**Statutes of the “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association**

Article 1

 **Name**

 In accordance with the code of civil law and law n.382/2000, the International Association called the “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” is herewith instituted.

 Article 2

 **Headquarters and duration**

 The International Association called the “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” shall have its legal headquarters in Rome, Italy, at present in viale delle Milizie 108; the transfer of the Association’s legal headquarters to another address within Rome’s municipal area shall not require any alteration to the present Statute and may be decided at the absolute discretion of the Association’s President, which may, besides, set up secondary or branch offices in other cities or localities in Italy, in Europe and in other European countries on the sole mandatory condition that the laws and customs of those places not clash with the international character and characterisation of the Association.

The duration of the Association shall be indefinite.

 Article 3

 **Aims and purposes of the “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association**

 The “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association is a non-profit group set up to examine in depth and support knowledge of religions, with a view to organizing scholarly and social activities aimed at gaining scientific and comparative knowledge of religions.

The Association also aims at promoting the training of young scholars in the field of the sociology of religion.

“International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association pursues these goals by means of multifarious activities:

- the dissemination of the results of scientific research applied to the study of religions;
- the formation of scholars of the sociology of religion informed by an international, comparative analytical approach;
- scientific research in the sociology of religions (studies, projects, surveys);
- the development, dissemination and application of theoretical and methodological guidelines within the field of the sociology of religion;
- the organization of meetings and seminars of an informational and educational kind;
- the design and implementation of scientific and social projects at international and national level: seminars, conferences, congresses, campaigns, studies and research;
- the promotion of editorial, and cultural initiatives;
- the provision of hospitality to Italian and foreign scholars such as to permit them to study and carry out research;
- the promotion of training initiatives for young people, with awards too for taking part in conferences and for the publication of texts.

 The “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association as far as its refresher and updating activities, continuing education, distance learning, are concerned, shall make use of e-learning techniques, a training and information portal, the School of Higher Education for the Sociology of Religion (SAFSOR) to be established and which shall operate in many locations and in many countries; the relative regulations will be drawn up by the President and approved by the Association's deliberative body as soon as the first branch of the School is set up.

 The establishment of the School and its development is one of the Association’s primary purposes and chief commitments.

 The “International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association’s activities and goals are informed by principles of equal opportunity for men and women and for those belonging to different religions and cultures and respect for the inviolable rights of the person.

Article 4

**Membership**
 The International Center for the Sociology of Religion" International Association shall enrol natural persons, legal persons, bodies, capital partnerships and companies, as well as associations that share the Association’s aims.
 Candidates shall apply to the Executive Committee of the Association by means of recorded-delivery, registered letter or Pec.
 In the application, the natural person shall indicate his/her full name, fiscal code number, educational qualification, profession; all the data will be kept by the Association which shall use it only if necessary to attain its objectives; the person responsible for processing the data shall be the Association’s President.
 The non-physical applicant shall provide all the information required to locate it, including the address and fiscal code as well as the name and personal data of its legal representative.
 The admission of member is deliberated by the majority vote of the Executive Committee, and shall be communicated to the applicant by recorded-delivery, registered letter or Pec.
 Upon admission, the member undertakes to pay the membership fee for the year of application and the membership fee for each subsequent year according to the amount established by the Executive Committee and approved in the financial statements by the Ordinary General Assembly in compliance with the Statute and the regulations adopted.
 Membership status is personal and non-transferable, even in case of death.

 There are four distinct categories of membership:

- Founding Members: that is those who took part in founding the Association. They have the right to vote, are eligible for office; their membership is indefinite. All those who join the Association within 90 days of its establishment by submitting a full application, containing all the above-mentioned information and paying the membership fee for the year in question at the time of accession, shall be considered founding members;

- Effective Members: those who have applied for and obtained membership from the Executive Committee. They have the right to vote and are eligible for office. Their active membership is subject to enrolment and the concurrent payment of dues, and that of subsequent annual fees;

- Effective Junior Members: are active members aged under 40 years. They elect, during the Ordinary Assembly of Effective Junior Members, a representative who takes part in the meetings of the Executive Committee, without voting rights, at the request of the Executive Committee or of the Scientific Council. Every scientific, cultural or teaching initiative proposed by the representative of the Effective Junior Members or the Ordinary Assembly of Effective Junior Members, must be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee;

 - Benefactors: those who share the aims of the Association, support it by means of volunteer activities or economic aid and make a valuable contribution to the dissemination of the Association’s objectives. They contribute annually to the aims of the Association by paying a free membership fee, have no voting rights and may not be elected to the office. Benefactors may be all those who apply to the Executive Committee and are accepted as such; they are recorded in a separate membership roll as extraordinary members;

- Honorary Members: are members who, because of their particular scientific or professional knowledge and the contribution they may provide to the achievement of the Association’s aims, have accepted the request of membership made by the Executive Committee. They are recorded in a separate membership roll and are required to pay the Association’s annual membership fee.

