

Statutes of Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland

[Max Weber Foundation - German Humanities Institutes Abroad]

(version valid as of May 16th, 2025)

based on the act “*Gesetz zur Errichtung einer Stiftung Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland, Bonn (DGIAG)*“ of June 20th, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette, part I, p. 2003), last amended by act of June 9th, 2021 (FLG, part I, p. 1614),

resolved by the Board of Trustees on April 24th, 2009, last revised on of May 16th, 2025.

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Chapter 1: Basic Principles of the Foundation

§ 1 Mission of the Foundation

- (1) The Foundation's name is Max Weber Stiftung - Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland.
- (2) ¹The mission of the Foundation is to promote the following:
 1. research focusing on history, cultural studies, economics and the social sciences in selected countries and
 2. mutual understanding between Germany and these countries.

²In line with this mission the Foundation maintains German research institutes (institutes) in the respective host countries and promotes preparatory and accompanying activities.
- (3) ¹Within the framework of the statutes the institutes are autonomous facilities and pursue their academic work independently. ²They conduct own research and thereby promote cooperation between German humanities academics and humanities academics of the host country. ³The institutes accomplish these tasks mainly through
 1. publications,
 2. academic events such as exhibitions, colloquia and conferences,
 3. providing academic information and advice, and conveying contacts between scholars,
 4. promoting the next generation of scholars, especially by granting scholarships,
 5. establishment and management of libraries and archives.
- (4) The Foundation exclusively and directly pursues non-profit activities under the terms of the section of the Tax Code entitled "activities attracting tax concessions".

§ 2 Assets of the Foundation

- (1) The assets of the Foundation consist of the property and the rights assumed by the creation of the Foundation or by taking over further institutions, or otherwise transferred to or acquired by the Foundation.
- (2) ¹The Foundation may raise its own endowment capital. ²Within its mission, the Foundation may also manage dependent foundations created by itself, by third parties or jointly by the Foundation and third parties, and use the earnings of such foundations.
- (3) ¹The Foundation is entitled to accept funds from third parties. ²They may only be accepted if they are not associated with any conditions which compromise the mission of the Foundation.
- (4) To perform its duties, the Foundation uses
 1. annual grants from the Federal Administration,
 2. grants from third parties (including additional endowments or special funds, as well as third party grants to individual institutes),
 3. earnings from the endowment fund,
 4. other income.

§ 3 Appropriation of grants and income from the endowment fund

- (1) All earnings, grants and income may only be used in line with with the mission of the Foundation.
- (2) They have to be allocated in the Foundation's annual budget plan, which consists of the sectional budget plans of the institutes and that of the central office.
- (3) The Foundation may not benefit any persons through expenditure not in line with the mission of the Foundation or through disproportionately high remuneration.

Chapter 2: Board of Trustees

§ 4 Organs of the Foundation

The Foundation has the following organs:

1. the Board of Trustees,
2. the Chair of the Board of Trustees (President),
3. the Assembly of Directors,
4. the directors of the institutes,
5. the Executive Director.

§ 5 Tasks of the Board of Trustees

- (1) ¹The Board of Trustees is the supreme organ of the Foundation. ²It represents the common interests of the institutes in the German academic system, decides all matters of fundamental significance for the Foundation and its development and supervises the activities of the Foundation's facilities with regard to legality, expediency and economic efficiency. ³Its tasks include in particular
1. resolutions regarding the statutes and any modifications thereof,
 2. adoption of the budget plan,
 3. appointment of an annual auditor
 4. acceptance of the annual auditor's report, of external evaluation reports, of perspective reports by the Academic Advisory Boards and of the annual reports given by the President, the institute directors and the Executive Director,
 5. discharge of the President, the institute directors and the Executive Director for the preceding fiscal year,
 6. appointment or dismissal of the institute directors and of the Executive Director,
 7. decision-making on purchase or sale of real property or creation of real or personal servitudes,
 8. resolutions on concepts regarding the Foundation's further development,
 9. in cases of doubt, decision-making on the allocation of tasks to organs or facilities of the Foundation.
- (2) ¹The Board of Trustees specifies in sectional budget plans which positions from pay group 13 of TVöD [collective agreement for the public sector] onwards may be filled on a permanent basis. ²For that purpose, each institute submits a structural plan to the Board of Trustees after consultation with the relevant Academic Advisory Board. ³Each structural plan specifies if a vacated unlimited position may again be filled on a permanent basis. ⁴The structural plans shall be prepared at regular intervals, at least every five years.

