

Chapter I

Nature and Purposes

Article 1

(Nature and Headquarters)

- 1.** The “Association of Azorean Emigrants” hereinafter referred to as the Association is constituted by elements that share the objectives defined in these statutes.
- 2.** The Association has legal personality and capacity under the terms of the law and of these the present statutes. The Association has its headquarters at Rua do Estrela nº 31A, Conceição parish, Municipality of Ribeira Grande.

Article 2

(Objectives)

The Association shall pursue all the activities that directly or indirectly relate to the following objectives

- a. To develop under the terms of the Law and the Statutes cooperation and solidarity among its members, on the basis of carrying out initiatives concerning the problem of Azorean emigration between them and public or private entities;
- b. To defend and promote the rights and interests of emigrants
- c. To support and inform returned emigrants and those still residing in the host countries;
- d. To promote and stimulate their own, recreational, cultural, social and humanitarian capacities
- e. To establish interchanges with similar foreign, regional, and national associations or promote common actions of information or training.

Article 3

(Attributions)

In order to achieve its objectives, the Association intends to be a facilitating agent with the responsible institutions, promoting pluralism within the association as well as tolerance and respect for differences, among others, the following attributions

- a) To provide members with access to documentation on emigration;
- b) To organize working groups for the research, study and analysis of emigration issues;
- c) Publishing magazines, newspapers or other documents of relevant interest
- d) To organize meetings, colloquia, conferences and seminars
- e) Promote exchange and cooperation with national, regional and foreign associations and organizations that pursue the same objectives;

Chapter II

Of the Members

Article 4

(Members)

1. Members of the Association are all those who identify themselves with the objectives set forth in these Articles of Association and who meet the requirements established herein.
2. There will be two types of members: individual and collective, with collective members having the right to only one vote.
3. The process of admitting members is the exclusive competence of the Board, under proposal of the candidate.
4. The quality of member can be withdrawn in case of behavior considered harmful to the interests and purposes of the Association, a procedure that should always be duly grounded, being an appeal to the General Assembly under the terms of these statutes.

Article 5

(Rights and Duties)

1. The rights of the members are:
 - (a) To elect and be elected to the managing bodies;
 - (b) To participate in the activities of the Association;
 - (c) Request all clarifications on the operation of the Association or that concern them;

- d) To present proposals to the Board in relation to the matters that are of interest to the Association;
- e) Bring to the knowledge of the President of the General Assembly any resolution or act of the social bodies that seem contrary to the interests of the Association or to the provisions of the Statutes
- f) Enjoy the benefits that may be granted by the Association under the terms of the law and its Articles of Association.
- g) Members who consider themselves incapable of regularly performing the duties to which they were elected or designated, may refuse to take on the positions to which they were elected or designated, by means of a written request addressed to the President of the Board of the General Assembly.

Members of the Corporate Bodies who, for reasonable reasons, wish to be relieved of their duties must communicate their resignation in writing to the President of the Board of the General Assembly.

Consecutive absence from three ordinary meetings, without the necessary and adequate justification, shall be considered resignation from office.

2. The members' duties are
 - a) Comply with the statutory provisions of the Association, as well as respect the decisions and deliberations of its bodies;
 - b) Perform the duties to which they were elected;
 - c) Watch over the Association's assets, as well as its good name and aggrandizement;
 - d) Not develop actions contrary to the purposes and interests of the Association;

Chapter III

Organs
Article 6º
(Organs)

1. The organs of the Association are:

- a) General Assembly;
- b) Direction Board;
- c) Fiscal Council.

Article 7º
(General Assembly)

- 1. The General Assembly is made up of all the members in the full enjoyment of their rights.
- 2. The General Assembly meets ordinarily once a year and extraordinarily when convened by one tenth of the members.
- 3. The Assembly will be presided over by a board composed of three members, elected by the majority list, with the functions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary.
- 4. The term of office for members elected by the General Assembly is three years. The term of office begins with the taking of office before the outgoing President of Assembly.

