NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OF SERBIA (NOOIS)

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Pursuant to Articles 12 and 78 of the Law on Associations ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 51/09) and Articles 20, 48, 49, 50 and 51 of the Statute of the National Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia, at the session held on **18**th **November 2010** the General Meeting adopted the following Statute of the National Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia.

STATUTE OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OF SERBIA

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The National Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia (hereinafter: the National Organization) was founded according to the Agreement of organizations of persons with individual types of disabilities, organizations of legal representatives of persons with disabilities and interest organizations gathering persons with different forms of disabilities, which are incorporated for the territory of the Republic of Serbia and which are entered as legal entities in the register of the relevant government authority (hereinafter: the Founders).

The National Organization was founded for an indefinite period of time for the purpose of realizing the goals established in this Statute and the Decision on Incorporation in the area of protection and improvement of the position of persons with disabilities in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 2

The National Organization is a voluntary, social-humanitarian, non-party, non-government and non-profit organization incorporated as an association of citizens.

The National Organization is an organization of public interest.

Article 3

The full name of the organization is the National Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia.

The abbreviated name is NOOIS.

The seat of the National Organization is in Belgrade, Mutapova Street No. 12.

The National Organization has the function of a legal entity.

The National Organization acts in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 4

The National Organization may join the associations of organizations and other forms of organization, and also join international organizations in line with the law and the Decision of the General Meeting of the National Organization.

Article 5

The National Organization has its stamp and its logo.

The stamp is round, with the diameter of 3.5 cm and with the full name of the National Organization of persons with disabilities of Serbia in the inner circle, written **in the Cyrillic script**, and with the NOOIS logo in the middle.

The logo of the National Organization is the Serbian flag with four fields with the following symbols drawn from above downwards: a hearing aid, Braille Alphabet Book, a wheelchair and the sign for persons with learning difficulties, as well as the abbreviated name of the National Organization.

The graphic design of the logo shall be determined in a separate decision.

Article 6

The National Organization is represented and advocated by the President of the Association of a person appointed by the President of the Association.

II - GOALS of the NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 7

Basic goals of the National Organization are as follows:

- Unified representation of interests of persons with disabilities in Serbia and unified acting before decision-makes and other actors in the society,
- Advocating protection and promoting fundamental human rights of persons with disabilities,

- Struggle against disability-based prejudice and discrimination and advocating full participation, equality, equitability and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Serbia,
- Advocating the acceptance of international and European standards, principles and documents in the area of disabilities and their enforcement in Serbia,
- Improvement of the position of persons with disabilities, including advocating the adoption and enforcement of the national strategy and policy in the area of disabilities and the reform of the national legislation in line with the needs and interests of persons with disabilities,
- Development of the cooperation and exchange of experience with the international disability movement and participation in its acting,
- Strengthening of the joint struggle and cooperation between the member-organizations of the National Organization and support to the strengthening of their individual capacities

The above-listed goals are achieved by the National Organization through organizing lectures, panels, seminars and public appearances for the purpose of advertising and achieving its goals.

Article 9

In order to achieve the established goals and tasks, the National Organization cooperates with the public bodies and institutions and non-government organizations, as well as with the international associations and counterpart associations in other countries.

III - MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 10

Members of the National Organization join the National Organization on the principles of free will, equality and solidarity, accepting the provisions of this Statute, with the rights and obligations arising from it.

Members of the National Organization as legal entities retain their independence and autonomy in their organizing and acting, with the restrictions they accepted when joining the National Organization regulated by the compliance of their general acts with this Statute.

Article 11

The National Organization can have:

- Full members,
- Associated members, and
- Assisting members

Full members of the National Organization are the founders defined in Article 1 of the Statute and subsequently joining organizations of persons with disabilities that fulfil the conditions from Paragraph 2 of this Article of the Statute.

