conscious of their responsibility before God and people, relying on the help of God, who alone is Allah, and on the belief that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the last messenger and prophet of Allah,
- guided by the shared conviction of being bound by Islamic morals and ethics, and mindful of the principle: "O mankind! We created you from a male and a female and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. The most noble of you in the sight of God is the most God-conscious of you.",
- with the common purpose of serving Muslims in Latvia regardless of their origin, and of preserving and fostering their faith and that of others, as well as unity with non-believers,
- in their bond with Latvia and aware that the members of the Association, as its citizens and residents, are part of Latvian society and respect its laws, in particular the Constitution (Satversme) of the Republic of Latvia,
- unequivocally committed to respecting human dignity and freedom of religious belief,
- wishing to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue and international understanding,

the founders of the Association have adopted the following Articles of Association, which are binding on all members of this Association:

I. General provisions

1.1. The founders of the Association establish a voluntary union of persons, the association "Latvijas Islāma kultūras centrs "SULEYMANIYE"", hereinafter referred to in this document as the "Association" in the appropriate grammatical case and context, which is established to achieve the purpose set out in these Articles of Association and is not profit-making in nature.

1.2. The name of the Association is "Latvijas Islāma kultūras centrs "SULEYMANIYE"".

1.3. The English translation of the name of the Association is "Latvian Islamic Culture Center "SULEYMANIYE"".

1.4. The abbreviation of the name of the Association is "LIKC "SULEYMANIYE"".

1.5. The English translation of the abbreviated name of the Association is "LICC "SULEYMANIYE"".

1.6. In international communication and dealings, the Association may, at its own discretion, use its names in English together with its names in Latvian.

1.7. The Association is a voluntary union of persons established for an indefinite period.

1.8. The Association operates in accordance with the legislation in force in the Republic of Latvia, the regulations of the international Islamic Culture Centres “SULEYMANIYE” insofar as they comply with the laws of the Republic of Latvia, these Articles of Association and the legal acts adopted by the Association. The Association carries out its activities in the territory of the Republic of Latvia and represents Latvia in the international Islamic Culture Center “SULEYMANIYE” and in other relevant international Islamic organisations.

1.9. The Association has the status of a legal person and independently determines its internal organisational structure. The Association has its own seal bearing its name, its own symbols and insignia, and may hold accounts in Latvian and/or foreign banks.

1.10. The Association is liable for its obligations with all its property; it is not liable for the obligations of its members, nor is a member liable for the obligations of the Association.

1.11. With regard to its members, the Association performs the functions arising from the activities and tasks of the international Islamic culture centres that do not conflict with the legal framework of the Republic of Latvia, as well as the functions delegated to it by its members in accordance with these Articles of Association and the legal documents of the Association adopted in accordance with them. The Association operates on democratic principles, respecting the interests of all its members.

1.12. The Association operates selflessly; its activities are not commercial (profit-making) in nature, but this does not preclude balanced financial activity of the Association.

1.13. The funds of the Association may be used only for the purposes set out in these Articles of Association. Members do not receive grants from the funds of the Association.

1.14. No person may be reimbursed for expenses that do not serve the purpose of the Association, and no person may receive disproportionately high remuneration.

II. Objectives of the Association

2.1. The objective and most important task of the Association, which shapes all of its activities, is the selfless promotion of Islamic culture. The activities of the Association are devoted to the comprehensive cultivation, teaching and practice of the Islamic way of life, culture and ethics, based on the Qur’an, the Sunnah and the laws of the State of Latvia, observing the principles set out in the Preamble. In addition, the Association selflessly promotes education, upbringing and the idea of mutual understanding between peoples, taking into account the principles set out in the Preamble and the main purpose of Muslim life.

2.2. To achieve its objectives, the Association carries out the following activities:

2.2.1. Proclaiming Islamic culture and fostering the life of the local community by establishing and maintaining Islamic cultural premises where members, supporters and other interested persons of the Association gather in order to sustain Islamic life.