Members are required to pay the annual membership fee no later than the January 31st. of each year.

The activities carried out by members in favour of the Association and aimed at achieving the Association’s goals are carried out on a voluntary basis and free of charge. The Association may, in cases of special need, hire employees or avail of independent assistance, even resorting to its members.

Article 5

 **Members’ Rights**

 Founding, Effective and Honorary Members of “The International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association have the right to elect the Association’s organizations and be elected. All members, except Benefactors, have the right to access information and the kind of control established by the law and the present Statute: a member who offers to carry out activities in favour of the Association cannot receive payment, but may be reimbursed for expenditure due to him if these amount to a certain sum which shall be appraised by the Executive Committee.

Article 6

 **Members’ duties**

 It is the mandatory duty of each member to pay his/her annual dues.

Members shall carry out their activities in the Association on a personal, voluntary basis, without profit and according to their declared personal availability and exigencies.

Members’ behaviour towards other members and towards those outside the Association must be animated by a spirit of social, inter-religious and inter-cultural solidarity and implemented with integrity, good faith, honesty, probity and moral rigour, in accordance with the present Statute and the programmatic guidelines issued by the Association.

Article 7

 **Withdrawal/exclusion of members**

 A member may withdraw from the Association in writing by means of a recorded-delivery registered letter or Pec delivered to the President.

Withdrawal shall become effective on the date of closure of the financial year in question.

 A member may be excluded from the Association should he/she fail to comply with his/her duties as per art.6 or for other grave reasons causing moral and/or material harm to the Association. Exclusion of a member shall be deliberated by the absolute majority Executive Committee at the behest of the *Probi Viri*. Exclusion shall be communicated to the member in question by means of a recorded-delivery, registered letter containing the reasons for the exclusion and shall be ratified during the next Members’ Assembly.

 Withdrawn and/or excluded members who have ceased to belong to the Association may not request restitution of dues paid, nor may they make any claim to the Association’s assets.

Article 8

 **The Association’s Bodies**

 The Bodies of “The International Center for the Sociology of Religion” International Association are:

- the Members’ Assembly;

- the Executive Committee with a Committee Secretary, chosen from among the members of the Committee itself;

- the Scientific Council with a Secretary, chosen from among the members of the Council itself;

- the President who is also the scientific head of the Association;

- the Auditors.

 All the offices are undertaken and carried out free of charge, last 5 (five) years and may be renewed any number of times.

Article 9

 **The Assembly**

 The Assembly is the Association’s sovereign body. The Assembly is composed of the Founding, Effective and Honorary members and is convened at least once a year by the Association’s President, or by a person acting in lieu and indicated to the members, in writing by ordinary mail, or via e-mail, at least 10 days before the date established for the meeting; the letter of convocation shall contain the order of the day and the place where the meeting is to be held.

 Finally, the Assembly must be convened whenever a request in that sense it made to the President by at least 10% of the members entitled to vote.

 The Assembly is chaired by the President and in his/her absence by a delegate chosen from among the members of the Executive Committee; before beginning the session, the Assembly shall elect a Secretary from among those present, who shall keep the minutes and carry out the other secretarial tasks required by the Assembly.

 The Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary. The Extraordinary Assembly is convened to modify the Statute or deliberate the transfer of the Association’s headquarters to a city other than Rome or to dissolve the Association.

 In all other cases the Assembly is Ordinary.

 The first convocation of the Ordinary Assembly is valid if the majority of voting members are present; otherwise it shall be held on the same day regardless of the number of the participants.

 All members of the Association have the right to attend the Assembly, vote, be elected, provided they have paid up all their dues.

 The Ordinary Assembly:

 - elects the Executive Committee;

 - elects the Scientific Council;

 - approves the budget, the annual financial statements and final report:

 - approves the membership fee annually;

 - it ratifies the exclusion of members as deliberated by the Executive Committee;

 - it approves the Association’s yearly programme;

 - it deliberates on issues presented for discussion by the President or the Executive Committee.

 The deliberations of the Ordinary Assembly pass if voted by the absolute majority of those present and/or their delegates.

 The Assembly votes openly, except in cases where the issues deliberated regard persons and the quality of persons or when the Assembly shall deem it opportune. Every member has the right to cast a sole vote and may act as delegate in lieu of no more than two non-administrative members.

 The discussions and resolutions of the Ordinary Assembly are summed up in minutes drawn up by the Assembly’s drafting Secretary. The minutes, signed by the President and the drafting Secretary of the Assembly, are transcribed into a special register kept by the President of the Association at the headquarters.

