

## **VUGA e.V. - Guiding Principles**

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This model provides an open summary of our belief. Each Club member has the right to put new points to the vote.

A violation of the above points is a sufficient reason for withdrawing Membership in the association.

- **Self-image**

As a volunteer association dedicated to the equal exchange between the global south and the global north, we position ourselves against any form of ascriptive inequality and take a stand against everyday racism. We believe that shared knowledge and awareness about mutual similarities, is best suited to reduce prejudice and discrimination.

We are a volunteer organization that is run by former and current volunteers. Therefore a constant participation and involvement of volunteers is needed. The association is on the basis of its own self-image depending on regular input of new volunteers.

In order to ensure this, one position of the members of the board of directors is supposed to be replaced at least every two years and younger volunteers are integrated into the work on the board of directors.

In addition, each current volunteer generation has the right to have at least one seat in the board of assessors.

- **Functioning**

We think that in the area of development cooperation, trust plays a crucial role. To establish this trust, we are committed to responsible and transparent working ethic, which is open to constructive forms of critic.

All information provided by the association's work is in general accessible to all interested parties.

We commit ourselves to establishing and maintaining a common communication forum where we'll be sharing experiences and information and an overview of the all relevant project-related events is created.

Access to the email account of the association is open to all active members.

All members are committed to an ongoing and transparent accounting of all expenditure.

If possible, we access existing resources from club members, rather than making new purchases.

As a general principle applies to us the saving of as many costs, for the purpose of effective transfer of funds to our partner projects .

We are committed to the principle of mutual accountability . This means that every member of the society has the right and duty to give emergencies attention to failures and necessary obligations.

There is an ongoing list of all costs, which can be checked by all members in time. In addition, there has to be an annual report published on the homepage of the association for each year.

We agree to complete comprehensible contracts on any substantive exchange between the association and its Partners. These contracts have to be accessible for all members of the society.

- **Persons in charge and projects implemented by the society**

We adhere to the principle of subsidiarity . This means that we assume that Decisions are best made by those who directly related to the project. The Executive Board and the General Assembly provides guidelines, which have to be respected in all projects. All further decisions, which are not related to the guidelines, will be made by the members who are responsible for a project. Those People are the person(s) in charge for the project. All decisions made from the person(s) in charge are subject to the mandatory disclosure to the active members of the association.

There are usually one or two people elected as person(s) in charge for each project, which is implemented or supported by Vuga. The people responsible have to submit a concept for the project and are fully accountable to the Executive boards and the General Assembly.

Since most projects arise as a result of ugandan - german cooperation, it is desirable for each project to find both a german and a ugandan as person in charge . If this is not possible, this must be justified in writing and justification has to be published on the internet forum of the association.

- **Decisions on the Implementation and Support of Projects**

Basically the CFO has to decide on available funds.

There has to be a clear concept for each project, which normally is submitted by the person(s) in charge. This concept has to be uploaded on the internet forum of the Association.

After receiving the concept and the release of funds, the board of directors and the board of assessors have to decide on the acceptance of the request.

The board of directors and the board of assessors have to decide with simple majority. A stalemate votes will be considered as consent.

The board of directors is limited to three members, as it is written down in the constitution. The board of assessors is limited to seven members. Both boards will be elected by the General Assembly.

Both boards, the board of directors and the board of assessors, have to agree to a project request. If one or both are not agreeing the request is rejected. The voting behavior will be published on the internet forum of the association.

Voting period is one week equal seven full days. This period starts with the formal request for a vote by the president of the association. If a member of one of the two boards didn't vote within a week his or her voice will be counted as agreement.

A repetition of voting is possible.

Following the same principle projects, or persons in charge can be ended or suspended.

- **Content priorities**

We are committed to an anti-racist point of view. For us, that means the honest and self-critical confrontation with globally and structurally manifested injustices.

We are committed to confront our future volunteers with issues of global dependencies, critique of power and racism as well as with a critical perspective on goals and aims of development politics.

We are committed to a critical confrontation with effects of colonization and postcolonial structures.

We are committed to the principle of non-interference. This means that decisions of our partners are accepted as such. Support is not tied to direct interference.

We are committed to represent our position confidently in all areas where we have responsibility through commitment and to stand up for it. This includes the promotion for global diversity, where different opinions can be respected under the rule of humanity and justice for all people. In this sense diversity means for us that values are diverse and that the values of the western world are not necessarily universal valid.

- **Public representation**

We commit ourselves to avoid the reproduction of racist images within the representation of our activities. This includes in particular the elimination of pictures which reproduce structures of existing or imagined dependence, f.e. images of white charity.

We are committed to a regular representation of our activities.

- **Implementation of the volunteer exchange**

We understand the volunteer service as a way of exchange and mutual learning. For the German side, we as volunteers of the global north profit from this exchange mostly in a one-way direction, which has to be criticized.

As an association of former volunteers we support in particular the possibilities of a south-north exchange.

We think that the key of an successfully implementation is located in the best selection and preparation of the volunteers. For this reason we are committed to a high level of quality regarding this two dimensions. We also agree that the following properties have a positive effect on the selection of volunteers:

- self-confidence
- ability to act independently
- advanced skills
- individual maturity

In Uganda we are committed to the establishment of a centralized and information point, which has an open access to everyone and gives information about existing resources.

As it is described above, everybody can apply for project funding given the respect of the guidelines. We favor applications which are brought in as a cooperation between a volunteer and a local project manager.

The decision about the working places of volunteers are made in Uganda. The board of directors has only the right to interfere if there are reasonable doubts about the quality of a working place.

**Accepted by the General Assembly**

Berlin, 1. April 2003

Präsident\_in

Vizepräsident\_in

Genehmigt durch die Mitgliederversammlung vom .....