Full members can be the organizations fulfilling the following conditions:

- if they accept members or represent the majority or the largest number of persons with individual types of disabilities and the organizations gathering persons with different forms of disabilities for the purpose of resolving specific issues,
- if they have minimum 500 regular members, persons with disabilities, except for the organizations which accept members and represent persons with extremely rare damage (such as PET syndrome) and have a network of minimum 5 local and regional organizations,
- if they act in the whole territory of the Republic of Serbia or its major part and if they have existed and operated for minimum five years.

Article 13

Associated members of the National Organization can be organizations of persons with disabilities which:

- do not fulfil the conditions from Article 12 above,
- deal with specific matters of interest for persons with disabilities, which act in the whole territory of Serbia or its major part, which have minimum 50 persons with disabilities and have existed and operated for minimum three years.

Article 14

Assisting members of the National Organization can be legal entities and natural persons which through their work or donations contribute to the achievement of the goals of the National Organization.

Article 15

The rights of the members of the National Organization are as follows:

- to achieve the goals and tasks stipulated in this Statute and the work program, to participate via their representatives in the work of the bodies and working bodies of the National Organization in line with the Statute, whereas full members are also entitled to participate in adopting general and individual acts.
- to appoint their representatives in the General Meeting of the National Organization in the manner stipulated in its Statute and to participate via them in the work of the National Organization,
- to make proposals for the members of certain bodies of the National Organization elected and/or appointed by the General Meeting,
- to ensure that their representatives are elected for the bodies of the National Organization,

- to be informed regularly and in a timely manner about the work, proposals and decisions of the bodies of the National Organization,
- to obtain all acts adopted by the bodies of the National Organization, which are of interest to the members.
- to use assistance and services of the National Organization in the achievement of mutually established goals,
- to obtain the information about legislative and other regulations referring to the National Organization and its members,
- to ask for explanations of certain decisions of the National Organization, to lodge complaints, submissions and objections to the relevant bodies and to receive an answer to them, and to ask for an extraordinary session of the General Meeting to be called,
- to leave the membership under the conditions stipulated in the Agreement on Incorporation of the National Organization and in the manner determined in this Statute.

The duties of the members of the National Organization are as follows:

- to observe the provisions of this Statute, to observe the attitudes, recommendations and conclusions of the National Organization bodies in resolving matters within their scope of work and to observer joint agreements enacted within the National Organization,
- to fulfil their material obligations towards the National Organization regularly and in a timely manner,
- to answer for the participation in the work and for the work of their respective representatives in the work of the National Organization bodies,
- to exercise other rights and obligations arising from the provisions of this Statute, other general acts of the National Organization and mutually agreed jobs and activities.

Full and associated members are entitled to ask for and to obtain, in line with the possibilities, support in the achievement of their goals and tasks provided they are not contrary to the goals of the National Organization.

Article 16

A member of the National Organization is entitled to leave the membership in the National Organization if that member has submitted his/her written decision about it to the General Meeting of the National Organization.

The decision to adopt the request for leaving the National Organization is made by the General Meeting of the National Organization.

The decision about a member leaving the National Organization shall be final when it has been established that all the conditions for its enactment have been fulfilled: the resolution of mutual material and financial relationships, the separation balance sheet and other matters.

Article 17

Members of the National Organization can be excluded from the National Organization:

- if in a longer period of time they have failed to fulfil their obligations towards the National Organization,
- if they do not participate in the work of the National Organization bodies via their respective representatives,
 - if they act so as to endanger the unity and equality in the National Organization

The procedure for excluding a member from the National Organization upon the proposal by the President is initiated according to the decision of the Board of Directors setting up a Committee for establishing the facts about the state and consequences from Paragraph 1 of this Article.

The Decision on setting up the Committee from Paragraph 2 of this Article (hereinafter in this Article: the Committee) establishes its composition, task and deadline for submitting the proposal. The composition of the Committee cannot include the representatives of the Member against whom the exclusion procedure from the National Organization has been initiated.

In the procedure of excluding the Member from the National Organization, the Committee establishes the necessary facts for decision-making about the exclusion. After the completion of the procedure the Committee informs the Board of Directors of the National Organization about the findings, established facts and proposal.

The first-instance decision about the exclusion is made by the Board of Directors upon the proposal of the Committee.

