

STATUTES OF THE DANISH RED CROSS

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CHAPTER 1 – GENEREL TERMS

Article 1 - Foundation, recognition and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

1. The Danish Red Cross, established on April 27, 1876, received the formal recognition of the Danish Government on June 26, 1876.
2. The Danish Red Cross, recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross as the National Red Cross Society of Denmark, grants financial support to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and conducts its work in compliance with the Statutes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
3. As part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,
 - The Danish Red Cross carries out its work in accordance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The principles are: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.
 - The Danish Red Cross contributes to ensure respect and to the dissemination of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law.
4. The Danish Red Cross uses the Red Cross emblem as a symbol in accordance with existent law, rules and regulations rules

Article 2 – Objective and core activities

The Danish Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering and discrimination through:

- Social work and asylum and refugee assistance
- International disaster management and development work
- First aid and preparedness
- Communication and advocacy

and raises the necessary funding to be able do so.

Article 3 – Organization, membership and voluntary service

1. The Danish Red Cross consists of:
 - Branches and District Municipalities.
 - The Faroese Red Cross.
 - The Greenland Red Cross
 - The Danish Red Cross Youth
 - The General Assembly, the Governing Board, the President and the National Headquarters.
2. Anybody who can associate with the Red Cross Principles may become a Red Cross volunteer and member of the Danish Red Cross.

3. A candidate to any elected position within the Danish Red Cross must be a member of the Danish Red Cross. Any position as elected members of the Governing Board, the Branch boards, boards of district municipalities, committees, working groups, activity groups etc. is unpaid.
4. The General Assembly stipulates the capacity regulation of the Danish Red Cross, based on the public administration law of Denmark.

Article 4 – Distinctions

The General Assembly may appoint a volunteer to the rank of honorary member of the Danish Red Cross. Other distinctions shall be awarded according to regulations laid down by the Governing Board.

Article 5 – Co-operation with public authorities and others

1. The Danish Red Cross shall carry out its work in co-operation with public authorities, other organisations, other associations or companies on the condition that the co-operation respects the Red Cross Principles and promotes the mission and core activities of the Red Cross.
2. The Danish Red Cross cannot give financial support to objectives outside of the Red Cross.
3. In all institutions run by the Danish Red Cross (adult education associations, self-governing institutions etc.) it shall be certified that it is done in accordance with the Red Cross Principles.

CHAPTER 2- BRANCHES AND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

Article 6 – The status of the Branch

As stipulated in article 3, a Branch is a part of the Danish Red Cross, and articles 7-17 apply to all Branches.

Article 7 – Branch area and District Municipalities

1. The Branches cover a geographical area, with the modification stipulated in article 8, section 2.
2. The Branches may decide to merge with other Branches. The decision to merge is made by the General Assembly of the Branches and for its adoption, a simple majority is required among the participating members. Mergers come into force at the beginning of a new financial year.

Mergers across municipality boundaries can only come into effect if approved by the Governing Board.

The first ordinary General Assembly of the new Branch, cf. article 10, section 1, shall be held before the end of October one year prior to the merge. Audited annual accounts for the last year of the old Branches shall be drawn up by the outgoing boards and turned over to the new board, which shall be responsible for forwarding the annual accounts to the Governing Board.

Within a period of two years, merged Branches can decide that the new Branch may be separated as a consequence of a decision taken by members domiciled in the area of the original Branches. In the event of a separation, the new Branch's net assets as of the date of separation shall be allotted to the Branches in question, equivalent to the share, which the Branches brought into the merged Branch.

Branches may separate with the approval of the Governing Board. New Branches may be established with the approval of the Governing Board.

In municipalities with two or more Branches, these Branches constitute a District Municipality. The Branches may transfer their activities to the District Municipality, which may be financed through contributions from participating Branches.

Article 8 – The Branch's objective and core activities

1. The Branch shall carry out the Danish Red Cross' objective and core activities in the geographical area covered by the Branch as stipulated in article 2. The point of departure of the work of the Branch shall be community based needs in accordance with the priorities decided by the General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross.
2. If a Branch does not pursue all or parts of the objective and core activities of the Danish Red Cross, the Branch shall establish partnership with other Branches, District Municipalities or the Governing Board in order to facilitate the development and implementation of the objective and the core activities.

