

## SUMMARY OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION FOR SAMITA

### **Paragraph 1: Name, registered address**

#### Article 1.

The association is called SAMITA\*.

#### Article 2.

The registered address of the association is: Engreux 49G, Mabompré 6663, Belgium in the jurisdiction of Neufchâteau.

### Paragraph 2: Aim

#### Article 3.

The aim of SAMITA: To establish and maintain Buddhist monastery- (ies) in the Theravada tradition in Europe for both monks and nuns.

This will give the opportunity for Buddhists to dedicate themselves to the study and practice of the Buddha's teaching in seclusion, in order to have a beneficial effect for themselves and all beings, with a loving peaceful attitude. It will be a place where ordained and non-ordained can dedicate themselves to meditation, study and practice as well as where they can discuss the Buddhist teachings, so they can pass on the teachings to others.

It is our vision to offer all people the opportunity to study and practice the teachings on the Buddha through the provision of teachings by qualified (monastic) teachers and to establish and maintain suitable facilities for monastic and lay people who wish to study and practice the teachings of the Buddha with a special emphasis on the teachings and practices found in the early Suttas and Vinaya. We aim to provide a full structure for monastic and lay people to practice as Buddhists, which will benefit society at large.

The monastery will be open to Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike and offer instructions in mindfulness and meditation that promote stress relief and overall mental and physical well-being, as well as harmonious and peaceful relations between individuals and within the wider society. It will also serve as a meeting point between Asian traditional Buddhism and western culture.

It aims at providing equal opportunities for women to live a monastic life as fully ordained nuns.

The aim is to be achieved through the following activities:

1. Organise meditation retreats, Dhamma talks etc. by monastic or other qualified teachers.
2. Do fundraising to purchase land and suitable dwellings.
3. To give material support and maintenance to the monastery in Engreux, (or other monasteries if so decided by the Board) and provide the resident ordained Sangha with the 4 requisites, on the basis of donations, (dana).
4. Making the Buddha's teaching about ethics and communal harmony available to the public through a resident ordained community that can be approached for spiritual guidance.

The Association may perform all acts indirectly or directly related to its object. In particular, it may assist and take an interest in any activity similar to its purpose.

### **Article 3.1 Relationship between the ASBL and the Resident Sangha**

**3.1.1** Resident Sangha are those monastic who have been invited by the already resident Sangha, and who have stayed at the monastery for at least 2 weeks. If there are no resident monastic present or if those present for some reason are unable, the Board can invite monastic to form a resident Sangha in consultation with the Spiritual Advisor.

**3.1.2** The monastery (or monasteries) will be run on the basis of the Vinaya (the code of discipline for Buddhist Monks and Nuns) and be subject to the guidelines and limitations as laid out in the Vinaya Pitaka of the Pali Canon under the sections dealing with Sangha property. The monastery (monasteries) will be under the control of the resident Sangha in all aspects.

**3.1.3** A Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up between the ASBL and each individual monastery.

#### Paragraph 3: Members

##### Articles 4-11

There are 2 categories of members:

1<sup>o</sup> "Active" or "Actual" members.

2<sup>o</sup> (In case it is necessary) Associate members.

Only active members have full membership rights.

All founding members are automatically active members. Associate members can become active members if they are accepted by the present active members in consensus decision (absolute majority).

Anyone who wants to become an associated member must apply in writing to the Board who at their discretion approve the application.

People can apply to become Associate members if they are willing to help the association, participate in their activities and agree to accept the articles of association and respect decisions taken according to the statutes.

#### Paragraph 4: Membership fees

##### Article 12

The members do not pay any fee. They are supporting the association through their best capacities and devotion.

#### Paragraph 5: General Assembly

##### Article 13-22

The highest, sovereign body of the association is the General Assembly. The president of the Board heads the General Assembly, in his/her absence by the vice-president or by the oldest member present from the Administration.