A complaint against the first-instance decision about the exclusion of the member from Paragraph 1 of this Article can be lodged to the General Meeting of the National Organization within 30 days of the day of receiving the first-instance decision.

The final decision about the exclusion of the member from the National Organization is made by the General Meeting of the National Organization at its first next session.

IV – BODIES OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 18

The bodies of the National Organization are: the General Meeting, the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board.

Article 19

The General Meeting is the highest body of the National Organization, composed of all the NOOIS members.

In the General Meeting, full members of the National Organization are represented by three delegates of the full members of the National Organization, as well as by one member of the associated members respectively, appointed by those organizations in line with their own statutes, while taking territorial representation into account.

Article 20

The representatives of full members have the right of vote in the General Meeting, while the representatives of assisting members may attend the General Meeting sessions and participate in the work of those sessions.

The authorities of the General Meeting are as follows:

- to adopt the Statute and makes its amendments and supplements, the Rules of Procedure and other general acts,
- to determine the policy the National Organization and adopts the annual work program and financial plan,
- to determine the guidelines for the work of the Board of Directors,
- to adopt annual statements about the work and financial and material business,
- to make a decision about calling the appointment for the National Organization bodies,
- to select and appoint members of the National Organization,
- to appoint the president and two vice-presidents of the National Organization from its own ranks,
- to appoint the members of the Board of Directors from its own ranks,
- to appoint three members of the Supervisory Board,
- to make a decision about the appointment of the representatives of the National Organization,
- to set up, as necessary, permanent or temporary working bodies and appoint their members,
- to determine the type of awards and prizes and to make decisions about granting awards and prizes to the deserving members, other legal entities and individuals,
- to make second-instance and/or final decisions about the membership in the National Organization,
- to make decisions about status matters of the National Organization, as stipulated by the Law and this Statute,
- to appoint the representatives of its bodies for the bodies of other organizations whose member it is,
- to decide about international activities of the National Organization,
- to decide about joining associations of organizations, other forms of organization and about joining international organizations,
- to interpret the provisions of the Statute and all general acts ever adopted by it,
- to decide about the cessation of the National Organization,
- to decide about the appointment of the liquidation manager,
- to decide about any other matters from its authority in line with the provisions of the Statute, regulations and the Law

Article 22

The General Meeting meets once a year or more, if necessary.

Regular sessions of the General Meeting are called by the President of the National Organization who also determines the agenda proposal, in line with the decision of the Board of Directors.

An extraordinary session must be called by the President upon the request of minimum one third of full members, of the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board within three months of the submission date of the request.

If the President does not call a regular or an extraordinary session of the General Meeting within a specific period of time, the session may also be called and directed by the person demanding the session to be held, and in that case the president's responsibility for not calling the session must be discussed at the session, provided that the callers have made appropriate decisions and prepared the materials necessary for the work of the General Meeting.

The pronouncement of the members at the General Meeting sessions is public as a rule, except for those cases when two thirds of its members agree in favour of the secret ballot.

The pronouncement by the secret ballot is regularly applied on the occasion of receiving or excluding members of the National Organization and of the appointment or recall of the President and vice-presidents.

If a member of the General Meeting and/or the Board of Directors is prevented from attending the sessions of the body, i.e. when a member of the National Organization considers it as necessary, it may send another representative to that session with a written power of attorney..

In the cases from the previous Paragraph, a permanent representative substitute shall have all the rights and obligations of the representative of the member he/she substitutes.

Article 23

The Board of Directors is the executive body of the General Meeting appointed from the ranks of the General Meeting. One member of each full-membership organization and of the Association of organizations of persons with disabilities of Vojvodina shall be elected for the Board of Directors. More than half of the members of the Board of Directors must be persons with disabilities and/or their legal representatives.

The President, vice-presidents and the executive director have the function of members of the Board of Directors.