If the outgoing President of the Assembly Board or his substitute does not take office within thirty days of his election, the members elected by the General Assembly will automatically take office, regardless of whether they take office, unless there is a legal challenge to the electoral act.

5. The General Assembly is responsible for:

- a) To amend and reform the Statutes;
- b) Approve and alter its regulations;
- c) To define the major action lines of the Association;
- d) To appreciate and vote the Management Report and Accounts;
- e) Electing and dismissing the members of the Association's Board;
- f) Remove the quality of members, when justifiable through a proposal of the Board;

- g) Deliberate on the dissolution, split, or merger of the Association;
- h) Deliberate on any other matter for which it has been convened or on appeals submitted by members.

Article 8º (Direction)

1. The Board of Directors is the executive body of the Association, made up of four members elected by a majority, and distributed as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Member;
2. The Board meets ordinarily at least six times a year and extraordinarily at the call of two of its members, with the President having the casting vote.
3. The Board is responsible for:
 - a) Propose and implement the Annual Activity Plan and Budget;
 - b) Prepare annually and submit to the Supervisory Board the Management Report and Accounts;
 - c) Approve its rules of procedure;
 - d) Approve or reject the admission of members;
 - e) Exercise disciplinary power;
 - f) Present proposals to the General Assembly;
 - g) Accept grants, donations, inheritances or legacies compatible with the nature of the Association;
 - h) Represent the Association in or out of court in the person of its President or whomever the Board may decide;
 - i) Exercise such other powers as the Assembly may delegate to it;
 - j) Ensure that members' rights are enforced;
 - l) Appoint technical or any other committees it deems necessary for the proper performance of its duties;
 - m) Ensure the functioning of the Association, manage its human and material resources, and carry out the bookkeeping in accordance with the law;
 - n) Authorize the use of the Association's facilities by third parties, whether for a fee or free of charge.

4. The signature of any member of the Board of Directors shall suffice for acts of a purely expedient nature;
5. Decisions of the Board of Directors may be appealed to the Board of the General Assembly.

Article 9º

(Fiscal Council)

1. The Supervisory Board is composed of three members elected on a majority list, being a Chairman and two Members.
2. The Supervisory Board is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law and the Statutes, in particular:
 - a) Draw up an Annual Opinion on the Report and Accounts presented by the Board;
 - b) Attend or be represented by one of its members at Board meetings, whenever it deems it appropriate;
 - c) Request from the Board all information deemed useful and appropriate for its normal functioning;
 - d) Exercise supervision over the bookkeeping and documents of the Association whenever it deems it appropriate.

Chapter IV

Assets

Article 10º

(Income and expenditure)

1. The revenues of the Association are:
 - a) Grants from public or private entities;
 - b) Proceeds from the sale of own publications and cultural dissemination;
 - c) Membership fees to be determined by the General Meeting;
 - d) Donations, legacies and inheritances from which you benefit;
 - e) Any other revenue assigned to it.
2. The Association's expenditure is made up of:
 - a) The granting to members of the benefits arising from the Statutes or other normative instruments connected with them;
 - b) The general administration of the Association;

- c) The fulfillment of any obligations resulting from resolutions of the General Meeting.

Article 11º
(Requirements for Resolutions)

1. Decisions of the bodies are taken when a majority of the legal number of their members are present, except for amendments to the articles of association, which require a qualified majority of three quarters of the members present.
2. In the case of elections to their governing bodies or in the case of judgments on persons, the vote shall be taken by secret ballot.
3. The members of the bodies shall request exemption from the procedure when circumstances arise from which their impartiality or the rectitude of their conduct may reasonably be suspected.

Article 12º
(Incompatibility)

Members of the Supervisory Board may not serve on any other body of the Association.

Article 13º
(Amendment of Statutes)

The Statutes may be amended or revised whenever the interests of the Association so require, and the amendments to be made shall be submitted for consideration, discussion and voting by the General Meeting convened for that purpose, in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 1, "in fine", of art. 12 of these Statutes.

Artigo 14º
(Subsidiary rules)

In cases of omissions, the existing legal rules for non-profit associations will apply.