The General Assembly decides on the following matters:

- Amendments of the articles of association
- Nomination and dismissal of the administrators
- In the event of having nominated and dismissed officers to do specific tasks against payment; this payment is now due.
- To dismiss the administrators
- Approval of the budget and the accounts
- Voluntarily dissolution of the association
- Expelling of members
- Changing the association to a charitable association.

The General Assembly must be held once a year in January. The Board may at any time convene an extraordinary general assembly. 1/5 of the active members can call for an extraordinary general assembly.

The Board convenes the General Assembly in writing/electronic mail to its members, stating time, place, and the agenda for the meeting. Subjects proposed by 1/5 of the active members must be on the agenda.

Both active and associate members are invited to the General Assembly.

The active and associate members may give proxy to another member, but no member can represent more than 1 proxy.

Only active members have the right to vote at the General Assembly, each having one vote. Associate members have no voting right, but have a consultative voice at the General Assembly.

All the decisions must be by absolute majority, unless otherwise decided in law or in the articles of association.

The minutes are signed by the president and one administrator and kept at the address of the association.

## Paragraph 6 Administration

### Article 23-33

The association is administered by a Board consisting of at least 3 active members.

However, the number of administrators shall always be less than the number of active members at the General Assembly.

The administrators are elected for one year at the General Assembly, and can also be dismissed at any time by the same.

If the General Assembly has not renewed the Board by the end its mandate, the administrators continue to execute their function until such time the General Assembly takes the decision.

If a vacancy should occur, a new administrator may be temporarily accepted by the General Assembly. He or she will fulfil the mandate of the administrator that was replaced.

The Board elects the President, and if needed, a vice-president, a treasurer and a secretary.

The Board has the power/authorisation to run all the business of the association. The only exception is that which is stipulated in the law or in the Articles of Association.

The Board can delegate the daily business of the association to one or more administrators with signature rights for the tasks they have been delegated. The Board decides if necessary the scope of work and salary.

If the daily business is run by several people, they must act jointly.

Every act that commits the association, beyond the daily business must be signed, either by the President, or by 2 administrators who act jointly on behalf of the Board.

The administrators and people who have been delegated daily functions of the association do not have any personal obligation. They are responsible only for the execution of their mandate. In principle this is done free of charge.

## Paragraph 7 Changes in by-laws

### Article 34

Changes in the by-laws can be presented by the Board to the General Assembly. The changes have to be carried by an absolute majority at the General Assembly

## Paragraph 8 Miscellaneous

### Article 35-40

The association started on 21. March 2015 and will end its first year on 31. December 2015. The association will thereafter be run from 1. January to 31. December

The accounts and the budget will be presented and approved annually at the General Assembly.

The General Assembly may elect an auditor to verify the accounts and deliver his/her annual report to the General Assembly.

In case of dissolution of the association, voluntarily or by a legal act the General Assembly will hand over the administration to the liquidators, requesting that any net profit be given to a charity.

Whatever that is not explicitly pronounced in the articles of association is regulated by the law of 27. June 1921 applicable to a non-profit association.

At the first General Assembly held on 21. March 2015 the following officers were elected:

President: Buysse, Danny  
Treasurer: Buysse, Danny  
Secretary: de Jonge, Margaretha Agatha  
Active member: Backes, Maria

At the General Assembly held in February 2019, the following officers were elected:

President: Walsh, Blake Mahon  
Treasurer: Buysse, Danny  
Secretary: Schertenleib, Kathrin Jelena

\*Samita has the following meanings in Pali language:

1. GATHERED, ASSEMBLED - the association has assembled as a group and aim for the gathering of Sangha in Europe in the Theravadan tradition of Ajahn Brahm, Abbott of Bodhinyana Monastery, Perth, Australia.
2. EQUAL, the association aims for equality between monks and nuns, men and women lay supporters, the fourfold Sangha.
3. QUIET, APPEASED, the quieting of the mind through meditation.

This is a summary in English of Samita`s Articles of Association. The summary is not in any way legally binding for Samita.