The authorities of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- to prepare the General Meeting sessions and to manage the work of the National Organization between such sessions,
- to determine the proposals of the Statute and other acts adopted by the General Meeting, as well as proposals for their amendments and supplements,
- to implement the policy, conclusions and other acts adopted by the General Meeting,
- to adopt the Rules of Procedure regarding its own work and other general acts which are not within the authority of the General Meeting,
- to manage and have at its disposal the property and assets of the National Organization in line with the Law and decisions of the General Meeting,
- to make decisions about the implementation of the financial plan
- to decide about the amount of the membership fee of the member organizations,
- to submit annual and periodic reports on the work of the National Organization and its own work,
- to make first-instance decisions about receiving and excluding members of the National Organization,
- to decide about setting up a professional service and about its tasks,

- to appoint the Executive Director of the National Organization,
- to decide about business trips abroad,
- to initiate the procedure of recalling the President and vice-presidents,
- to initiate an indemnification procedure,
- to set up permanent and temporary working bodies and appoint their members,
- to monitor and coordinate the work of the representatives of the National in associations, communities and organizations whose member the National Organization is and to inform the General Meeting and the members of the National Organization about it,
- to perform any other tasks arising from this Statute or those that have not been determined by laws and other regulations

The Board of Directors meets at least four times a year or more, if necessary.

Sessions of the Board of Directors are called by the President of the National Organization at his/her own initiative or at the request of the majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Article 25

The Supervisory Board is an independently and autonomously operating and acting body of the National Organization which performs the control of the correctness and legitimacy of the work of the National Organization and its bodies and individuals that may make decisions on their own, based on their function or authorizations.

Members of the Supervisory Board cannot be simultaneously members of the General Meeting during the same mandate.

The Supervisory Board has three members, including a financial expert, a legal expert and at least one person with disabilities.

The President of the Supervisory Board is appointed by the members of this Board.

The Supervisory Board:

- supervises the entire financial/material operations of the National Organization;
- monitors and analyzes to ensure that the laws and other applicable regulations, as well as general and individual acts of the National Organization regulating such business operations are observed;
- monitors and analyzes to ensure that financial and material assets of the National Organization are used and spent expediently;

Article 26

According to the decision of the Supervisory Board, its specially appointed members may monitor the financial and material operations of the National Organization between sessions, and inform the Supervisory Board about it.

Members of the Supervisory Board from the previous Paragraph may also indicate deficiencies in the financial and material operations to the responsible persons.

At least once a year the Supervisory Board submits a report to the Board of Directors and the General Meeting of the National Organization on its work and the performed supervision over financial and material operations.

No decision to adopt the business report and the annual balance of the National Organization for a given year can be made without considering the report on the control of financial and material operations of the National Organization.

Article 28

The Supervisory Board considers the submissions of the members and bodies of the National Organization forwarded to it; subsequently takes its attitude about them, informing the Board of Directors and the General Meeting thereof.

The Supervisory Board meets once a year or more if necessary.

Sessions of the Supervisory Board are called by the President at his/her own initiative or at the request of the majority of the members of the Supervisory Board, as well as at the request of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors.

Article 29

The President of the National Organization:

- must be a person with disabilities or a legal representative of such person,
- chairs the sessions of the General Meeting and of the Board of Directors,
- signs the minutes, general and individual acts adopted by the General Meeting and the Board of Directors,
- gives orders regarding material and financial operations of the National Organization,
- ensures that the necessary materials are duly prepared for the sessions of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors, and that there are conditions for holding those sessions;
- ensures that the work of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors is implemented in line with the law, the Statute, other general acts of the National Organization, the work program and the financial plan;
- ensures that general acts of the National Organization and decisions of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors are observed, i.e. that they are performed in a timely and consistent manner:
- coordinates the work of the members, bodies and working bodies of the National Organization;
- performs any other functions assigned to it by the General Meeting and the Board of Directors of the National Organization.

The President answers for his/her work to the General Meeting and the Board of Directors of the National Organization.

Article 30

The National Organization has two vice-presidents.

The vice-president performs the function of the President in the event of the latter being indisposed. The vice-presidents may also perform other functions assigned by the President of the National Organization.

At least one of the vice-presidents must be a person with disabilities.