Each Founding, Effective or Honorary member of the Association has the right to consult the minutes of the sessions and request a copy at his/her own expense.

 The Extraordinary Assembly:
- approves changes to the Statute, in which case two thirds of the members shall be present and deliberations shall pass if voted by the majority of those present;
- shall deliberate on the transfer of the Association’s headquarters to another city;
- may dissolve the Association following a favourable vote by three quarters of the members and may allocates the assets as per art.16.

Article 10

 **The Executive Committee**

The Association is managed by an Executive Committee elected by the Assembly and composed of from three to thirteen members.

The Executive Committee shall appoint from among its members, chosen by open election, the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Executive Committee shall indicate which of its members may attend meetings of the Scientific Council.

The convening of the Executive Committee is decided by the President or requested, and automatically convened, by at least three members of the Executive Committee itself. The resolutions must obtain the vote of the absolute majority of those present, and, in the case of a tied vote, the vote of the President shall be decisive.

The Executive Committee:
- performs all acts regarding the ordinary and extraordinary administration;

- it draws up and submits the annual report on the activities of the Association to the Assembly;

- it draws up, in collaboration with the Scientific Council, and presents the annual report on the scientific activities of the Association to the Assembly;

- it draws up and submits the budget and statement of accounts to the Assembly;

- it establishes the membership fee annually;

- it admits new members;

- it excludes members, save subsequent ratification by the Assembly according to art.7 of the present Statute (The College of *Probi Viri*).

 The Executive Committee is charged with applying the general directives established by the Assembly and with the promotion, in keeping with the aforesaid directives, of all initiatives aimed at achieving the Association’s goals.

 The Executive Committee’s meetings are legal when the majority of its members is present.

Article 11

 **The Scientific Council**

 The Scientific Council is elected by the Assembly and comprises from three to nine members.

The Scientific Council is chaired by the President.

 The Scientific Council promotes, directs and implements scientific and didactic activities aimed at achieving the Association’s aims.

 The Scientific Council shall coordinate didactic activities in collaboration with the School of Higher Education for the Sociology of Religion, once this has been instituted.

 The Scientific Council is convoked by the President or at the request of at least three members of the Scientific Council itself, and convened automatically.

 Scientific and didactic projects shall be approved by the Executive Committee, at the behest of the Committee of the Scientific Council.

Article 12

 **The President**

 The President is the Association’s legal representative and chairs the Executive Committee, the General Assembly and the committee of the Scientific Council.

 The President:

- represents Association in dealings with third parties and is its official spokesperson;

- convenes both ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- he/she disposes of the Association’s funds according to the provisions countersigned by the Treasurer;
- he/she can sign for the Association’s current account whose cheques shall bear the Association's stamp;
- he/she can sign contracts, undertake commitments and ratify, in general, all acts necessary for the life and activities of the Association.

Article 13

**The Association’s financial resources**

The income made available to the Association shall come:
- from the dues and fees paid by members in the measure proposed annually by the Executive Committee and determined by the Assembly;
- from voluntary donations by members;
- from contributions, donations and legacies in cash or in kind from individuals and/or Italian or international organizations whose aims do not clash with the goals of the Association. The Executive Committee will reject donations aimed at influencing the activities of the Association in any way;
- from promotional initiatives.

All means that do not clash with the Association’s regulations and the laws of the Italian State may be availed of, in Italy and abroad, to acquire funds for the Association and increase its assets.

Article 14

**Financial statements and balances**
The fiscal year starts on 1st. January and ends on December 31st. of each year.

The meeting for the approval of the final budget shall be held no later than April 30th. of the year following the end of each fiscal year.

The financial statements and accounts shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee and approved by the Assembly.

The final budget shall be made available to the Association headquarters and to the various branches at least 20 days before the Assembly meets and may be inspected by all the members entitled to do so.

The budget is deposited at the headquarters of the Association, at least 20 days before the Assembly and may be inspected all the members entitled to do so.

Article 15

 **Statutory modifications**

 The Statute may be modified during an Extraordinary Assembly of two thirds of members of the Association and with the favourable vote of the majority of those present. The modifications or addenda deliberated shall not be contrary to the aims of the Association and shall comply with the regulations and with the Italian Law.

Article 16

**The dissolution of the Association**

To approve the dissolution of the Association and the transfer of its assets, a favourable vote of at least three-quarters of the members in Extraordinary Assembly, is required. The Assembly that deliberates the dissolution of the Association shall appoint one or more liquidators and deliberate the disposition of the assets advancing after the liquidation itself.

The transfer of the assets shall be carried out for the public utility, in favour of associations with similar objectives.

**Final provisions**

 For all that is not expressly set down herein, the provisions contained in the Civil Code and the laws in force shall apply.