

# STATUTE OF THE KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK

## I. BASIC PROVISIONS

### Article 1

This statute defines the rules of organization, functioning and activity of the association "**Kosovo Women's Network**", whose official abbreviation is: "**KWN**".

### Article 2

The provisions of this statute are implemented by the Assembly of Members (hereinafter referred to as: the Assembly) of the association and all persons engaged in and around the activities of the **Kosovo Women's Network**.

### Article 3

1. This Statute is the main document of the **Kosovo Women's Network**.
2. **The Kosovo Women's Network** was founded in accordance with Law No. 03/L-134, and was further amended in accordance with Law No. 04/L-57. It is now harmonized and operates in accordance with Law No. 06/L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations (hereinafter referred to as: the Law), this Statute and the legislation in force.
3. All official documents of the association, including regulations, procedures, manuals and development policies, are in accordance with this Statute and the legislation in force.

### Article 4

#### **Form of organization**

The **Kosovo Women's Network** is a non-profit organization, which in accordance with the definition given in Article 16 and Article 19.1 (1.1) of Law No. 06/L-043 on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organizations (hereinafter referred to as: the Law), has the form of organization as an Association.

**Article 5**  
**Non-profit principle**

1. The Association does not distribute income or profits to any person.
2. The assets, income and profits of the association are used to support its non-profit purposes.
3. The assets, income and profits of the association are not used to bring direct or indirect benefits to any founder, director, official, member of the Assembly, employee or donor of the association, except for payments to employed persons who perform work for the association.
4. The Association may engage in economic activities in order to support its non-profit activities, in accordance with Article 35 of the Law, provided that the income generated through economic activities is used exclusively to achieve the objectives stated in this Statute.

**Article 6**  
**Conflict of interest and duty of loyalty**

5. No member of the governing body is allowed to participate in discussions or decision-making on issues where he has a direct or indirect private interest, personal or financial, which affect, may affect or appear to affect the legality, transparency, objectivity and impartiality of his exercise of function.
6. Any transaction between the NGO and members, employees, board members or related organizations is carried out at market value or under the most favorable conditions for the NGO.
7. All members and other employees of an NGO are obliged to show loyalty to the NGO, to protect the confidentiality of non-public information and the interests of the NGO, as well as to perform their duties and responsibilities with good faith and care.

**Article 7**  
**Financial transactions of the Association**

All income and expenses of the association are carried out through financial institutions licensed by the CBK in bank accounts opened in the name of the association, except for cases allowed by the legislation in force.

## **Article 8**

### **Prohibition of fundraising, campaigns and support for candidates and political parties**

The organization cannot engage in fundraising or campaigns to support political parties or candidates for political functions, nor can it propose, register candidates for political positions.

## **II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 9**

#### **Purpose of the Association**

1. The Association was founded with the aim of:

The purpose of KWN is to support, protect and promote the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Kosovo, regardless of their political, religious, ethnic affiliation, age, level of education, sexual orientation and ability. KWN realizes this goal through the exchange of experience and information, partnerships and networking, research, advocacy and services. In more detail, the long-term goals of KWN are:

- Improving gender equality through the rule of law;
- Improving the response to gender-based violence, towards its reduction;
- Women and men have more equal economic opportunities at home and in the public sphere;
- Improving access to quality education that challenges existing gender norms and power relations;
- To strengthen the existing feminist movement in Kosovo, the region and beyond;
- Improving the extent to which gender, including the different needs and interests of different women and men, is reflected in environmental policies and urban planning.

### **Article 10**

#### **Scope of the Association**

1. The Association, for the realization of legitimate purposes for public benefit, has these scopes:

- 1.1. Gender equality;
- 1.2. Human Rights;
- 1.3. Research and Analysis;
- 1.4. Advocacy and Lobbying;
- 1.5. Environmental Protection.

### **III. INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 11 Leading Structures**

1. The leading structures of the Association are:
  - 1.1. The Assembly of Members (hereinafter referred to as: the Assembly) and
  - 1.2. The Executive Board.

#### **Article 12 Assembly**

1. The Assembly is the highest governing body of the association, which is composed of all members of the Association.
2. The Assembly has the ultimate responsibility for the policy and financial matters of the association. In this context, the Assembly has the power to elect and dismiss the members of the *Executive Board*, to approve the annual financial and work reports, to interpret and amend the Statute, as well as to decide on the merger, division or dissolution of the Association. These responsibilities cannot be delegated to the *Executive Board*.
3. The Assembly, by decision of the majority of its members, may delegate any of its responsibilities to the Executive Board, with the exception of the responsibilities which are not delegated according to Article 31 of the Law and paragraph 2 of this article. The Assembly has decided to delegate specific responsibilities to the *Executive Board*, as defined in the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members (see Article 16).