Article 31

The President and vice-presidents are elected among different full members of the National Organization.

Article 32

The Executive Director:

- manages the work of the professional service of the National Organization and has the rights of the director in terms of the Labour Law;
- together with the President of the National Organization represents the National Organization in public and before public authorities;
- together with the President of the National Organization prepares sessions of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors, while together with the President of the Supervisory Board he/she prepares sessions of that body;
- with the professional service and engaged associates prepares general and individual acts and other materials for sessions of the National Organization bodies and ensures that there are necessary conditions for the work of the bodies and working bodies of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors;
- independently or in cooperation with the professional service and engaged associates, enacts decisions of the National Organization bodies and performs planned activities;
- ensures that the acting of the National Organization is in line with the law;
- has rights and obligations concerning financial orders within the financial plan and decisions of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors;
- answers for his/her work and for the work of the professional service to the General Meeting and the Board of Directors of the National Organization;
- performs any other tasks assigned by the General Meeting and the Board of Directors.

The Executive Director's scope of work, as well as the conditions and procedure for his/her appointment are further determined by the Board of Directors.

Article 33

Other working bodies and committees of the National Organization

For the purpose of implementing certain activities, initiating and implementing actions and performing certain jobs, the General Meeting, the Board of Directors, the President and The Executive Director can set up working bodies, boards and committees which may last either on a permanent or temporary basis.

Temporary working bodies are set up on the basis of respective decisions of: the Board of

Directors, the President and the Executive Director.

The decision to set up temporary working bodies defines their composition, subject of work, mandate and deadlines.

Such working bodies answer for their work to the body and/or individual in charge of setting them up.

V- APPOINTMENTS AND DECISION-MAKING

Article 34

The mandate of the members of the National Organization bodies and working bodies and of the elected and appointed persons lasts four years, with the possibility of re-appointment.

The mandate of the elected and appointed persons may also cease before the expiry of the stipulated period in the event of their resignation or recall or in the event of early elections being called.

Article 35

Regular elections in the National Organization are held every four years. Regular elections for the appointment of the National Organization bodies are called by the General Meeting no later than three months before the expiry of the current mandate.

Early elections may be organized on the basis of special decisions of the General Meeting of the National Organization.

Article 36

Members elect their representatives to the General Meeting of the National Organization in line with their own general acts.

Members propose candidates for the functions in the National Organization, also in line with their own general acts.

Article 37

The mandate of members of the National Organization bodies or elected and appointed persons may also cease before the expiry of the period of their election or appointment in the following cases:

- resignation,
- recall, death, stepping out and/or exclusion of the Member of the National Organization whose representative is a member of the National Organization bodies and/or elected or appointed person,
- cessation of the National Organization

The recall of the representatives of the Member of the National Organization can be demanded in the following cases:

- if they are absent without any excuse and do not participate in the work of the sessions of the National Organization bodies whose members they are,
 - if it is established that by their decisions and acting they breached the Statute of the National Organization,
 - if it is established that they are personally responsible for acting with the property of the National Organization and illegitimate actions,

- if they have caused damage to the National Organization

In the events when the mandates of the members of the National Organization bodies end as defined in Items 1, 2 and 3, Paragraph 2 of this Article, the member of the National Organization is entitled to elect a new representative.

In the event of the cessation of the mandate of elected and appointed persons, the National Organization bodies shall elect or appoint new persons for the functions vacated in this manner.

Article 38

The National Organization bodies validly decide if more than half of the member bodies are present at sessions, whereas two thirds of full members must be represented by at least one representative.

The Statute and other general acts, as well as the annual work program and financial plan are adopted consensually by the General Meeting.

Other decisions shall be made by the majority of votes of the members of the General Meeting.

Article 39

The Board of Directors adopts general acts consensually and individual acts by the majority of votes of the members of the Board of Directors.

Article 40

The Supervisory Board makes decisions by the majority of votes of the members of the Supervisory Board.

Article 41

The National Organization bodies make decisions by public voting and, if requested by two thirds of the members of those bodies, decisions shall be made by the secret ballot.