3. Branches and Chairmen of District Municipalities participate in General Assemblies and Chairman Conferences

Article 9 - Branch and District Municipality cooperation and networking

1. Branches and District Municipalities co-operates with other Branches, with District Municipalities, with the Governing Board and with the National Headquarters to implement the Red Cross objectives and core activities in the area of the Branch or of the District Municipality.
2. Branches and District Municipalities are free to network within the municipality or across municipality boundaries.
3. The Governing Board adopts guidelines for Branch cooperation.

Article 10 – Branch General Assembly

1. The ordinary General Assembly shall be held each year before the end of February. Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be convened whenever the Board of the Branch finds it necessary or when the Board receives a written request from at least one quarter of its members. The Board shall call both the ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly announcement in the daily newspapers or by direct communication to each member with at least a fortnight's notice, with information about the agenda.
2. Membership or 'the Red Cross Agreement' gives access to attend the General Assembly.
3. Everyone with a paid subscription is entitled to vote. For new members, subscription shall be paid a minimum of 20 days before the General Assembly. Every member has one vote. A household membership gives the right to two votes if two persons from the same household attend. Vote by proxy is not possible.
4. Everyone with a paid subscription is eligible to the Board of the Branch. For new members, subscription shall be paid a minimum of 20 days before the General Assembly. The term is two years for the Chairman and members of the board. For Substitutes and Auditor(s) the term is one year. Re-election is allowed for all positions. Paid staff of the Branch is not eligible to the board.
5. Proposals for debate at the ordinary Annual General Assembly shall be submitted to the Board 10 days before the meeting of the Annual General Assembly.
6. The agenda of the ordinary Annual General Assembly shall include:
 1. Election of the Chair of the General Assembly.
 2. Report on the Branch activities.
 3. Presentation of annual accounts for approval.
 4. Presentation of the Branch's plans for the future and its priorities.
 5. Submitted proposals.
 6. Election of:
 - a. Chairman of the Board.
 - b. Members of the Board.
 - c. Substitutes.
 - d. Auditor(s) and Auditor Substitute(s).

7. Miscellaneous.
7. Auditors and their Substitutes shall be skilled in the keeping of accounts. Two auditors shall be elected if none of the elected auditors/substitutes are trained accountants or chartered accountants. The Branch may hire paid auditing in the form of an trained accountant or a chartered accountant.
8. All decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by simple majority vote among the present members, however observe article 17. Vote by ballot shall be carried out, if just one present member requests this.
9. The Annual General Assembly elects members to the Board in accordance with article 11.
10. The Annual General Assembly elects Substitutes to the Board. First substitute shall be the substitute with the highest number of votes.

Article 11 – Board composition

1. The Branch shall be managed by a Board of at least 5 members, among them the Chairman. Half of the Board members stand for election each year. Chairman and Deputy Chairman should not be up for election in the same year.
2. The board shall appoint the Deputy Chairman and the Treasurer. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Auditor cannot fill the position as Treasurer. In addition, the Treasurer must not be married to or closely related to Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Auditor.
3. The Board shall have the power to add more members. However, the additional number of members must not exceed half the number of Board members elected at the Annual General Assembly.
4. Board Members shall be unpaid. The Board may hire paid staff. A Board Member who is hired as paid staff of the Branch is no longer a member of the Board.

Article 12 – The responsibility of the Board and its meetings

1. The Board shall be responsible for all affairs of the Branch, including the administration of the Branch's funds.
2. The Board is convened at the request of the Chairman. The Board shall also convene if one third of the Board Members request a meeting. At least half of the Members of the Board shall be present in order to make valid decisions. In case of parity of votes, the Chairman's vote shall be decisive.
3. The Branch shall be signed jointly by the Chairman and the Treasurer. The Board may grant power of attorney including power of attorney to receive payment and pay for obligations.
4. As part of the Danish Red Cross, the Branch shall also be signed by the President or the Vice-President – in both cases in correlation with the Secretary General, cf. article 24.
5. The Branch's financial year shall be January 1 – December 31.

6. The Governing Board adopts guidelines for keeping and presentation of the accounts and for the Branches' and District Municipalities' reporting to the National Headquarters. Based on a individual judgement, the Governing Board may instruct a Branch to contract with a trained accountant or a chartered accountant.

Article 13 – The Branch's volunteers and activities

1. The Board shall appoint activity leaders and establish activity groups to develop, implement, and carry out the activities of the Branch.
2. The Board shall promote motivation and commitment among the Branch's volunteers and provide guidance for the activities.