§ 6 Members and guests of the Board of Trustees

- (1) The Board of Trustees consists of the eleven members appointed for a four-year term by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research pursuant to § 6 paragraph 1 DGIAG.
- (2) The right to nominate the seven academics provided for by § 6 paragraph 1 par. 2 no. 3 DGIAG is vested with
1. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.
for four positions and with
 2. Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung
 3. Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V. and
 4. Wissenschaftsgemeinschaft Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz e.V.
for one position each.

- (3) The nomination right under § 6 paragraph 1 sub-section 1 no. 4 DGIAG is vested with Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft e.V.; it is to nominate a person closely associated with the humanities.
- (4) Any member appointed to the Board of Trustees as holder of a public office pursuant to § 6 paragraph 1 sub-section 1 no. 1 DGIAG shall leave the Board of Trustees upon the termination of his/her term in such office.
- (5) ¹The meetings of the Board of Trustees are attended by two members of the Assembly of Directors, two members of the Assembly of Advisory Board Chairs, the Executive Director, the staff representative according to § 18 paragraph 2, the academic employees' representative according to § 19 paragraph 2 and the equal opportunity officer as permanent guests having the right to speak and table motions. ²The President may invite further guests.

§ 7 The President

- (1) ¹The President is nominated by the members of the Board of Trustees with due consideration for the suggestions made by the Assembly of Directors, and appointed for a four-year term by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
- (2) ¹The President is the Foundation's external representative. ²His/her tasks include, without limitation
 1. serving the institutes' common interests towards grant-givers,
 2. serving the institutes' common interests towards other academic organizations and the public,
 3. contributing to national and international academic policy bodies and organizations.
- (3) The President convenes the Board of Trustees, presides over the meetings and carries out the resolutions unless the institute directors or the Executive Director are responsible.
- (4) Under employment law, the President is senior to the institute directors and the Executive Director; this does not affect the order of competencies as set forth in the DGIAG and in these statutes.
- (5) ¹The President has a right to obtain information from the organs, bodies and institutions of the Foundation. ²He/she has the right to attend the meetings of all organs and bodies.
- (6) Supported by the Executive Director and a representative of the Assembly of Directors, the President conducts the budget negotiations with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
- (7) Where the term "highest administrative authority" is used in applicable regulations, the President shall assume this function.
- (8) ¹The Board of Trustees shall elect from among its members a deputy Chair. ²The procedure is set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (9) ¹The President may delegate the affairs mentioned in paragraphs 2 to 7 above to his/her deputy, ²In respect of the management affairs mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 7, he/she may be represented by the Executive Director.

§ 8 Resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees

- (1) ¹The Board of Trustees shall pass its resolutions at meetings or, in cases of urgency, by written procedure or through the President. ²Details are subject to the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (2) The Board of Trustees is competent to pass a resolution if at least half of its members are present or represented.
- (3) ¹The existence of a quorum shall be established at the beginning of the meeting. ²It shall be considered as prevailing in the course of the meeting unless, upon motion, the lack of a quorum has been established.
- (4) The Board of Trustees shall pass its resolutions by a simple majority of votes cast unless there are provisions stating otherwise in the DGIA Act or the statutes.
- (5) If the vote is tied the President shall have the casting vote.