#### **Article 13 Membership in the Association**

1. The conditions of membership in the association are:
  - 1.1. to accept the Statute of the organization;
  - 1.2. to be committed to fulfilling the objectives of the organization;

1.3. to complete and submit the application for membership in KWN;

1.4. as part of the application, to commit to the implementation of the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members (which defines all the rules and the process of membership, verification of membership, submission of complaints, etc.).

2. Membership in the association is open to any person who meets the conditions set out in paragraph 1 of this article, regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, connection with any community, property, economic, social status, sexual orientation, birth, disability or any other personal status.

The Assembly of Members has decided on the payment of membership fees by members, including all the rules set out in the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members.

4. Membership in the association ends when the member:

4.1. no longer fulfills the conditions set out in paragraph 1 of this article;

4.2. resigns;

4.3. is convicted by a final court decision for a criminal offense;

4.4. is expelled from the association by a decision of the Assembly of Members;

4.5. dies;

4.6. does not comply with the rules set out in the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members.

5. The membership of any member may also be suspended by the decision of the Executive Board in case of non-compliance with the statute of the association. In case of suspension, the duration of the suspension is determined in accordance with the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members, approved by the Assembly.
6. The termination or suspension of membership by the Executive Board is decided by a majority of the members present. This responsibility has been delegated to the Executive Board, as an intermediate body, as defined in the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members, approved by the Assembly.

**Article 14**  
**Duties and Responsibilities of the Assembly**

1. The Assembly oversees the entire work of the Association and has full responsibility for the development and financial policy issues of the Association.
2. The Assembly meets at least once (1) a year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where it reviews and approves the financial and operational report of the Association for the previous year, as well as the activity and work plan for the following year. The Assembly of Members meets at regular membership meetings, as determined by the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members.
3. The Assembly may also meet at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) when requested by half of the members or the intermediate body. The request for convening an extraordinary general meeting is submitted to the Chairperson of the Assembly of Members, who informs all members about the meeting, in accordance with the procedures established by the internal Rules of Procedure of the Association. The presence of 50% + 1 members is necessary for holding the AGM and/or EGM. If the quorum is not reached at the first attempt, the meeting is postponed to a later date, and a new notice is sent to all members. Each member of the organization has one vote in the Assembly of Members. Decisions in the Assembly of Members are made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members.
  
4. In addition, the Assembly has the following competencies:
  - 4.1. determines and oversees the lawful fulfillment of the Association's objectives;
  - 4.2. elects and dismisses the intermediate body of the Association;
  - 4.3. elects and dismisses the authorized representative of the Association;
  - 4.4. adopts the Association's action strategy, as well as other important strategic documents of the Association;
  - 4.5. approves the annual financial and work reports, when requested by the Assembly or submitted by other bodies of the Association;
  - 4.6. decides on the merger, division or dissolution of the Association.
  
5. In addition to the statutory powers of the Assembly of Members, it also has the following responsibilities:
  - 5.1 Complies with and fulfills the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members, in accordance with its fundamental principles;

- 5.2 Participates in KWN membership meetings;
- 5.3 Pays the annual membership fee;
- 5.4 Actively supports the planning of the KWN Strategy, which is developed every four years for the joint realization of set goals;
- 5.5 Supports KWN's fundraising efforts;
- 5.6 Contributes through annual assessments;
- 5.7 Decides on other important issues related to the work and functioning of KWN, which are not within the competence of other KWN bodies.

### **Article 15** **Executive Board**

- 1. The Association shall appoint in writing an authorized representative, who is a resident of the Republic of Kosovo, in accordance with Article 23 of the Law.
- 2. The authorized representative of the Association is elected for an indefinite period.
- 3. The authorized representative of the Association has the following competencies:
  - 3.1. Represents the Association before the competent authorities;
  - 3.2. Receives all official documents in the name of the Association;
  - 3.3. Is responsible for notifying the competent administrative bodies of all changes in the Association;
  - 3.4. Is responsible for opening and managing the bank account of the Association;
  - 3.5. Reports to the body that appointed him/her.
- 4. The authorized representative may be dismissed by the Assembly by a majority of votes (50+1%) in case of serious breach of his/her work duties.