Article 14 – Membership Subscription, Voluntary Agreement and insurance

1. The General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross shall set the yearly subscription.
2. Private companies with less than 20 employees can also become members of the Danish Red Cross. Contributors may be registered as members upon request.
3. Branches shall report on members and Volunteers to the National Headquarters, who shall register these by name, address and Branch and shall take out a group insurance to cover all its volunteers.
4. Volunteers in the activity groups of the Branch shall enter into a Red Cross Agreement with the Branch concerning their voluntary work.

Article 15 – The Branch's financial contribution to the Danish Red Cross

1. As a contribution to the expenses of the Danish Red Cross, the Branch shall donate the percentage of net amounts stipulated by the General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross which the Branch has received through subscriptions, the Red Cross Week, second hand activities and other income generating activities such as inheritance, contributions, etc. A Branch shall be entitled to keep funds that have been donated to a Branch with a specified local purpose.
2. On recommendation from the Governing Board, the General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross shall stipulate how to assess the net amount from which the percentage shall be calculated.

Article 16 – The Branch's working capital, provision, collections, and major tasks

1. A Branch's working capital as per December 31 may amount to 50 % of the proceeding year's expenses to local activities, however always up to DKK 10,000 but not more than DKK 100,000. In case of a merger, the limit for each merger shall be raised by respectively DKK 5,000 and 50,000, however not more than by DKK 25,000 and DKK 250,000. For Branches with exceptionally comprehensive activities, the Governing Board may stipulate larger limits.

Surplus amounts shall be transferred to the Danish Red Cross along with the Danish Red Cross' share of the Branch's result, cf. article 15, according to the decisions of the Governing Board. According to the Governing Board's recommendation, the General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross shall lay down the rules of how to calculate the working capital.

2. The Branch may make particular provisions in relation to especially large tasks. Such provisions shall be approved by the Governing Board. Provisions may be made only to the extent that it does not result in operating deficit in the provision year.

If the provisions are not used according to the original objective after the expiration of the provision period, the provisions shall be reimbursed from the operating accounts of the Branch. The provision period may not exceed 5 years in succession. This present regulation shall apply to provisions made after February 15, 1993.

3. For centrally organised collections for international relief operations as well as national door-to-door collections, the total collected amount shall be transferred to the Danish Red Cross (National Headquarters). The Branch is entitled to have expenses for the collection reimbursed.

For inactive Branches and for Branches which for other reasons do not establish arrangements in connection with centrally organised collections, the Danish Red Cross National Headquarters may take the necessary steps to carry through the collections within the areas of these Branches.

If the implementation of community based tasks necessitates a special collection within the area of a Branch, the Governing Board may authorise a collection for this purpose only.

4. Decisions of major importance for the Branch, such a purchase or sale of real property, shall be submitted to the Governing Board for approval.

Article 17 – Dissolution of a Branch

Dissolution of a Branch requires that at least 2/3 of the Branch's members are present at the General Assembly of the Branch and that the proposal is approved by at least 2/3 of the votes cast. If the first mentioned condition is not fulfilled, the Board of the Branch shall, , convene an extraordinary General Assembly of the Branch no later than a fortnight after the General Assembly meeting. Provided that the proposal is adopted with 2/3 of the votes cast at this General Assembly, the result of this vote shall be binding irrespective of the number of present members. In case of dissolution of a Branch, the Branch's assets shall be deposited at the Danish Red Cross National Headquarters until a new Branch is established.

CHAPTER 3 – THE FAROESE RED CROSS, THE GREENLAND RED CROSS AND THE RED CROSS YOUTH

Article 18 – The Faroese Red Cross and the Greenland Red Cross

The Faroese Red Cross and the Greenland Red Cross shall have the status of independent organisations under the Danish Red Cross.

Article 19 – The Red Cross Youth

The Red Cross Youth constitutes the child and youth work of the Danish Red Cross and has the status of an independent child and youth organisation under the Danish Red Cross.

CHAPTER 4 – THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DANISH RED CROSS, THE GOVERNING BOARD, THE PRESIDENT, AND THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Article 20 - The General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross

1. The General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross shall be the supreme authority of the Danish Red Cross.
2. The General Assembly is composed of:
Representatives with the right to speak and vote are:
 - a. Each Branch shall be entitled to one representative for every commencement of one thousand members calculated from the last revised and approved annual account. The first representative of a Branch shall be the chairman. Additional potential representatives shall be appointed by the Branch board.
 - b. The members of the Governing Board.
 - c. One representative of Greenland Red Cross, one representative of the Faeroe Red Cross and one representative of the Danish Red Cross Youth.