- (6) ¹Prior to decisions of major strategic or budgetary significance the Board of Trustees, acting by the President, obtains an opinion from the Assembly of Directors. ²This opinion must be submitted within four weeks. ³Should the Assembly of Directors fail to present its opinion within the set period, the Board of Trustees shall decide without such opinion. ⁴If the Board of Trustees decides against such opinion, the reasons shall be recorded.
- (7) Affairs of major strategic or budgetary significance include:
1. budget-relevant changes to the statutes,
 2. concepts for the further development of the Foundation,
 3. establishment or closure of facilities,
 4. all other projects which increase or reduce costs by more than 10 % of the current budget plan.

§ 9 Representation and voting rights in the Board of Trustees

- (1) Members appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Federal Government may appoint federal employees as their representatives.
- (2) ¹The remaining members may transfer their voting rights to other members of the Board of Trustees. ²No member may carry more than two votes.
- (3) Aspects of budget planning, the appointment of institute directors and amendments to the statutes may not be resolved in a manner which contradicts the votes of the members appointed by the Federal Government.
- (4) ¹In respect of the appointment of institute directors the members appointed by the Federal Government shall exercise their veto rights only in special exceptional cases, which require supporting arguments. Such arguments can relate both to the procedure and to the person nominated with the exception of his/her academic qualification.

Chapter 3: Assembly of Directors

§ 10 Assembly of Directors

- (1) ¹The Assembly of Directors provides advice and assistance to the Board of Trustees. ²It may develop concepts of its own regarding strategic issues of the Foundation as input into the Foundation's decision-making process. ³The Assembly may enlist the assistance of the central office for that purpose.
- (2) ¹The members of the Assembly of Directors inform each other on research planning at the individual institutes and on overarching co-operation in fields of interest shared by several institutes. ²The co-operation in the Assembly of Directors is intended to strengthen the Foundation's prospects beyond the bilateral aims of the institutes between Germany and the host country in question.
- (3) The Assembly of Directors elects from its ranks the two members provided in § 6 paragraph 5 and their deputies.
- (4) Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.

Chapter 4: Institutes

§ 11 Institutes

- (1) The Foundation runs
1. the German Forum for Art History Paris, whose specific tasks are to conduct research into French art and the German-French art relationship and to further co-operation in the field of German and French art history, including international partners working in that field.

2. the German Historical Institutes in London, Paris, Rome, Warsaw and Washington, D.C., whose specific task is to conduct research into the history – and in Rome the music history – of the host countries and their relations with Germany in an international context and with regard to political, economic and cultural aspects, and to make German historical science known in the host country and that of the host country in Germany,
 3. the German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo with the specific task to conduct research into modern Japan and into the German-Japanese relationship, using methods from the humanities and from the social and economic sciences,
 4. the Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies Delhi with the specific task to conduct research on South Asia in the humanities and social sciences in historical, related both to the past and the present,
 5. the Orient Institute Beirut with the specific task of conducting research into the fields of Arabic studies, Islamic studies, Semitic studies, science of the Christian Orient, Ottoman studies, Iranian studies and other regionally focused research activities in the humanities and social sciences, related both to the past and the present,
 6. the Orient Institute Istanbul with the specific task to conduct research into the fields of Turkish studies, Ottoman studies, Central Asian studies, Islamic studies, Iranian studies and other research activities with regional focus in the humanities and social sciences, related both to history and to the present.
- (2) ¹It is possible to take over other facilities and to found more institutes and to launch projects which serve the establishment of new institutes and support background projects as long as they are covered by the mission of the Foundation and reliably financed. ²The decision requires the approval of two thirds of the members of the Board of Trustees, including the representatives of the Federal Government.
- (3) In the institutes academic and non-academic staff is employed.
- (4) Upon the Executive Director's approval each institute adopts its own rules of procedure within the framework of the resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees.