## **Article 16**

### **Intermediate Body**

1. Based on the responsibilities established by this Statute, the intermediate governing body – the **Executive Board** – always acts in accordance with the organization's objectives.
2. The intermediate body – the **Executive Board** – has the following competencies:
  - At the request of the authorized representative, it may represent KWN in relations with third parties and act on its behalf;
  - Is responsible for ensuring that all KWN activities are carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Kosovo;
  - Assists the executive director in securing funds for KWN activities;
  - Receives quarterly plans and reports on the work of KWN;
  - Prepares KWN Assembly sessions;
  - Prepares proposals for amendments and supplements to the Statute, which it submits to the Assembly for adoption;
  - Adopts other KWN acts, which it submits to the Assembly for adoption as needed;
  - May propose the authorized representative of KWN;
  - Considers and approves the admission of members to KWN, in accordance with the responsibilities prescribed by the Regulation and Code of Conduct of the Assembly of Members;
  - Proposes cooperation and networking with other associations and institutions;
  - Is responsible for informing members and the public about the work and activities of KWN;
  - Performs other tasks in accordance with the orders and guidelines of the KWN Assembly.
3. The intermediate body – the **Executive Board** – is elected by the Association's Assembly. Members are elected individually by a majority vote of the members present. The election method and rules of procedure for **Executive Board** members may be regulated by a separate Regulation on the Work of the **Executive Board**, which is adopted by the Assembly of Members by a majority vote.
4. The intermediate body – the **Executive Board** – has at least 3 (three) members, one of whom must be elected as chairperson.
5. The term of office of the members of the Intermediate body – the **Executive Board** – lasts for two (2) years, with the possibility of re-election for one more consecutive term. At least one (1) year must pass for re-candidacy. The **Executive Board** cannot have two (2) representatives from the same organization due to conflicts of interest.
6. Members of the Intermediate body – the **Executive Board** – may be dismissed before the expiration of their term by a majority vote of the Association's Assembly.
7. The mandate of a member of the Intermediate body ends in the event of:



7.1. death,

7.2. resignation

7.3. a final conviction for a criminal offense and

7.4. dismissal by the Assembly of Members.

8. In the event of premature termination of the mandate of a member of the Interim body of the **Executive Board**, the Association's Assembly elects a successor to serve a new term.

9. Decisions of the Interim body of the **Executive Board** are made by a majority vote of the members of the Assembly present. Voting on important issues must be in writing. The **Executive Board** has a deadline of 48 hours to declare itself. In case of silence, the organization's officials consider silence as approval. A written statement may be submitted later, considering exceptional circumstances (such as illness, travel, accident, etc.).

10. The Interim body of the **Executive Board** may decide to address the Assembly of Members for a decision on any issue.

11. No payment or compensation may be made to members of the Interim body of the **Executive Board** without the approval of the Assembly of Members and only when the payment or compensation is justified and made for work performed for the organization.

12. No member of the Interim body of the **Executive Board** is allowed to participate in discussions or decision-making on issues in which he/she has a direct or indirect economic interest. A member of the Interim body of the **Executive Board** is considered to have an economic interest if he/she or any member of his/her family has a direct or indirect economic interest.

## **Article 17**

### **Dispute Resolution**

Any dispute arising between members of the Association, or between members and the Association, will be resolved amicably. If an amicable resolution is not possible, the matter will be resolved by the competent court.

## **Article 18**

### **Reporting Periods and Financial Year**

1. The intermediate body, the Executive Board, and the responsible officials submit annual reports to the Assembly of Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or whenever requested at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
2. The financial year of the organization coincides with the calendar year.

## **VI. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 19 Rules of Procedure**

The Association's Assembly, in accordance with this Statute and relevant applicable legislation, adopts the rules of procedure governing the manner of decision-making and the operation of the Assembly.

### **Article 20 Dissolution**

1. The Association may be dissolved by a decision of two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the Assembly.
2. In the event of a decision to dissolve the Association, the Assembly shall designate the NGO or NGOs registered in the Republic of Kosovo that will receive the remaining property and assets after the Association's debts have been paid. The selected NGOs must have the same or similar purpose as the Association.

### **Article 21 Entry into Force**

1. This Statute may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members of the Association's Assembly.
2. This Statute enters into force on the day of its approval by the Assembly of Members.

This Statute was approved in:                      Pristina on: 9 November 2024

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Authorized Representative)

Igballe Rogova

Executive Director