If a Branch representative is not able to attend the General Assembly, the Branch board can appoint another member of the Branch to attend the General Assembly as a substitute. The Branches shall bear the transport costs for their representative(s), while the Danish Red Cross shall bear all additional costs.

Observers with the right to speak, but not to vote, are the chairmen of District Municipalities, who are not members of the General Assembly.

3. Holding of the General Assembly and deadlines:

The General Assembly shall meet every second year (even years) for two days in October or November.

- a. The meeting shall be convened by the President with at least three months' notice. At the same time, the invitation shall be sent to the members of Branch boards.
- b. The president shall send proposals from the Governing Board to the General Assembly at least two months prior to the General Assembly meeting together with a summary. At the same time, the summary shall be sent to the members of Branch boards.
- c. The president shall send the material from the election preparation committee to the General Assembly at least one month prior to the General Assembly meeting.
- d. Proposals which the members of the General Assembly want to raise shall be submitted to the President at the latest one month prior to the General Assembly meeting. The president shall send these proposals to the General Assembly at least two weeks prior to the General Assembly meeting.
- e. The President shall send any additional material necessary for handling the items of the agenda at least one month prior to the General Assembly meeting.

4. The agenda of the General Assembly meeting shall include:
 - a. The election of a chairman of the meeting
 - b. The report of the Governing Board about the activities of the Danish Red Cross during the two previous years.
 - c. The presentation by the Governing Board of the approved annual accounts for the two previous years for information and adoption.
 - d. The Governing Board's presentation of strategies and priorities for the future work of the Danish Red Cross
 - e. Determination of membership subscription.
 - f. Submitted proposals.
 - g. Election of the Governing Board.
 - h. Election of the Election Preparation Committee
 - i. Election of one or more Auditors.
 - j. Announcement by the Governing Board of the date and location of the next General Assembly meeting.
 - k. Miscellaneous.
5. The Election Preparation Committee
 - a. The General Assembly establishes a committee to prepare General Assembly elections. The responsibilities and duties of the committee are stipulated in a Terms of Reference approved by the General Assembly. The work of the committee is independent and the committee is solely responsible to the General Assembly.
 - b. The Election Preparation Committee shall consist of a chairman and three members.
 - c. To be eligible to the Election Preparation Committee, a candidate must be a member of the Danish Red Cross but must not be a member of the Governing Board or the working Election Preparation Committee and must not be employed by the Danish Red Cross. In this case employed means under the management of the Secretary General.
 - d. Members of the Election Preparation Committee are elected for four years. Their membership takes effect on January 1 of the year after the election. At every second ordinary General Assembly, the chairman and one member are elected. The other two members of the committee are elected at alternate ordinary General Assemblies.
 - e. The General Assembly elects two substitutes to the Election Preparation Committee. Substitutes are elected for two years. Persons who are eligible to the committee are also eligible as substitutes.
6. In order to be elected as President, Vice-President, Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee or ordinary member of the Governing Board, the candidate:
 - a. Must be a member of the Danish Red Cross.
 - b. Must not be employed by the Danish Red Cross. In this case employed means under the management of the Secretary General.
 - c. Must have held one of the above mentioned positions for no more than one complete electoral period, or
 - d. If the candidate has held the position for two consecutive electoral periods, the candidate must have had an intermission of at least one electoral period.

Moreover, persons who are involved in political affairs on national level shall not be eligible for President or Vice-President.

If a member of the Governing Board loses his/her eligibility during the election period, the member also forfeits his/her membership of the Governing Board.

7. All decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. At the voting, each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote. Voting by ballot shall be carried out, when this is requested by at least ten members of the General Assembly. Election under item 4 g. – h. shall be by ballot if there are more candidates than are to be elected.
8. Changes to Articles 6 – 17 require simple majority. Other changes require a 2/3 majority. At least half of the members of the General Assembly must be present at the meeting.
9. The General Assembly's decisions and elections shall take effect at the end of the General Assembly meeting, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise. Election protocol and minutes shall be signed by the Chairman of the General Assembly.
10. An extraordinary General Assembly meeting shall be convened, if the President or the Governing Board finds it necessary, or if at least 1/3 of the Branches have submitted a motivated, written request to this effect to the President. The extraordinary General Assembly meeting shall be convened in the same way as the ordinary General Assembly, but at one month's notice and with the indication of an agenda, and it shall be held within a maximum of two months after the receipt of the written request.