§ 12 Institute directors

- (1) ¹The Board of Trustees appoints an institute director for each institute as its head. ²He/she is authorized to represent the Foundation in his/her institute's affairs; authority may be delegated. ³He/she is senior to all other staff employed by the Foundation at the institute in question. ⁴He/she is responsible for the preparation and fulfilment of, and final accounting for, the institute's sectional budget plan.
- (2) ¹Prior to the appointment of any institute director, the Board of Trustees asks the relevant Academic Advisory Board to make a proposal, which will as a rule consist of three names for an initial appointment. ²Appointments are made for maximum five years. ³A director may be re-appointed once. As a rule, re-appointment is limited to five years, in exceptional cases to seven years.
- (3) ¹The President appoints one deputy for each institute director upon the director's proposal. ²The deputy's duties, especially permanent representation or representation in absence of the director, are set forth in the institute's rules of procedure.

§ 13 Academic Advisory Boards

- (1) ¹An Academic Advisory Board is appointed to each institute for the purpose of advising the institute on academic issues, in particular in respect of the work programme and staffing plans, and counselling the Board of Trustees on the institute's affairs. ²It makes proposals for the staffing of the position of the institute director, to whom it regularly reports on the institute's academic perspectives. ³Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (2) ¹Each Academic Advisory Board has up to nine members. ²It shall also include foreign academics. ³With their academic competencies, the members are to represent the institute's full range of academic activities. ⁴Members to be appointed or re-appointed may not have retired from their active career. ⁵They may not work in more than one Academic Advisory Board of the Foundation at a time.

- (3) ¹The Board of Trustees appoints the Academic Advisory Board members for a period of four years. ²One subsequent re-appointment is permissible. ³Re-appointments are performed by the President upon the proposal of the Advisory Board.
- (4) The President asks the relevant Academic Advisory Board through its chair to name several candidates for the position to be staffed. ²The Advisory Board shall involve the respective specialist associations. ³It presents all proposals, along with a well-founded recommendation, to the Board of Trustees for decision. ⁴The specialist associations are identified in the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (5) ¹Each Academic Advisory Board elects from among its members a chair and a deputy chair. ²The election is generally valid until the end of membership in the Academic Advisory Board. ³Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (6) ¹The chair of each Academic Advisory Board shall always invite the institute's director, his/her deputy, the chair of the local staff representation (Personalrat) and the speaker of the institute's academic staff to attend Academic Advisory Board meetings as guests with the right to speak. ²He/she may invite other guests.
- (7) § 8 paragraphs 1 to 5 (passing of resolutions) and § 9 paragraph 2 (representation) apply accordingly.
- (8) ¹The chairs of the Academic Advisory Boards form an Assembly of Advisory Board Chairs. ²The assembly enables an exchange of ideas between the Academic Advisory Boards and the counselling of the Board of Trustees. ³It determines from among its members a chair and a deputy chair, as well as its two permanent guests to the Board of Trustees and their deputies. ⁴Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.

§ 14 Evaluations, Target Agreements

- (1) The academic work of each institute is subjected to external evaluation at seven years' intervals.
- (2) ¹For each evaluation the Board of Trustees appoints an exclusively external evaluation commission and defines an evaluation procedure. ²Simultaneously with the resolution, the chair and the deputy chair of the evaluation commission are elected upon the President's proposal. ³The commission is to have up to nine members entitled to vote. ⁴The members are to reflect the range of academic work of the institute in question; however, at least one member is to represent another subject covered by the Foundation.
- (3) ¹The evaluation reports are addressed to the Board of Trustees. ²The Board of Trustees discusses the evaluation reports and gives a written statement of its conclusions.
- (4) Based on its conclusions, the Board of Trustees may enter into target agreements with institutes.
- (5) The practical performance and support of the evaluation is the responsibility of the central office.