VI – FINANCING THE WORK AND PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 42

For the achievement of joint goals and tasks established by this Statute and work program, the National Organization provides the funds from the following sources:

- membership fees of member organizations;
- special subsidies provided by the Republic of Serbia;
- donations, legacies and gifts;
- applications for the projects with relevant authorities;
- as well as from other sources in line with the law

The funds of the National Organization are established and distributed according to the annual financial plan.

The funds in the financial plan are determined by the type of income and distributed by their purposes, in line with the goals, tasks and work programs of the National Organization

Article 44

Financial and material operations of the National Organization are performed in line with the law and other regulations, general acts and specific decisions of the National Organization bodies and authorized persons.

Article 45

The General Meeting decides about the acquisition and disposal of immovable property, whereas the Board of Directors decides about the acquisition and disposal of movable property.

Article 46

Financial and material operations of the National Organization are regulated by a separate Rule Book adopted by the Board of Directors

VII - PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Article 47

Professional, material and financial, administrative, technical, ancillary and other jobs for the National Organization bodies and working bodies are performed by the professional service.

The decision about educating, organizing, method of work and financing of the professional board is made by the Board of Directors and confirmed by the General Meeting at the next regular session in line with the needs, available financial funds, regulations and provisions of the Statute. The work of the Professional Service is supervised by the Board of Directors.

The Executive Director is the direct manager of the Professional Service.

Individual professional, financial and other jobs necessary for the functioning of the National Organization and its bodies may, if necessary, assigned to individuals and organizations professionally dealing with such jobs, based on the decision of the Board of Directors and in line with the law.

Article 48

The rights and obligations of the employees in the professional service are regulated in a separate general act in line with the law.

VIII – PROCEDURE OF ADOPTING THE STATUTE AND ITS AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

Article 49

The adoption of the Statute may be initiated by the members and bodies of the National Organization.

The decision about initiating the procedure for adopting the Statute may be made by the General Meeting and the Board of Directors of the National Organization.

Article 50

The Statute draft is determined by the Board of Directors of the National Organization.

The determined Statute draft must be sent to the members of the National Organization for a public discussion.

The period for such public discussion cannot last less than 30 days.

The Statute proposal is determined by the Board of Directors after the completed public discussion.

The Statute proposal is sent by the Board of Directors to the General Meeting for approval within the period of time that cannot be longer than 30 days from the completion of the public discussion.

The Board of Directors also encloses the report on the discussion regarding the Statute draft together with the Statute proposal to the General Meeting.

Article 51

The Board of Directors must submit the Statute proposal to the members of the National Organization and the members of the General Meeting no later than 15 days before the date of the General Meeting session.

Article 52

Amendments and supplements to the Statute shall be enacted in the manner and in the procedure stipulated for the adoption of the Statute.

IX – CESSATION OF THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 53

The National Organization shall cease its work in the events stipulated by the Law.

In the event of the cessation of the work of the National Organization, its property shall belong to the organization which assumes the achievement of the goals and tasks stipulated in

this Statute.

The General Meeting of the National Organization appoints the organization from the previous Paragraph.

If the General Meeting does not appoint the organization to take over the property of the National Organization, such property shall be given to the Red Cross of Serbia.

X – PUBLICITY OF WORK

Article 54

The work of the National Organization is public.

The publicity of work is ensured by the publication of general acts, work programs, work reports and financial/material business reports as well as any other relevant information on the notice board, in special publications, on the Internet and in the means of public information, as well as by direct submission of the above-listed to the members of the National Organization.

XI – INTERIM AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 55

The bodies of the National Organization are obliged to adopt the general acts stipulated in this Statute within six months of adopting this Statute.

Article 56

The matters not regulated by this Statute shall be directly subject to the provisions of the Law on Associations.

The Board of Directors of the National Organization is hereby authorized to remove potential deficiencies stated by the Business Registers Agency.

Article 57

This Statute shall come into force on the eighth day from the day of its publication on the special notice board in the seat of the National Organization and shall be applied as of the day of its entry in the register of the relevant government body.

PRESIDENT	