2.2.2. Establishing Islamic culture study centres for adolescents and young people.

2.2.3. Counselling Muslims on matters of Islamic culture, religion and pastoral care.

2.2.4. Pastoral care for the sick, for prisoners and for residents of various institutions.

2.2.5. Providing support to Muslims at the time of burial in accordance with Islamic tradition.

2.2.6. Cooperating with state institutions in promoting Islamic religious instruction in schools with regard to determining the principles of religious education within the meaning of Articles 99 and 102 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, and granting teaching authorisation to teachers (Ijazah) in accordance with the

recognition and understanding of Islamic culture and faith.

2.2.7. Teaching and preserving the values of Islamic culture, including Qur'an reading, learning about Islamic culture and history, covering ritual prayer and daily religious practice, and passing on knowledge of Islamic culture, including religion as a distinct branch of culture, in a special academy.

2.2.8. Activities preparing for pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina (Hajj and Umrah) through seminars and preparatory courses.

2.2.9. Evaluation of questions of Islamic culture and faith.

2.2.10. Establishing and maintaining dormitories for pupils and students, including a boarding house, in order to support young people's vocational, school and university education (for example, homework help, private tutoring, language courses).

2.2.11. Conducting events on interreligious dialogue, including guided tours of mosques for schools, churches, institutions, civic initiatives and other interest groups who wish to get to know Islam.

2.2.12. Organising events for the integration of Muslims into the society of the Republic of Latvia, in particular organising Latvian language courses.

2.2.13. Conducting scholarly seminars and establishing libraries with a thematic focus on Islam.

2.2.14. Raising funds to make prayer premises available to other public benefit organisations or to achieve the aforementioned objectives.

2.2.15. Providing information on the legal provisions of Islam concerning the protection and preservation of the environment.

2.2.16. Implementing projects funded by the state or local governments.

2.2.17. The Association represents the interests of the Islamic community of Latvia in the international Islamic Culture Center "SULEYMANIYE" and in other similar international organisations.

2.2.18. Where necessary, it handles the legal relations of the Islamic community of Latvia concerning or connected with the Islamic community, within the framework of the legal acts of the Republic of Latvia and of the Association.

2.2.19. It represents Latvia in the international Islamic Culture Center "SULEYMANIYE" and in other organisations, and promotes the international relations of the Association and its members with Islamic cultural organisations.

2.2.20. It promotes and supports the integration of the Association and, more broadly, of the Islamic culture centre movement operating in Latvia into the international movement, including, but not limited to, the international Islamic Culture Center "SULEYMANIYE", and leads such integration.

2.3. The objective of the Association is also to selflessly support people who need physical, spiritual, emotional or economic help.

2.4. The Association seeks trustworthy cooperation with all Islamic organisations and communities in Latvia and Europe, provided that their objectives and activities do not conflict with criminal law, the constitutional order of the Republic of Latvia or the idea of international understanding, and provided that they do not call on their members to be disloyal to their country of origin (a breach of political neutrality). In addition, the Association maintains and promotes dialogue and cooperation with all other existing religious communities and other institutions in Latvia, Europe and the world.

2.5. In accordance with Article 2 of the Public Benefit Organisation Law, the Association also promotes public benefit organisations in the regions of the Republic of Latvia whose aims and understanding correspond to those of the Association, and supports them in general or in individual cases. For this purpose it organises, for example, further training for responsible persons. For this purpose, as well as for any other purpose that corresponds to the objectives and tasks of the Association, the Association may also carry out activities in accordance with Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Public Benefit Organisation Law.

2.6. The Association may establish branches in the regions of Latvia or cooperate with associations or religious organisations established in the regions of Latvia that correspond to the Association and the objectives it has defined.

2.7. To achieve its objectives, the Association is entitled:

2.7.1. To authorise its representatives to represent the interests of the Association and its members in state and local government institutions in order to achieve the objectives set by the Association.

2.7.2. To authorise its representatives to represent the interests of the Association and its members in private institutions of any type and form in order to achieve the objectives set by the Association.

2.7.3. To conclude contracts with legal and/or natural persons within the limits of the financial means of the Association.

