

# **Statutes of The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden (SBS)**

## **Stadgar för Sveriges Buddhistiska Samarbetsråd (SBS)**

Admitted 1993-06-11

Revised 2008-10-04

### **§1. Name and organizational status**

The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden (SBS) is a non-profit organization. SBS is an umbrella organization for Buddhist associations operating in Sweden. Each member association has one representative and one deputy in the SBS Council.

### **§2. Purposes and tasks**

SBS is a national organization of Buddhist associations in Sweden and aims at an enhanced interaction between the associations. SBS is a service agency without controlling function where each member association retains its specific character and independent activities.

SBS will promote knowledge of Buddhism and the Buddhist way of life. SBS will support the development of Buddhist activities and promote greater compassion in the world.

SBS channels applications for state grants and distributes received funds among member associations.

### **§3. Membership**

a) To be a member of SBS requires that the association has at least fifty members and has had formally organized Buddhist activities in Sweden for at least five years. The association should in their statutes express a Buddhist activity as a basis. Activities will therefore include taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, the study of The Four Noble Truths and practice according to The Noble Eightfold Path.

b) Parishes that are local in the sense of being branches of a national association should, if the national association is already a member of SBS, be members of SBS through the national association.

c) If SBS considers that an applying association in its activities and presentation of Buddhism goes against the teachings and traditions the application may be rejected.

d) Decisions on membership are taken at SBS's Annual Meeting on a recommendation from the Board.

e) Each member association at its Annual Meeting appoints one representative and one deputy to the SBS for each fiscal year. After the respective associations Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting Minutes, Annual Report and Audit Report should be submitted to SBS.

f) Member associations' activities shall not be conducted solely by state grants.

### **§4. Application for state grants**

Each member association is responsible for its own collation of members served and other participants.

Each association should, at the request of SBS, submit their applications for state grants, together with the appendices required.

The data is stored by SBS, with no right to disseminate them to any other person or organization, with the exception of reporting to The Authority of State Grants.

### **§5. The Board**

At the Annual Meeting SBS's members appoint a Board composed of one representative from each of six member associations, one of whom shall be elected Chairman.

A person may be elected to the Board for more than one year.

The Board manages SBS's current operations. The Board meets at least twice a year, convened by the Chairman. The Board is quorate when at least three members are present. Decisions are taken by 2/3 majority.

## **§6. The Annual Meeting**

Once a year an Annual Meeting is convened where the whole Cooperation Council meets. The Board may, if it so chooses, convene an extraordinary Annual Meeting. Notice of proposed agenda should be sent out at least one month before the meeting. At the meeting minutes should be taken.

Each member association has one vote. The Annual Meeting is quorate when at least half of the representatives of member associations are present. Decisions are taken by 2/3 majority. Member association who finds a case inadequately prepared may request consideration for further processing and anchoring within the organization.

At the Annual Meeting, the following points arise:

1. Election of Chairman at the annual meeting
2. Election of Secretary and two minutes checkers
3. Question if the Annual Meeting has been properly announced
4. Agenda setting
5. SBS Activity and Profit- and loss statement for the last fiscal year
6. The Auditors' report on SBS's management during the last fiscal year
7. Question on the discharge of the Board
8. Approval of new member societies
9. Notification of the member associations' representatives and deputed for the coming fiscal year
10. Submission of Member associations' Annual Reports
11. Election of a new Board
12. Election of two members of The Nominating Committee
13. Election of auditor and deputy auditor for a period of one year
14. Determination of the activity plan and budget for the coming mandate activity year
15. Decision on membership fee
16. Consideration of issues submitted to the Council at least six weeks before the meeting
17. Other issues

## **§7 Economy**

SBS has the right to put a reasonable amount aside for administrative costs and travel etc. The accounts, as well as the business year runs from January 1 to December 31 and are subject to auditors at least 30 days before the annual meeting. The auditors' report is presented to SBS at least three weeks before the annual meeting.

## **§8. Authorized signatures**

SBS's firm is signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer each one individually.

## **§9. Amending of statutes**

Proposal to amend the statutes is to be treated by two consecutive Annual Meetings.

## **§10. Withdrawal**

The application for withdrawal shall be given in writing to the SBS Board.

## **§11. Exclusion**

A member association may be excluded from the SBS if the association works against or harms SBS's interests or violates the content of paragraph 3. Decision about the exclusion is made by the Annual Meeting on recommendation of the Board.

## **§12. Dispersal**

Decision of dispersal of SBS is taken by two consecutive Annual Meetings. At least two months should have elapsed between the first and second meetings.

In the case of dispersal SBS's property and assets should be distributed according to the latest applied distribution system for state grants.