

## Chapter I - General Provisions

### Article 1: Name

Under the name ERFI "Empowered Rural Families International", a non-profit association is established, governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.

### Article 2: Headquarters and Duration

The headquarters of the Association is in Geneva. Its duration is unlimited.

### Article 3: Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the association is to promote access to quality education and healthcare.

Special attention will be given to enabling rural children to complete secondary education by combating school dropout rates and ensuring the swift care of expectant mothers in the same environment. The objective is to implement concrete actions that help students continue and succeed in their education after primary school and support expectant mothers in welcoming their babies under optimal conditions.

### Article 4: Activities

The association may operate in any country where its activities contribute to improving students' educational conditions and healthcare support for expectant mothers.

## Chapter II - Organization

### Article 5: Structure

The organs of the Association are:

1. The General Assembly.
2. The Committee.

### 3. The Auditing Body.

#### Article 6: General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of all individuals who adhere to the association's objectives and have paid their annual membership fee. The association's paid staff may attend the General Assembly but cannot hold any position or voting rights.

#### Article 7: Role

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the association. It:

- Makes decisions regarding the objectives and means of action of the association.
- Elects the members of the Committee and the auditing body.
- Sets the annual membership fee and adopts the budget.
- Approves the accounts and the management report.
- Adopts and amends the statutes.
- Decides on the dissolution of the association.

#### Article 8: Meetings and Requests

The ordinary General Assembly takes place once a year and is chaired by the Committee's president. Invitations are sent in writing at least one month before the scheduled date, set by the Committee. Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened by the Committee's president or upon a written request by half of the members, and must be held within 30 days.

#### Article 9: Voting and Elections

Unless otherwise specified in the statutes, decisions are made by a simple majority of present members, each having one vote. In case of a tie, the president has the deciding vote. Voting is conducted by a show of hands unless at least 1/5 of members request a secret ballot. Proxy voting is allowed, with each member holding a maximum of two proxies. Decisions made in the General

Assembly are recorded in minutes signed by the president and secretary and sent to all members.

#### Article 10: The Committee

The Committee consists of 3 to 8 members, including the president, vice-president, and treasurer. Members are elected by the General Assembly for a five-year renewable term by secret ballot. At least half of the Committee, including the president, must be founding members. If no founding members are available, the General Assembly selects from ordinary members. The first Committee is appointed by the extraordinary General Assembly of founding members. The founder of the association is the first president. The Committee meets as needed, at least once a year in person. Other meetings may be held using appropriate communication means.

#### Article 11: Responsibilities

The Committee takes all necessary measures, initiatives, and decisions to achieve the association's objectives, subject to the General Assembly's authority. It represents the Association to third parties. The signature of two Committee members binds the Association. It is responsible for:

- Ensuring the application of the statutes.
- Convening the General Assembly.
- Deciding on member admissions and exclusions.
- Preparing the annual financial report and activity report by December 31.
- Presenting the budget and activity plan for the next year.
- Managing the Association's assets.
- Appointing and dismissing the Executive Director, who is subordinate to the Committee.

#### Article 12: Liability

Apart from paying the annual membership fee, Committee members bear no personal liability for the association's obligations, which are guaranteed only by the association's assets.

### Article 13: Auditing Body

The financial statements are audited by an independent fiduciary body, appointed by the General Assembly.

## Chapter III - Membership

### Article 14: Founding Members

A founding member is any individual who expressed their intention to join the association within 12 months of the statutes' adoption and paid their annual fee. After this period, the title may be granted by the General Assembly to an ordinary member demonstrating exceptional commitment.

### Article 15: Ordinary Members

An ordinary member is any individual who expresses the desire to join the association after the initial 12-month period and has paid the annual fee.

### Article 16: Liability

Members are not personally liable for the association's obligations, which are guaranteed only by the association's assets.

### Article 17: Resignation and Exclusion

Resignation must be submitted in writing to the Committee. Resigning members continue to pay their membership fees for the current year. The Committee may exclude members for valid reasons, informing the General Assembly. Excluded members can appeal to the General Assembly. Resigning or excluded members forfeit any rights to the association's assets.

## Chapter IV - Finances

## Article 18: Resources

The association's resources include:

- Grants, donations, or bequests.
- Annual membership fees set by the General Assembly.
- Contributions from international cooperation agencies.
- Proceeds from events or sales.

## Chapter V - Final Provisions

### Article 19: Amendment of Statutes

Statute amendments require a two-thirds majority vote at a General Assembly, provided the proposal is on the agenda.

### Article 20: Dissolution

Dissolution may only be decided by the Committee or half of the voting members at an Extraordinary General Assembly. A two-thirds majority vote is required. Upon dissolution, the General Assembly appoints one or more liquidators to settle liabilities and distribute any remaining assets to institutions with similar objectives. In no case shall the association's assets benefit its members for personal use.

### Article 21: Ratification

These statutes were adopted by the Constituent General Assembly on October 9, 2021, and take immediate effect.

Location and Date: Geneva, October 9, 2021

For the Association:

President: Marie Agnès Sarr Ischi

Vice-President: Mamadou Demba Ndour