2.7.4. To create financial funds and organise their use for the needs of the Association and the achievement of its objectives.

2.7.5. To receive donations, targeted grants or other forms of support payments for the Association and to use them, at the discretion of the Association, for the needs of the Association and the achievement of its objectives, except where the support referred to in this clause has been given to the Association on condition that it be used for a specific purpose.

2.7.5.1. The Association may also accept donations or other support in the form of material (non-monetary) or intellectual benefit.

2.7.5.2. The Association is entitled to refuse a donation or other support if:

2.7.5.2.1. it conflicts with the Articles of Association, the objectives and the nature of the Association;

2.7.5.2.2. there is reasonable suspicion that the donation or other support may have been obtained by criminal means;

2.7.5.2.3. such donation or other support, or the purpose of the person providing it, conflicts with the legal acts of the Republic of Latvia.

2.8. The Association exclusively and directly pursues public benefit and charitable objectives within the meaning of Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Public Benefit Organisation Law.

III. Members, admission to the Association, withdrawal and expulsion

3.1. The Association keeps a register of its members stating each member’s name, surname, personal identity code (if there is none, date of birth, number and date of issue of the identity document, and the country and institution that issued it) or, for a legal person, its name and registration number, address of residence (for a legal person, its name and address), e-mail address and telephone number. Information about the members of the Association is available only to the members of the Association and to supervisory and law enforcement institutions.

3.2. Any natural or legal person with capacity to act, or a partnership with legal capacity, may join the Association by submitting a written application in the prescribed form. The application form and the list of documents to be attached are determined by the Board of the Association. When submitting the written application in the prescribed form, the applicant must undertake to observe the principles set out in the Preamble of these Articles of Association, to further the realisation and achievement of the objectives of the Association, and to observe the Articles of Association.

3.3. The decision on admitting a member to the Association is taken by the Board. The Board must consider the applicant's request at its next meeting, but no later than within 15 days of receiving all the necessary documents. The applicant must be invited to the Board meeting at which the application is considered and must be given the floor to express their opinion. The applicant's failure to attend does not prevent the Board from taking a decision. The Board must notify the applicant of its decision in writing within 15 days of its adoption.

3.4. The applicant may appeal a negative decision of the Board in writing to the Supervisory Council of the Association. If the Supervisory Council also rejects the application, the applicant is not admitted as a member of the Association and may submit a new application no earlier than after two years have elapsed.

3.5. A member may withdraw from the Association at any time by notifying the Board in writing. The moment a member withdraws from the Association is the moment the Board of the Association is notified. If a member notifies the Board of their withdrawal through a postal service provider, the moment of withdrawal is deemed to be the moment of receipt of the item as set out in the Notification Law, or the moment of actual receipt of the postal item if this occurs earlier than set out in the Notification Law.

3.6. A member may be expelled from the Association by decision of the Board if:

3.6.1. the member has not paid the membership fee for more than six months;

3.6.2. the member does not comply with these Articles of Association or with the decisions of the General Meeting of members or of the Board;

3.6.3. the member does not fulfil their duties and the obligations they have undertaken;

3.6.4. the member has failed to attend the General Meeting of members three times in a row without a valid reason;

3.6.5. the member engages in activities that conflict with these Articles of Association or with the ethical principles of the Islamic world, or that may be regarded as unethical towards the Association or individual members, the Islamic world or society as a whole;

3.6.6. the member, being a natural person, has died, or, being a legal person, has ceased to exist;

3.6.7. a member may be expelled from the Association if there is good cause. A gross breach of the Articles of Association or causing substantial harm to the Association shall in any case be regarded as good cause.

3.7. A member may be expelled from the Association by decision of the General Meeting of members if more than half of the members of the Association vote in favour.

3.8. If a member withdraws or is expelled from the Association, they are not entitled to a refund of contributions made or to the return of material assets.

IV. Rights and duties of members

4.1. Members of the Association have the following rights:

4.1.1. To take part in the governance of the Association.

4.1.2. To receive information about the activities of the Association, including access to the minutes, decisions and orders of all bodies of the Association.