Article 21 – The Governing Board

1. In between the meetings of the General Assembly, the Governing Board shall be the supreme authority of the Danish Red Cross in charge of and responsible for the overall governance of the Danish Red Cross.
2. The Governing Board shall consist of 16 members:
 - a. The President, the Vice-President, the chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee and 12 members, who are all elected by the General Assembly, cf. section 3.
 - b. The staff representative, who is elected by the paid staff at the National Headquarters, cf. section 10.
3. Members of the Governing Board, cf. section 2.a, are elected for 4 years at the General Assembly. The President shall not be elected at the same meeting as the Vice-President and the chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee. Other Governing Board members are elected in pairs of six every second year.
4. The General Assembly shall elect two substitutes for the Governing Board. The substitutes are elected for two years. Eligible are persons who are eligible for the Governing Board.
5. The constituent meeting of the Governing Board shall be held immediately after the ordinary General Assembly meeting. The Governing Board shall hold a minimum of six meetings a year. At the constituent meeting, the Governing Board establishes an Audit and Finance Committee the obligation of which is to go through and comment on the budget, annual accounts and auditing and who is advisory to the Governing Board on subjects such as finance, accounting, and auditing, including salary and pension issues. The Governing Board may grant the Audit and

Finance Committee authority to deal with and decide on matters within its responsibilities in an independent manner, but under the responsibility of the Governing Board.

6. The Governing Board may appoint working groups with a temporary mandate to handle specific activities, themes and projects with the aim of developing the objectives and core activities of the Danish Red Cross.
7. The Governing Board convenes Chairman Conferences with the aim of discussing the Danish Red Cross' development, objective and core activities. At least one conference shall be convened each year and the Governing Board may, when necessary, organise Chairman Conferences as regional meetings and increase the number of participants with other volunteers as well as paid staff. Those years, where a General Assembly is held, the theme of the Chairman Conference shall relate to the General Assembly.
8. The Governing Board shall be responsible for convening annual meetings within the field of the activities of the Branches. These meetings may be organised as regional meetings.
9. The Secretary General is appointed by the Governing Board.
10. The Governing Board adopts guidelines regarding the election of the member of the Governing Board to be elected by the paid staff of the National Headquarters, cf. section 2.b.
11. The Governing Board shall determine the annual budget of the Danish Red Cross on the basis of:
 - a. The strategies and priorities for the future operation of the Danish Red Cross as approved by the General Assembly.
 - b. The resolution of the General Assembly on the Danish Red Cross share of the net income of the Branches.
 - c. The resolution of the General Assembly on the excess working capital of the Branches.
 - d. The membership subscription decided by the General Assembly.

Article 22 – The President

The President shall represent the Danish Red Cross internationally as well as nationally.

The President shall:

- Chair the meetings of the Governing Board.
- On behalf of the Governing Board conduct the overall supervision of the National Headquarters and work of the Danish Red Cross.
- Be responsible for keeping the Branches, the General Assembly, and the Governing Board informed about the state of affairs of the Danish Red Cross.

Article 23 – The National Headquarters

1. The National Headquarters shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration and cooperates with the Branches, the District Municipalities and with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
2. The National Headquarters has its business address in Copenhagen.
3. The Secretary General:
 - Shall be the head of the National Headquarters and hires and fires the paid staff.

- Shall be responsible for National Headquarter operations.
- Must not be involved in politics on national level

The Governing Board adopts the rules and regulations of the functions and powers of the Secretary General.

Article 24 – Power to sign

1. The power to sign the Danish Red Cross shall be represented by the President or the Vice-President – in both cases in correlation with the Secretary General.
2. The Governing Board may grant joint power of attorney.

Article 25 - Auditing

The fiscal year of the Danish Red Cross shall be January 1 – December 31. The accounts shall be audited by one or more accountants elected by the Danish Red Cross General Assembly, of which one must be a chartered accountant. Moreover, the auditing must be super reviewing.

CHAPTER 5 – DISCONTINUATION AND COMING INTO FORCE OF THE STATUTES

Article 26 - Discontinuation

Should the Danish Red Cross cease to exist, the assets of the Society will be assigned to a Danish humanitarian organisation with the same objective as the Danish Red Cross.

Article 27 – The coming into force of the statutes

1. The present statutes were adopted by the General Assembly of the Danish Red Cross, 5. – 6. of November, 2011 and revised on 2.-3. of November, 2013 and shall replace any previous statutes and rules.
2. Future amendments to The Statutes of the Danish Red Cross shall come into force by the end of the General Assembly meeting at which they were adopted unless the adopted proposal suggests otherwise.