Chapter 5: Management, Administration

15 Executive Director

- (1) The Executive Director conducts the Foundation's business assigned him/her by law or statutes, in particular
 1. representation of the Foundation in and out of court,
 2. preparation and fulfilment of, and final accounting for, the Foundation's budget plan, giving due consideration to the sectional budget plans of the institutes; this also includes, in co-ordination with the President, the reconciliation of the different financial needs of the institutes,
 3. organization and support of external evaluations according to procedures conceived by the Board of Trustees,
 4. staff management pursuant to paragraph 2 and supplementary provisions of the budgetary and procedural regulations,

5. administrative assistance in the setting up and liquidation of Foundation facilities,
 6. improvement of the supply of information to the institutes (information on possible assistance to academics, library services etc.),
 7. legal counselling,
 8. public relations work in Germany,
 9. technical installation of, and provision of access to, a digital publication platform
 10. management of the central office and the business assigned to it.
- (2) ¹The Executive Director represents the Foundation towards authorities in Germany in respect of the institutes' administrative issues. ²He/she decides in the case of administrative issues which go beyond co-operation between individual institutes' administrations and the authorities in the respective host country, or in the case of administrative issues pertaining to several institutes. ³However, administrative tasks shall be delegated to the Executive Director only in cases where this relieves the institutes and where central processing actually reduces the administrative effort.
- (3) ¹The Executive Director co-ordinates and supports commissions and work groups appointed by the Board of Trustees without affecting the institutes' academic independence. ²Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.
- (4) ¹The Executive Director has a right to obtain information from the institutes and a duty to furnish information in respect of their affairs. ²He/she has the right to attend the meetings of all organs and bodies.
- (5) ¹The Executive Director reports about his/her work to the Board of Trustees and to the Assembly of Directors at regular intervals. ²He/she is bound by guidelines and by case decisions made by the Board of Trustees.
- (6) ¹The Executive Director is appointed by the Board of Trustees based upon a proposal by a nomination committee. ²The nomination committee is appointed by the Board of Trustees. ³Presided over by the President, it consists of two other members of the Board of Trustees and two members of the Assembly of Directors. ⁴It passes resolutions with a majority of two thirds of its members.
- (7) § 12 paragraph 3 applies accordingly.

16 Central office

- (1) To support the work of the organs, of the Academic Advisory Boards and of the employees at the institutes, there is a central office at the seat of the Foundation.
- (2) ¹The central office is managed by the Executive Director. ²§ 11 paragraph 4 applies accordingly to the rules of procedure for the central office.

17 Finance, audits

- (1) For the budgeting, cash management and accounting of the Foundation the regulations directly applicable to federal administration apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) ¹The annual accounts are audited by a qualified person who is appointed by the Board of Trustees and independent of the Foundation. ²The audit rights of the Bundesrechnungshof (Federal Court of Audit) and any audit rights under grant-giving law shall not be affected.
- (3) Details, including provisions on the preparation of the annual budget plan, are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.

18 Staff representation

- (1) ¹Staff representation is governed by Bundespersonalvertretungsgesetz (BPersVG - Federal Staff Representation Act). ²Deviating from such law, a staff representative elected for a four-year term by the chairs of the local staff representations from among their members shall perform the duties of the main staff representation. ³§ 119 paragraph 3 BPersVG shall not apply. ⁴Details of the election procedure are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.

- (2) The right to attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees in accordance with § 6 paragraph 5 shall be exercised for the entire staff either by the person in accordance with paragraph 1 sentence 2 or by a person elected by the representatives of the local employees from among their number.

19 Speakers of the academic employees

- (1) ¹The academic staff of each institute elect from among it a speaker who shall represent its interests during a two-year term. ²Scientific librarians and scientific editors are academic staff within the meaning of this provision. ³Deputy institute directors are neither eligible for election nor entitled to vote.
- (2) The academic staff's speakers elect from among them a representative who serves the interests of the academic employees during a two-year term, especially in the Board of Trustees.
- (3) Details of the election procedure are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.

20 Equal opportunity officer

- (1) A female equal opportunity officer and a female deputy shall be appointed within the Foundation.
- (2) ¹Female shop stewards shall be appointed in the institutes and in the central office upon proposal of the equal opportunity officer. Where possible, the equal opportunity officers should make use of the possibility to delegate some of their duties to the shop stewards, who are to perform them independently.

21 Reporting

- ¹At least every other year the Foundation presents to the public a report on its past activities and its projects. ²Details are set forth in the budgetary and procedural regulations.