4.1.3. To take part in all events organised by the Association and to submit proposals on achieving the objectives and tasks of the Association, as well as on the activities of the Association and their improvement.

4.1.4. To defend their opinion.

4.2. Members of the Association have the following duties:

4.2.1. To observe the Articles of Association and to comply with the decisions of the General Meeting of members and of the Board.

4.2.1. To take part in the General Meetings of members and in their decision-making.

4.2.2. To pay the membership fee regularly.

4.2.3. To support the realisation of the objectives and tasks of the Association through their active participation.

4.2.4. Not to allow conduct that damages the reputation of the Association.

4.2.5. To handle the property and assets of the Association with care, and to bear material liability for their damage or loss if the property of the Association has been entrusted to the member's supervision or use.

4.3. Obligations may be imposed on a member by decision of the General Meeting of members or of the Board. Imposing obligations on a member that differ from those of other members requires the consent of that member.

V. Governing bodies of the Association

5.1. The governing bodies of the Association are:

5.1.1. the General Meeting of members of the Association;

5.1.2. the Board of the Association;

5.1.3. the Supervisory Council of the Association, which may be established by a corresponding decision of the members of the Association;

5.1.4. the Scholars' Council of the Association, which may be established by a corresponding decision of the members of the Association;

5.1.5. During any period in which the Supervisory Council and/or the Scholars' Council have not been established, their functions are performed by the Board of the Association; however, where the Supervisory Council is assigned the function of reviewing decisions of the Board, such review is carried out by the General Meeting of members by a simple majority of the votes of members present.

5.2. The General Meeting of members is the highest governing body of the Association. All members of the Association are entitled to take part in the General Meeting. A member may also take part in the General Meeting through a representative; the authorisation to attend and vote at the General Meeting must be issued in writing. General Meetings of members may be open or closed, as indicated by the Board in its notice convening the meeting. A General Meeting that has a quorum may decide by a simple majority of votes to hold an open meeting if the Board has announced a closed General Meeting.

5.3. Ordinary and extraordinary General Meetings of members are convened. The ordinary General Meeting is convened once a year. The Board convenes an extraordinary General Meeting without delay (without culpable hesitation) if at least one tenth of the members request it in writing, stating the reason.

5.4. The Board notifies members of the convening of a General Meeting and announces its agenda at least 14 days before the meeting, by sending a written invitation to the e-mail address provided by each member.

5.5. The General Meeting of members has a quorum if more than half of the members take part. The General Meeting is chaired by the Chair of the Board unless the members elect another chair of the meeting. Minutes are taken of the proceedings of the General Meeting. The minutes are signed by the chair of the meeting and the minute-taker.

5.6. A decision of the General Meeting is adopted if more than half of the members present vote in favour. A decision on amendments to the Articles of Association or on the expulsion of a member is adopted if more than half of all members of the Association vote in favour at the meeting, while a decision on the termination, continuation or reorganisation of the activities of the Association is adopted if more than three quarters of all members of the Association vote in favour at the meeting.

5.7. If the General Meeting of members is not entitled to take decisions under clause 5.5 of the Articles of Association, the Board shall, no later than five weeks later, convene a new General Meeting with the same agenda. The reconvened General Meeting is entitled to take decisions regardless of the number of members present, but only if at least two members take part.

5.8. Each member has one vote at the General Meeting. A member has no right to vote if the General Meeting decides on concluding a transaction with that member, or on bringing or ending a claim or case against that member.

5.9. The competence of the General Meeting of members includes:

5.9.1. amending the Articles of Association;

5.9.2. electing and dismissing the Board and the auditor;

5.9.3. electing and dismissing the Supervisory Council;

5.9.4. electing and dismissing the Scholars' Council;

5.9.5. deciding on the termination, continuation or reorganisation of the activities of the Association;

5.9.6. expelling a member from the Association;

5.9.7. The General Meeting may also take decisions that fall within the competence of the Board and of other bodies provided for in the Articles of Association.

5.10. The executive body of the Association is the Board, which manages and represents the Association and administers and conducts its affairs.

5.11. The Board of the Association consists of three Board members elected by the General Meeting of members. Board members are entitled to remuneration for the performance of their duties and are entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred in the course of performing their duties.

5.12. The Board members elect a Chair of the Board from among themselves. The Chair of the Board represents the Association together with at least one Board member; Board members represent the Association together with another Board member. At the first Board meeting, the elected Board members divide among themselves the tasks and areas of activity for which each Board member will be responsible, and record this in writing in the minutes of the Board meeting.

5.13. A Board member may at any time notify the Association of their resignation from the position of Board member.

5.14. The election of a Board member or the termination of their powers must be submitted for entry in the register, attaching to the application an extract from the minutes of the General Meeting or of another body specified in the Articles of Association with the decision on the election of the Board member, together with the written con-

sent of the Board member to serve as a Board member, or on their dismissal.

5.15. The Board has a quorum if more than half of the elected Board members take part in its meeting; the Board takes decisions by a simple majority of the votes of the Board members present, and in the event of a tie the Chair of the Board has the casting vote.

5.16. The Board may take decisions without convening a meeting if more than half of the elected Board members vote in writing in favour of the decision.

5.17. The Board has the following competence:

5.17.1. The Board manages the property of the Association and disposes of its funds in accordance with the law, the Articles of Association and the decisions of the General Meeting or other bodies.

5.17.2. It organises the accounting of the Association.

5.17.3. It organises the convening of General Meetings of members and the implementation of decisions adopted at General Meetings.

5.17.4. It submits an annual report to the General Meeting of members on the results of the activities of the Association.

5.17.5. It approves the regulations of the territorial and other structural units of the Association.

5.17.6. Within the competence of the Association, it resolves disputes between members of the Association.

5.17.7. It decides on the admission of members to the Association.

5.17.8. It determines the amount of the membership fee and of the admission fee.

5.17.9. It decides on the approval of the annual report of the Association.

5.17.10. The Board is entitled to reallocate items of the Association's budget if this is necessary for the benefit of the Association.

5.17.11. The Board is entitled to draw up its rules of procedure, which must be approved by the General Meeting of members.

5.17.12. Convening the General Meeting of members is within the competence of the Board.

5.17.13. The Board is entitled to decide on all matters that are not exclusively within the competence of the General Meeting of members.

5.18. The Association may establish a Supervisory Council, which develops the strategy of the Association, defines its priority areas of activity, considers complaints from members and membership candidates about decisions or actions of the Board, and, where necessary, reviews the activities and finances of the Board, reporting the results to the Board and to the General Meeting of members when it is convened.

5.19. If a Supervisory Council of the Association is established, it consists of three council members elected by the General Meeting of members. Members of the Supervisory Council perform their duties without remuneration, but a member of the Supervisory Council is entitled to reimbursement of justified expenses incurred in the course of performing their duties. Decisions of the Supervisory Council adopted by a simple majority of the votes of its members are binding on the Board of the Association.

5.20. If a Scholars' Council of the Association is established, it consists of three council members elected by the General Meeting of members. Members of the Scholars' Council perform their duties without remuneration, but a member of the Scholars' Council is entitled to reimbursement of justified expenses incurred in the course of performing their duties. Decisions of the Scholars' Council adopted by a simple majority of the votes of its members are binding on all members of the Islamic cultural community.

5.21. The procedure for establishing and operating the Scholars' Council is determined by rules issued by the Board of the Association, which must be approved by the General Meeting of members.

5.22. The Scholars' Council of the Association:

5.22.1. considers questions concerning individual members of the Association, Muslim communities operating in Latvia or relations between community associations that affect the content of Islamic culture, and takes decisions on them that are binding on the community, if the community has entrusted the resolution of such questions to the Scholars' Council;

5.22.2. issues and revokes licences for the right to teach in schools established or supervised by the Association, and adopts guidelines for teaching in such schools, in compliance with the legal framework of the Republic of Latvia;

5.22.3. appoints directors and teachers of Islamic theology schools established or supervised by the Association, and adopts guidelines for teaching in such schools, in compliance with the legal framework of the Republic of Latvia;

5.22.4. The Scholars' Council has the right to revoke licences issued to imams for the right to teach in the aforementioned schools if they preach contrary to the principles set out in the Preamble of the Articles of Association.

5.23. The Association may have its own territorial and other organisationally independent structural units. Structural units of the Association are not legal persons. The activities, rights and duties of the structural units of the Association, as well as their relations with the Association, are governed by the regulations of the structural unit approved by the Board of the Association.

5.24. Where necessary, the Board of the Association may set up committees to deal with specific matters, determining their task, area of work, duration and number of members. The General Meeting may, contrary to a decision of the Board, dissolve a committee by a decision adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes of the members of the Association present at the meeting.

VI. Honorary members of the Association

6.1. On the proposal of the Board of the Association, the General Meeting of members may appoint as honorary members of the Association individual respected persons who, through their contribution, have significantly furthered the achievement of the objectives of the Association and the preservation of Islamic culture, including the life of faith and religion.

6.2. Members of the Association, as well as Muslims who have not previously been members of the Association, may be chosen as honorary members.

6.3. Honorary members of the Association are exempt from the obligation to pay the membership fee.

VII. Auditor

7.1. Control of the financial and economic activities of the Association is carried out by an auditor elected for three years by the General Meeting of members. The auditor of the Association may not be a member of the Board of the Association.

7.2. The auditor is entitled to receive from the executive bodies of the Association all documents and materials necessary for their work. The auditor reports their findings to the Board of the Association and, if necessary, to the General Meeting of members. The auditor is entitled to attend Board meetings in an advisory capacity without voting rights.

7.3. The auditor has the following competence:

7.3.1. to audit the property and financial resources of the Association;

7.3.2. to give opinions on the budget and the annual report of the Association;

7.3.3. to evaluate the accounting and record-keeping of the Association;

7.3.4. to make recommendations on improving the financial and economic activities of the Association;

7.3.5. to carry out audits within the time limits set by the General Meeting of members, but no less than once a year.

7.4. The General Meeting of members approves the annual report of the Association only after receiving the opinion of the auditor.

VIII. Economic activity and finances

8.1. Members of the Association pay the membership fee in the amount and according to the procedure determined by the Board of the Association.

8.2. The Association has its own funds and material assets; it may own movable and immovable property. Decisions on the acquisition and disposal of immovable property are taken by the Board of the Association.

8.3. The budget of the Association consists of:

8.3.1. admission fees and regular membership fees;

8.3.2. income from events organised by the Association;

8.3.3. income from the cultural, faith-promoting and educational activities of the Association;

8.3.4. income from the sale and/or rental of the inventory, insignia, licences and donated materials of the Association;

8.3.5. grants, subsidies, support payments and/or donations from the state, local governments, non-governmental organisations, companies and natural persons;

8.3.6. remuneration for services provided and any other lawfully received income.

IX. Liquidation of the Association

9.1. Only the General Meeting of members may decide to terminate (liquidate) the activities of the Association; such a decision is adopted if more than three quarters of all members of the Association vote in favour.

9.2. If the Association is liquidated, its funds and property are transferred to one or more legal persons governed by public law chosen by the Board of the Association, or to another public benefit organisation, which is obliged to use the transferred property and/or funds for the development and promotion of Islamic culture.

X. Communication with members

10.1. In addition to its registered legal address, the Association has an e-mail address of the Association, which is regarded as the official means of communication between the Association and its members.

10.1.1. By decision of the Board, the e-mail address of a Board member may be designated as the e-mail address of the Association.

10.2. All notices sent to members of the Association, including notices on convening the General Meeting and announcing its agenda, are sent to the e-mail addresses provided by the members.

10.3. A member of the Association is obliged to inform the Board of the e-mail address at which they can be reached. If their e-mail address changes, the member is obliged to notify the Board within five days of the change and to provide the Board with their current e-mail address.

These Articles of Association were adopted by decision of the members of the Association in Riga on 15 June 2023.

Founders of the Association: Kemal Gunduz, Mustafa Suleimanov, Abdula Chakhalov.